

## Eminent Britons A special issue honouring



TEN 1ST CLASS stamps featuring eminent Britons go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 8 October. The issue honours men and women in various walks of life who have made a major contribution to the British way of life. The stamps commemorate anniversaries of their births or, in the case of Campbell and Ryle, of important achievements in their lives. The Ryle stamp includes the EUROPA symbol, as Royal Mail's contribution to this year's Europa series on the theme of astronomy. The Queen's silhouette and service indicator are positioned at top left on all stamps.

The stamps were designed by Together Design, and printed in litho by Walsall Security Printers in horizontal se-tenant strips of five in two separate sheets, with five designs in each sheet. The stamps are 35mm square.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Orders for serviced FDCS must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH 12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (for Britannia, Bacup), marking the outer envelope 'FD0927' (Tallents House) or 'FD0928' (Britannia). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Britannia postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* - available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

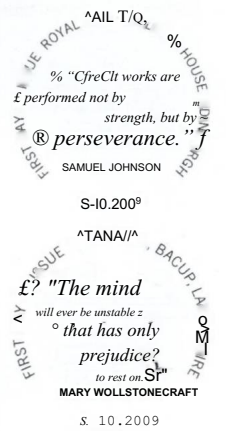
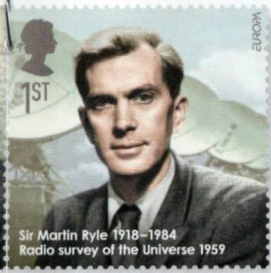
# the lives of ten remarkable individuals

### Eminent Britons prices

Set of stamps	£3.90
Presentation pack	£4.40
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.95
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£4.31
Stamp cards set	£3.90

**The stamps** Top row: lawn tennis champion Fred Perry (1909-95), composer and musician Henry Purcell (1659-95), footballer and football manager Sir Matt Busby (1909-94), statesman and Prime Minister William Gladstone (1809-98) and early feminist Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97).

Bottom row: the writer and creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930); water speed record breaker Donald Campbell (1921-67); campaigner and founder of MENCAP Judy Fryd (1909-2000); lexicographer, critic and poet Samuel Johnson (1709-84); and astronomer Sir Martin Ryle (1918-84).



*"The mind will ever be unstable that has only prejudices to rest on, and the current will run with destructive fury when there are no barriers to break its force."* MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

These lives of the ten eminent Britons featured here span more than three centuries. Their dreams, battles and adventures were sometimes fought out in the glare of publicity, sometimes inside the mind, across the world, and in the back rooms of 1950s bureaucracies, on the floor of the House of Commons and in post-Blitz Manchester, at the Reichenbach Falls, the waters of Coniston and the infinity of the heavens. Some of the ten led very public lives, some did not. So what gives them eminence? What qualities do they share? Ambition certainly, but not self-aggrandisement; contrariness, not conformity. They each asked difficult questions and were rewarded with some spectacular answers.

1909

**FRED PERRY**  
Lawn tennis champion



1859

**SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**  
Creator of Sherlock Holmes



Fred Perry was born in Stockport in 1909, the son of a coal miner. He was educated at the University of Liverpool and became a Member of Parliament in 1951. He was a tennis champion, a water speed record breaker, a campaigner and founder of MENCAP. He was also a lexicographer, critic and poet. He was also a member of the House of Commons. He was also a member of the House of Commons. He was also a member of the House of Commons.

1659

**HENRY PURCELL**  
Composer & musician



In 1668 nine-year-old Henry Purcell became a chorister at the Chapel Royal. He began a career in which the composer, writing for the Church, royal patrons and the theatre, displayed an unparalleled gift for melody, song and dramatic art.

## EMINENT BRITONS

Presented in 1659, a year after the death of Oliver Cromwell, the Royal Mail First Day Cover commemorates the Restoration of the Monarchy, triggered an explosion of artistic creativity.

Presented in London in 1737, Johnson went on to become the first great English dictionary (1755) and an outstanding edition of Shakespeare's plays (1765). In wartime he led a unit countering enemy air attacks. It was technology that would be honed for the atomic age. He was an inspirational scientist, and a campaigner against nuclear weapons, and for alternative energy. He was also a member of the House of Commons. He was also a member of the House of Commons. He was also a member of the House of Commons.



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