

Post by flight We celebrate a century of the magnificent postmen in their flying machines

On 9 September, 1911 Gustav Hamel piloted a Blériot XI from Hendon Aerodrome to Windsor Castle as part of the celebrations of the coronation of King George V. This brief 15-minute flight signalled the beginning of an international service, as it was the first of 16 aerial post flights carrying commemorative post to mark the coronation. It is now recognised as the world's first scheduled airmail service (previous 'impromptu' postal flights had taken place in the US and India). One hundred years later the Royal

‘This brief 15-minute flight signalled the beginning of an international service’

Mail is issuing a Miniature Sheet, Prestige Booklet, Presentation Pack and other philatelic items. The Miniature Sheet features a border replicating the design of a publicity poster for the inaugural flight. It tells the story of this historic flight by Gustav Hamel, featuring original photography of key events. The four-pane Prestige Stamp Book, includes more details of the events and of the organisation behind the first Aerial Post, written by Peter Lister, President of the British Air Mail Society. The PSB includes a pane comprising four 50p Windsor Castle stamps, reissued from the 2005 set of high-value definitives stamps printed in intaglio. The fully illustrated Presentation Pack contains the Aerial Post Miniature Sheet and, inside, Douglas Muir, Curator, Philately, of the BPMA takes a look at the first airmail flight.

Stamp by stamp The 1st Class stamp shows pilot Gustav Hamel receiving the mailbag for the inaugural flight at Hendon Aerodrome. The 68p stamp sees Hamel ready to take flight in the cockpit of his Blériot XI monoplane. The £1 stamp features Clement Greswell – another of the pilots who took part in the aerial post service – standing in front of a Blériot monoplane. The £1.10 stamp shows the first airmail being delivered to the Postmaster General at Windsor. A postman had been dispatched to the Frogmore Mausoleum in the grounds of Windsor Castle, where Hamel touched down. He collected the mail – and the aviator – and returned to the castle to deliver the post.

A century on we take airmail for granted but we owe those intrepid early aviators a big thank you for paving the way ●

Aerial Post Miniature Sheet Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Size of sheet	146mm x 74mm
Design	Robert Maude and Sarah Davies
Photography	Geoff Dann
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Print
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	Four
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Aerial Post Miniature Sheet Prices

Miniature Sheet	£3.24
Presentation Pack	£3.75
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover – Miniature Sheet	£4.36
First Day Cover – Prestige Stamp Book Pane	£3.64
Prestige Stamp Book	£9.97
Press Sheet	£74.84
Stamp Cards (5 in set)	£2.25

AERIAL POST

LONDON AERODROME HENDON

Only 41 miles from Marble Arch N.W.



FIRST UNITED KINGDOM AERIAL POST

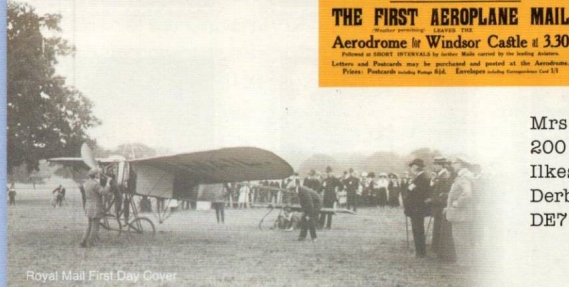


9.9.2011 SATURDAY NEXT, SEPTEMBER 9th

THE FIRST AEROPLANE MAIL

Aerodrome for Windsor Castle at 3.30

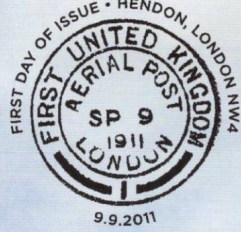
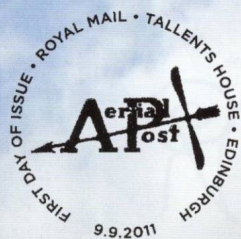
Followed at SHORT INTERVALS by further Mails carried by the leading Airlines. Letters and Postcards may be postmarked and posted at the Aerodrome. Prices: Postcards 4 pence 4d. Envelopes 6 pence 6d. (Incorporation Act 11)



Royal Mail First Day Cover

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Clockwise from top: the First Day Cover, two pictorial handstamps, Prestige Stamp Book panes

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