

## Britons of Distinction

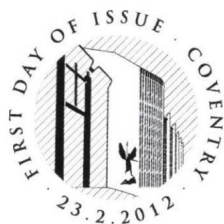
Ten individuals who have shaped our world in important ways are celebrated in an intriguing special issue

**High-achieving Britons** with a variety of artistic and scientific gifts are remembered in next month's special issue of ten stamps entitled Britons of Distinction. Some of the names on the stamps are world-famous, some lesser known, but all of them were exceptionally successful in their particular field of endeavour:

*Basil Spence*: architect of Coventry Cathedral (shown on the first stamp), which opened in 1962 and was built in a controversially modern style to put new heart into Coventry following the destruction of the city's 14th-century Gothic cathedral during a ten-hour bombing raid in 1940.

*Frederick Delius*: composer whose most famous pieces – such as 'On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring' – evoke a English pastoral idyll. He was born in Yorkshire to German parents and lived for decades in France.

*Mary 'May' Morris*: gifted textile artist (daughter of William Morris), represented on the stamp by a piece of her embroidery – The Orange Tree.



Above: pictorial postmark, chosen for the 50th anniversary of the opening of Coventry Cathedral, designed by Sir Basil Spence. Right: Britons of Distinction Presentation Pack



### Britons of Distinction Prices

Stamp Set	£4.60
Presentation Pack	£5.10
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover, inland	£6.00
First Day Cover, overseas	£5.00
Stamp Cards (10 in set)	£4.50

### Britons of Distinction Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	23 February 2012
Number of stamps	10 x 1st
Design	Purpose
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA
Sheet formats	Two sheets of 25/50 with five se-tenant designs per sheet



*Odette Hallowes:* a French-born British secret agent in wartime France, who survived solitary confinement in German concentration camps.

*Thomas Newcomen:* lay preacher, ironmonger and inventor of the atmospheric steam engine (shown on the stamp). His first working engine was installed at a coal mine near Dudley Castle in Staffordshire in 1712.

*Kathleen Ferrier:* the Lancashire-born contralto who achieved an international reputation as a stage, concert and recording artist.

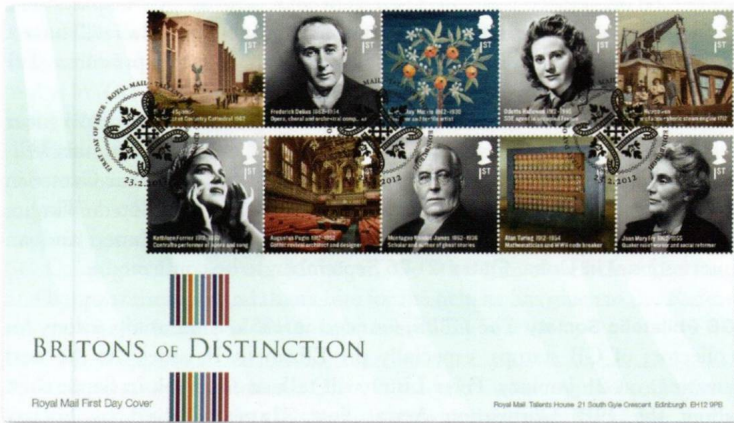
*Augustus Pugin:* architect, designer and advocate of the Gothic style, represented by an image of the interior of the Palace of Westminster.

*Montague Rhodes James:* medieval scholar and provost of King's College Cambridge, known as the originator of the 'antiquarian ghost story' genre.

*Alan Turing:* mathematician and computer scientist. The stamp shows Turing's Bombe code-breaking machine at Bletchley Park.

*Joan Mary Fry:* relief worker, social reformer, ardent pacifist and Quaker, who worked as a prison chaplain in World War I, organised post-war famine-relief in Germany before returning to England

The Britons of Distinction stamps go on sale on 23 February, the second day of the Spring Stampex in Islington •



Above: Tallents House pictorial postmark.  
 Right: Britons of Distinction First Day Cover envelope, with a filler card written by Maev Kennedy