

May update Three new definitives, a Large Diamond Jubilee issue plus two exotic sheets

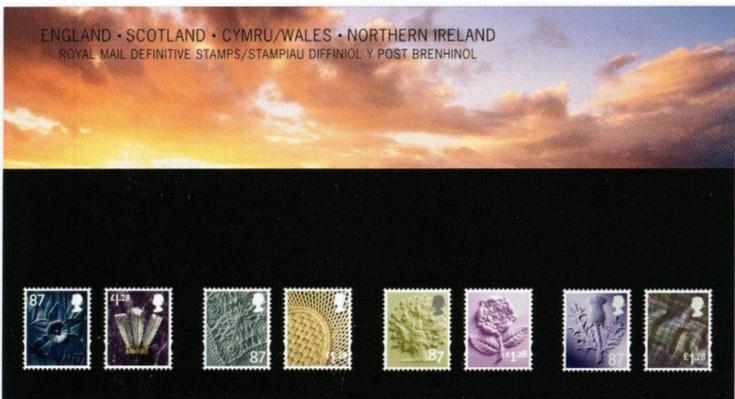


New postal rates On Monday, 30 April new postal tariffs came into effect. Three new Machin definitives were released on 25 April in readiness for the changes, as follow:

- 87p 'orange' is the new Rest of the World Airmail rate for postcards and letters weighing up to 10g. This rate also covers Airmail letters to Europe weighing up to 20g.
- £1.28 'emerald green' is the new tariff for Rest of the World Airmail letters of the next weight category between 11g and 20g. Airmail letters to Europe between 21g and 40g are also rated at £1.28.
- £1.90 'rhododendron' is the new rate for Rest of World Airmail letters weighing 21g to 40g.

Also issued on 25 April were a new first class Large Letter Diamond Jubilee definitive and new country stamps for values 87p and £1.28.

A Presentation Pack contains the three new Machin definitives, the new Large Diamond Jubilee definitive and this year's other new definitive – the first class Diamond Jubilee Machin stamp that was issued on 6 February. ►



Top: pack containing both first class Diamond Jubilee definitives and the three new definitives. Price, £5.80.
Above: pictorial Talents House First Day postmark and the alternative pictorial Windsor postmark.
Left: pack with the eight new country definitives. Price, £9.10

Serviced First Day Covers, available until April 25, bear the Large Diamond Jubilee definitive and the three new Machins. A new Country Pack contains the eight new Country definitives – 87p and £1.28 for each of the four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Serviced First Day Covers are available for each of the four countries, carrying the 87p and £1.28 values.

The following values will be withdrawn from general sale on 31 April, prior to the rate increase: 60p and 97p country stamps ●

James Bond Commemorative Sheet Collection A special limited edition stamp sheet is released on 1 May, marking the 50th anniversary of the James Bond film series. The sheet features ten iconic

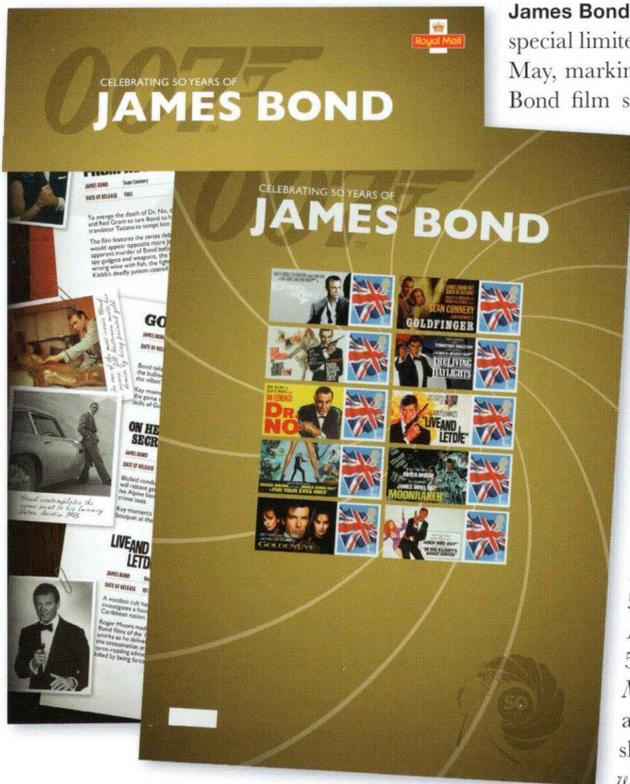
Bond movie posters on labels alongside Union Flag stamps.

To help with the task of choosing ten film posters, Royal Mail invited members of the public to vote for their favourite via newspapers and websites, including www.royalmail.com, where all 22 film posters were shown.

More than 30,000 people took part and voting was quite evenly spread, with percentages of total votes cast for each film poster as follows: *Casino Royale* 7.03%, *From Russia with Love* 6.12%, *Dr No* 5.83%, *For Your Eyes Only* 5.82%, *Goldeneye* 5.40%, *Goldfinger* 5.38%, *The Living Daylights* 5.37%, *Live and Let Die* 5.04%, *Moonraker* 4.53%, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* 4.51% – so those are the ten posters that appear on the sheet. The remainder were: *The Man with the Golden Gun* 4.48% *Thunderball*

4.48%, *Octopussy* 4.37%, *The Spy Who Loved Me* 4.17%, *Die Another Day* 3.73%, *You Only Live Twice* 3.57%, *Diamonds are Forever* 3.56%, *A View To A Kill* 3.53%, *Tomorrow Never Dies* 3.37%, *The World is Not Enough* 3.29%, *Licence to Kill* 3.25%, *Quantum of Solace* 3.17%.

Movie buffs might demur over the choice being based on poster design rather than the calibre of the films, but the top ten certainly work well visually on the stamps sheet, as shown above. The poster art is used on ten stamp labels, alongside Union Flag stamps. The sheet is presented in an attractive 'golden' anniversary pack, with a backing card carrying stills from all the Bond films featured, as well as a précis of each plot, dates of release and the names of the main characters and who played them ●



Above: this limited edition stamp sheet commemorates 50 years of James Bond films. Price £14.95