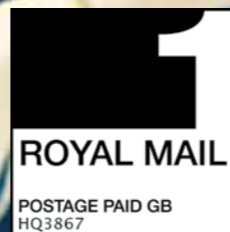


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# first

We are proud to introduce a Special issue celebrating the lives of ten truly great Britons.



## Britons of Distinction

Issue date: Thursday 23 February 2012

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**Issue**  
Britons of Distinction

**Design**  
Purpose

**Stamp format/size**  
Square  
35mm x 35mm

**Printer**  
Cartor Security Printing

**Print process**  
Lithography

**Perforation**  
14.5 x 14.5

**Phosphor**  
All over

**Gum**  
PVA

**Number per sheet**  
25/50

white  
mixed  
source  
fsc logo

# Celebrating truly distinguished lives

Following in the footsteps of our popular Eminent Britons Special issue of 2009, Britons of Distinction celebrates the birthdays and anniversaries of ten highly significant Britons and their achievements. While the featured individuals come from quite disparate fields, they are united by the courage and determination that led them to greatness.


Despite their eminence, however, some had not left portraits for posterity. So rather than exclude anyone for this reason, the imagery on the Special Stamps, most unusually, features an equal number of portraits and illustrations.

**Sir Basil Spence  
1907–1976**



Sir Basil created many fine buildings, most notably Coventry Cathedral, which opened in 1962 as a replacement for the original 14th Century edifice, which had been bombed in 1940.

**Frederick Delius  
1862–1934**



Despite being born to German parents in Yorkshire, and spending many years in France, Delius composed some of the most quintessentially English pieces in the pastoral canon.

**Mary ‘May’ Morris  
1862–1938**




Daughter of the artist William Morris, Mary Morris was a leading light in the revival of English embroidery, thanks to works such as the Orange Tree, which features on her stamp.

**Odette Hallowes  
1912–1995**



The first woman to win the George Cross, Odette Hallowes served with distinction as both a French Resistance worker and English spy, and survived German concentration camps.

**Thomas Newcomen  
1664–1729**




This Devon ironmonger and engineer invented the atmospheric steam engine that helped to power the Industrial Revolution; the first of which was installed in Staffordshire in 1712.

**Kathleen Ferrier  
1912–1953**




The greatest contralto of her era, Kathleen Ferrier gave many moving performances of the great operas in her dazzling career, which was tragically cut short at the age of 41.

**Augustus Pugin  
1812–1852**




Pugin was a great champion and exponent of Gothic architecture, with the glorious interiors of the Palace of Westminster, shown on his stamp, among his many achievements.

**Montague Rhodes James  
1862–1936**



A quite brilliant classical scholar, MR James is chiefly celebrated as the author of some of the most chilling ghost stories in British fiction, including Ghost Stories of an Antiquary.

**Alan Turing  
1912–1954**



A mathematician and computer scientist, Turing’s work in creating the Bombe code breaking machine, shown on his stamp, was instrumental in saving millions of lives in WWII.

**Joan Mary Fry  
1862–1955**



Quaker, pacifist and social reformer, Fry was a tireless campaigner for the oppressed, who organised food relief in Germany after WWI and in the coal fields of Wales in the 1920s.

Their stories range from that of Thomas Newcomen, the Devon ironmonger who arguably did more than anyone else to power the Industrial Revolution; through to Alan Turing, the mathematician and code-breaker who played a key role in breaking the German Enigma code and thus hastening the end of WWII.

As ever, the stories behind all of these lives and achievements make for fascinating reading, so this Special issue also includes a Presentation Pack that explores the impressive lives and legacies of our Britons of Distinction in rich detail.



**Acknowledgements**  
Sir Basil Spence — photo of Coventry Cathedral © Edwin Smith/ RIBA Library Photographs Collection; Frederick Delius © Delius Trust; Mary ‘May’ Morris — Orange Tree embroidery © William Morris Society, photo by Peter Wood; Odette Hallowes © Imperial War Museum; Thomas Newcomen — photo from the collections of Glasgow Museums © Culture and Sport Glasgow (Trading) CIC; Kathleen Ferrier — photo by Angus McBean © Harvard Theatre Collection, Houghton Library, Harvard University; Augustus Pugin — photo of House of Lords © Science & Society Picture Library; Montague Rhodes James © National Portrait Gallery, London; Alan Turing — reconstructed Bombe machine used by permission of Bletchley Park, photo by Peter Wood; Joan Mary Fry © Religious Society of Friends in Britain.

## Mint Stamps

**Price** £4.60  
**Code** AS757

**Giants in miniature**  
Featuring portraits of five of our distinguished subjects and depictions of the other five’s greatest achievements, the ten Mint Stamps are brought to you in perfect condition.

## First Day Cover Stamps

Price Inland £6.00  
Price Overseas £5.00  
Code AF353

The specially designed First Day Cover has all ten Special Stamps affixed and cancelled with your choice of a Tallents House or Coventry postmark, the latter chosen as it is the home of Coventry Cathedral. The cover also contains a fascinating filler card complete with brief biographies of our eminent subjects.



## Buy now!

First Day Covers  
only available until

## 23 Feb

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date cannot be extended.

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Alternative postmark



These Britons – the architects, the musicians, the social reformer, the ironmonger from a small Devon town who changed the history of engineering, the craftsman and the brilliant mathematician, the secret agent and the Cambridge don who created some of the most terrifying ghost stories ever written – were born with very different gifts, but they shared a determination to follow them.



## Presentation Pack

Price £5.10  
Code AP357

## Distinguished details

The Presentation Pack contains all ten Special Stamps and takes an in-depth look at the lives and achievements of our distinguished Britons. Containing the words of writer and historian Maev Kennedy and a series of fascinating pictures and illustrations this Presentation Pack is distinct in every way.



Stamp Cards

Price £4.50  
Code AQ179

**Closer to greatness**  
The Stamp Cards feature all ten of the Special Stamps, reproduced at postcard size to enable every detail of these exquisite illustrations, photographs and portraits to be enjoyed.

Order in a way that suits you

12DFK

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<b>Stamp Cards</b> (10 in set)		AQ179	£4.50		£
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