

Castle High Values

18 October 1988



The first new pictorial high value definitive stamps for over 30 years will be issued on 18 October, featuring four of the best-known castles in the United Kingdom. The designs are based on photographs taken last summer and early this year by HRH The Duke of York.

The **£1** stamp shows Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland. The castle was built in c 1180, in the reign of Henry II, by John de Courcy, and commands a strategic position at the entrance to Belfast Lough. The town of Carrickfergus thus developed as an important town long before Belfast. The castle was frequently attacked, in 1204 King John recaptured it from the Earl of Ulster and in 1689 troops loyal to James II were forced to surrender it to the forces of William III. The following year King Billy stepped ashore at Carrickfergus on his way to the Battle of the Boyne. The castle was garrisoned until 1928 and in 1961 The Queen landed at Carrickfergus at the start of a Royal tour of Northern Ireland.

Caernarfon Castle in north Wales, depicted on the **£1.50** value, is best known for its association with princes of Wales. Caernarfon (*Segontium*) was fortified in Roman times and later a small castle was built as home of the native Prince of Wales. Following his conquest of Wales in 1282, Edward I decided to build several important castles in Wales and establish his base at Caernarfon. It was in the old timber castle that his son, the first English Prince of Wales and later King Edward II, was born in April 1284. Work on the new castle began in 1283 and continued, with interruptions, until 1330. The castle was attacked by Owain Glyndŵr in 1403 and by the French in 1404 and captured by siege by Parliamentarians in 1646. At the Restoration in 1660 the townspeople agreed to pull down the castle provided the demolition could be accomplished for less than £500. Fortunately the money was not forthcoming and the castle remained.

The great national citadel of Edinburgh Castle features on the **£2** stamp. A fortification has existed on the extinct volcano known as Castle Rock since at least the 7th century; the present



CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE



CAERNARFON CASTLE



EDINBURGH CASTLE



WINDSOR CASTLE

castle began to take shape in the reign of David II (1329-71) and has been added to over the years. The oldest structure is the Romanesque chapel of St Margaret, the Great Hall with its noted hammer beam roof dates from the reign of James IV.

Visitors to the castle see the National Regalia of Scotland, the National War Memorial and *Mons Meg*, the 15th century bombard fired to announce the engagement of Mary Queen of Scots to the Dauphin of France. Her son, James VI (I of England) was born at the castle in 1566. The internationally-famous tattoo is held in the castle each summer.



The Duke of York at work, photographing Carrickfergus, Windsor and (opposite page) Edinburgh castles. Caernarfon Castle is featured on the front cover



The £5 stamp depicts Windsor Castle – the home of successive kings and queens since the reign of William the Conqueror. With Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, it is one of the three official residences of the sovereign. Although originally intended as a fortress, controlling the trade routes from London, it soon became a residence, mainly because it was near forests for hunting. The castle was besieged twice during the reign of King John,

the second time against the king's attempts to renege on Magna Carta. Henry III, Edward III and IV, Charles II, George IV and Victoria all initiated major changes to the castle, and Victoria spent much of her widowhood there.

Many sovereigns have been buried at Windsor following funeral services in St George's Chapel within the castle (the chapel featured on a 1975 stamp). The magnificent state apartments are visited by thousands of tourists each year.



Technical Details

The four stamps have been printed in intaglio (recess) by Harrison & Sons Limited on their Giori press (the first time this machine has been used to print British stamps), in sheets of 100. The sheets contain four panes of 25, divided by horizontal and vertical gutters. Details of the plate numbers used will be published in a future

Bulletin. Each stamp measures 41 x 30mm and is perforated 15 x 14, the gum used is PVA Dextrin. The colours used for the stamps are: £1 green, £1.50 burgundy, £2 blue and £5 brown.

First Day Cover

A distinctive first day cover with four-castle motif will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 17p. Two



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HIGH VALUE
DEFINITIVE
STAMPS

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

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HIGH VALUE
DEFINITIVE
STAMPS

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pictorial postmarks, featuring Castle designs, will be used for the first day cover service, one from the British Philatelic Bureau, the other from Windsor.

A FDC service will be provided by the Bureau with the official cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with either postmark. The charges will be £11.17 (UK, including VAT) and £9.72 (overseas). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 18 October.

Covers may be processed under the reposting facility by sending on the day of issue covers franked with the new stamps under outer cover endorsed 'First Day Handstamp' to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Windsor Special Postmark Duty
Windsor PO
39 Peascod Street
WINDSOR
Berks SL4 1AA

Presentation Pack

The pack (No 16) will cost £9.50 and was designed by Sedley Place Limited with text by Mike Barden. The pack was printed by C D T Printers Ltd.