

Europa 1990

6 March 1990



The theme of this year's Europa issue is Post Office Buildings and two of the four Europa stamps to be issued on 6 March will feature buildings of postal and philatelic significance. The other two stamps in the set feature important buildings in Glasgow in recognition of the city being "European City of Culture" in 1990.



There will be two **20p** stamps (inland first class and EEC basic rate), printed in separate sheets, one featuring Alexandra Palace, the other the Glasgow School of Art. The **29p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) shows the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the **37p** value (Airmail Zone C) the Templeton Carpet Factory in Glasgow.

Alexandra Palace was opened in May 1873 and named in honour of the Princess of Wales. The glass and iron structure was originally erected for the International Exhibition in the grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society in Kensington in 1862. Only 16 days after it was opened it burned down and was rebuilt and reopened in 1875. The 7 acre site encompassed an exhibition hall, concert and reading room and theatre. Music festivals, flower, fruit, dog and horse shows were staged with racing, archery and cricket in the grounds. Other attractions included a circus and a Japanese village. Howev-

er it did not prove as popular as the Crystal Palace in Sydenham (originally built for the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851) and during the Great War was used as a barracks and to house German prisoners of war.

It became famous from 1936 as the home of BBC television, the Alexandra Palace transmitter was used to introduce many news and other programmes. The television centre moved to west London in 1956. In 1980 a second fire destroyed much of the building and over the past few years it has been rebuilt yet again. In May it will stage the "Stamp World London 90" international stamp exhibition with full postal and philatelic services provided. It will thus become a temporary Post Office building.

The **Glasgow School of Art**, in Renfrew Street, was founded in 1844 and is one of the oldest and largest art schools in Britain. It has been said of the School's premises, "modern architecture begins with this building". The building was designed by the Scottish architect, designer and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928). During 1990, Glasgow will be paying tribute to this man who widely influenced European architecture. A series of exhibitions, at the School of Art, the Hunterian Art Gallery and Queen's Cross Church, will trace his life's work. In August, a public international symposium will be hosted by the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. In Bellahouston Park, a private consortium has been building Mackintosh's design for the "Artlover's House"; this is being faithfully built to Mackintosh's drawings and will be open to the public.

The front block of the **British Philatelic Bureau** building in Brandon Street, Edinburgh, was built in 1883 by John Chesser for R & R Clark (Printers); the style of architecture is described as "neo-Jacobean". It is a listed building. The main block was constructed in 1977 by Citydale Ltd. The total area of the premises amounts to some 138,782 square feet. The Philatelic Bureau was established alongside GPO Headquarters in London in 1963 and

moved to the Head Post Office in Edinburgh in 1966. In 1974 the Bureau moved to Lothian Road and to the present Brandon Street location in 1981.

On Glasgow Green, the oldest public park in the city, are several interesting buildings including **Templeton's Carpet Factory**, modelled on the Doge's Palace in Venice, and built in 1892.



Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by Paul Hogarth, designer of the 1984 Economic Summit and 1985 Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service issues, and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited. They are of vertical format, 30 x 41mm, printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation is 14 x 15.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 19 February, price 18p each. They bear reference numbers PHQ124A-D.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No 206) will cost £1.30; it was designed by Roundel Design Group with text by Cliff Hanley, a noted Glaswegian humorist. It was printed by Moore and Matthes Limited. The illustrations feature details of the four buildings shown on the stamps.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic

counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before issue of the stamps, price 18p. Pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be available for the British Philatelic Bureau and Glasgow. A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 6 March.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue Postmark" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Glasgow Special Handstamp Centre
Glasgow LDO
George Square
GLASGOW G2 1AA

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from philatelic counters from 7 March, price 18p.



The British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh

