

90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

2 August 1990



The Royal Mail will issue four stamps on Thursday 2 August to commemorate the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. The four stamps feature portraits of Her Majesty under each of her four titles.



The **20p** stamp (inland and EEC basic rate) shows a recent portrait of The Queen Mother, wearing one of her familiar hats and smiling in her characteristic way. The **29p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) shows a portrait of The Queen Mother as Queen Elizabeth, consort to King George VI; the **34p** value (Airmail Zone B) portrays Her Majesty as Duchess of York. She was known by this title from the time of her marriage to the Duke of York in 1923 until the Duke became King George VI in 1936. The final stamp, **37p** (Airmail Zone C) features a delightful study of the young Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

The Queen Mother was born on 4 August 1900, the ninth child of Lord Glamis, later 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. She was christened Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon; her early life was spent at the family homes at St Paul's Walden Bury, Hertfordshire; Streatham Castle, Durham; and Glamis Castle in Scotland.

In April 1923 she married Prince Albert, Duke of York - the second son of King George V and Queen Mary, known in the Royal Family as Bertie. Their first child, Princess Elizabeth (now HM The Queen) was born three years

later and a second daughter, Princess Margaret Rose, was born in 1930. The Duke and Duchess undertook much charity work and made several overseas visits. They were amongst the most popular members of the Royal Family. On 2 November 1934 they opened the extension to London's Mount Pleasant sorting office; a special slogan postmark was used that day on about 400 items of mail, probably all addressed to VIPs.



**OPENING OF MOUNT
PLEASANT SORTING
OFFICE BY T.R.H. THE
DUKE & DUCHESS OF YORK**



The Duke and Duchess of York applying the special slogan postmark at the opening of Mount Pleasant sorting office, 2 November 1934

In January 1936 George V died and his eldest son, the Prince of Wales succeeded as King Edward VIII. His younger brother, the Duke, then became next in line to the throne of the unmarried king. Eleven months later, Edward VIII had given up his throne and the Duke and Duchess moved into Buckingham Palace as

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The new king did not have a peaceful reign, less than three years after his accession the country was at war and for long after the war his people were subject to austerity. His brother, the Duke of Kent, was killed on war service and part of Buckingham Palace was severely damaged by a bomb. Queen Elizabeth was a pillar of strength to her husband during the war years; their popularity was evident when they appeared on the Palace balcony after the end of hostilities.

There were happier times — the marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Prince Philip of Greece in 1947 and the births of their grandchildren, Prince Charles in 1948 and Princess Anne in 1950.



When King George died suddenly in February 1952, his widow took on the new title of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and a new role which she has fulfilled with great dignity and enthusiasm, earning her respect worldwide. She still undertakes numerous public engagements and even overseas trips. The affection in which she is held is demonstrated each year on her birthday when crowds gather outside Clarence House, her London home, to sing "Happy Birthday" and present her with gifts and flowers.

The new stamps will be a welcome tribute to a very popular lady, doubling the number of British stamps featuring The Queen Mother. She was first shown, with George VI, on the 1937 Coronation stamp, and then on 2½d and £1 stamp issued in 1948 to mark their silver wedding anniversary. A 12p stamp, featuring a well-known photograph by the late Norman Parkinson, was issued in August 1980 to celebrate Her Majesty's 80th birthday. That was the first British stamp to commemorate a royal birthday.

Technical Details

The Queen Mother stamps were designed by John Gorham and printed by Harrison and Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of vertical format, 30 x 41mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 15.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 210) will cost £1.50: it was designed by John Gorham with text by Mike Barden and printed by Moore and Matthews (Printers) Limited.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards, numbered 128A-D, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue. Price 18p each.

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 2 August, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau, the other for City of Westminster, London SW1.

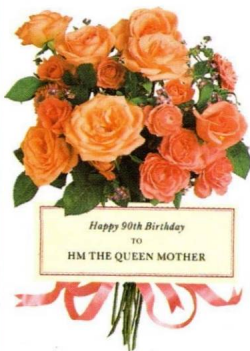
A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 2 August.

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 handstamp" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Westminster
London South Special Handstamp Centre
SW London LDO
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Packet number: 210
Date of issue: 2 August 1990
The four stamps were designed by John Gosham
Printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited
Stamp designs © Royal Mail 1990
Format: vertical, Size: 50mm x 41mm
Perforations: 11 x 15
Number per sheet: 100
Paper: unwatermarked polythene coated
Gum: PVA adhesive

Stamp acknowledgements:
Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon by Rita Martin
courtesy of Halifax Picture Company
Elizabeth The Queen of Turk by Brittain Park
courtesy of Gilbert Adams
Queen Elizabeth by Dorothy Widdow
courtesy of Propaganda
Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother by Norman Parkinson
courtesy of Hamiltonian Photographers Limited

Related stamp issue:
The Sixtieth Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen 1960

Packet designed by John Gosham
Text by Mike Radwin
Made and printed in Great Britain
by Moore & Martin Printers Limited

Further details about British postage stamps and philatelic facilities can be obtained from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Bonhill Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

Photographs courtesy of:
Her Majesty The Queen
National Portrait Gallery, London
Hamiltonian Photographers Limited
Propaganda
Ray Frutkin
Ray Wightman

Left: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in the Garden at the Castle of St. Ninian, by Norman Parkinson.

wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London, will be used at the London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Durham Post Office will be using a pictorial First Day handstamp showing the cathedral. Items for this postmark should be sent to: Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, Durham Post Office, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 2 August - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 3 August, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year.

Stampway to the World

The Stampway exhibition, sponsored by the Stamp Publicity Board, was first staged in Liverpool in 1988, later moving on to Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and to Alexandra Palace for the Stamp World exhibition. At each venue it has proved very popular. At Alexandra Palace the ten panels dedicated to London attracted a great deal of praise. There were hundreds of entries to the Stampway competition and 50 winners have now been sent Royal Mail Collectors' Packs.

Stampway moves to its fifth venue in October at the Glasgow Museum of Transport where it will be on show until early January 1991. Also on show at the Museum will be a separate "Post in Scotland" exhibition.

Details of Stampway and of the Stamp Publicity Board can be obtained from the SPB office: 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, Tel. 071-253 1231.

Bristol Philatelic Convention

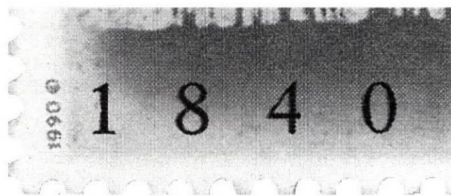
The Annual Convention of the **Bristol and District Federation of Philatelic Societies** will be held in the Somerset Hall, Portishead, near Bristol from 10am to 6pm on 11 and 12 August. The Post Office will have a stand and many national societies will be holding local meetings during the event. Some 40 dealers will

be present, there will be activities, including a competition for young collectors and the programme includes a crossword with a Penny Black as the prize. The event is always well-attended and popular. Further details from: John Tovey, 36 Northville Road, BRISTOL BS7 0RG.

Thomas Hardy Stamp

A 20p stamp marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hardy, eminent novelist and poet, will be issued on 10 July. The stamp was previewed in last month's *Bulletin*.

Sharp-eyed readers may have noticed that in addition to the year "1990" in the bottom left margin of the stamp, there also appears the C in circle copyright symbol. It is intended that this should appear on all future issues of British special stamps.



An unusual study of Hardy the cyclist in a country lane in his native Dorset, c.1890. Photo courtesy of The Trustees of the Thomas Hardy Memorial Collection, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester

Our front cover this month features the novelist's signature and a portrait of Hardy, courtesy of the Mary Evans Picture Library.