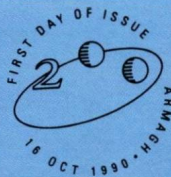


16 October 1990



Four stamps will be issued on 16 October to mark the 200th anniversary of Armagh Observatory and the centenary of the British Astronomical Association. Armagh Observatory is noted for its important star catalogue and for recent pioneer studies of certain stars which show sudden, unpredictable flares or outbursts.

The BAA is the premier organisation of its kind; many of its observers are amateurs but work closely with professional organisations and many have gone on to become leading astronomical researchers.

The designs of the four stamps trace the development of man's understanding and exploration of space: **22p** — The modern day exploration of space, illustrated by the Armagh Observatory (centre panel), the Jodrell Bank radio telescope (left) and the La Palma telescope (right); **26p** — Man's understanding increases, illustrated by the moon governing the tides on earth (centre) and early attempts to see into space by telescope (left and right); **31p** — Man begins to understand the scientific principles governing space, illustrated by the Greenwich Old Observatory (centre) and early astronomical equipment (left and right); **37p** — The beginning of Man's realisation of the existence of space, illustrated by Stonehenge (centre), the gyroscope (left) and navigation by the stars (right).

## Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Jeff Fisher and printed by The House of Questa Limited in offset-lithography on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "almost square" format, 37 x 35mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

## Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 212) will cost £1.45; it was designed by Trickett & Webb Limited with text by well-known astronomer and TV personality Patrick Moore. It was printed by Moore & Matthes (Printers) Limited.

## Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp

designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 130A-D.

## First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 16 October, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Armagh.

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 16 October.

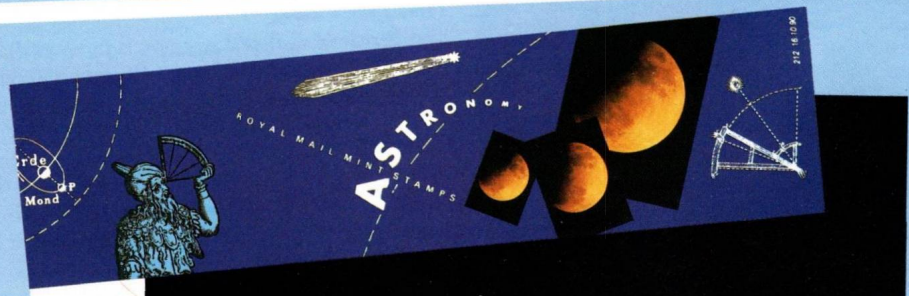
Customers requiring only the pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Scotland & N Ireland Special Handstamp Centre, Glasgow LDO, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA (Armagh postmark).

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.

As usual pictorial First Day postmarks, showing the City coat of arms and the Cathedral will be used respectively by the London North SHC, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA and the Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, Durham Post Office, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

## Souvenir Cover

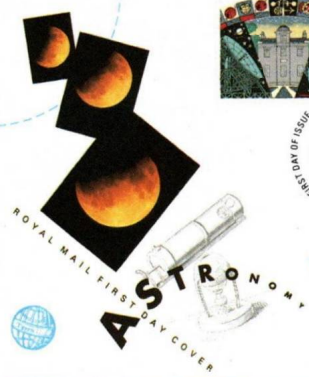
A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" centres and philatelic counters from 17 October, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.



**WILLIAM HERSCHEL**  
 In the eighteenth century William Herschel, a Hanoverian musician who spent most of his long life in England, turned his attention to astronomy and made telescopes which were much the best of their time. He discovered the seventh planet, Uranus, and was made Court Astronomer to King



studies of certain stars which bring sudden, unpredictable flares or outbursts. In 1890 came the British Astronomical Association, whose record in the field of astronomical observation is second to none, and which remains of the premier organisation of its kind. Members of the Association have made many important contributions. They have kept watch on the changing surfaces



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