

Dogs

8 January 1991



Five stamps reproducing paintings of dogs by George Stubbs (1724-1806) will be issued on 8 January 1991 – the bicentenary year of the Royal Veterinary College and the centenary year of Cruft's Dog Show and the National Canine Defence League.

The **22p** stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate) features a King Charles Spaniel; the



26p value (Europe, non-EEC countries) shows a Pointer; the **31p** (airmail postcards) depicts two hounds in a landscape; the **33p** (inland first class, second rate step) features "A Rough Dog" and the **37p** (basic weight airmail) "Fino and Tiny".

Stubbs combined a meticulous understanding of anatomy with an ability to depict the grace and dignity of animals without sentimentality. Although better known for his paintings of horses, he executed many portraits for dog-owners. The Vyner family of Lincolnshire commissioned him to paint the hounds shown on the 31p stamp; the painting of Fino, a black and white spitz dog, and Tiny, a small chestnut spaniel, was undertaken for the Prince of Wales (later King George IV) in 1791. The portrait entitled "A Rough Dog" showed that Stubbs considered even a humble mongrel equally worthy of his canvas.

During the late 18th century people became aware of the poor state of animal welfare. In 1788 the Odiham Agricultural Society in

Hampshire highlighted the lack of veterinary education in Britain and three years later the Veterinary College of London was established; now the Royal Veterinary College and part of the University of London. Over a quarter of Britain's 11,000 veterinary surgeons are graduates of the RVC.

During Victorian times dog shows were introduced; the first taking place at Newcastle upon Tyne in 1859. In 1873 the Kennel Club was founded to regulate shows and to publish *The Stud Book*. In 1880 a system of universal registration to avoid name duplication was introduced – some 180,000 dogs are now registered with the Kennel Club each year.

The best-known dog show remains Cruft's, the brainchild of Charles Cruft (1852-1938). He was invited to organise the canine section of the Paris Exhibition in 1878 and in 1885 the Allied Terrier Club Show in London. In 1891 he organised, at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington, his own dog show which celebrates its centenary in 1991. Since 1948 the show has been under the jurisdiction of the Kennel Club; it was held at Olympia from 1948 to 1978, at Earl's Court from 1979 to 1990 and in 1991 will, for



Photographs of Charles Cruft courtesy of the Kennel Club Library

the first time, be staged at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

At the first Cruft's show, Lady Gertrude Stock organised the National Canine Defence League – to fight the oppressive measures then in force against dogs and to eradicate cruelty. The NCDL's efforts were rewarded when magistrates were empowered to deprive cruel owners of their dogs and a law was passed making the constant chaining of dogs an offence. Today the League has 13 rescue centres and runs campaigns to educate owners about dog care and to discourage the casual purchase of dogs, especially puppies for Christmas presents.



Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell Limited and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "near square" format, 37 x 35mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 215) will cost £1.80; it was designed by Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell with text by Mike Barden. It was printed by Raithby, Lawrence.

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 132A-E.

Correction: Christmas stamp cards are numbered 131A-E, not 130A-E as stated in the October Digest. Apologies for any confusion.

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 8 January, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Birmingham (the 1991 Cruft's Show will be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham).

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 8 January.

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 Midlands Special Handstamp Centre, Birmingham LDO, Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA (Birmingham 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.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 8 January - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

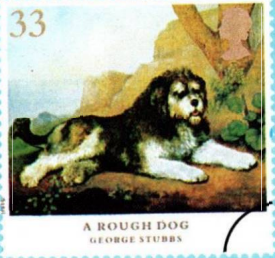
A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" centres and philatelic counters from 9 January, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.

Obituary – Lord Reilly

Lord Reilly who died on 11 October, aged 78, was a leading authority on design matters, joining the Council of Industrial Design in 1947. The Council was involved in stamp design and Paul Reilly was a founder member of the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee when it was set up in 1967, remaining a member until his death. He took a keen interest in its work. He sat on similar design committees for British Rail, British Telecom, the BBC and the National Theatre. He was knighted in 1967 and given a life peerage in 1978 following his retirement from the Design Council.



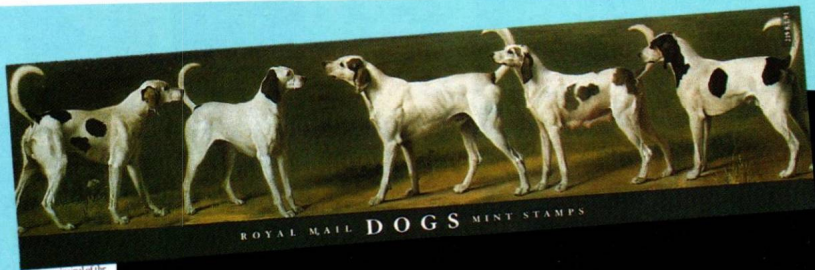
31
TWO HOUNDS IN A LANDSCAPE
GEORGE STUBBS



33
A ROUGH DOG
GEORGE STUBBS



37
FINO AND TINY
GEORGE STUBBS



Principal of the
Veterinary College
of London.

2 Centre, middle
Jacques-Léon
Lanquar's 1912
photograph of
his Jack Russell
terrier, Toby.



22
KING CHARLES SPANIEL
GEORGE STUBBS



26
A POINTER
GEORGE STUBBS



31
TWO HOUNDS IN A LANDSCAPE
GEORGE STUBBS



33
A ROUGH DOG
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8 Engraving
showing the
Veterinary College
of London in the
early 19th
century.

into animal
prevention, control and therapy.
During Victorian times, pride in
dog ownership had grown to such
an extent that shows were introduced
for owners to exhibit their dogs. The first dog show, at
Newcastle upon Tyne in 1859, was quickly followed by
others throughout Britain. In 1873, the Kennel
Club was founded to organise dog shows and to

inculcate the
and to eradicate the cruelty with
which so many dogs were treated.

By campaigning for legislation affect-
ing animal welfare, the NCDL's efforts were soon rewarded
when magistrates were empowered to deprive cruel owners
of their dogs and a law was passed making
the constant chaining of dogs an offence.
Today, the organisation runs thirteen
pounders, where dogs are taken into

12 Centre, bottom
Two views of
the women
Elizabeth Taylor
and Lavinia.

13 A 1911 portrait
of Charles Cruik.



22
KING CHARLES SPANIEL
GEORGE STUBBS



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