

Five stamps under the Europa title will be issued on 7 April; all have a Spanish flavour to the designs. The stamps commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's landfall in the Americas, British participation in the 1992 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the universal exposition EXPO '92, to be held in Seville.

The set will comprise three 24p and two 39p stamps covering basic inland first class and EEC rate, and the basic rate for airmail letters. The first 24p stamp will feature a representation of Columbus's famous ship the *Santa Maria*. A horizontal se-tenant pair of 24p stamps will show flags bearing the logos used by the British teams at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The British contingents to both Games are being sponsored by Royal Mail as part of an extensive package of sport and youth sponsorships.

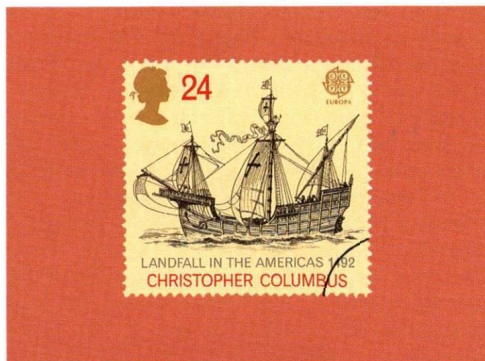
The first 39p stamp will be of similar format to the *Santa Maria* stamp, featuring the sail training ship *Kaisei* (meaning "Ocean Planet") – which will be taking part in "Operation Raleigh" – part of the Grand Regatta Columbus, 1992. With the support of the Raleigh Trust, which benefits from the sponsorship of the Royal Mail, a group of young Britons are following Columbus's route to America aboard the *Kaisei*, a two-masted brigantine of 180 tonnes.

The second 39p value features the British Pavilion at EXPO '92 which is being staged in Seville from 20 April to 12 October 1992.

## Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), a woolcomber's son from Genoa in Italy is traditionally credited with the discovery of America. A highly skilled seaman, he was obsessed as early as 1474 with discovering a westward sea passage to India after the fall of Constantinople had blocked the overland East-West trade routes. He studied accounts, maps and charts concerned with previous Atlantic voyages and gained practical seafaring experience, voyaging to the British Isles and down the African coast. His planned "Enterprise of the Indies" required considerably finance – refused by his home city

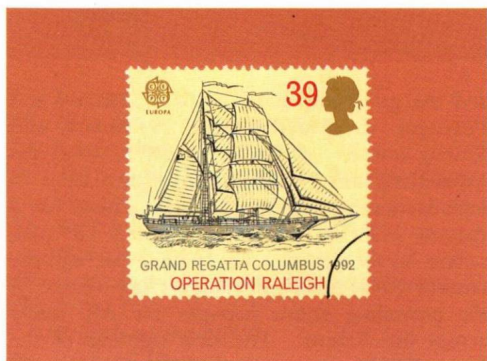
and the governments of England, France, and Portugal. Eventually King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to fund his expedition, and provided him with a letter of introduction to the Great Khan of China. On 3 August 1492 he set off, with about 120 men sailing on three ships – the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and the famous *Santa Maria*. His expert knowledge of the prevailing winds brought his ship safely across the Atlantic. The first sighting of the New World came off the Bahamas on 12 October. He sailed near Cuba and landed on Haiti, which he named Hispaniola. He returned



to Spain, a hero, in March 1493, and was made a duke. Further voyages followed (1493-6, 1498-1500 and 1502-4), although Columbus never landed on the American mainland. He didn't find the gold and spices he was seeking and having failed to find a western passage to India, lost his reputation and died almost disgraced at Valladolid in 1506. He was buried at a monastery near Seville. Columbus went to his grave believing he had reached Asia.

Over 200 projects are in hand to celebrate the quincentenary of Columbus's expedition. Replicas of Columbus's three vessels left the Canaries in November 1991, for a tour of American ports, ending up in New York on Independence Day (4 July). There will be numerous sporting events – Columbus World Cup (sailing), Columbus Bowl (American football), and Columbus Cup (football). The anniversary has led to the making of films and the writing of books

on Columbus, not all of which show the navigator in a favourable light. Great Explorer or "a nasty piece of work", we will all hear much of Columbus and his exploits in the months ahead.



### Operation Raleigh

Operation Raleigh represents Britain's contribution to the Grand Regatta Columbus 92, a massive cavalcade of sailing ships that is making a trans-Atlantic crossing to mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus's historic voyage. Much of the voyage is programmed as a series of races and, after departure from Spain, the main contest follows a course across the Atlantic to San Juan in Puerto Rico. From here, the vessels will sail to New York for the Independence Day celebrations on the Hudson River. The final leg will be the return trans-Atlantic race from Boston to Liverpool where the ships will gather for a historic review on the River Mersey.



### Olympic and Paralympic Games

The 1992 Olympic and Paralympic Games (for the disabled) will be held in Barcelona Spain from 25 July-9 August and 3-14 September respectively. (The 1992 Winter Olympics were held at Albertville, France from 8-23 February.) Athletes and officials will use the same venues and facilities. The original games, held at Olympia in honour of Zeus, included running, jumping, boxing, wrestling, discus, javelin and

equestrian events – all had military application; they were accompanied by competitions in the arts, a king of Greek eisteddfod. The Games, first held in 776BC, were discontinued in 394AD. The revival of the Olympics is credited to the French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937); the first of the modern Olympic Games was staged in Athens in 1896. Subsequent games have been held in Paris, 1900; St Louis, 1904; London, 1908; Stockholm, 1912; Antwerp, 1920; Paris, 1924; Amsterdam, 1928; Los Angeles, 1932; Berlin, 1936; London, 1948; Helsinki, 1952; Melbourne, 1956; Rome, 1960; Tokyo, 1964; Mexico City, 1968; Munich, 1972; Montreal, 1976; Moscow, 1980; Los Angeles, 1984 and Seoul, 1988. The first Winter Olympics were staged at Chamonix in France in 1924. Articles, by Bob Wilcock, on the Winter Olympics, and on the London Olympics of 1908 and 1948 were published here in July, October and November 1988.

Special stamps have been issued by the host and/or some participating countries for most, if not all, games. For the Montreal Olympics in 1976, the Canadian Post Office issued no fewer than 12 sets of stamps! The 1948 Olympics in London were commemorated by a set of four British stamps – the subject of an in-depth three-part article by Douglas N Muir in the *Bulletin* of February, March, and April 1989. Stamps for the 1992 Barcelona Games have been issued by several countries, including, of course the Spanish Post Office. Already some stamps have been issued to promote the 1996 Games to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

### EXPO '92

Since the Great Exhibition in London's Hyde Park in 1851, international fairs have been held to celebrate a nation's identity at home and abroad. Expo '92 to be held at Seville, in southern Spain, from 20 April to 12 October 1992, will include exhibitions from 108 nations on the theme "The Age of Discovery". It is expected to break all records for such events, including its predecessors in Belgium (1958), Canada (1967 and 1986), and Japan (1985). Some 18-20 million visitors (half from overseas) are expected to see the 500-plus acre hi-tech exhibition. A new transport infrastructure has been built and entire forests of trees and plants cultivated to complement the buildings. Some 55,000 cultural events are planned, and the car-park, for 40,000 vehicles, is said to be the largest in the world. Although not sited in the city



LANDFALL IN THE AMERICAS 1492  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



GRANDI REGATTA COLUMBUS 1992  
OPERATION RALEIGH



OLYMPICS 92 BARCELONA



PARALYMPICS 92 BARCELONA



EXPO '92 SEVILLE



EUROPA '92  
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorber Road  
ILKESTON  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB



EUROPA '92  
Royal Mail Mint Stamps

2277.4.92



LANDFALL IN THE AMERICAS 1492  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



GRANDI REGATTA COLUMBUS 1992  
OPERATION RALEIGH



OLYMPICS 92 BARCELONA



PARALYMPICS 92 BARCELONA



EXPO '92 SEVILLE

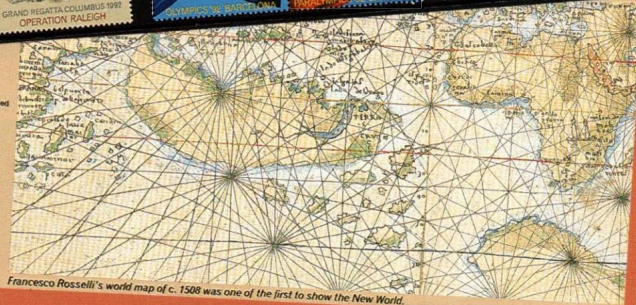
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World, from an  
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Format: horizontal  
Size: 39mm x 26mm  
Perforations: 14/11 x 14  
Number per sheet: 100  
Paper: unwatermarked phosphor coated  
Gum: PVA Dextrin

Pack design: Keith Bassford  
Text: Tim Shackleton  
Made and printed in Great Britain by  
Royal Mail, Lanesmere  
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stamps and philatelic facilities can be  
obtained from the  
British Philatelic Bureau  
FREEPOST  
20 Brandon Street  
Edinburgh EH3 6JN

Colour photograph: Gary Norman  
de Bry engraving: Columbus portrait  
and Rosselli map: National Maritime  
Museum, London



Francesco Rosselli's world map of c. 1508 was one of the first to show the New World.

centre, the staging of EXPO has led to restoration and cleaning of many of the city's fine buildings and the building of a ring road. Some US\$1.8 billion will have been spent by the Spanish government on the exhibition by the time it opens.

The British pavilion, designed for the event, and encompassing a waterfall, will be a showcase of our achievements as a nation.



### Designer

The stamps were designed by Keith Bassford. The ships on two of the stamps were drawn by Stanley Paine and engraved by Chris Matthews. The other three were photographed by Victor Watts. Mr Bassford and Mr Paine designed the 1984 Royal Mail stamps showing mail coaches. Mr Bassford also has to his credit the 1985 British Films, 1986 Industry Year, and 1989 Microscopes sets. Chris Matthews of Harrisons engraved the 1988 and 1992 Castle high values, and the 1990 Stamp World '90 miniature sheet.

### Printing Details

The 24p *Santa Maria* and 39p Operation Raleigh stamps were printed in intaglio (recess) and offset-litho by Harrison and Sons Limited, the other three stamps have been printed in offset-lithography by The House of Questa. All are of "almost square" format (37 x 35mm), printed on phosphor coated paper, in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

### First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 7 April, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Liverpool where the Tall Ships Race will end.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required and the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 7 April.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Liverpool postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

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.

In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamp); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham). These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989 and 22 March 1988 respectively.

### Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 227) will cost £1.80. It was designed by Keith Bassford with text by Tim Shackleton; made and printed by Raithby Lawrence of Leicester.

### Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 143A-E.

### Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 8 April, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.