

Marine Timekeepers

16 February 1993



Four stamps commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Harrison, who perfected the Marine Chronometer, go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 16 February. The stamps feature different layers of Harrison's "H4" Clock (one of five prototypes, now known as H1–H5), completed in 1759. The clocks can be seen at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

The stamps were designed by Howard Brown, a freelance graphic designer working in London. Previous work for Royal Mail include designing a booklet on the history of British films in 1985, and a set of stamps to mark the bicentenary of Ordnance Survey in 1991.

Technical Details

Printer:	The House of Questa
Process:	Offset lithography
Size:	35 × 37mm, "almost square"
Sheets:	100
Perforation:	14 × 14½
Phosphor:	Phosphor Coated Paper
Gum:	PVA
Presentation Pack:	No 235, price £1.55
Stamp Cards:	Nos 150A–D, price 21p each.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters approximately two weeks before 16 February, price 21p.



The values cover the inland 1st Class and EC basic rates (24p), Europe, non-EC basic rate (28p); worldwide postcard rate (33p); and basic airmail letter rate (39p).

The 24p stamp shows a decorated enamel dial with precision centre-seconds indication. The 28p stamp shows the escapement, remontoire and fusee with automatic 'maintaining power'.

The 33p stamp shows the timekeeping element, including balance and spring and bimetallic temperature compensation. The 39p stamp shows the pierced and engraved back of the movement.

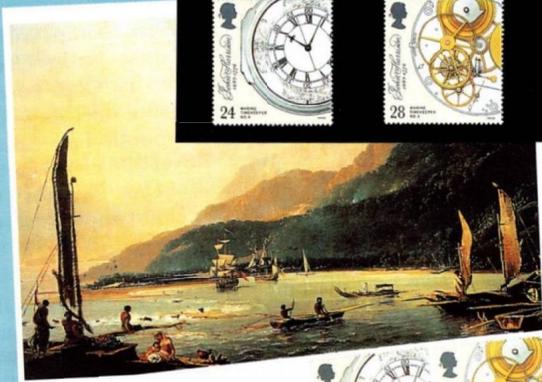
John Harrison, (1693–1776) is hardly a household name, yet he is possibly Britain's greatest horologist. He was of humble Yorkshire origins and almost entirely self-taught, yet his invention of the accurate portable timekeeper (the chronometer) was to prove vital for safe navigation at sea, thus helping to secure Britain's vast empire, and was to be the forerunner of all precision watches.



The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the five stamps cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Greenwich, price £1.82 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.55 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers

MARINE TIMEKEEPERS

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



Printer: collect lithography
 Stamp design © Royal Mail 1993
 Format: vertical Size: 31 mm x 27 mm
 Perforations: 14 x 11 Number per sheet: 100
 Paper: watermark and phosphorescent
 Glue: 9% Dextrin

Post number: 235
 Design: Howard Dixon
 Text: Jonathan Betts, National Maritime Museum
 Printer: Litho-Tech Limited, United Kingdom
 All photographs and paintings by permission of
 National Maritime Museum, London except portrait
 of Harrison by permission of Jonathan Betts,
 grandfather expertises illustration by permission of
 David Prosser, drawing of sea by permission of the
 Syndics of Cambridge University Library.

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
**MARINE
 TIMEKEEPERS**



Mrs J Robinson
 200 Manorbier Road
 ILKESTON
 Derbyshire
 DE7 4AB





must be received at the Bureau by 16 February.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Greenwich cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail London SW, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark".

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



Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

There will be no souvenir cover; these have now been discontinued.

The presentation pack contains a discount voucher for entry to Historic Maritime Greenwich sites.

Royal Mail News

Definitive Stamp Cards

Stamp cards reproducing the designs of the current £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 Castle High values and of the new £10 Britannia definitive will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters from 16 February 1993, price 21p each. The new £10 stamp will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 2 March.

A "First Day of Sale" handstamp will be available at Windsor for these cards. Cards, bearing at least the minimum 1st Class postage rate (24p) on address or picture side, should be sent, on 16 February, to: South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascod Street, WINDSOR, SL4 1AA. Please ask for "Stamp Cards First Day Handstamp".

New Stamp Books

Two new machine books will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 9 February 1993; they will be available from post offices as stocks of earlier issues are used up. These books begin new series – 50p Postal History, and £1 Educational Institutions. The 50p book will, as usual, be printed by Harrisons and will contain 1p and 24p stamps as in the Archaeology books. The £1 book will be printed by Walsall, yielding 2p and 24p stamps in litho with straight edges. As with the Harrison stamps, the Walsall values will be on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP), with PVA Dextrin gum.

A new book of 10 × 1st class stamps will also be available from philatelic outlets from 9 February. It will feature an advertisement for the Greetings (Gift Giving) stamps on the cover. Printed by Walsall, the stamps will be on ACP with PVA Dextrin gum. As previous Walsall printings have been on PCP with PVA gum, this