

# Europa – Art in the 20th Century



11 May 1993

Four stamps under the Europa title will be issued on 11 May, all depict major works of 20th century British art.

Britain's artists have made a unique contribution to the modern art movement, and their achievement is recognised in this set of stamps. It is Royal Mail's contribution to "Art in the Twentieth Century", which has been adopted by Europe's postal administrations as the theme to be celebrated in 1993. The images presented – from a sculptor, a printmaker, and iconographer and an abstract painter – are symbolic of the enormous and exceptionally varied talent that has been fostered in the past ten decades among the artists of the United Kingdom.

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 features the "Family Group" by sculptor Henry Moore, a 152cm high bronze created in 1948-9. It is now at the Henry Moore Foundation, Much Hadham, Herts.

The 28p value depicts a detail from Edward Bawden's "Kew Gardens" – a lithograph after a linocut, 101 x 63cm, dating from 1936. It is now at the Cecil Huggins Art Gallery, Bedford.

The 33p denomination shows Sir Stanley Spencer's painting "St Francis and the Birds" – an oil on canvas, 71 x 61cm, produced in 1953 and now in the Tate Gallery, London.

The final value, 39p features Ben Nicholson's "Still Life Odyssey 1", dating from 1947. This oil on canvas, 69 x 56cm, is reproduced on the stamp courtesy of the British Council, London.

This issue marks the first appearance of the new Europa symbol on a set of Royal Mail special stamps. As a logotype, it takes the place of the familiar CEPT symbol that had been used for a number of years by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations.

The stamp has been designed by Ashted Dastor, FCSD, FSTD, who also designed the presentation pack.

## Technical Details

Printers:	Harrison & Sons Ltd
Process:	Photogravure
Size:	37 x 35mm
Sheets:	100
Perforation:	14½ x 14
Phosphor:	Phosphor Coated Paper
Gum:	PVA Dextrin
Presentation Pack:	No. 237, price £1.55
Stamp Cards:	Nos 152 A-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 around a week before 11 May, price 21p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the



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IN THE 20TH CENTURY



ROYAL MAIL  
FIRST DAY COVER

Edward Bawden (1903 - 1989). Bawden's work is firmly rooted in the scenes and traditions of his native country and, in particular, the ancient counties. Born in Gloucester, an orphanage's son, he had no less, for most of his life, a yearning for the sea. As a water-colourist, he had, as one of his contemporaries observed, 'the remarkable ability of reducing complex forms to a direct shorthand pattern which strikes from the large shapes down to small details this brightly calligraphic is sustained. Equally at home with book illustration, murals, poster advertising, even fabric design, he allowed his talents generous room for manoeuvre. His greatest achievements were probably his linocuts, which he had devised a craft skill to an art form.

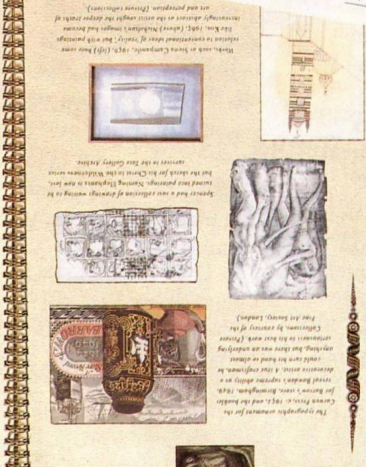
Stanley Spencer (1891 - 1959). Spencer was a true original. A member of that tradition of idiosyncratic British artists stretching back at least as far as William Blake, 'The intention in all my work is towards happiness and peace, he wrote. 'Painting was a means of self-analysis, and many of his canvases are suffused with an intensely personal spirituality. He invested everyday objects and scenes with unexpected significance, pointing the destruction or the Crucifixion as though they were happening in Cookham, the Thames-side village where he lived. Pushing the old pan on which he carried his easel and paints, he was a familiar sight in the area.

Ben Nicholson (1894 - 1982). Born in Dorking, Nicholson's fascination came from a family of painters. He had little respect for reality behind appearance in his painting. The surface was often heavily pitched, the aesthetic sense, he later recalled, 'merely clean in colour against the mass-green of the hills, next there appeared to my hillsides with Paul Nash. 'I think the hillside-dotted, so clearly geometrical in form and so

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MINT STAMPS

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Bureau or London SW, price £1.82 (including VAT) to UK addresses £1.55 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 11 May.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or London SW cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 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 covers; these have now been discontinued.

## Marine Timekeepers Stamps

The four stamps issued on 16 February to commemorate John Harrison have generated considerable interest amongst collectors, particularly for the reproduction of the intricate detail of the mechanisms of Harrison's timekeepers. Readers will be interested to know that these illustrations are the work of David Penny, FBHI, FSAI. Mr Penny was born in 1949 and graduated in illustration from Hornsey College of Art in 1970. After working in publishing for a short while, he became a freelance illustrator and has worked for the British Museum, *Sunday Times Magazine*, the National Maritime Museum, and many overseas clients.

He is a part-time lecturer at the Royal College of Art, past Chairman of the Association of Illustrators, Honorary Fellow of the British Horological Institute and Fellow of the Society of Architectural & Industrial Illustrators. From 1986 to 1992 he was Editor of *Antiquarian Horology*, and has written in many magazines.

Mr Penny's illustrations were used as the main features of the stamp designs by Howard Brown, who has previously designed the 1991 Map issue.

The Marine Timekeepers stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and selected post shops, price £1.24 per set of stamps, £1.55 pack, 84p set of stamp cards.

## Southend on Sea Philatelic Service

The Post Office at Weston Road, Southend on Sea, Essex closed after business on Saturday 13 March 1993. The counter and philatelic counter services have been re-sited into new premises nearby at: Southend on Sea Post Office, 199/201 High Street, SOUTHEND ON SEA, Essex, SS1 1LL.

The philatelic service now forms part of the new Postshop, incorporated into a large open plan office. The opening hours have been extended to offer an improved service as follows:

Monday	0845-1730
Tuesday	0900-1730
Wednesday	0900-1730
Thursday	0845-1730
Friday	0900-1730
Saturday	0900-1600

The move enables us to offer counter, retail and philatelic services from a prime High Street location in premises designed to meet our customers requirements.

*Post Office Counters Ltd*

