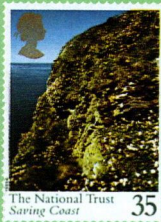
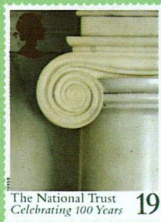


Royal Mail News

National Trust Stamps

Five stamps commemorating the centenary of the founding of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty go on sale at post offices, and philatelic outlets on 11 April.

The designs are based on photographs by the late Tony Evans, whose work featured on the 1987 Studio Pottery, and 1990 RSPCA sets. The **19p** stamp (inland basic 2nd class rate) shows a detail of a fireplace at Attingham Park, Shropshire – one of over 230 historic NT properties open to the public. The **25p** value (basic inland 1st class and EU rate) features an oak seedling, symbolising over 590,000 acres of countryside under Trust protection.



The Trust's houses contain much valuable furniture – a detail from a table leg at Attingham Park is depicted on the **30p** value covering the basic rate for European, non-EU, countries. The **35p** overseas postcard rate stamp features a tiny fraction of the 540 miles of coastline maintained by the Trust, in this case at St David's Head, Dyfed, Wales. The final stamp, **41p** (basic airmail letter rate) has as its subject a detail of Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire – arguably the finest example of a timber-framed manor house.

National Trust properties have featured on a number of earlier issues. Grasmere was shown on the 1s 6d stamp in the 1970 Literary Anniversaries set (SG 828), Derwentwater, Stackpole Head and the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland on 18p, 20p and 22p values in a National Trusts set of 1981 (SG 1156/8). The

other two stamps in that set, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland, depicted properties north of the border. The gardens of Sissinghurst Castle, Kent, and Chirk Castle (Castell Y Waun), Clwyd featured respectively on stamps issued in 1983 and 1994 commemorating British Gardens and the Prince of Wales Investiture Anniversary (1223, 1810).

The Trust owns the island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel which has issued local stamps (local carriage labels) since 1929. Many of these local stamps feature island scenes. NT properties have featured on a number of special handstamps and on some stamp book covers. Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire and Mompesson House, Wiltshire featured on 5s books of February 1969 and October & December 1969 respectively (SG HP27; HP31/32). Two books in the 50p Botanical Gardens series, issued in 1987, featured Bodnant, Gwynedd and Mount Stewart, Northern Ireland (SG FB43, 45).

A NT prestige stamp book is being issued on

25 April 1995 - this contains NT stamps as well as definitive and Country stamps (see page 194).

Technical details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 30 x 41mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: 19p – one phosphor band

25p & 35p 2 bands

30p & 41p Phosphor Coated

Paper

Paper: OBA free (OBA =

Optical Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Mrs J Robinson
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DE7 4AB



Hill Top Farm in the Lake District is a fine example of a former grand estate. It was built in the 18th century and is now a National Trust property.



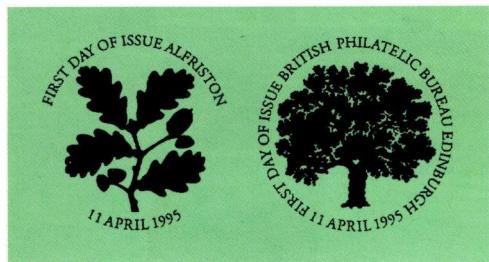
I shall never see them now, but I should like to keep them for others.
 Breadth of appeal with the message. All my love to the Lake District.
 Hill Top Farm in the Lake District is a fine example of a former grand estate. It was built in the 18th century and is now a National Trust property.
 The Trust's first property was a stretch of coastline, under threat from Victorian, the most examples of their kind.
 The Trust include Stone in Buckinghamshire, Southsea in Hampshire, and the 19th-century house in North Wales and of celebrated gardens in Northern Ireland.
 Johnson transferred his garden, Hill Top Farm in the Lake District, to the Trust, and this was followed by a succession of other properties.
 What great houses came, fine gardens could not be far behind. In 1971, the Trust bought the 17th-century house in North Wales and of celebrated gardens in Northern Ireland.
 Johnson transferred his garden, Hill Top Farm in the Lake District, to the Trust, and this was followed by a succession of other properties.
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First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 11 April, price 25p.

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 Bureau or Alfriston (East Sussex), price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 11 April 1995.



Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, SLOUGH SL1 1AA (for Alfriston postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed “FD9507” (Bureau), or “FD9508” (Alfriston). Alfriston has been selected as the Clergy House in the village was the first building acquired, in 1896, by the newly formed NT. It dates from c.1350, is half-timbered and thatched. The medieval living-room is noted for its cambered tie-beams and moulded crown-post.

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).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p National Trust stamp to covers to receive all special cancels (“First Day

of Issue”, sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 11 April. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as the NT set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 19p NT stamp; covers bearing other than NT stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.

Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

The usual pack (price £1.85) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices.

NT Stamp Packs

Packs containing ten 19p or ten 25p NT stamps have been produced for sale at NT shops at main NT properties, price £1.90 or £2.50 per pack. Collectors will be able to obtain these packs from the Bureau or PO Counters philatelic outlets.

Gift Pack

A special pack containing a presentation pack, set of maxicards (stamp cards with stamps affixed and cancelled) and a NT centenary book will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets and selected retailers from 11 April, price £9.95. The NT Centenary Book is also available from NT shops.

NT “Images” Book

A lavish book, produced by the Trust and featuring colour photographs of many of its properties will be available from the Bureau and PO Counters philatelic outlets. This will contain a set of the NT stamps. Price £14.99. Limited number available – early ordering advised.

NT Prestige Stamp Book

The 1995 prestige stamp book, to be issued on 25 April, commemorates the NT centenary. This is the 16th in a series of prestige books dating back to the “Stamps for Cooks” book of December 1969.

This new book will cost £6 and contains £6 worth of stamps, in four panes:

1. Pane 1 – 6 x 25p NT stamps, 2 phosphor bands.
2. Mixed pane of definitives – top row 19p band right, 10p 2 bands, 19p band left; middle row 25p 2 bands, pictorial label, 25p 2 bands; bottom row 30p 2 bands, 35p 2 bands, 41p 2 bands.
3. 19p and 25p Country stamps of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, (one of each stamp). 19p one phosphor band right, 25p 2