



DAME DAPHNE DU MAURIER (1907-89) is portrayed on the 37p value (over-seas postcard rate). She came from a talented family, daughter of actor-manager Sir Gerald (1873-1934), and grandson of artist George. She is recognised as one of the most versatile and popular English novelists of the 20th century, creating a remarkable blend of the subtle and the sinister in her many highly-acclaimed works, including *Jamaica Inn* (1936), *Rebecca* (1938), *Frenchman's Creek* (1942), and *My Cousin Rachel* (1951). Her love of Cornwall is reflected in her book *Vanishing Cornwall*. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, she was created a Dame of the British Empire in 1969.



MAREA HARTMAN (1920-94), shown on the 43p denomination (basic air-mail letter rate), was eminent in sports administration. Born in south London, she began running as a schoolgirl, at first simply for fun, later competitively. She attended the international meeting against Germany in Cologne in 1939, shortly before war was declared. Her fiancé was killed in the war and she never married. Her life focused on athletics, but she had many other interests including reading, music and theatre. She is best-remembered as Team Manager for the Women's Amateur Athletic Association, 1956-78; Secretary 1960-94, and Manager of the British women team at seven Olympic Games. She received the MBE, CBE, and DBE in 1967, 1978 and 1994 respectively. Her tireless work raised the status of women's athletics in Britain, extending its scope and encouraging girls from all backgrounds to compete. Her personality was once described as 'a cross between a favourite great-aunt and the Queen Mother'.

The designer The stamps were designed by Stephanie Nash of Michael Nash Associates, their first Royal Mail stamp issue. Stephanie is one of Britain's leading female designers. Michael Nash Associates have designed covers for pop CDs and award-winning packaging for Harvey Nichols Food Hall.

Each stamp features an item symbolic of the achievement of the subject. The Hodgkin stamp features her molecular model of Vitamin B12, the Fonteyn stamp her actual ballet shoes from the Royal Ballet. The Frink stamp depicts one of her sculptures, and the du Maurier stamp her typewriter from the museum at Jamaica Inn.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, British Philatelic Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 6 August, 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 Fowey. Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 6 August 1996.

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, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (for Fowey postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed 'FD9621' (Bureau), or 'FD9622' (Fowey). Fowey is connected with Daphne du Maurier, subject of the 37p value.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) 'first day of issue' handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps 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 can affix just the 20p stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ('first day of issue', sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 6 August.

PRESENTATION PACK AND STAMP CARDS A presentation pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices. The pack has been written by eminent writer and biographer Jenny Uglow whose recent works include biographies on George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell.

Technical details

- Printer** Harrison & Sons Ltd
- Process** Photogravure
- Size** 35mm square
- Sheets** 100
- Perforation** 14
- Phosphor** 20p: one phosphor band ● 26p-43p: two phosphor bands ● Blue fluor in phosphor
- Paper** OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free
- Gum** PVA



20TH CENTURY WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT PORTRAITS OF GENIUS

Mrs J Robinson
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Hodgkin

We recognise the five women for specific achievements: du Maurier for her haunting novels, Frink for her powerful sculptures and Fonteyn as the first great British prima ballerina. We acknowledge Hartman as the formidable and ebullient organiser of British women's athletics and Hodgkin as a Nobel



20TH CENTURY WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT PORTRAITS OF GENIUS

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



How did they find their vocation? Masha Markova in Les Sylphides and was concert pianist. Elisabeth Frink's father was a member of hundreds of Europe's horse racing clubs – but while this may explain her nature, her art was all her own. Daphne du Maurier turned her back on childhood on the Riviera, in Paris and to create a more exciting and satisfying

Sometimes, from the outside, a career path seems to cater for the Savoy as a local athletics club but in international Dorothy Hodgkin became Cambridge with JD Bernal, but in the an oddity in their different worlds, both

Although they are honoured as professional their work so often embraced other political Roberto Arias, and nursed in France, Elisabeth Frink was profuse

Morocco. One of her great subjects is the ambivalence nature of man, seen in her series of warriors, goggle-headed soldiers and victims of suffering, and she later became involved with the work of Amnesty International and Greenpeace. Dorothy Hodgkin, a fearsome intellect, was universally loved for her simple serenity and generosity. Her Nobel Prize money went to forwarding peace and famine relief, she set up funds for South African students fighting apartheid and during the Cold War was a founder of the 'Pugwash Conference', working to keep dialogue open between scientists from East and West.

Right up to their death these individuals were working and achieving. They were people of vision – a quality that transcends gender. And though their careers carved a route for British women, their reach was international as well as local



Marea Hartman

