

# ST AUGUSTINE AND ST COLUMBA MISSIONS OF FAITH

Royal Mail Mint Stamps



**ST AUGUSTINE AND ST COLUMBA**  
MISSIONS OF FAITH  
Royal Mail First Day Cover

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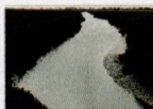
spreading the  
people make  
CANTERBURY  
by St Ninian.  
from his native  
On his return  
essed by the  
art to pray.  
nom in 397,  
converted

PILGRIMAGE WILL TRAVEL WESTWARD TO THE CATHEDRAL  
D'S - the patron saint of Wales was a contemporary  
Three routes will cross the Irish Sea and converge on  
Derry on his feast day, 9 June.  
ITION OF GOING ON PILGRIMAGE IS AS OLD AS RELIGION  
n though we're supposed to live in an increasingly secular  
ars the concept of pilgrimage has never been more  
modern pilgrims journey along the ancient routes of the  
y do so in memory of the great saints who handed down  
h which Christians today celebrate and bear witness to  
rims Way.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL - FOUND BY  
RELIGION'S FIRST MISSION PRIESTS AND  
BISHOPS A YEAR.



ISLE OF TRINITY - FROM ITS LANDING POINT  
AUGUSTINE WAS INVITED BY THE KING KING  
TO ARRIVE IN IRELAND TO CANTERBURY.



ISLE OF IONA - THE ABBEY AND CROSS BEAR  
WITNESS TO EIGHTH CENTURES OF FAITH  
AND PILGRIMAGE.



CORNICLE BAY - THE SITE OF COLUMBA'S  
LANDING ON THE NORTH SHORE OF IONA  
FOLLOWING THE JOURNEY FROM IRELAND.



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## Royal Mail news Missions of Faith stamps

• Self-adhesive stamps re-launch • Scottish aerogramme • Great Tudor album page • NPM postcards and *Cross Post*

**St Augustine and St Columba: Missions of Faith** Four stamps commemorating these noted Christian saints go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 11 March.

The 26p stamp (1st class inland & EU rate) shows St Columba sailing to Iona; the 37p value (airmail postcard rate) depicts Columba the scribe. The design of the 43p value (basic airmail letter rate) features St Augustine blessing the king of Kent; on the 63p denomination (airmail letters, second rate step), he is shown as the founder of Canterbury Cathedral.

The stamps mark the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Columba and the arrival of St Augustine in Britain. The first archbishop of Canterbury, Augustine, was welcomed by the King of Kent and his Christian queen in 597. The King was converted to Christianity starting the process of uniting the feudal kingdoms into one English, Christian nation. Canterbury became the centre of the faith in England and in medieval times thousands travelled annually to Canterbury to the shrine of the martyred St Thomas Becket.

In the same year as Augustine landed, an Irish monk named Columba died on the Scottish island of Iona. For over 30 years Columba had used Iona as his base for his mission in spreading God's word in western Scotland.

A feature article on Saints Augustine and Columba, by James Mackay, is published in this *Bulletin*.



**Opposite** St Columba's Bay, Iona, by Peter Cattrell

**THE DESIGNER** The stamps were designed by Clare Melinsky who was born in 1953 and studied at the Central School of Art in London, specialising in Theatre and Costume. On leaving college in 1975 she took up block-printing with lino-cuts on fabric. Commissions for book jackets and magazine illustrations followed and led to her becoming an illustrator, still using lino-cuts. Her technique is self-taught by studying early English chapbook illustrations and the work of other traditional English block-printers. Some work is black and white, some a single block print coloured in; some is printed with four or five different coloured blocks. Her lino-cuts are used

**Technical details****Printers** Joh Enschedé Security Printing**Process** Photogravure**Size** 35 x 37mm**Sheets** 100**Perforation** 14**Phosphor** Two phosphor bands, blue fluor in phosphor**Paper** OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free**Gum** PVA

for logos, labels and leaflets as well as record covers, book jackets and packaging. She works at home in the Scottish countryside with her husband and two children. These stamps were her first commission from Royal Mail.

**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 March, 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 Isle of Iona, price £2.40 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £2.05 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for fdc’s must reach the Bureau by 11 March.

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, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (for Iona postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed ‘FD9705’ (Bureau), or ‘FD9706’ (Iona).

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, 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).

**PRESENTATION PACK AND STAMP CARDS** A presentation pack (price £2.05) 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 Bernard Jackson, and designed by Graven Images Limited ●



**Carrickfergus stamp wins top award** The current £3 definitive has won a top European philatelic trophy, awarded by the President of France. The stamp features Carrickfergus Castle in Northern Ireland which has played host to King John, William III, and the present Queen. The photograph used as the basis of the design was taken by HRH The Duke of York and first used on the £1 stamp in 1988. Adam Novak, Director & General Manager of Royal Mail National, went to France to receive the prestigious Sevre vase award – the Prix de l’Art Philatelique European – for the best designed European stamps issued within the past 18 months. The judges made the award for British stamps in general and for the Carrickfergus Castle stamp in particular. This is the second time the French award has been made for British stamp design. The first was 50 years ago at the initial presentation of the award ●