

The Travellers' Tale

The second of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued this year is on the theme of travel.

Opposite Isambard Kingdom Brunel, photographed in 1857 by Robert Howlett. As chief engineer of the GWR, and the builder of mighty steamships, Brunel was 'the engineer of his age', who helped to create a new world of speed.

Traveller's Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 2 February. The **20p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) is *Jet Travel* by George Hardie. Regular international air travel developed in the 1930s with weekly services from London to Cape Town. In the same decade the gas turbine jet engine was developed which led to the de Havilland Comet as the first jet airliner. The 50th anniversary of Whittle's jet engine was commemorated by a 37p stamp in 1991, and a Comet was depicted on the cover of a 50p stamp book issued in January 1990. Supersonic travel arrived with Concorde in the late 1960s – a joint British/French project. Early mailplanes, and a 1930s blue airmail van and post box, were shown on three of the UPU Centenary stamps of 1974, and on the 34p value of the Transport & Communications set of 1988.

The **26p** value (basic 1st class inland letter rate) features *Liberation by Bike* by Sara Fanelli. Cycling became a popular activity after the development of the modern safety bicycle in 1885. People used bicycles to get to and from work and for short excursions and holidays. Women, in particular, found it a useful mode of transport and the image of 'a woman atop her cycle became', writes historian Jeremy Black, 'a powerful symbol of female emancipation'. Four stamps marking the centenaries of the Cyclists Touring Club and British Cycling Federation were issued in 1978.

The **43p** value (basic airmail letter rate) is entitled *Linking the Nation*, by John Lawrence. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, says Professor Black, was 'the engineer of his age. His large, iron-clad steamships reflected his work at the forefront of technical innovations'. Collectors will enjoy the detail of this design, the intricacies of the railway tunnel and station canopy as well as the railway porter and passengers at the foot of the stamp.

Technical details

Printers and process 20p & 63p Joh Enschedé Stamps, gravure • 26p De La Rue Security Print, gravure • 43p Enschedé, litho

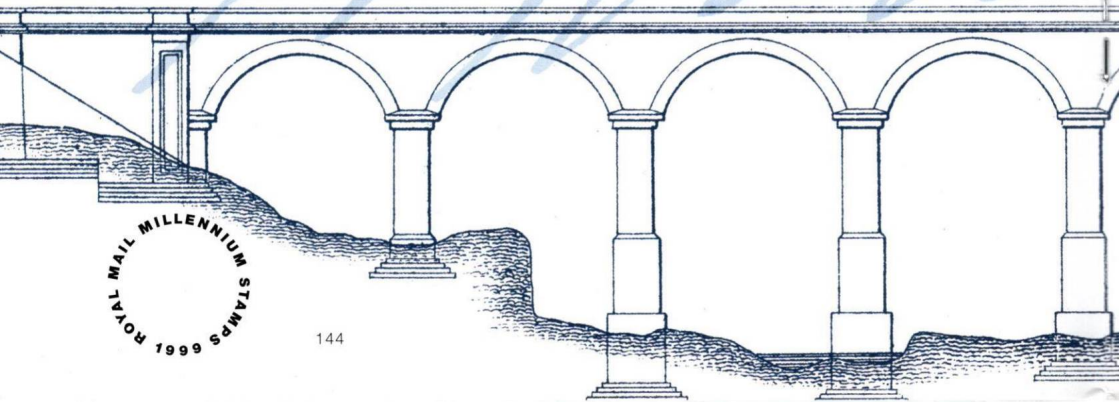
Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 20p • two bands others

Gum PVA





George Hardie's design for the 20p stamp, titled *Jet Travel*, symbolises increased air travel for business and pleasure. Regular international air travel developed in the 1930s, and large quantities of mail now travel by air in the UK and overseas.

John Lawrence's design for the 43p value recalls the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Entitled *Linking the Nation*, it depicts rail travel and the steamship era – the heady days of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway and his famous *Great Britain*.

The 26p value features *Liberation by Bike*, by Sara Fanelli. Cycling became popular in the late 19th century, and bicycles still play an important part in delivering the mail. A motorised cycle carrier of 1902 featured on the cover of a £2 stamp book in 1993.

The 63p stamp, *Cook's endeavour*, is by Andrzej Klimowski. The portrait of Cook is from the National Maritime Museum, London, and the tattooed Maori face and Australian flora from Banks' *Florilegium* are from books in the British Library. Cook appears on stamps from many countries.



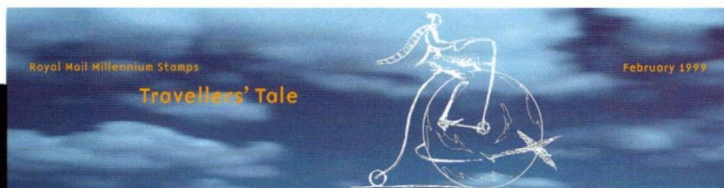
George Hardie is the designer of three £1.70 stamp book covers issued in 1984-5 and two of the Channel Tunnel stamps of 1994. He trained at St Martin's School of Art, and is an admirer of Edward Bawden (see 28p Contemporary Art stamp of 1993).

Sara Fanelli, born in Florence in 1969, studied at Camberwell College of Art and at the Royal College of Art. She is well-known for her children's books, including *Wolf* and *A Dog's Life*. Sara is an author and an illustrator.

John Lawrence, born in 1933, is a noted book illustrator and wood engraver. Educated in Oxford, Hastings and London, he has held numerous teaching posts. He is represented in leading museums including the Ashmolean, Victoria and Albert and National Museum of Wales, and has illustrated over 100 books. His designs were used on four £1 stamp book covers in 1993.

Brunel was voted the person *Bulletin* readers would most like to see on a British stamp (see *Bulletin* April 1997). GWR locomotives and trains featured on stamps issued in 1975 and 1985 and two of his famous ships – the *Great Britain* and *Great Eastern* on stamps of 1969 and 1987. A GWR locomotive named *Isambard Kingdom Brunel* was shown on the cover of a £1.25 stamp book in 1983 and three GWR locomotives featured on one of Royal Mail International's railway aerogrammes issued in January 1996. Despite the increased use of aircraft, railways and ships still play an important part in transporting the mail.

The 63p stamp (second step airmail letter rate), *Cook's endeavour*, was designed by Andrzej Klimowski. According to Professor Black, 'the log of Captain James Cook is more than an amazing story of nautical adventures; it is also a scientific record of information about distant lands.' Cook's voyages changed the map of the world and led to a new type of scientific exploration by Darwin in the 19th century. Captain Cook has featured on stamps from many countries and his signature and ship *Endeavour* were shown on a British stamp of 1968. Cook and his ship featured on a commemorative aerogramme in 1997. Margaret Morris wrote about Cook stamps in her booklet *An Introduction to Thematic Collecting* – issued free with the April 1998 *Bulletin*.



Royal Mail Millennium Stamps

February 1999

Travellers' Tale

sounds and smells, since this was an era of coal and iron. Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-87) was the engineer of his age. His large, iron-clad steamships, the *Great Western*, *Great Britain* and *Great Eastern*, reflected his work at the forefront of technical innovations. As chief engineer on the Great Western Railway he helped to create a new world of speed. Bridges, viaducts and tunnels linked the nation. Millions of people travelled for work, or for pleasure to the new seaside resorts. Journey times fell. When the railway from London reached Exeter in 1844, the journey was cut by more than 13 hours. Nations, too, were linked. Brunel's mainline railway from London to Bristol connected with his steamships for the first regular transatlantic service.

first jet airliner and established the first transatlantic jet service in 1958. Comets ushered in a new era of travel faster and further than ever before. Air travel was no longer the prerogative of the rich – anybody could climb aboard one of the thousands of jet airliners that were flying by the late 1960s. With Concorde in the 1970s, Britain played a pivotal role in the development of supersonic travel so that, for the first time, you could see the sun rising in the west.

Today we travel as never before, and huge numbers of people come to visit us in return. Travel can be disconcerting – it challenges established stereotypes – but it is also instructive. The Travellers' Tale is one of individual adventure and discovery.

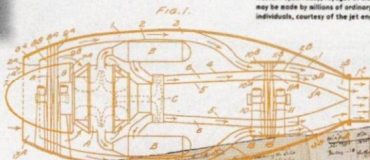
James Cook's extraordinary voyages led him and the scientists and artists who travelled with him to record sights new to Western eyes. Today, voyages of discovery may be made by millions of ordinary individuals, courtesy of the jet engine.



Andrzej Klimowski was born in London. He studied sculpture and painting and poster design at art colleges in London and in Warsaw. His work has been exhibited in the UK, USA, Poland, the Netherlands and Japan. He lectures and writes widely on the arts.



When launched in 1844, Brunel's great Britain was the largest ship ever built and featured the necessities of iron hull and screw propulsion. A variety of innovations – including the Lady joint engine – introduced in 1846, which announced it had 'a decision entirely its own' – the network of cycling clubs that spread across the country was documented monthly.





FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 2 February, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Coventry must reach the Bureau by 2 February. Price £2.20 UK (including VAT) or £1.88 overseas (no VAT).

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Birmingham B1 1AA (Coventry postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9903' (Bureau), or 'FD9904' (Coventry). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices – all covers will be given the Coventry postmark. A non-pictorial Coventry postmark will also be available for collectors who do not want a pictorial design, by sending covers to the Birmingham Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9904NP'.

Bilingual versions will be available for the Coventry pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps, in accordance with Royal Mail's policy on the 'Welsh Language Scheme'. These can be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA quoting reference FD9904 Bil (pictorial) and FD9904 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Handstamps sponsored by cover producers and others will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p Travellers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 2 February.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.85) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, written by Prof Jeremy Black of Exeter University, was designed by The Chase.

A Royal Mail Millennium Stamps Album, now available, contains an introductory page, 12 double page spreads with subject information facing a page on which to mount each set of stamps, and three FDC and three presentation pack pages. The album, with slipcase, costs £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99 •



Travellers' Tale cylinders & colours The cylinder numbers on Enschedé sheets read upwards, ie start 1A at bottom

- 20p** 1A (pale grey) • 1B (greenish blue) • 1C (bluish-violet) • 1D (grey black) • 1E (vermillion) • 1F (silver) • 1G (phosphor)
- 26p** 1A (silver) • 1B (greenish yellow) • 1C (cerise) • 1D (new blue) • 1E (black) • 1F (vermillion) • P77 (phosphor)
- 43p** 1A (bronze) • 1B (stone) • 1C (grey-black) • 1D (phosphor)
- 63p** 1A (greenish yellow) • 1B (bright magenta) • 1C (new blue) • 1D (grey-black) • 1E (silver) • 1F (phosphor)



Brunel signature p144; Public Record Office Portrait p145; National Portrait Gallery