

The Workers' Tale

The fifth of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued in 1999 is on the theme of workers

Workers' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 4 May

The design of the 19p stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) symbolises weaving – the manufacture of textiles has been an important British industry since the 8th century when woollen fabrics were exported to the continent of Europe. By the 12th century raw fleeces or manufactured woollen cloth were Britain's largest source of export income. During the 19th century cotton overtook wool in economic importance.





Peter Collingwood's design for the 19p stamp symbolises weaving – textile manufacture has been an important British industry since the 8th century.

The 26p stamp, featuring a northern mill town, was designed by David Hockney. Hockney was born in Bradford in 1937, and in nearby Saltaire is a gallery devoted to his work. Designer of the 1992 European Single Market stamp, he was made a Companion of Honour (CH) in 1997.

Britain's highly skilled shipbuilding workers are recalled by Bill Sanderson's design for the 44p stamp. Shipbuilding in Belfast featured on the 4d stamp of the 1964 International Geographical Congress set. Ships have been depicted on many British stamps, most recently the 43p in the Travellers' Tale issue in February.

The 64p stamp, designed by Brendan Neiland, represents the financial services of the City of London. Buildings in the City were featured on the 17p value in the Royal Mail set of 1985.

Below, the *Majestic*, Britain's largest liner at the time, during refitting at Southampton, 1934. Photograph by A Hudson, Hulton Getty.



The **26p** value (basic 1st class inland letter rate) features a typical scene from the mill towns of northern England where the combining of the cotton spinning and weaving trades into single mills occurred to the greatest extent. Lancashire had the advantage of an established textile industry, a skilled workforce and coal and water for steam power. By 1840, the year of the Penny Black, there were some 180,000 workers in Lancashire's cotton mills. In Yorkshire, the mills processed woollen cloth and Bradford became known as 'Worstedopolis' due to its international standing in the wollen industry.

British textile designs featured on four stamps in 1982. Cotton mills at New Lanark and the Templeton Carpet Factory in Glasgow were the subject of stamps in 1989 and 1990. Textile machinery was shown on a Social Reformers stamp, honouring Robert Owen, in 1976. Flax – the basis of the linen industry – was depicted on the Northern Ireland regional stamps of 1958-69.

Britain's highly skilled shipbuilding workers are recalled by the design of the **44p** value (basic airmail letter rate). Output from the UK's shipbuilders rose steadily during the latter 19th century up until the First World War – the UK production of merchant ships averaging nearly two-thirds of world totals. Production was concentrated on Belfast, the Clyde and the North East which specialised in the construction of ocean-going 'tramps'.

The **64p** stamp (second step airmail letter rate) features the financial services industry of the City of London. Banks from nearly 80 countries are based in London and foreign banks account for more than half the assets of the UK banking sector. London is the world's biggest centre for foreign exchange dealing. Between 1989 and 1995 the average daily volume of dealing in London increased to 36 per cent – more than the combined totals of New York and Tokyo.

Royal Mail Millennium Stamps
Workers' Tale
May 1999

transportation.
the invention of
work possible, and
began. A more
force was also needed.
led the first factory

new industry on the face
By 1840, some 180,000
cotton mills. Bradford
's as it became the
duction and exchange.
es and to immigration:
salford between 1810
se cities was often hard;
A Bradford survey found
that an average of three people shared each bed in
1840. Yet it was also a time of social experiments.
Close to Bradford is Saltaire, the model village
established in 1851 by Titus Salt to provide decent
living and working conditions for his employees at
the mill.

In contrast to country people, workers become
consumers, dependent on wages. Money
redefined working relationships. Middle-class
professions, such as accountancy, in turn developed
to 'service' the new industries. Through the division
of labour, society was becoming stratified – as well
as to modern capitalism, the Industrial Revolution
was to give birth to socialists.

Britain dominated the world of heavy industry,
too. Massive engineering became possible, so
that ships, gargantuan by the standard of earlier
centuries, could be launched from the Clyde and the
Tyne. The ill-fated Titanic, the largest ship afloat
at the time, was built in Belfast, bridging the
centuries, between 1890 and 1914. Britain launched
about two-thirds of the world's ships and carried
about half of its marine trade. Working life in the

the cleanliness and hum of the electronic workplace.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES
BY THE
BY COLLECTOR

The workplace
for many people
has changed
dramatically in
this century.
From the mills
and factories of
manufacturing
industry to the
offices of the
modern service
sector.

44

Presentation pack This well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) will be available from philatelic outlets and main post offices.



Buildings in the City were shown on the 17p value in the Royal Mail set of 1985. Interestingly the former PO Headquarters in London is now occupied by the Japanese bank Nomura, and Merrill Lynch, a US merchant bank will be taking over King Edward Building, former home of the London Chief PO and the National Postal Museum.

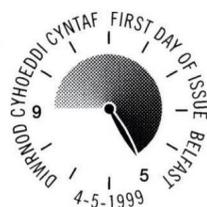
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 May, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Belfast must reach the Bureau by 4 May. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 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, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Belfast postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9909' (Bureau), or 'FD9910' (Belfast). Covers can be posted or handed in covers at main post offices for the Belfast postmark. A non-pictorial Belfast postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the Glasgow Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9910 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Belfast pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9910 Bil (pictorial) and FD9910 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 19p Workers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 4 May.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99 •



Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process 19p lithography, others gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p • two bands others

Gum PVA

