

The Citizens' Tale

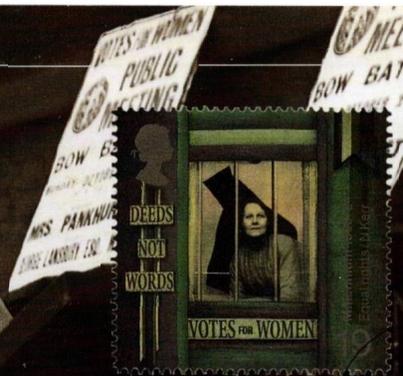
The seventh of 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued in 1999 is on the theme of citizenship

Citizens' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 6 July

Natasha Kerr's design of the 19p stamp features equal rights for women. Political reform in the 19th century led to votes for all men but it took the actions of the Suffragettes to win the right for women. Best-known of the Suffragettes were Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929), President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and Emmeline Pankhurst (1857-1928) who established the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903. After a vigorous campaign, when many Suffragettes were imprisoned, equal voting rights for women over age 30 and who owned property or were married to property owners, were granted in 1918. Ten years later all women were given the vote.

The photograph shows Sylvia Pankhurst in Bow Road, London in 1912, telling a group of young men about the fight for women's suffrage.





The 19p stamp, by Natasha Kerr, is titled *Equal Rights*, and represents equal rights for women. Emmeline Pankhurst, one of the best-known of the Suffragettes, appeared on a 9d stamp in 1968, for the 50th anniversary of the limited franchise.

The 26p value is by Michael Craig-Martin, and represents the right to health. Several stamp issues have documented health matters, most recently the set marking the 50th anniversary of the National Health Service, issued last June.

The right to learn is the subject of Allan Drummond's 44p stamp. The educational reformer Robert Owen was remembered in the 1976 Social Reformers stamp issue, and Public education in England was featured in the 1989 Anniversaries set.

The design of the 64p stamp, *First Rights*, is by Alan Kitching. Articles of Magna Carta (Great Charter) later developed into legal rights and civil liberties. The Houses of Parliament have been featured on a number of stamps.

Hulton Getty

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM STAMPS 1999

Cylinders and colours

19p 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P81 (phosphor)

26p 1A (grey-black) ● 1B (new blue) ● 1C (bright mauve) ● 1D (rosine) ● 1E (turquoise-blue) ● 1F (apple-green) ● P80 (phosphor)

44p 1A (bright blue) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P80 (phosphor)

64p 1A (gold) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (cerise) ● 1D (new blue) ● 1E (grey-black) ● P80 (phosphor)

The **26p** value designed by Michael Craig-Martin, features a tap representing the right to health. Clean water supplies and effective sewerage systems are now taken for granted but were largely unheard of before Victorian times. Edwin Chadwick (1800-90) campaigned for clean water and good sewerage systems in the industrial towns, and civil engineers took up his challenge. Parliament legislated for water works to install filtration systems and Boards of Works were set up to implement the schemes. Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819-91) solved London's sewage problem with some 1300 miles of sewers using 318 million bricks.

Education and the right to learn is the subject of Allan Drummond's design of the **44p** value. Amongst many who campaigned for better education was Welshman Robert Owen (1771-1858) owner of the New Lanark cotton mills near Glasgow. Owen gradually replaced the employment of children under 10 years of age by a comprehensive system of education. Toddlers went to a nursery, three to six year olds attended the world's first infant school, and from seven onwards were taught reading, writing, history and other subjects. Many distinguished people, including European Royalty and the philosopher Rousseau, visited New Lanark to see Owen's progressive system.

The **64p** stamp features a design by Alan Kitching commemorating first rights of freedom, justice, equal rights, liberty, and lawful judgement. Back in 1215 Magna Carta (Great Charter) acknowledged that the king was subject to the rule of law – a crucial step in the evolution of constitutional government. Provisions that the king could not demand extra revenue from



Bazalgette designed a system of underground sewers for the city. The splendour of the Abbey Mills Pumping Station expressed all that public Victorian society could not about the importance of sanitation.

...important as conflict, and frequently more so in the development of rights in the Citizens' Tale. From the nineteenth century, the reform of our parliamentary system was accompanied by a concern for the citizen's welfare. This concern initially owed much to utopian visionaries such as Welshman Robert Owen (1771-1858), who took over the cotton mill at New Lanark, Scotland, in 1800 and introduced humane work practices and compulsory education. He opened the first infants' school in the world here: attempts to use the political process to bring about improvements in society included the 1870 Education Act, which divided the country into school districts and required a basic level of educational provision. State intervention also aided the decline in illiteracy, creating the society which took advantage of the Penny Post.

The Factory Acts of the 1870s limited the working hours for women and children in industry, legislation on public health, artisans' dwellings and food and drugs regulated social welfare. Society was changing, modern attitudes and expectations were evolving. The growing cities had their own problems: poor sanitation, housing and nutrition. Major engineering projects and public health policies made possible by the activities of central and local government helped

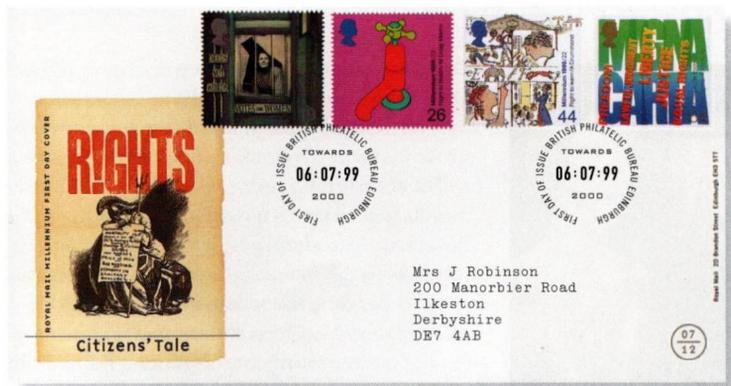
...nineteenth century but demanded votes only for men; by the end of the century the clamour for universal suffrage was loud. Before the First World War, the suffragette movement won attention rather than support. Emmeline Pankhurst founded



the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903, and believed in 'deeds, not words'. Suffragettes' protests frequently led to imprisonment. But these times saw a substantial increase in the number of women in the workforce as society was mobilized for total war. In 1918 women won the right to vote, and in 1928 the voting age for men and women was equalized. The Second World War again saw women working in previously male-dominated spheres, and during the war the Welfare State and Health Service were conceived. Progressive changes in the economy, society and the law further reduced the discriminatory burden. In 1979 Britain elected its first woman Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Female suffrage has been a driving force in democratization. Today there is the widely held aspiration for a society in which all citizens are free from discrimination and enjoy equal opportunities.

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





the barons evolved into laws that taxes for ordinary people could not be raised without Parliamentary consent. The 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament was marked by two stamps in 1965 and a set commemorating the Civil War between king and Parliament was issued in 1992.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Newtown (birthplace of Robert Owen) must reach the Bureau by 6 July. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

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, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Newtown postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9915' (Bureau), or 'FD9916' (Newtown). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Newtown postmark. A non-pictorial Newtown postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9916 NP'. Both Newtown postmarks are bilingual.

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 Citizens' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 6 July.

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. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium presentation packs or first day covers. Enquiries: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT ●

Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p ●
two bands others

Gum PVA

