

Ringin in the Millennium This image results from the photographers's visit to John Taylor's bell foundry in Loughborough, which cast many of the new bells for this Millennium project.

Year of the Artist This country-wide programme of arts activity celebrates living artists and all art forms – visual arts, crafts, performance, literature, film and digital or combined arts.

Canolfan Mileniwm The harp on this denomination symbolizes the strong tradition of Welsh music. It represents the Wales Millennium Centre on the Cardiff Bay Waterfront.

Talent & Skills 2000 Established in 1996 to tackle youth unemployment and social exclusion, this charity helps young people find work in the expanding creative industries.

The Sound and Vision issue will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 5 December.

Michael Caldwell



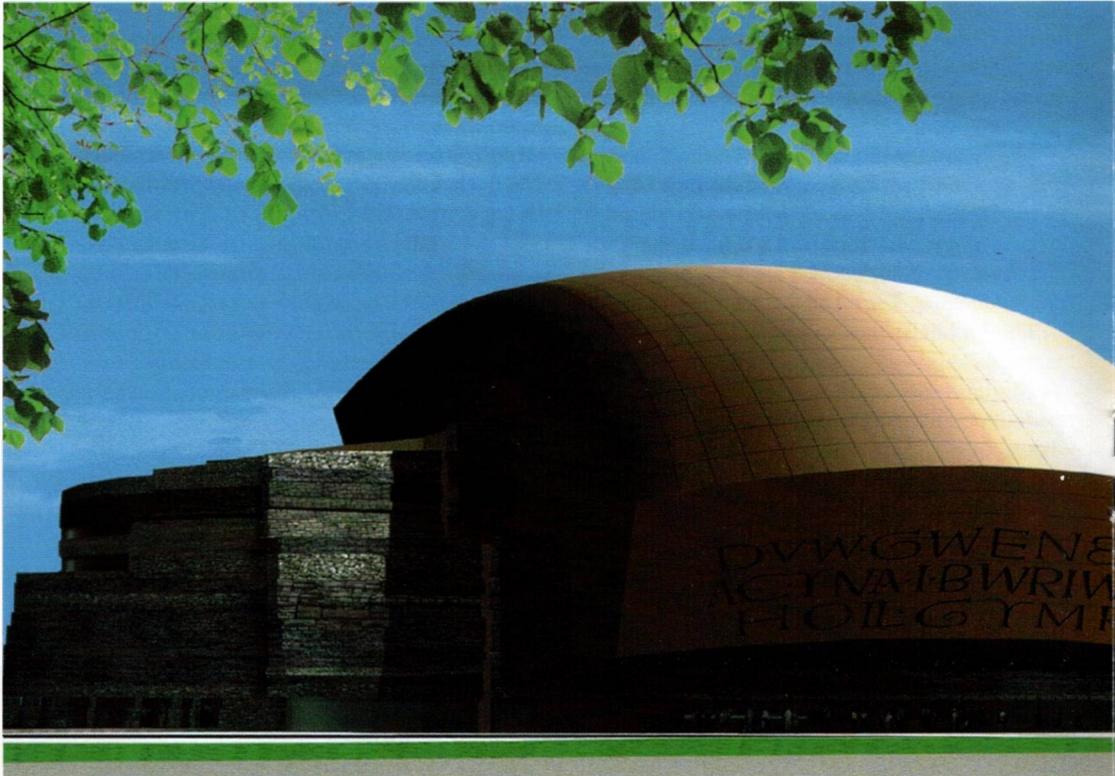
Tobi Corney



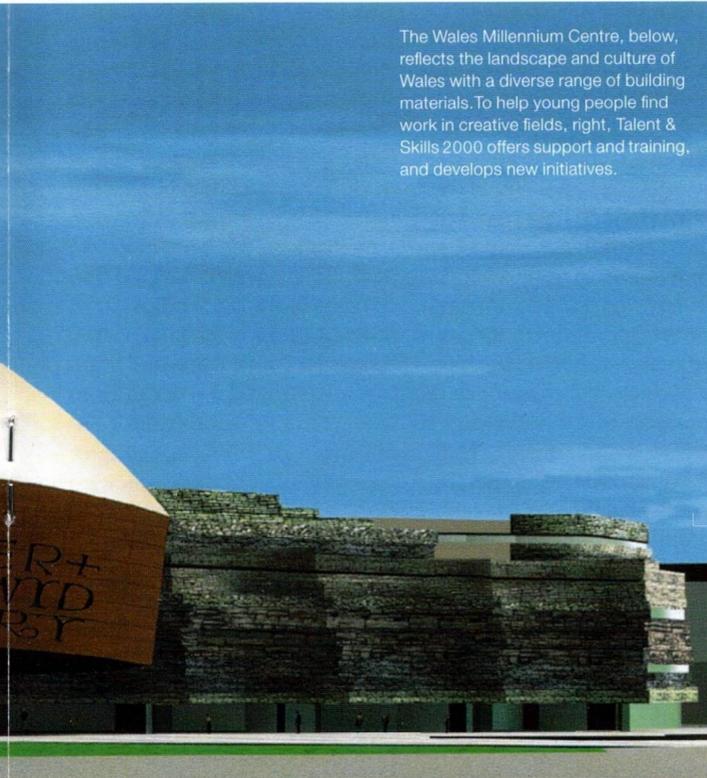
Elienne Bol



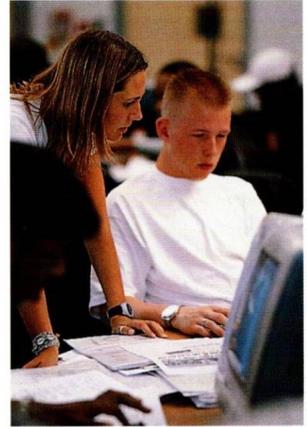
Arthur Tress



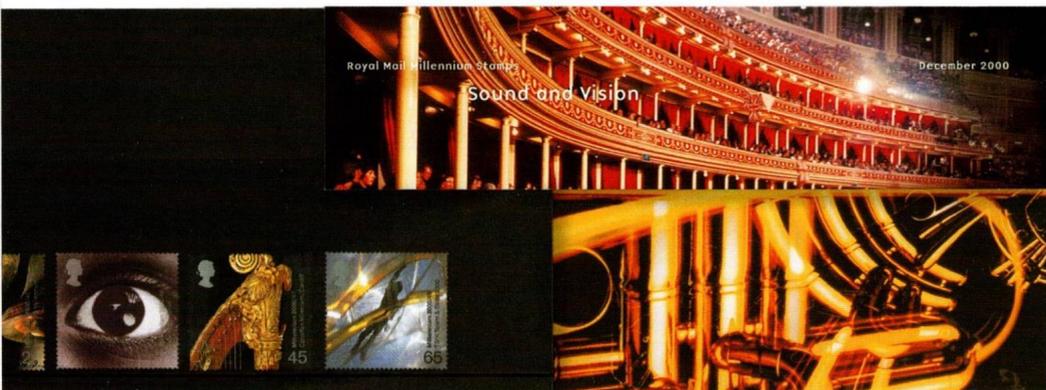
Sound and Vision is the final set in Royal Mail's series of 12 stamp issues inspired by Millennium projects across the UK. The 2nd class stamp, *Ringling in the Millennium*, represents the project which restores a nationwide network of bells ● The subject of the 1st class stamp is the Year of the Artist, an initiative which will establish 1000 artists-in-residence ● The 45p value represents the Wales Millennium Centre, which will be a focus for Welsh culture, identity and talent ● Talent & Skills 2000, the subject of the 65p, is a charity which helps young people find work in creative industries.



The Wales Millennium Centre, below, reflects the landscape and culture of Wales with a diverse range of building materials. To help young people find work in creative fields, right, Talent & Skills 2000 offers support and training, and develops new initiatives.



- 45 Ringling in the Millennium
- 46 Year of the Artist
- 48 TS2K Talent & Skills 2000



A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.95) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

2nd 1A silver ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E black ● P95 phosphor

1st 1A silver ● 1B magenta ● 1C blue ● 1D black ● 1E brownish grey ● P96 phosphor

45p 1A silver ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E black ● P96 phosphor

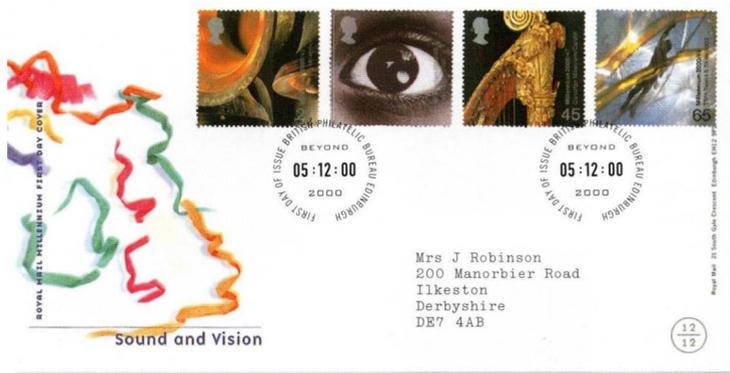
64p 1A black ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E grey-black ● 1F silver ● P96 phosphor

Bells have long been rung to commemorate events of local, national and global significance – including weddings, the Armistice, VE and VJ Days. Continuing this heritage, over 100 churches and other buildings pealed out the close of 1999 and the start of the year 2000 on New Year's Eve. Ringing in the Millennium created a nationwide network of Millennium bells by casting and hanging new church bells - and restoring bells which had been silent for many years.

The Year of the Artist initiative (June 2000-May 2001) will establish 1000 artists in residence in 1000 places, organised through regional arts boards. Through these residencies, the aim is to promote greater public awareness of acceptance of the arts, expanding the arts economy and creating new opportunities for employing individual artists. The image on the stamp is from an advertising campaign featuring a child's eyes. The photograph was taken in a street in Battersea, London about four years ago.

The Wales Millennium Centre (Canolfan Mileniwm) will be an international showcase for musicals, opera, dance, museum displays and exhibitions, in an egg-like building that will reflect the landscape and cultural traditions of Wales – through the use of a diverse range of building materials. These include recycled slate blocks from north Wales, hardwood from mid Wales and internal columns in the shape of fossilised tree ferns from the coal measures of south Wales. The harp shown on the stamp is from the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans, Cardiff. A series of photographs of musical instruments taken to promote BBC Radio inspired the photographer to shoot a harp – a symbol of the strong musical tradition of Wales. A harp featured on the 13p stamp, honouring the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, in the 1976 Cultural Traditions set.

Through partnerships with over 150 organisations, the charity TS2K (Talent and Skills 2000) aims to develop opportunities and initiatives to bring new talent into the sector. In London, TS2K has established Creative Enterprise Centres, where young people learn skills to equip them for work. For the image on the stamp the photographer used an intricate latticework of transparent material and gold rubber bands to create a brave new world in which a silhouetted central figure travels dynamically upwards.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 December, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or London WC1 must reach the Bureau by the day of issue. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO031' (Bureau), or 'FDO032' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FDO032 NP'.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. That in the Sound & Vision pack, entitled *Yes*, is by Carol Ann Duffy who was born in Glasgow in 1955 and grew up in Staffordshire. She attended the University of Liverpool. Many of her poems use personas and she is credited with reviving the use of monologue in English poetry. She is 'the characteristic English poet of the Eighties and Nineties', according to Peter Forbes, editor of *Poetry Review*. Her many awards include the Forward and Whitbread poetry prizes in 1993 for *Mean Time*. She has edited many anthologies for adults and teenagers, and was shortlisted for the Whitbread children's book award in 1999. Her most recent book, *The World's Wife* met with universal praise. She lives in Manchester and lectures in poetry at Manchester Metropolitan University. In 1999 she was touted by the press as an alternative new Poet Laureate. Her poem for the presentation pack is a response to the theme and subjects; it was composed during January and February 2000 ●

Final Millennium issue The last of the 25 Millennium sets – The Future – will be issued on 16 January. The series of 100 stamps was granted Millennium Product status by the Design Council in December 1999 ●



Sponsored handstamps for 5 December will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

