

## A British Journey: Scotland

The first set of



### Technical details

**Printer** De La Rue

**Process** Gravure

**Stamp size** 35 x 35mm

**Sheet size** 50

**Perforation** 14.5

**Phosphor** One band 2nd class, two bands others

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Vertical

### Cylinder numbers & colours

**All values** D1 silver ● D1 black  
● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ●  
D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 phosphor

SIX STAMPS featuring the magnificent Scottish scenery – the first in a 10-part stamp issue entitled ‘A British Journey’ – will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 15 July. There will also be a stamp book (see below).

The stamps feature: 2nd class Loch Assynt, Sutherland; 1st class Ben More, Isle of Mull; € (European) rate Rothiemurchus, Cairngorms; 42p Dalveen Pass, Lowther Hills; 47p Glenfinnan Viaduct, Lochaber; and 68p Papa Little, Shetland Islands. The Queen’s silhouette is printed in silver at top left, with the value or service indicator at bottom right. The location shown on the stamp appears as a caption at the foot of each design. The stamps are the work of Phelan Barker Design Consultants, using photography by Colin Baxter Photography Ltd (Loch Assynt, Ben More, Rothiemurchus, and Papa Little), Gary Smith (Dalveen) and Peter Jordan (Glenfinnan). It is intended that these stamps will remain on sale at Post Office branches in Scotland until further notice.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 July, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the six stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Baltasound, Unst, Shetland must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.27 UK or £2.79 overseas. Baltasound was chosen for the alternative postmark as it is the most northerly Post Office branch in the UK.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT (Baltasound postmark), marking the outer envelope ‘FD0315’ (Tallents House), or ‘FD0316’ (Baltasound). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Baltasound postmark.

**STAMP BOOK** A book containing four 1st class definitives (gold) and two 1st class British Journey: Scotland stamps will be available, price £1.68. All six stamps are self-adhesive.

Details of other 15 July hand-stamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK and Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

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

## stamps in a new series of philatelic journeys



**PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (price £2.80) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Howard Brown, includes text by Alexandra Morgan.

The pack includes some facts and figures about Scotland: its population of 5,062,000 (69,500 Gaelic speakers); land mass of 78,783 sq km; and the population of its largest cities, Glasgow (577,869), Edinburgh (448,624), Aberdeen (212,125) and Dundee (145,663). Scotland also boasts the oldest working post office in the world – Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire (since 1712), and the highest and most northerly post offices in the UK, at Wanlockhead, Dumfriesshire (451m) and Baitasound on Unst in the Shetland Islands •

Among the many interesting illustrations in the presentation pack (above) are: a road sign in Gaelic; tossing the caber; Callanish standing stones; the Up Helly-Aa fire festival; Loch Ness; the Scottish Exhibition Centre; Morray Firth dolphins; the Millennium Window in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh; and the Falkirk Wheel.

**Scottish scenery on stamps**

Opposite, top row: the Cairngorms on 1966 Landscapes 1s6d; the Jacobite monument and Loch Shiel at Glenfinnan, 1981 National Trust 14p; and fallow deer in Scottish forest, 1992 Wintertime 18p.

Middle row: Carnoustie, 1994 Scottish Golf Courses 30p; Ben Arkle, Sutherland, by the Prince of Wales, 1994 25p; the Braemar Gathering, 1994 Summertime 41p.

Bottom row: the West Highland line near Bridge of Orchy, 1994 Age of Steam 19p; woodland at Doire Dach, 2000 Millennium Tree & Leaf 65p; and an aerial view of Luskentyre, 2002 Coastlines 27p.

**The Scottish landscape** For many visitors to Scotland, it is a country of mountains, midgets and mists – a landscape that is never forgotten. Add to that the friendliness of its people, its excellent food and drink, its historical buildings, and distinctiveness from the rest of the UK, and any holiday in Scotland is a memorable experience. The landscape varies from the rolling hills of the Lowlands to the bleak grandeur of the Western Highlands, the rich soils of the agricultural east, and the unique and diverse scenery of the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland.

Although over the years numerous stamps have featured aspects of Scottish history, agriculture and way of life, relatively few have depicted its magnificent scenery. Some of these are shown opposite.

Many fine Scottish views featured on the attractive series of Scottish aerogrammes (airletters) issued from 1974 onwards. Two of the best were entitled 'Nature of Scotland', issued in 1992 and 1997. An article on the second of these aerogrammes was published in the *Bulletin* of July 1997. The Nature of Scotland was the subject of a book sponsored by the former Scottish Post Office Board in 1992 and another book on the remote island of Eriskay was published in 1997 (see *Bulletin* January 1998). A pleasing design for a stamp showing the 'Hebridean coast' was prepared by David Gentleman in the 1960s – this unissued stamp was shown in the *Bulletin* in December 2000.

Scottish scenery featured in *The Scots Connection* prestige book of March 1989, Scottish farm buildings on the cover of a 10p stamp book of January 1979, and Click Mill, Dounby, Orkney on a 50p book of January 1990. Two sets of postcards featuring Scottish postbuses (some in scenic settings) were issued by the Scottish Post Office Board in November 1979 and July 1980, and a set of six cards featuring crofting went on sale in June 1986. A Royal Mail prepaid 'aircard' showing a painting of the Isle of Arran by renowned artist Craigie Aitchison RA was issued in September 1997.

The first day cover envelope for the current Scottish country stamps shows a Highland scene near Loch Fyne and the presentation pack shows the 'fairytale' castle of Eileann Donan and Loch Duich.

Since 1970 local stamps (local carriage labels) have been issued by the Summer Isles, off the west coast of Ross and Cromarty, near Ullapool; stamps featuring the Mountains of Assynt-Coigach were shown in the *Bulletin* of June 1998.

Several articles appertaining to Scottish landscape and the postal services in rural areas have been published in this *Bulletin* in recent years. These include features on the Road to the Isles (October 1998), Isle of Islay (September 2000), Iona (January 2001), and Loch Lomond (March 2001), Sanquhar and Wanlockhead post offices (January 1994 and August 1995), and postbus services (June 1998). Photographs of the post offices at East Yell, Shetland, and Broadford, Isle of Skye were shown in November 1996, and the office at Achateny and the most westerly postbox at Portuairk on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula in March 1996. An article on the most northerly post office – at Baltasound, Shetland – was published in the *British Postmark Bulletin* of 9 November 2001 •

