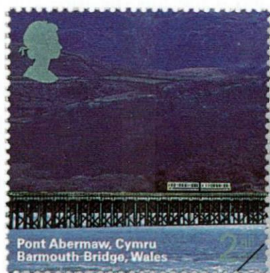


A British Journey: Wales The third stamp



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd, all-over 1st, 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

THE THIRD SET in the 'British Journey' series goes on sale from 15 June (15 Mehefin) – this time touring the Principality of Wales (Cymru). The stamps are: 2nd class train on Barmouth Bridge (Pont Abermaw); 1st class Hyddgen, Plynlimon (Hyddgen, Pumlumon); 40p Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog); 43p Pen-tych, Rhondda Valley (Pen-tych, Cwm Rhondda); 47p Rhewl, Dee Valley (Rhewl, Glyn Dyfrdwy); and 68p Marloes Sands (Traeth Marloes). The Queen's silhouette and price or service indicator are in silver at top left and bottom right respectively. On the 2nd and 1st class stamps, the service indicator is bilingual as on the Wales country stamps – 2ail/nd and 1af/st. The location captions are bilingual at the foot of each design. The 1st and 40p stamps are Royal Mail's contribution to this year's Europa series, issued by members of Posteurop. The 'EUROPA' symbol is printed in black in the top right corner of these stamps. The current Europa symbol was introduced in 1993 on the Contemporary Art stamps. The set incorporates locations linked to the 650th anniversary of the birth of Owain Glyndwr and the independence he declared for Wales (see p274).

The issue is designed by Phelan Barker Design Consultants, with photography by Alain Le Garsmeur (2nd class), Jeremy Moore (1st), Alan Greely (40p), Derrick Rees (43p), Janet & Colin Bord (47p), and Joe Cornish (68p).

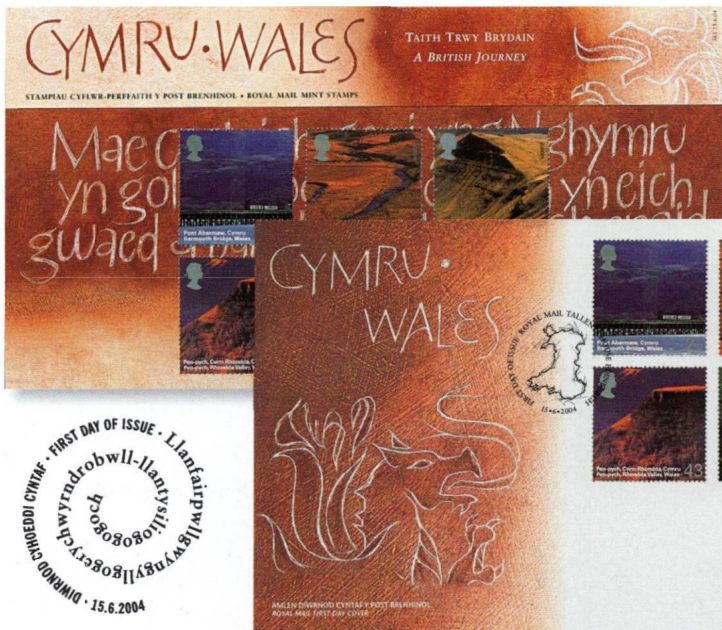
The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margins, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

Details of other 15 June hand-stamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 in UK & Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to the Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 8HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 June, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Llanfair PG must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.32 UK or £2.83 overseas.

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 any of Royal Mail's six Special Handstamp Centres, (Llanfair postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0419' (Tallents House), or 'FD0420' (Llanfair). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Llanfair postmark.

issue in Royal Mail's philatelic tours of Britain



SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP BOOK The 1st class Wales stamp will also be issued as a self-adhesive in a retail stamp book. This will contain two of the Wales stamps plus four 1st class Machin definitives, price £1.68. The Wales stamp will be shown on the front cover.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (price £3) and six stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack contains photographs of the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff (Stadiwm y Mileniwm, Caerdydd); Dylan Thomas by Augustus John; the statue of Merlin in Pontypridd; the Prince of Wales Feathers; a River Taf coracle; Merchant Seafarer sculpture, Cardiff Bay; and Welsh rugby fans. Also included are the words of Anthem Genedlaethol Cymru (the Welsh National Anthem).

The presentation pack (above left) was designed by Tuttsels Enterprise IG with a map and calligraphy by Kathryn Dodd. The text, by Jill Tunstall, is in Welsh and English.

Owain Glyndwr and stamps

Rhewl, Dee Valley (47p value) is Owain Glyndwr's birthplace and the Hyddgen Valley, (1st), is where the Welsh defeated the English in battle. Owain Glyndwr featured on the 5½p Medieval Warriors stamp of 1974.

Wales The bedrock of Wales came first – in some places 600 million year old pre-Cambrian strata are among oldest in the world. Undersea volcanoes then threw up dramatic mountain ranges and vast sheets of slate, followed by the coal measures. This geology has shaped Wales and her people beginning with the Celts who arrived from Europe in 6000BC, laying down the roots of Welsh culture. Sheep farmers worked the hills and river valleys, coal miners in the south powered industrialized Britain and slate quarymen from the north roofed the world. A country of industrious, chapel-going people developed with diverse traditions of sport, craft, arts, and of course the famous choirs of The Land of Song. Still widely spoken, the Welsh language is an ancient survivor of the Celts. It is alive in everyday speech, celebrated at the Eisteddfod cultural festivals, spoken in the new National Assembly For Wales, heard on s4c (Welsh Television channel), and in the songs of famous bands such as Catatonia.



Wales has a land mass of 20,800 sq km, and a coastline of 1183km. The highest peak is Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) at 1085m (3560ft). Some 2,946,200 people live in the Principality; 582,300 speak Welsh. Cardiff (Caerdydd), the capital and largest city, has a population of 305,353.

The national emblems are the leek, daffodil and red dragon as shown on the country stamps, and the national day is St David's Day celebrated on 1 March (1 Mawrth). Wales boasts the place with the longest name in the UK – Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch on the isle of Anglesey. The name is normally shortened to Llanfair PG or Llanfairpwllgwyll. The full-length name will appear on the alternative first day of issue postmarks, one of the few occasions it has been so used. The village sign with English translation of the name (St Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool of Llantysilio of the red cave) features in the presentation pack ●

Wales on stamps Scenery, buildings and culture feature on a number of special issues, chronicled by Paul Reynolds in the May 1999 *Bulletin*. Since then, Wales has also featured in the 2000 Millennium series (the Welsh Highland Railway, Llanelli Coast, and the Welsh harp), 2002 British Coastlines (sand spit, Conwy); and 2004 Classic Locomotives (Talylyn Railway). The British Journey stamps add to a colourful and fairly extensive collection of 'Welsh' issues. Below: Cadair Idris, © Wales Tourist Board.

