



Designed by Howard Brown and printed in gravure by De La Rue, the sheet measures 123 x 70mm. Printers' sheets of 18 (3 x 6) guillotined into individual sheets.

Scottish Parliament miniature sheet A Labour Party Manifesto promise for the 1997 general election was the establishment of parliaments or assemblies for Scotland and Wales. Following the election, the setting up of a new Scottish Parliament was the main priority of the new Secretary of State for Scotland, the late Donald Dewar. A referendum was held in September 1997 when the Scottish people voted in favour. The Parliament, the first in Edinburgh since 1707, was opened by HM The Queen on 1 July 1999. Until now the Parliament has met in the Church of Scotland Assembly Rooms with other offices in central Edinburgh. The Parliament has its own post office in one of these buildings (see *Bulletin* January 2000). In January 1998 an international competition was launched to find a Design Team for a new Parliament building. Some 70 expressions of interest were received, and in July the Spanish architectural practice of Enric Miralles and his wife Benedetta Tagliabue, in partnership with Edinburgh based RMJM, was chosen to design the new building soon to be opened by The Queen.

A miniature sheet containing three of the four current Scottish country stamps will be issued to mark the event. The sheet bears five stamps in a horizontal se-tenant strip: 40p (thistle), 1st (lion), 2nd (Saltire flag), 1st and 40p, with a background of the new Parliament building printed in a similar colour to the 40p stamp. The sheet bears the Scottish Parliament's Crowned Saltire badge and inscription 'THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 2004'. There will be no presentation pack or stamp cards for this issue.

The Tallents House postmark includes the opening words of the Scotland Act of 1998.

FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS A commemorative cover envelope will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets, price 25p each. Serviced covers with Tallents House or Edinburgh postmark can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £2.02 UK or £1.67 overseas. Please state which postmark is required. Collectors can send stamped covers on the day of issue





The commemorative cover for the miniature sheet features a detail of one of the Parliament building's distinctive windows.



The postmark for Edinburgh includes the Parliament EH99 postcode and a Crowned Saltire badge. This is a Crown above a Saltire, mounted on a corded banner which hangs from a pommelled pole.

for the Tallents House (FD0421) or Edinburgh (FD0422) postmarks. These should be sent respectively to Tallents House (address above) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT. Details of other postmarks for use on 5 October will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail's fortnightly magazine for postmark collectors ●

New Stamp Ingots series The second in a new series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 16 September. It features the Edward VII £1 stamp. The series continues on 30 November with George V 1d Mackennal profile definitive. Ingots for the George V 10s Seahorse high value, 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition and 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives will be available next year. Price £26.95 each from Tallents House. The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of last September's *Bulletin* for full details ●

Withdrawals Any remaining stock of the *Transports of Delight* stamps, miniature sheet, pack, self-adhesive book, and stamp cards go off sale on 17 September. Any remaining stock of the *British Museum* issue will be withdrawn on 6 October. The country stamps issued 1999-2001 without white borders around the stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 13 October, also the 19p Machin definitive ●

Stamp and coin publications Tallents House stocks two useful Stanley Gibbons publications – *Collect British Stamps* and the new *Collect British Coins*. They are available at £9.95 each (order codes PB378 and PB379). The *Coins* book was reviewed here in July ●

Handstamp Centres The South East Special Handstamp Centre at Slough has now closed. All postmarks formerly used at Slough are now applied at the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, to where covers should be sent ●