

## Brunel Celebrating the greatest of engineers



### Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Process Lithography

Stamp size 60 x 21mm

Sheets 24 and 48

Miniature sheet size 190 x 67mm

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

SIX STAMPS, a miniature sheet and a prestige book go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 23 February to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the great engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The stamps feature: 1st class Royal Albert Bridge; 40p Box Tunnel; 42p Paddington Station; 47p ss *Great Eastern*; 60p design for the Clifton Suspension Bridge; and 68p Maidenhead Bridge. The stamps were designed by hat-trick design consultants of London.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 23 February, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Bristol must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.79 UK or £3.23 overseas. Please state if stamps or miniature sheet required.

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 to any of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Bristol postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO605' or 'FDO606'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Bristol postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS An illustrated pack (price £3.40) and seven stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The cards feature the six stamps and the miniature sheet.



The miniature sheet on first day cover, above, and pane four of the prestige stamp book, right.



**Prestige book** The first of the 2006 prestige books, entitled *Isambard Kingdom Brunel*, will be available from 23 February, price £7.40. This contains stamp panes as described opposite.

The book, written by Eugene Byrne, a writer on historical subjects and science fiction, and designed by hat-trick design, tells the story of Brunel and his great achievements. There are excellent photographs of Brunel in his trademark hat, and of his works, many of which are still in use today. The front cover features his famous Clifton Suspension Bridge across the Avon Gorge in Bristol.

The book is being printed by Enschedé; the pane of Machin stamps in gravure and the other panes in litho. A first day cover will be offered bearing the Machin stamps pane with label. This can be ordered from Tallents House, price £3.58 UK / £3.06 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Bristol postmark required.

**Coin cover** A cover bearing the six Brunel stamps, cancelled by a special Paddington postmark, and with two £2 Brunel commemorative coins encapsulated, will be available from Tallents House, price £15.95. The cover shows Victorian workmen with the enormous chains used for the launch of Brunel's *Great Eastern*. The informative filler gives details of the Thames Tunnel, Clifton Bridge, War Hospital, the Great Western Railway, and others of Brunel's great works. The two Brunel coins feature Brunel in his famous top hat (design by Rod Kelly), and railway station arches representing his achievements (design by Robert Evans). Edition of 25,000 ●

**Prestige stamp book** This contains stamp panes as follows.

**Pane 1** Brunel stamps: 1st class, 42p and 68p. Thames Tunnel background design.

**Pane 2** Brunel stamps: 40p, 60p and 47p. Treviddo Viaduct background design.

**Pane 3** Two 68p *Great Western* stamps (from 2004 Ocean Liners set) and one 47p Brunel stamp (*Great Eastern*). *Great Eastern* background design.

**Pane 4** Machin definitives: top and bottom rows 1st class, 35p, 1st class; middle row two 40p stamps separated by a label showing a bust of Brunel.