

The National Portrait Gallery 1856-2006



The stamps are designed by Peter Willberg, who designed last year's *Jane Eyre* stamps. The presentation pack, first day cover and pictorial First Day postmarks are designed by Andrew Ross.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Stamp size 27 x 37mm

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

TEN 1ST CLASS STAMPS, printed as a se-tenant block, featuring portraits of famous Britons in the National Portrait Gallery go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 18 July. The issue marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Gallery. The 10 subjects are: William Shakespeare, attributed to John Taylor, c1610; Sir Joshua Reynolds, self-portrait, 1747-49; T S Eliot by Patrick Heron, 1949; Sir Winston Churchill by Walter Sickert, 1927; Sir Walter Scott by Sir Francis Leggatt Chantrey, 1820; Virginia Woolf by George Charles Beresford, 1902; Charles Darwin by John Collier, 1881; Mary Ann Seacole by Albert Charles Challen, 1869; Emmeline Pankhurst by Georgina Agnes Brackenbury, 1927; and Dame Cicely Saunders by Catherine Goodman. The portrait of Shakespeare was the first one acquired by the NPG, so it is especially appropriate that it is included in this issue.

The Queen's silhouette, printed in silver, is positioned upper right, with the service indicator at top left. The name of each subject and 'NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY' is at the bottom of the stamp with the year '2006' in the stamp border at lower left.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30. However sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or London WC2 must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £4.18 UK or £3.56 overseas.

1856-2006

The National Portrait Gallery
Celebrating 150 years



Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB



Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (London postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0625' (Tallents House), or 'FD0626' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0626 NP'. ▶

Above: pictorial handstamps. Sponsored handstamps for 18 July will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* (see p259 for subscriptions). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.



A pack (detail left, £3.70) and stamp cards (£3 per set) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House.

The pack was written by John Cooper, former NPG Head of Education and author of *Great Britons: The Great Debate*, which accompanied the BBC TV series and a national poll to find the greatest Briton of all time. The pack relates the story of the NPG, and shows visitors studying the portraits on display.



"Damn him!" said an exasperated but admiring Thomas Gainsborough of his rival portrait painter Sir Joshua Reynolds, 'How various he is'!

As much might be said of the National Portrait Gallery – and all its visitors. You will see literary enthusiasts astonished by the fragility of the only authentic portrait of Jane Austen, fashionistas revering the riotous pink of Andrew Logan's bust of Zandra Rhodes, school children enraptured by the magnificent Tudor kings and queens, and art students finding inspiration in Hogarth's impact. You might catch an exhibition of contemporary photography, a display of mid-nineteenth-century drawings or an intriguing video portrait. You can enjoy a lunch in the restaurant with a view of Nelson's head, browse and buy in an eclectic bookshop, hear a lecture on – or by – a major cultural figure, listen to music, learn practical skills in the studio or perhaps borrow a rucksack of activities to engage your young companions. You have to pay for your lunch, but a lot of the rest is free, particularly the permanent collection. The National Portrait Gallery is a major national cultural resource, displayed with full explanatory material, supplemented by IT as appropriate, in rooms of friendly proportions, and all within

The gallery was founded in 1856, during a time of great pride in British military, economic and industrial success. Much of the credit for this pride was ascribed to outstanding individuals – the 'heroes' of our history, in the words of the historian Thomas Carlyle, those worthy of 'hero-worship'. Carlyle and other prominent figures lobbied hard to secure the support of Queen Victoria's consort Prince Albert and obtain the agreement of Lord Palmerston's government for the establishment of an exemplary gallery of national portraits.

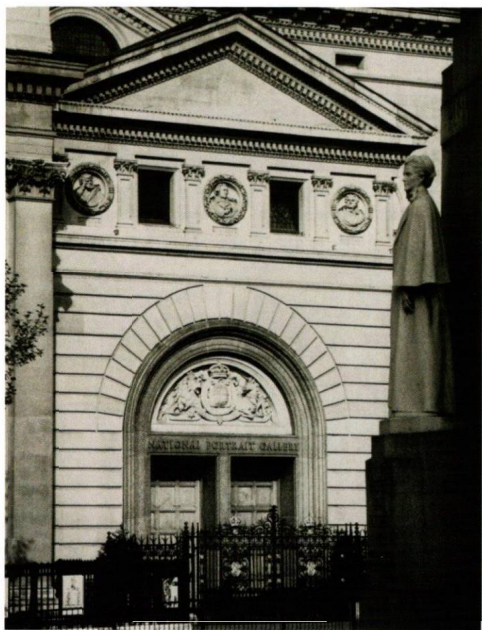
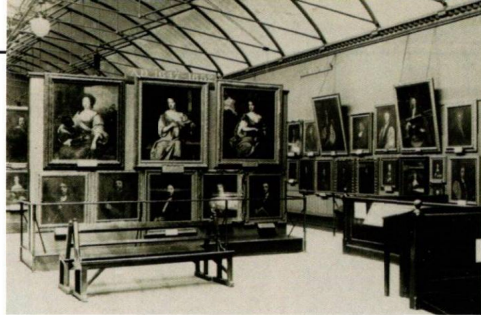
The founding trustees of the gallery decided to make a rule for themselves that they

would look to the celebrity of the person represented rather than the merit of the artist

when they were acquiring portraits, and that they would attempt to avoid all political or religious prejudice but, in a crucial divergence from hero-worship, they would not

consider great faults and errors... as any sufficient ground for excluding any portrait which may be valuable as illustrating the...





From top, left to right: Balcony Gallery, 2000; the premises at Bethnal Green in 1885; the Gallery's main entrance; and the Ondaatje Wing main hall, 2000.

The NPG is open daily 10.00–18.00 (Thursday & Friday until 21.00). Admission is free, but charges are made for special exhibitions.

The NPG The Gallery was established in 1856, at the suggestion of the 5th Earl of Stanhope. Both Houses of Parliament approved, and Stanhope was elected as chairman of the board of trustees. Sir George Scharf, book illustrator and lecturer, was appointed as secretary, charged with setting up the Gallery. It opened in Great George Street, Westminster in January 1859, with 57 portraits on display. A need for more space led to a move to South Kensington (1869), then to Bethnal Green (1885), and finally to its current home in St Martin's Place, near Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery, in April 1896. The building cost £96,000. The premises have been extended over the years, most recently in 2000. The collection, of over 10,000 portraits, covers famous Britons and those who have made a notable contribution to our history and culture. William Gladstone tops the list of the most portraits of a male (65), and The Queen is the most depicted female (50 portraits). A selection of NPG portraits is on permanent display at Monacute House, Somerset; Beningbrough Hall, North Yorkshire; and Bodelywyddan Castle, Denbighshire ●