

The Beatles A tribute to a pop phenomenon



Technical details

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Designer Johnson Banks

Photography Kevin Summers

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Gravure

Stamp size 35 × 33mm

Sheets PO branches will hold sheets of 30. Sheets of 60, with gutter margin, available from Tallents House and from selected PO philatelic outlets

Perforation 14.5 die-cut

Phosphor Two bands

Gum Self-adhesive

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 × 89mm

Miniature sheet perforation 14.5 × 14

Cylinders and colours

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All values W1 silver (except 72p) ● W1 yellow ● W1 magenta ● W1 cyan (blue) ● W1 black ● W1 phosphor

THE FIRST special issue of 2007 features perhaps the most famous music group of all time, The Beatles. The set commemorates the first meeting of the young Paul McCartney and John Lennon 50 years ago in 1957. The six stamps and miniature sheet go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 9 January, brought forward from 16 January as originally announced. The stamps are self-adhesive and printed in horizontal se-tenant pairs, within sheets of each value: 2 × 1st class, 2 × 64p, and 2 × 72p. Each features a Beatles LP sleeve – *With The Beatles* and *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1st class), *Help!* and *Abbey Road* (64p), and *Revolver* and *Let It Be* (72p). The stamps are of 'free-form' design, the top record sleeve overlapping others beneath.

The miniature sheet comprises four different gummed 1st class stamps, thus giving 10 Beatles stamps in total. The miniature sheet stamps feature Beatles memorabilia: a guitar, a Yellow Submarine lunch-box and set of key-rings, *Love Me Do* 45rpm record, the 'Fab Four' on a tea-tray, and badges. The sheet margin includes images of other memorabilia.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES 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 their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Liverpool postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0701' or 'FD0702'. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the date of issue.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see 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.

THE BEATLES Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



The FDC, left, designed by Johnson Banks, features Beatles memorabilia: record sleeves, the box of a jigsaw puzzle and a lunch-box. The back of the FDC features the reverse of the record sleeves shown on the stamps. The filler card illustrates the vinyl records from the sleeves shown on the stamps.



THE BEATLES Royal Mail Mint Stamps



PRESENTATION PACK The colourful pack, containing the six stamps and the miniature sheet, is written by Phil Alexander and gives a concise account of the career of The Beatles and their impact on modern culture. He writes: 'It is impossible to imagine the modern world without The Beatles.' The many illustrations chosen by Johnson Banks for the pack will be pure nostalgia for all Beatles fans, featuring books and other memorabilia as well as record sleeves and the street sign for Abbey Road NW8, where the group recorded much of its music. Phil Alexander is Editor of *Mojo*, one of the premier music magazines, and a broadcaster on Mojo Radio, a digital station.

The Beatles prices

Set of stamps	£3.36
Miniature sheet	£1.28
Presentation pack (stamps & sheet)	£5.15
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK)	£4.42
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas)	£3.77
Serviced FDC mini sheet (UK)	£1.98
Serviced FDC mini sheet (overseas)	£1.69
Stamp cards set (11 cards)	£3.30

THE BEATLES ON STAMPS This is the first Royal Mail issue devoted to The Beatles, although a small image of John Lennon featured on a 34p Australian Bicentenary stamp in 1988. The Beatles, particularly John Lennon, have been depicted on numerous overseas stamps, including issues from Antigua, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Burundi, Ghana, Germany, Gibraltar, Guyana, Malagasy Republic, Maldives, Mali, Nicaragua, Palau, and St Vincent. Sir Paul McCartney designed a set of flower stamps issued by the Isle of Man in July 2002. John Lennon was a stamp collector in his school-boy days, and his stamp album (with his signature on the inside cover) is now in the National Postal Museum in Washington DC; it was exhibited at the Washington stamp exhibition earlier this year ●

