

Celebrating Wales The final Country sheet



The miniature sheet is 123 x 70mm, the two 78p stamps are 60 x 24mm; shown here at actual size.

DATHLU CYMRU – CELEBRATING WALES A new miniature sheet goes on sale on 26 February – the last in the ‘Four Countries of the UK’ series. The sheet bears two definitive-size 1st class stamps – the existing 1st class Wales stamp showing the Welsh dragon, and a new one depicting the Red Dragon flag – and two large-size 81p stamps featuring a representation of St David and the National Assembly for Wales building in Cardiff.

The sheet was designed by Silk Pearce and printed in litho by De La Rue Security Print. The 1st class stamp illustrations are by Peter Crowther Associates (Dragon flag) and Toby & Gideon Petersen (dragon forged in Welsh steel). On the 81p stamps, the St David illustration is by Clare Melinsky (designer of the Saints Andrew, George, and Patrick stamps on the earlier ‘Celebrating’ stamps), and the photograph of the Assembly building is from The PhotolibRARY Wales. The sheet background features Harlech Castle.

The presentation pack, with bilingual text, features images of St Davids Cathedral; a stained glass window of St David (Dewi Sant) at St Woolo’s Cathedral, Newport; actor Richard Burton; a Welsh rugby union supporter; and a Red Dragon statue in France commemorating the 38th Welsh Division’s attack on Mametz Wood during the Battle of the Somme.

Celebrating Wales Prices

Miniature sheet	£2.34
Presentation pack	£2.65
Stamp cards (set of five)	£2.00
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£2.99
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£2.49

The First Day Cover envelope features Welsh coastal scenery. Orders for serviced covers, with a Tallents House or bilingual St Davids first day postmark, must be received at Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send their own covers on the day of issue to Tallents House (FD0907), or for the St Davids postmark (FD0908) to one of Royal Mail’s Special Handstamp Centres. Details of sponsored postmarks will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



The presentation pack (above) was written by Huw Pryce and printed by Walsall Security Printers. The first day cover (right) features Welsh coastal scenery.

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WALES GENERIC & SMILERS SHEETS A generic sheet entitled *Cymru Wych-Glorious Wales* was issued on 1 March 2007 and is still available. It contains 20 Wales 1st class country stamps (showing a metallic dragon) and adjoining labels featuring scenes in the Principality. The stamp and labels are printed in litho on self-adhesive paper. Similar sheets were issued for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and United Kingdom; all are still available, priced £7.75 each. To order Smilers versions of the sheets (except Glorious UK), with your own image printed on the labels, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. See the Smilers website at www.royalmail.com/smilers to place an order using digital photos •



Wales on stamps As well as the regional/country stamps issued since 1958, Wales has featured on many special stamps, featuring castles (Caernarfon, Harlech), scenery (Snowdonia, Stackpole Head, Llanelli Coast) buildings and bridges (St David's Cathedral, Menai Bridge, Aberyswyth University, Welsh Stucco); people (Owain Glyndwr); culture (Eisteddfod, Royal Welsh Show); animals (Welsh Pony, Welsh Springer Spaniel, Welsh Black Bull, Welsh Mountain Sheep); history (Welsh Bible), Industrial Archaeology (Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Brecknock & Abergavenny Canal) and railways (Welsh Highland, Talylyn). A Wales prestige book was issued in 1992, and a miniature sheet marked the opening of the new building of the National Assembly for Wales (Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru) in March 2006.

See also *Bulletin* articles on Wales and Welsh stamps and postal history in the January 1992 and May 1999 issues. Glenn Morgan reported on a lecture about the design of the Countries miniature sheets in August 2008 •