



The First Day Cover with Liverpool handstamps

workhorses of the railways, many of which had working lives of several decades before diesel and electric technology took over in the 1960s.

The steam dream

Classic Locomotives of England is the first in a new series of miniature sheets featuring steam locomotives, which were used not just on the public railway network but also in many industrial locations such as factories, quarries and docks. Working in collaboration with railway expert Professor Colin Divall of the National Railway Museum, Brian Delaney of Delaney Design Consultants, trawled through thousands of photographs to find these period images of steam locomotives in England. A second Railways Heritage Portfolio is also being issued, featuring high-quality art prints of each of the four locos, with its appropriate stamp affixed and cancelled.

Classic Locomotives of England Miniature Sheet technical details

Number of stamps	Four – sold as minisheet only
Design	Delaney
Acknowledgements	BR Dean Goods No. 2532 – photo Russell-Smith Collection reference 441 © National Railway Museum; Peckett R2 Thor – photo and © Geoff Plumb; L&YR 1093 No. 1100 – photo unknown © National Railway Museum/Science & Society Picture Library reference 10444570; BR WD No. 90662 – photo Keith Pirt © Book Law Publications; miniature sheet background – photo Paul Riley © The Restoration & Archiving Trust
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	179mm x 74mm
Printer	Cartor
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All-over
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp

British Railways local service Dean Goods Class locomotive at East Garton photographed in 1951 graces the 1st Class stamp. These sturdy Victorian goods locomotives saw a great deal of use in both world wars, but by the 1950s they had been relegated to light duties, such as hauling passenger trains on rural branch lines. The 60p stamp shows a Peckett 1689, named Thor, which was built in 1925 for the Tunnel Cement company of Purfleet, Essex. Compact, powerful and rugged, industrial locomotives were the all-purpose workhorses of plants such as Tunnel Cement and many were used continuously for several decades.



The loco spent its entire life at Thurrock – where the photo was taken – and it was scrapped there in March 1965.

The 88p stamp has a Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway locomotive photographed at Liverpool Exchange Station in 1909, pulling the 2.10 to Hull. From the middle of the 19th century, British companies offered integrated travel to continental Europe, combining rail services with steamships, which sailed from ports around the United Kingdom. On the 97p stamp an ‘austerity locomotive’ is featured – during the Second World War, these heavy-freight locomotives were built for military service, to transport goods and troops. Before the Normandy Landings, the Army had very little use for these locomotives, so they were loaned to the ‘Big Four’ railway companies. After June 1944, they were shipped out to France. Eventually British Rail owned 733 of them.

The illustrated Presentation Pack contains the Classic Locomotives of England Miniature Sheet stamps alongside commentary from railway expert David Rooney, Curator of Transport at the Science Museum. There is also an FDE, FDC, three handstamps and a set of five stamp cards.

The workers' view

Looking at these magnificent machines, one can imagine the roar of the steam and the hoot of the horn, and wonder what it was like in the days when railway work was a great deal more physical. An exhibition currently at the National Railway Museum in York (and running until 19 June) is entitled ‘Driver, Draughtsman, Cleaner, Clerk: Running Britain’s Railways’ and takes its material from the logbooks and diaries of the workers. Visitors will come ‘face to face’ with characters such as Bill Starvis (pictured on page 149) from Camden, a driver for British Rail whose fascinating diaries are on display. And he’s one of many. The exhibition works so well because it shares personal and unexpected stories that speak powerfully of the past ●

☞ The railways used to be the biggest employer in Britain, so this new exhibition is exploring the stories of people’s uncles, aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers through the rich treasure trove of archive material they left behind. Through mundane items such as course papers and course notes, the stories of generations of railway workers can be explored. ☞

Tim Procter, curator of Library and Archive Collections at the NRM

For collectors – other GB railway stamps

1975 Anniversary of Public Railways; **1980** 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway; **1985** Famous Trains; **1999** Millennium Series, The Travellers’ Tale (Victorian Railway Station 43p); **2003** Classic Locomotives; **2006** Brunel (Royal Albert Bridge 1st, Box Tunnel 40p, Paddington Station 42p, Maidenhead Bridge 68p); **2007** World of Invention (Steam Locomotive 1st); **2009** Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution (George Stephenson and Locomotion 56p) **2010** Great British Railways

