

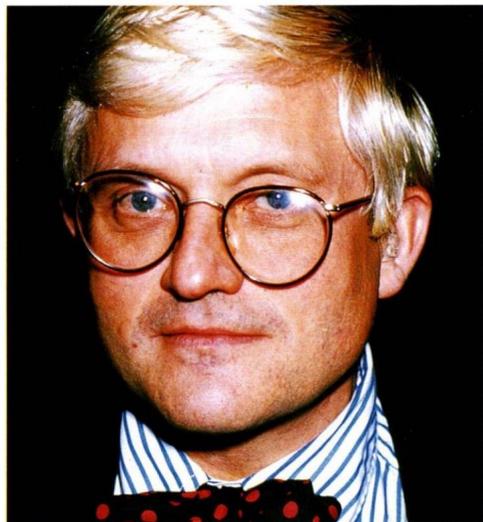
Single European Market

13 October 1992



A single 24p stamp (inland first class and EC basic rate) will go on sale at post offices, at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters on 13 October to commemorate the setting up of the Single European Market from the beginning of 1993. Stamps are being issued by the other eleven countries which make up the European Community: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain. Apart from the Netherlands, the designs are based on a common theme of the 12 stars making up the European Community emblem.

Each country invited one of its leading artists to submit a design based on their interpretation of that country's star. For the United Kingdom, the artist chosen was David Hockney.



The British stamp will be in five colours; cylinders and colours are – 1A (gold) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (magenta) 1D (ultramarine) 1E (black).

The idea of a Europe working together came about after the Second World War and in the late 1940s and 1950s various organisations were established to foster closer economic, social and cultural links. The Organisation for European

Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was set up in April 1948, followed by the Council of Europe in May 1949. One of the principal achievements of the Council is the European Convention on Human Rights (1960) under which were established the European Commission and the European Court of Human Rights.

The European Coal and Steel Community was established by treaty in 1951 and came into effect from July 1952. Discussions were held at Messina, Sicily, in 1955 between the foreign ministers of the six member countries of the ECSC (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and West Germany) to advance towards economic integration in Europe. This led to the signing of the famous Treaty of Rome on 25 March 1957 and the establishment of the European Economic Community from 1 January 1958. Britain, Denmark, the Irish Republic and Norway sought membership in 1961 but it was not until 1 January 1973 that Britain, Ireland and Denmark became members. Greece became the tenth member of the Community on 1 January 1981, with Portugal and Spain following on 1 January 1986.

From 1 January 1993 the free movement of goods across national frontiers will come into effect – a single European market of some 340 million people. The start of the process towards the single market came when the European Commission published a White Paper in 1985 containing some 282 proposals which offered a comprehensive approach to the implementation

of a single market. A deadline of 31 December 1992 for the completion of the single market was set. The Single European Act, which entered into force on 1 July 1987, agreed changes to the legislative framework of the European Community to allow this process to happen. A feature of this Act, the first major amendment to the Treaty of Rome, was that matters relating to the single market should no longer be subject to unanimous decision. In the past, progress had only been as fast as the most reluctant member state decided.

The aim of the programme is to remove barriers to the free movement within the European Community of goods, persons, services and capital, thereby enabling it to act as a single commercial and consumer entity.

In simple terms, it means that goods should be allowed to cross Community frontiers without bureaucratic fuss or restriction; that individuals should be able to work or study anywhere within the Community; that consumers should be able to enjoy full access to the widest range of products of each member state; and that even non-tangible services, such as television broadcasts, should be freely available across national boundaries.

The Single European Market is hardly likely to mean that being more European after 1992 will make the British less British, the French less French, or the Italians less Italian. This is well illustrated in the stamps issued by member states to celebrate the Single European Market. These carry a common theme – the star representing each country on the European Community flag – but each has a style and treatment which epitomise the remarkable diversity of European national character.

European Stamps

The six members of the Coal & Steel Community issued “Europa” stamps in a common design in 1956 – depicting a “Europa Tower” surrounded by scaffolding. Each country issued two stamps; those from Luxembourg are now quite scarce. In 1959 the *Conférence Européenne des Postes et Télécommunications* (CEPT) was established and the following year’s Europa stamps featured CEPT’s 19-spoked wheel (representing the member countries) which formed the letter “O” of the word “EUROPA”. The initials CEPT or the Conference title in full also appeared on the stamps.

Since 1974 Europa stamps have been produced in a common theme but with each country producing its own designs; the themes have been

– Sculpture (1974), Paintings (1975), Traditional Crafts (1976), Scenery (1977), Buildings (1978), Communications (1979), Famous People (1980), Folklore (1981), History (1982), Works of Human Genius (1983), 25th anniversary of CEPT (1984), European Music Year (1985), Nature Conservation (1986), Architecture (1987), Transport & Communications (1988), Games & Toys (1989), Buildings (1990), Europe in Space (1991) and Columbus (1992).

Britain’s first Europa stamps were issued in September 1960; they were also our first two-coloured commemorative (special) stamps. A second Europa set was issued the following year but there was then a long gap until 1980. In the meantime stamps with a European theme were issued to mark the 10th anniversary of CEPT (one in set of five “Anniversaries”, 1969), British entry to the EEC (1973), European Architectural Heritage Year (1975), and the first elections to the European Parliament (1979).

As part of the closer links with Europe, the same rate of postage now applies to inland first class letters (up to 60g) and letters to EC countries (up to 20g) – the current charge is 24p. This concessionary rate was introduced from 20 October 1986. The current rate for letters to European countries not in the EC is 28p. Non Value Indicator (NVI) stamps are valid for full or part postage on mail to EC and some other European countries – the list of countries was published here in February 1992 (page 144), and is given in the latest printings of NVI stamp books and Greetings stamp books.

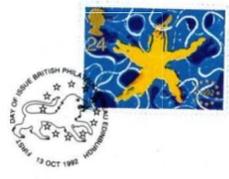
The Single European Market Stamp Design Concept

The single market stamps from the EC countries will be issued on the following dates:

Belgium – 26 October
Denmark – 8 October
France – end October
Ireland – 15 October
Italy – October/November
Germany – October/November
Greece – not yet announced
Luxembourg – 5 October
Netherlands – 6 October
Portugal – 4 November
Spain – November
U.K. – 13 October

Designer

The British stamp has been designed by David Hockney who was born in Bradford, West



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Yorkshire in 1937 and educated at the Bradford College of Art, the Royal College of Art in London, and in the USA, where he has taught and now lives. He is well-known as a "pop" artist, experimenting with various styles. Many of his works include graffiti-like figures and include heavy colours. California has inspired his "swimming pool" paintings; poetry has also inspired many of his works. Since the 1970s he has become an established portrait painter and has also worked as an etcher and in film-making. In 1978 he designed the stage settings for Mozart's *Magic Flute* at Glyndebourne, and in 1980 costumes and sets for the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. His awards include the Shakespeare Prize of the Hamburg Foundation, 1983, and the first prize of the International Center of Photography, New York, 1985. His publications include books of drawings and photography and illustrated versions of the *Fairy Tales* of the Brothers Grimm.

Printing Details

The stamp was printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor coated paper, in sheets of 100. It measures 41 x 30mm, is perforated 15 x 14 and has PVA Dextrin gum.

Presentation Pack

The pack, - No. 231, was designed by Minale, Tattersfield and printed by Raithby, Lawrence & Co Ltd of Leicester. Price 55p, it will be available from 13 October from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters.

Royal Mail Stamp Card

A card, featuring an enlargement of the stamp design, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p. It is numbered 147.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 13 October, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service - one for the Bureau, the other for Westminster, centre of British government.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau

and main post offices, should be returned not later than 13 October.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or London South Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail London SW, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB (Westminster postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* - the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe; £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters for one year from 14 October, price 21p.

Anyone for Tennis?

Each year the Post Office holds a tennis tournament with teams from various PO businesses. At the recent tournament, in Bournemouth, Royal Mail National was represented by Miss Rosena Robson (front row, left), Acting Manager of the Special Stamps section.

