

40th anniversary of the Machin design



AS MANY *Bulletin* READERS will know, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Machin definitive series which started with three stamps (4d, 1s and 1s9d) on 5 June 1967. To mark the anniversary Royal Mail will issue a miniature sheet, prestige stamp book, a new £1 definitive, and a number of other products on 5 June 2007.

NEW DEFINITIVE A new £1 definitive will be printed in a ruby colour for the 40th (ruby) anniversary, replacing the current mauve colour in use since 1995. Ruby is a new Jeffery Matthews colour. The stamp will be printed by De La Rue in gravure in sheets of 200.

MINIATURE SHEET The anniversary miniature sheet comprises the new and obsolescent £1 stamps, with two new special 1st class stamps (size 35 × 37mm), one showing Arnold Machin, the other the 4d stamp from 1967. The portrait of Arnold Machin was supplied by his son Francis. The stamps are captioned 'ARNOLD MACHIN 1911-1999' and 'FIRST MACHIN ISSUED 1967'. The sheet will be printed by De La Rue in gravure, and measures 127 × 73mm. It was designed by Jeffery Matthews and Together design group. The images of Arnold Machin and the 4d stamp on the two special stamps are embossed, so they stand out from the sheet. It will also be available in a presentation pack, and in a press sheet containing 12 miniature sheets (as printed before guillotining into individual sheets). The pack, written by Arnold Machin's son Francis, was designed by Webb & Webb Design Limited and features many ceramics from the Machin Archives and a photograph of Machin at work in his studio watched by his young son. The pack includes a facsimile of Arnold Machin's signature. ▶



There will also be a first day postmark for Stoke-on-Trent, Machin's birthplace. Details to follow.

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*. For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.



Prestige stamp book From top left: the front cover, and panes 2, 3 and 4. Pane 4 (at left), with Rowland Hill in the central label, also features a quotation by Arnold Machin: 'I wonder what Rowland Hill, the founder of the Penny Post, would have to say about stamp design today.'

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 June, price 30p. This can be used for the new £1 definitive, miniature sheet, or panes from the prestige book. Pictorial First day postmarks will be provided for Tallents House and Windsor.

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 one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Windsor postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0725' (Tallents House), or 'FD0726' (for Windsor). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark.

OTHER PRODUCTS A number of other products are now in preparation – details will be given nearer the time.

MACHIN LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION We will be publishing a booklet on Machin stamps as no 13 in our Philatelic Bulletin Publications series. This will be sent out free with the May *Bulletin*. The British Postal Museum & Archive will publish a major work, *A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon*, written by Douglas Muir, BPMA Curator Philately. There will also be a special BPMA exhibition to mark the Machin anniversary ●

Machin Anniversary prices

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| Definitive stamp | £1.00 |
| Miniature sheet | £2.68 |
| Presentation pack (miniature sheet) | £3.20 |
| Press sheet | £64.32 |
| FDC envelope | £0.30 |
| Serviced FDC (sheet, UK customers) | £3.63 |
| Serviced FDC (sheet, overseas) | £3.09 |
| Prestige stamp book | £7.66 |
| Serviced FDC (PSB pane, UK) | £2.78 |
| Serviced FDC (PSB pane, overseas) | £2.37 |
| Generic sheet | £7.35 |