

Royal Mail news New issues and products



Treasures of the BPMA prestige book The third of this year's books will be issued 18 August. It features treasures of the British Postal Museum & Archive, selected by the book's author Douglas Muir, the BPMA's Curator Philately. The book is printed by Cartor, and will cost £8.18.

The cover of the prestige book features a section of the unique proof sheet of the Penny Black, probably the most valuable item held at the BPMA. This year marks the 40th anniversary

of the opening of the former National Postal Museum by HM The Queen.

The first day cover envelope features the top of a Penfold pillar box.

Orders for serviced FDCS bearing the definitive stamp pane cancelled by a Tallents House or London ECI postmark should reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.18 UK customers, or £2.77 overseas customers. Collectors can send their own covers on the day of issue to Tallents House (for TH postmark), or to their nearest Special Handstamp Centres for the London postmark, marking the outer envelope 'FD0921' or 'FD0922'. The TH postmark features a mail coach, and the London postmark a 'Hen & Chickens' parcel delivery bicycle of the 1880s. Details of sponsored handstamps in use on 18 August will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* •

Treasures of the BPMA The book will contain four panes:

- Pane 1** Top and bottom rows: 1st, 20p and 1st double-head Victoria/Elizabeth II stamps, as issued in 1990 (20p) and 2000 (1st). Middle row: 20p, label (Treasury Essay design), 20p.
- Pane 2** Four 20p Royal Mail Coach stamps from the 1988 Lord Mayor's Show issue (originally printed gravure by Harrison).
- Pane 3** The four Post Box stamps from the miniature sheet also to be issued 18 August.
- Pane 4** Top and bottom rows: 17p, 22p, 17p. Middle row: 62p, label showing GPO logo, 62p.