

# News Release

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## **NORTHERN IRELAND HERITAGE TO BE CELEBRATED IN SPECIAL ROYAL MAIL BOOK OF STAMPS**

Northern Ireland's heritage and some of its famous sons and daughters are to be paid a special tribute by Royal Mail on July 26, when a special book of stamps will be issued.

Among the famous names whose achievements are featured in the Northern Island Prestige Stamp Book are the playwright Brian Friel, athlete Mary Peters, footballers George Best and Pat Jennings and the musician Van Morrison.

The stamp book will contain a variety of regionalised stamps, including the 30p stamp featuring His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales's watercolour of the Mourne Mountains, County Down, which was issued earlier this year.

Several pages of illustrations show popular sights including the Giant's Causeway, while the text traces the history of Northern Ireland, its people and industry.

It continues a series of Royal Mail Prestige Stamp Books focussing on "Regions of The United Kingdom" and follows the huge success of the Beatrix Potter Prestige Stamp Book issued last year - all copies were sold out within a few weeks of going on sale.

Jane Ormrod, Royal Mail's Senior Product Manager for Stamp Books, said: "It is much more than just a book of stamps; it's a celebration of Northern Ireland. It's all too easy for people, especially those not from Northern Ireland, to allow what is seen in the news to overshadow its heritage and achievements, of which we should all be justly proud. more/...





"This stamp book reflects many positive images of Northern Ireland and shows what a beautiful country it is. Whether it is bought to collect, as a gift or to use the stamps, we are sure it will be extremely popular."

The Prestige Stamp Book will contain a total of 22 stamps in a variety of values, as well as two postcards - one of which is pre-paid - which can be torn out and used. It will be available from post offices with Philatelic Counters or the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, (Customer Helpline: 031-550 8989) at a cost of £6.04.

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### TECHNICAL DETAILS

The Northern Island Prestige Stamp Book completes the series of stamp books commemorating different parts of the UK. It was designed by Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell Ltd, with text written by Mike Barden and printed by The House of Questa, except for the first pane of stamps which were printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd.

### STAMP PANES

- Pane 1: 4 X 30p stamps commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Investiture of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Stamps show the Mourne Mountains, County Down
- Pane 2: 1 X 6p, 1 X 19p and 4 X 25p definitive stamps, all of which are new varieties as they are printed in lithography by the House of Questa
- Pane 3: Mixed pane of Northern Ireland Country Definitives - 2 X 19p, 1 X 30p, 4 X 25p, 1 X 41p and a label

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Pane 4: Pane of Northern Ireland Country Definitives - 1 X 19p, 1 X 25p, 1 X 30p and 1 X 41p

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## POSTCARDS

The stamp book will contain one pre-paid postcard of the Giant's Causeway, which has a 35p stamp imprinted on the back. The stamp shows the Giant's Causeway in a stamp design previously issued in 1981 at the then 22p rate. The stamp was issued to commemorate the National Trust for Scotland's 50th anniversary.

A second postcard bearing the same design is included in the book but is not pre-paid.

## NEW VARIETIES

The book contains three new definitive varieties - a 2 band 6p, a 19p left band and a 2 band 25p.

The stamp book will contain a variety of regionalised stamps, including the 20p stamp featuring His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales's watercolour of the Mourne Mountains, County Down, which was issued earlier this year.

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