

Greetings Stamps

5 February 1991

The third issue of Royal Mail Greetings Stamps will be released on 5 February, comprising 10 first class NVI stamps each with a different designs making up a composite picture. The stamps will be sold in a book, including 12 Greetings labels, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and post offices, price £2.20.

The designs overflow with good luck symbols – a magical landscape where butterflies turn into hearts, a church clock strikes seven and black cats pop up all over the place. Amongst the symbols featured are a golden key for 21st and 18th birthdays, wedding bells and horseshoes, a wishing well, a nest of eggs for a new home or a new baby, a shooting star and a four leaf clover. Somewhere over the rainbow is the lucky 3. The labels bear various greetings such as Happy Birthday, Best Wishes, Congratulations, which can be used with the stamps to make them more specific.

First Day Facilities

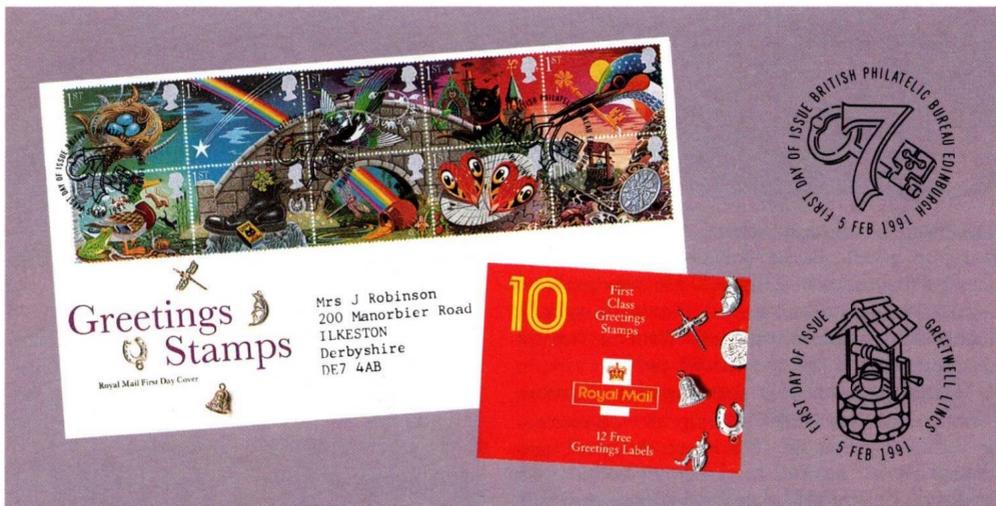
The Royal Mail first day cover, designed by

Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most post offices, price 19p. The design features some of the charms depicted on the stamps and labels. The usual first day posting boxes will be provided at main offices and pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be available for the Bureau and Greetwell, Lincs.



Application forms, available from the Bureau, should be returned by 5 February. Customers wishing to post their own covers under the reposting facility should send them, on the day of issue, in an outer cover endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail House, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Greetwell postmark). Details of other pictorial postmarks will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.





A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" and philatelic counters from 6 February, price 19p.

Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by Tony Meeuwissen and printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited. The stamps are horizontal in format, size 41 x 30mm, perforation 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum. The pane consists of 10 stamps, in two rows of five

horizontally with selvege along the top and bottom only. The labels will be printed three across and four deep continuing on from the Greetings stamps, also with selvege at top and bottom. The overall size of the finished book is 69.5 x 95mm. The colours used for the stamps are: greenish yellow, bright magenta, new blue, grey-brown, blue-black and silver.

The stamps are printed on non-phosphor paper, overprinted with phosphor bars to ensure satisfactory recognition by segregating machinery.

