



is noted both for its sumptuous single flowers and bottle-shaped scarlet hips.

The subject for the **33p** denomination (inland first class, second rate step) is the "Harvest Fayre" rose, a new breed by Colin Dickson who comes from a long line of Northern Irish rose growers. It was introduced in 1990 and won the Rose Growers' Association "Rose of the Year" award. This floribunda rose is apricot orange in colour, has bushy growth and is slightly scented. Its resistance to disease is another factor adding to its popularity.

The top value, **37p** (airmail outside Europe basic rate) features *Rosa* "Mutabilis", considered to be a form of the China rose, *Rosa chinensis*. Its flowers change colour through yellow to pink and red as they age. It received its present name in 1934 from a Swiss botanist Henri Correvon who had been given it by Prince Gilberto Borromeo from his Italian garden. However it is an old rose, having been painted by Pierre Joseph Redouté as "Tipo Ideale", possibly from a plant in the garden of the Empress Joséphine.

Roses are amongst our most loved plants. The Chinese cultivated them some 4,000 years ago and the ancient Minoans painted a rose on the walls of the palace at Knossos in Crete. Held in high regard by the Greeks and Romans, roses were used as emblems during the Middle Ages, for example the so-called "Wars of the Roses". The Tudor Rose, which combines the White Rose of York with the Red Rose of Lancaster, became England's national emblem, signifying unity after those Wars.

### Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Yvonne Skargon and printed by The House of Questa Limited in offset-lithography on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "almost square" format, 35 x 37mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 14½.

### Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 219) will cost £1.80. Designed by Dick Davis, with text by Patrick Roper, it was printed by Raithby, Lawrence. Each pack will contain a free entry ticket to the Royal National Rose Society gardens at St Albans worth £2.50.

### Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 136A-E

### 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 16 July, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Belfast.

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 16 July.

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 Scotland and Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Glasgow, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA (Belfast 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. In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA and Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 16 July — details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

### Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" and philatelic counters from 17 July, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.

# ROSE

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



# ROSE

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson  
 200 Manorbier Road  
 ILKESTON  
 Derbyshire  
 DE7 4AB

