

14 September 1993



The second in Royal Mail's "Seasons" stamp issues goes on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 14 September. The five stamps feature familiar fruits and leaves of Autumn.

The **18p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class rate) depicts the fruit and leaves of the horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), the **24p** value (basic inland 1st class and EC rate) features the blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). The nuts and leaves of the filbert of the Hazel (*Corylus maxima*)

Technical Details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 x 30mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: One phosphor band (18p),
two bands (24p-39p)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Presentation Pack: No 240, price £1.75

Stamp Cards: Nos 155 A-E, price 21p each



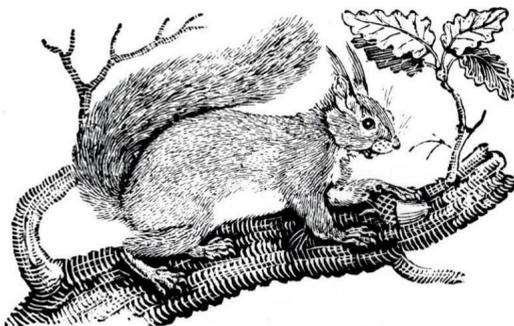
are shown on the **28p** stamp (covering the rate to non-EC European countries). The fruit and leaves of the Mountain Ash, or Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) feature on the **33p** stamp (world-wide postcard rate); the top value, **39p** (basic airmail letter rate), depicts the fruit and leaves of the pear, *Pyrus communis*, ('Doyenne' due Comice).

The stamps have been designed by Charlotte Knox, her first commission for Royal Mail. Charlotte Knox has studied at Brighton Polytechnic, the Ruskin School of Fine Art and Drawing, Oxford and St Martin's School of Art, London. She has for the last few years been specialising in plant illustration – and fruit in particular. Charlotte works with watercolour, crayon, ink, coloured charcoal and pastels, to produce very rich colours, and has produced a book, *Exotic Fruit and Vegetables*, with co-author Jane Rigson.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and philatelic counters around a week before 14 September, price 21p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover





Squirrel trees and red thread to gar the
witches dance their dead.
A pleasing coincidence is that John Keats
was born on 31 October, Hallowe'en.
His poem 'To Autumn' has what must be
one of the most quoted opening
lines, 'Season of mists and
mellow fruitfulness'.

Football Some would claim that the first
fruits of autumn are the grains of harvest –
certainly harvest home signals the end
of summer. Yet this event is a pale
reflection of what it was in the
past when corn-filled wagons were
crowned with flowers and whole villages

Pumpkin Also over the border –
and elsewhere – bagpipes play the
lament: 'Flowers of the Forest' when
that last flower of the year, the red Flanders poppy,
blooms in button holes on Remembrance Sunday.
Yet of all the 'fruits' of autumn,
none is more familiar than
the experience of walking
in the country on one
weekend and seeing
the trees

Plum Jam ablaze with scarlet and gold and
the next weekend seeing the same
colours carpeting the earth.

Blackberry Pie



service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Taunton, price £2.03 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.73 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 14 September 1993.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Taunton cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed “Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark”.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial “First Day of Issue” handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail’s magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75



Rest of World (Airmail).

The alternative “First Day of Issue” postmark is being used for Taunton in Somerset as it is the centre of the British cider-making industry. Cider is made from apples cropped in early Autumn.

Autumn Second Class Stamp

Collectors are advised that it will be in order to affix just the Autumn 2nd class stamp to covers to receive all special cancels (“First Day of Issue”, sponsored, and philatelic counter) in use on 14 September. The minimum 1st class rate rule is suspended on this day as the Autumn set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 2nd class Autumn stamp; covers bearing other than Autumn stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.

