

25th Anniversary of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales

Five stamps commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Investiture of HRH The Prince of Wales go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 1 March 1994.

The stamps feature paintings by the Prince. The **19p** stamp (inland 2nd class rate) shows Chirk Castle (Castell Y Waun) in the county of Clwyd, Wales. The castle, a unique example of a Marcher fortress was completed by 1310. For nearly 300 years the castle remained in the gift of the Crown, given at one point to Sir Thomas



Seymour, Lord High Admiral and, by Elizabeth I, to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. It was purchased by Sir Thomas Myddelton in 1595; Charles I stayed there in 1645. Chirk Castle, a property of the National Trust since 1981, contains fine furnishings and decorations dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The noted wrought iron gates were produced by the Davies Brothers in 1721.

The **25p** value (inland 1st class and EC rate) reproduces the Prince's painting of Ben Arkle, in the Highland Region of Scotland. This mountain reaches a height of 2580 feet and is located approximately eight miles to the east of the small west coast village of Scourie. Prince Charles painted this scene over three days in October; the mountains being part of the time swathed in mist, the Prince had to work from



memory. Ben Arkle is well-known to mountaineers and walkers. Situated in the remote Reay Forest, noted for its deer, it is best viewed from the high road on the shores of Loch Stack – famed for its fish. The mountain is composed of Cambrian quartzite and has bands of white scree.

The **30p** denomination (Europe, non-EC countries) has as its subject the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland. Owing to security requirements the Prince had reluctantly to paint this scene from a photograph. The beautiful Mourne Mountains lie in the south of Co. Down, Northern Ireland extending from above the town of Newcastle to Carlingford Lough, and include several over 2000 feet – Slieve Muck (2198 ft), Slieve Bearnagh (2394 ft), Slieve Binnian (2449 ft), Slieve Commedagh



(2515 ft) and the highest Slieve Donard (2796 ft). Part of the Mourne Coastal Path, maintained by the National Trust, runs from the foot of Slieve Donard along the valley of the Bloody River, providing access to the mountains. The path was started as an unemployment relief scheme in 1968.

The painting of Dersingham, Norfolk, shown on the 35p stamp (overseas postcard rate), was undertaken on a January afternoon. Unfortunately the Prince's concentration was interrupted by press photographers. Dersingham is the nearest village to the Sandringham estate, a home of the Royal Family since the 1860s. The Prince's grandfather, King George VI was born on the estate in 1895 and like his father, George V, died in Sandringham House. The Princess of Wales was born on the estate in 1961. The Sandringham estate provides excellent shooting; the Royal Family often stay at Sandringham over Christmas. The village of Dersingham has a fine 14th – 15th century church which houses a noted 14th century chest. The village also boasts a fine 17th century barn.

The 41p value (basic airmail letter rate) reproduced the Prince's painting of Dolwyddelan Castle, located between Betws-y-



Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog in north Wales. The Prince has commented on the long time it took him to find a good spot from which to paint this view, and the fact that it didn't rain whilst he was working! Dolwyddelan (approximate pronunciation Dol-oith-ealan), is generally supposed to be the birth place in 1194 of Llewellyn the Great. The keep (great tower) of the Castle dates from the second half of the 12th century – clearly a copy of the rectangular keeps which were built at many places in England, c.1160-80. It was probably the work of Owain Gwynedd (King of Gwynedd 1137-52, Prince of Gwynedd 1152-70) or one of his



successors. (Owain submitted to Henry II as his overlord and changed his style to Prince). The curtain (wall enclosing courtyard) of the Castle is of the early 13th century.

The 30p stamp in this issue is to be included in one of the panes in the Northern Ireland prestige stamp book, to be issued on 26 July 1994.

Technical Details

<i>Printers:</i>	Harrison & Sons Ltd
<i>Process:</i>	Photogravure
<i>Size:</i>	41 x 30mm
<i>Sheets:</i>	100
<i>Perforation:</i>	15 x 14
<i>Phosphor:</i>	19p one phosphor band (with fluor); 25p-41p phosphor coated paper.
<i>Paper:</i>	OBA free (OBA = Optical Brightening Agent)
<i>Gum:</i>	PVA Dextrin
<i>Presentation Pack:</i>	No. 245, price £1.85
<i>Stamp Cards:</i>	Nos. 159a-e, price 25p each

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
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DENNEDD
1 MAR 1994



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

1969 1994

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INVESTITURE OF
HRH THE PRINCE
OF WALES

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbieer Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS

1969 1994

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVESTITURE OF
HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



CASTELL Y W
CHIRK CASTLE,
CYMRU/WA
This is a rather fa
quat castle, com
stunning view t
into a blue dunn
is a feeling of
about the scen
single pylon

BEN AN
SUTHERLAND.
The October
Sutherland m
very specia
trouble was t
finish the painting

day and the same light
never came back during the
two days it took me to
complete it. Normally this
particular mountain, as with
most others in the area, is
swathed in mist, so I had to
work from memory.

MOURNE MOUNTAINS
COUNTY DOWN
NORTHERN IRELAND
In order to be reasonably
conscientious to those
inevitably concerned with
security, I painted this scene
from a photograph, which

requires...
most relaxing and therapeutic exercises...
Extract from *HRH The Prince of Wales Watercolours*, Little, Brown and Company, 1991.



with intrusively long lenses
to their cameras.

DOLWYDELAN
GWYNEDD
CYMRU/WALES

It took me rather too long
to find a good spot from
which to paint this view,
the result being that I very
quickly ran out of time to
do it adequate justice.
With such limited time, at
least it didn't rain...

Bureau, Collections, and Philatelic Counters around a week before 1 March, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Caernarfon, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 1 March.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Caernarfon cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Wales & West 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).

Souvenir Products

Five Stamp Pyramids, each featuring one of the five stamps, will be available from the Bureau at a special offer price of £29.95 each (usual price £34.95).

Royal Mint have produced a special commemorative medal to mark the anniversary and, Royal Mail have joined with the Mint to mount the medal on a unique “Philatelic Medal Cover” (PMC). Issue of the medal has been sanctioned by The Queen and The Prince of Wales. The medal designer – leading coinage artist Michael Rizzello – had a personal sitting with Prince Charles to put the finishing touches to his work. The medal will be Crown-size, struck to proof quality and this version will *only* be available in the PMC, which is being produced in a limited edition of 25,000 individually numbered covers. Price £14.95 each, from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Watercolours Exhibition

Royal Mail is sponsoring an exhibition tour of watercolours by Prince Charles, to mark the

25th anniversary of his Investiture and in aid of The Prince of Wales’s Charities Trust. The exhibition can be seen at the following venues:

Cardiff International Arena – Cardiff

1 March-20 March

Ulster Museum – Belfast 29 March-23 April

Grosvenor Museum – Chester 30 April-15 May

York Minster Visitor Centre, St William’s

College – York 21 May-8 June

Sotheby’s – London 24 June-24 July

Art Gallery & Museum Kelvingrove –

Glasgow 5 August-4 September

Entrance will be £1.50; children under 11 free.

Souvenir covers will be on sale at the exhibition, cachets for each venue will be available, but only to visitors to the exhibition.

Many of the paintings in the exhibition are featured in a superb book, first published by Little Brown in 1991. A Special Edition will be made available exclusively to British Philatelic Bureau customers and to visitors to the exhibition. The Special Edition will have a specially designed dust jacket and mounted inside will be a complete set of the “HRH Investiture” stamps. It will cost £25 (the same as the publisher’s price for the standard edition). Limited numbers available, early orders advisable to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

To Pay Labels

Shown here is the Royal Mail’s pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark for the new To Pay labels, 15 February 1994. Covers, bearing at least 25p worth of the new To Pay labels, should be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, KEB LONDON EC1A 1AA not later than 15 March. Further information was published in January’s *Bulletin* page 144.



New Stamp Books

Two new books will be available from 22 February from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters. They will be available from post