

# Royal Mail news Tales of Terror stamps •

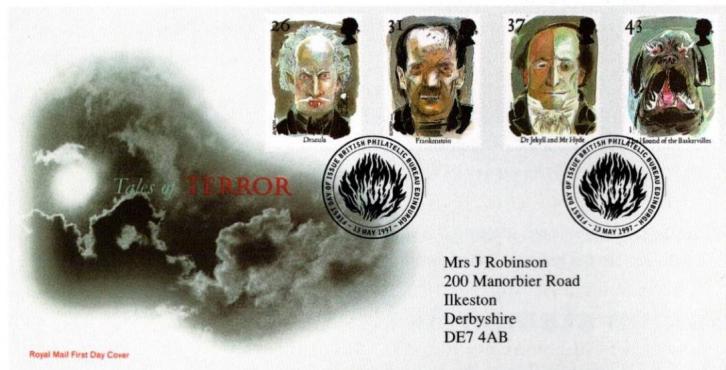
## Rowland Hill awards • Definitives update •

## Design Director's anniversary • NPM news



Collectors will be interested to know that fluor has been added to the printing of parts of the designs of each stamp; this will give a somewhat 'spooky' effect when viewed under ultra-violet light.

**Tales of Terror stamps** Four stamps featuring four well-known characters from horror stories go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 13 May 1997. The stamps are Royal Mail's contribution to the Europa series which this year has 'Tales & Legends' as its theme. Stamps on this theme will be issued by most European postal administrations. The 'Europa' symbol is shown on the 26p and 31p values.



Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbie Road  
Ilkeston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB

**Presentation pack and stamp cards** A presentation pack (price £1.70) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices.

**The pack** has been written by Christopher Frayling, Professor of Cultural History and Rector of the Royal College of Art (London), an expert on horror stories who presented BBC television programmes

on the subject in December 1996 and January 1997. A book to accompany the series, entitled *Nightmare*, has been published by the BBC.

**Tales of TERROR**

*"Terror lay the Count... the white hair and the white veins lay to dark green on the cheeks of his face, and the white skin seemed ruby-red underneath; the skin was redder than ever, for on the lips were pools of fresh blood..."*  
by Bram Stoker, 1897

*"His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of his arteries beneath; his hair was of a light yellow, and his teeth white; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his sallow eyes..."*  
by Mary Shelley, 1818

*"He was pale and dwarfish; he gave an impression of meanness without any corresponding misery; he had a diabolical smile... not all of these together could equalise the hideousness of his aspect..."*  
by Robert Louis Stevenson, 1886

*"A bane it was... a hideous varmint it was... a fiend from 17,000 miles... his eyes gleamed with a wild, unquenchable glare, and his nostrils were outlined in effervescent flame..."*  
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1901

**26p** Dracula   **31p** Frankenstein   **37p** Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde   **43p** The Hound of the Baskervilles

Printed on 100gsm paper, featuring a watermark of the Royal Coat of Arms.

Postage rates: 26p, 31p, 37p, 43p.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the stage was set for Stoker's *Dracula*, published in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and Freud's first psychoanalytical research. The novel synthesised the three main areas of late-nineteenth-century interest – the occult, the supernatural and the medical.

The Hound is the most successful detective story ever published and Holmes's most-filled adventure. Indeed, the detective stars in more than 200 movies, the most often portrayed film character of all time. Dracula and Frankenstein are not far behind as the third and fifth most portrayed.

The 26p stamp (inland 1st class and EU countries basic rate) features Dracula, the creation of Bram Stoker and the subject for numerous films. The 31p stamp (European countries, non-EU) depicts Frankenstein, the fiendish invention of Mary Shelley. A dual-image of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, from the book by Robert Louis Stevenson, appears on the 37p denomination (airmail postcard rate), and The Hound of the Baskervilles, one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's best-known works, stares out menacingly from the 43p stamp (airmail letters basic rate).

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 13 May, 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 Whitby, 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 13 May 1997.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA (for Whitby postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed 'FD9707' (Bureau), or 'FD9708' (Whitby).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) 'first day of issue' handstamps.

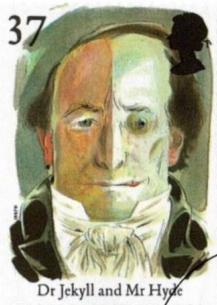
Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 rest of world (airmail).

**THE TALES** The roots of Dracula and Frankenstein, writes Professor Frayling, lie in the high culture of two centuries ago. The tradition of terror began with the writings of the romantic poets, entered the popular bloodstream through Victorian plays and penny-dreadfuls, and by the beginning of the 20th century provided a rich vein of exciting material for early film-makers.

*Dracula* was written by Bram (Abraham) Stoker (1847-1912), who was born in Clontarf, Dublin and studied law and science at Trinity College. He became a civil servant and later partnered Sir Henry Irving in running the Lyceum Theatre in London, 1878-1905. Stoker is traditionally said to have been inspired to write the Dracula tale while on holiday in Whitby, Yorkshire. Others believe young Stoker was just as inspired by the coffins in the vaults below St Michan's Church, in his native Dublin and that his descriptions of the Transylvanian mountains are based on the mountains of west Ireland.

**The stamps are the work of Ian Pollock**, his first successful commission for Royal Mail. He was born in Cheshire in 1950 and educated at Manchester Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art. He has illustrated some 10 books including a Cartoon *King Lear* (1984) and *Paradise Lost* (1991). His work has been shown in one-man exhibitions in London, Brussels and elsewhere and he has done work for *The Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *The Independent*, *Daily Express*, *The Guardian* and so many magazines 'it would be easier to name those I haven't worked for'. He has been described as a natural successor to artists such as Gerald Scarfe and Ralph Steadman.





#### Technical details

**Printers** Walsall Security Printers Ltd

**Process** Photogravure

**Size** 30 x 41mm

**Sheets** 100

**Perforation** 14 x 15

**Phosphor** Two bands, with blue fluor

**Paper** OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free

**Gum** PVA

The book was published in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and of Sigmund Freud's first psychoanalytical research. The novel, says Frayling, synthesised the three main types of literary vampire – the folkloric, the Byronic, and the femme fatale – and laid down the ground-rules for all future variations.

Mary Shelley, nee Godwin (1797-1851), first told the creation scene of Frankenstein to Percy Shelley and Lord Byron at a holiday villa overlooking Lake Geneva in 1816. Byron added an unfinished tale about an aristocratic vampire which Byron's physician, John Polidori, expanded into *The Vampyre*, published in 1819. Shelley's *Frankenstein* was published in 1818 and soon turned into a popular drama on the London and Paris stage. The stage version, perhaps not surprisingly, was rather more melodramatic than the original book. By the late 1840s, Frankenstein was the subject of many parodies and, says Frayling, 'the creature had become confused with his creator in the expression "Frankenstein's monster"'.

Stamps featuring Dracula and Frankenstein, also the Phantom of the Opera, the Mummy, and Wolf Man are to be issued by the US Post Office later in the year. An Post, the Irish PO, will issue stamps commemorating the centenary of the publication of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* was published in 1886, one of the best-known stories of Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94). After a somewhat troubled childhood, often wandering the back streets and dark alleys of Edinburgh, Stevenson trained as an engineer but later switched to law. After travelling in Europe, he returned to Scotland and wrote his best-known book *Treasure Island*. From 1885 to 1887 he and his family lived in Bournemouth where he wrote *More Arabian Nights*, *Kidnapped* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. Stevenson's poor health led to his emigration to Samoa where he died suddenly in December 1894.

A feature on Stevenson was published in the March 1994 *Bulletin*, coinciding with the issue of a Scottish aerogramme produced in his honour. He also featured on an aerogramme in 1989, and he has been commemorated by stamps from British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Marshall Islands, and Samoa. One of his best-known characters, Long John Silver, was depicted on a 1993 Greetings stamp.

*The Hound of the Baskervilles*, one of the famous Sherlock Holmes stories was published in book form in 1902 the same year as its author, Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was knighted. The Holmes tales, which have a massive international following, gained instant popularity when originally published in *The Strand Magazine* in the early 1890s.

Like Stevenson, Doyle was born in Edinburgh, trained as a doctor, and later practised in Portsmouth and Southsea. He is buried at Minstead in the New Forest. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* revived the Holmes stories after entreaties from the public, and served to whip up Holmes-fever to even greater intensity. Conan Doyle and his characters feature on stamps from the Comoro Islands, Dominica, Nicaragua, San Marino, and the Turks & Caicos Islands as well as on five British stamps issued in October 1993 and on the cover of £1 stamp books issued in 1987-8 •

**Rowland Hill Awards** Last October we announced the new Rowland Hill awards for achievements in promoting stamp collecting, sponsored by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust and the Philatelic Traders' Society. Winners and awarding bodies gathered for the inaugural award ceremony at London's Victoria & Albert Museum on 25 January. The awards, presented by Mr Adam Novak, Director and General Manager of Royal Mail National, were in three categories: Royal Mail Innovation Awards for contributions that have added a new dimension to stamps and stamp collecting; BPT Initiative Awards, made in conjunction with the Association of British Philatelic Societies, to celebrate personal commitment to developing and encouraging stamp collecting; and PTS Enterprise Awards celebrating commercial resourcefulness in the philatelic trade.

Each winner received a certificate printed in lithography, letterpress and intaglio (recess) on a special paper showing the Slania engraving of Sir Rowland Hill as on the 1995 25p Communications stamp, and an award featuring a facsimile of the engraving die on a natural grey slate-effect plinth. Both were designed by Delaney Design Consultants •

## The winners

### ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS

**Journalistic Excellence** Christine Earle for article 'The Grey Goose Wing', *Stamp Magazine*, March & April 1996. Runners up: James Mackay and John Ryle.

**Stamp Innovation** Nick Knight for photography for the Olympics stamps.

Runners up: Tutsells and Silk Pearce.

**Product Innovation** Philatelic Software Ltd for StampMaster CD-ROM which challenges traditional display, storage and handling of philatelic items.

Runners up: Safe Albums and Complete Collections.

**Post Office Excellence** Leeds Chief Post Office which provides a wide range of philatelic products.

Runners up: Wash Common PO, Newbury and Lewsey Sub PO, Luton.

### PTS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

#### Personal Contribution

Charles Goodwyn for his personal contribution to the hobby of philately, his appointment and work as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection and in bringing it to a much wider audience. Runners up: Dr Alan Huggins and Stan Goron.)

**Business Enterprise** Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd for the professional way they conduct their business, their presentation to the public and innovative ideas in promoting the hobby via business.

Runners up: Amateur Collector Ltd and Antonio Torres.

**Retail Development** Murray Payne Ltd for promotional work in philately via new informative publications *Sixth Sense* and the Commonwealth KGVI catalogue.

Runners up: Steven Scott and Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd.

### BPT INITIATIVE AWARDS

**Youth** Carol Aland for work linking stamp collecting to the National Curriculum and an article published in the philatelic press explaining why she started her school stamp club. Runners up: Pamela Hiscock and Harry Wright.

**Young Collector** Hannah Johnson by helping and encouraging others and developing her own collection. Runners up: Scott Ferguson and Andrea Keith.

**Authorship** John Duggan for several books and articles on Zeppelins in particular and German Philately in general.

Runners up: Nigel Alston and Colm Thomas Murphy.

**Research** Midland GB Postal History Society which has been at the forefront of researching and publishing literature on the postmarks of the Midlands area and of the Penny Post. Runners up: Gerald Bater and Dr James Mackay.

**Community Work** Paul Gaywood who has been described as the backbone of the Preston Philatelic Society and the driving force behind the Welsh Philatelic Society. Runners up: John Hobbs and Bob Lee.

**Teamwork** Newcastle '96 Organising Committee which organised a new exhibition which gained the support of collectors throughout the UK. Runners up: Exeter Stamp Club, and Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society.

**New Horizons** Bookham Stamp Club which sought to redress the falling membership of local societies by providing a club that fulfils the needs of its members. Runners up: Dennis Murphy and Frank Murphy.



Christine Earle receives her Rowland Hill Award from Royal Mail's Adam Novak