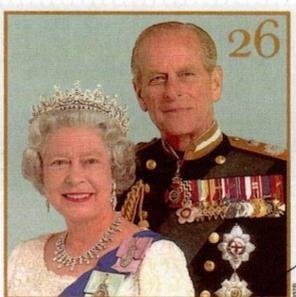


Royal Mail news Golden Wedding stamps

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The Golden Wedding anniversary Four stamps commemorating the golden wedding of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 7 October 1997. The 20p and 43p stamps feature a wedding portrait by society photographer Baron; the 26p and 63p values show a study of The Queen and Prince Philip specially taken by Lord Snowdon in October 1996. The values cover the basic 2nd and 1st class inland rates, and the 1st and 2nd weight steps for airmail letters.



...ed: the Hartnell wedding dress, embroidered with seed pearls, holding ring out from the same year's; and the Duke's wedding, named as a Royal Navy badge

Presentation pack and stamp cards A presentation pack (price £1.85) 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 Mike Barden.



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A souvenir book will also be available – details next month.



STAMP PORTRAITS OF HM THE QUEEN AND HRH PRINCE PHILIP Over the years The Queen has appeared on thousands of stamps, British, Commonwealth and foreign. She was first depicted, as the young Princess Elizabeth, on stamps from Newfoundland in 1932 and 1938 (SG 214, 270), Canada in 1935 and 1939 (335, 372), and New Zealand in 1943 (637). Newfoundland honoured her 21st birthday in April 1947 with a 4¢ stamp (SG 293), and she featured on several

stamps for the Royal Visit to southern Africa later that year (Basutoland SG 34-35, Bechuanaland 134-5, Southern Rhodesia 62, South Africa 113, Swaziland 44-45). On some of these she is shown with Princess Margaret or with her parents and sister.

Her marriage to Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark at Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947 was commemorated by stamps from Australia (SG 222) and Canada (410) although the latter was not issued until the following February. Australia has recently reproduced its wedding stamp on its annual Queen's birthday issue (1691). The British Post Office did not issue a stamp although a special slogan postmark, with the initials 'E' (Elizabeth) and 'P' (Philip) was used at most main sorting offices.

The first stamp to depict Prince Philip appears to be a Canadian Royal Visit stamp in 1951 (SG 440), followed by other Royal Visit issues from New Zealand in 1953 (722) and Australia in 1954 (272, 274).

Photographs of the Royal couple on the days of their engagement (9 July 1947) and wedding have been reproduced on stamps in several Royal anniversary issues in recent years. Engagement day portraits are found on stamps from Gambia (SG 771), Samoa (726), and Uganda (MS 529), wedding pictures on issues from Antigua (SG 1149), Cook Islands (345), Dominica (998, 1109, MS 1113), Gambia (770, 772, MS 774), Seychelles (639), Sierra Leone (1116, MS 1120), and Tuvalu (485).

Technical details

Printers Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process Gravure

Size 41mm square

Sheets 60

Perforation 15

Phosphor One band 20p ●
two bands others

Gum PVA



Other photographs of the Royal couple taken in 1947 feature on stamps of St Helena (SG 477, 479), Solomon Islands (562), and Swaziland (502).

Britain and many Commonwealth countries issued stamps in 1972 for the Silver Wedding anniversary; the British stamps featured a profile portrait of The Queen and Prince by Norman Parkinson. One of the official Silver Wedding photographs, by Lord Litchfield, was reproduced on a Papua New Guinea stamp in 1986 (SG 521). A number of Commonwealth countries also issued stamps for the Ruby Wedding anniversary.



THE DESIGNER AND PHOTOGRAPHERS The 20p and 43p stamps were designed by David Driver using a wedding day photograph by the society photographer Baron (Baron Nahum, 1906-56). Mr Driver previously designed the 1991 Christmas stamps. The 26p and 63p values are the work of the Earl of Snowdon, who as Antony Armstrong-Jones, married Princess Margaret in 1960. The marriage ended in 1978. He is a noted photographer and took the portraits of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer for the 1981 Royal Wedding stamps, one of the six portraits of The Queen used on the 60th birthday issue in 1986, and of Charlie Chaplin for the 29p Film Year stamp of 1985. Lord Snowdon has himself featured on stamps from Antigua (one in the set SG 1777/1808) and from Fiji (715).

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 7 October, price 25p.

Orders for the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or London SW1, price £2.20 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.88 overseas (no VAT), must reach the Bureau by 7 October. Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers, on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London SW1 postmark). The outer envelope should be marked 'FD9717' (Bureau), or 'FD9718' (London SW).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) 'first day of issue' handstamps. Sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 rest of world).

Collectors may submit covers bearing just the 20p Golden Wedding stamp for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 7 October, the 1st class rule for special handstamps being waived for the day ●

Philatelic numismatic cover

APNC bearing the four Golden Wedding stamps and Royal Mint commemorative crown (£5) will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, but not from other philatelic outlets. Limited edition of 50,000 so early ordering advised. Price £15.95