

Celebrating 50 years of country stamps



The miniature sheet is printed in gravure by De La Rue. The stamps measure 20 × 24mm, the sheet 123 × 70mm. These stamps have two phosphor bands.

A MINIATURE SHEET and prestige book will be issued on 29 September to mark the 50th anniversary of the issue of the first country stamps, then known as regional issues. 3d stamps (the basic letter rate) for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man went on sale in the respective 'regions' on 18 August 1958, followed by 6d and 1s3d stamps for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland on 29 September. The designs of the nine stamps for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are being reissued, now with 1st class indicator, in the miniature sheet and psb.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 16 October, price 30p. Orders for serviced FDCs with stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial Tallents House or Gloucester first day postmark must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Please specify which postmark(s) you require. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark, FDO837), or to one of Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres for the Gloucester postmark (FDO841).

Gloucester has been chosen for the alternative first day postmark as it is the birthplace of Dorothy Wilding, whose portrait of The Queen was used on the 1958 Regional stamps.



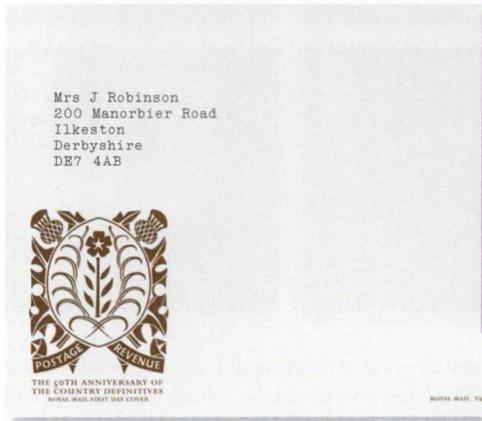
First day of issue postmarks

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – see page 336 for further details.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A miniature sheet pack, written by Douglas Muir of the BPMA, includes various designs submitted for the 1958 stamps. Mr Muir explains how committees in each 'region' considered the designs submitted, and describes an earlier 1940s proposal for regional issues.

Country Stamps prices

Miniature sheet	£ 3.24
Miniature sheet presentation pack	£ 3.75
Miniature sheet press sheet	£61.95
Stamp cards (set of 10)	£ 4.00
First day cover (FDC) envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC miniature sheet (UK customers)	£ 4.28
Serviced FDC miniature sheet (overseas customers)	£ 3.66
Prestige stamp book	£ 9.72
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (UK customers)	£ 4.28
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (overseas)	£ 3.66



Prestige stamp book *The Regional Definitives: Heraldry and Symbol* was written by Douglas Muir and designed by Sedley Place. The stamp panes were printed by De La Rue in litho.

The serviced FDC bears the pane with the stamps of all three countries, shown at left.



The Regional Definitives – Heraldry and Symbol The panes:

- 1** Top N Ireland, Wales, Scotland 1st (as 3d stamps); middle N Ireland, Wales, Scotland 1st (as 1s3d); bottom N Ireland, Wales, Scotland 1st (as 6d)
- 2** Scotland: top 1st (as 3d), current 1st (Lion Rampant); middle current 1st, 1st (as 1s3d); bottom 1st (as 6d), current 1st
- 3** N Ireland: top 1st (as 3d), current 1st (Fields); middle current 1st, 1st (as 1s3d); bottom 1st (as 6d), current 1st
- 4** Wales: top 1st (as 3d), current 1st (Dragon); middle current 1st, 1st (as 1s3d); bottom 1st (as 6d), current 1st

There will be 10 stamp cards, reproducing each of the nine stamps and the miniature sheet.

In a new British Philatelic Bulletin Publication (no 14) to be published in August, Martin Robinson tells the story of pre-decimal regional stamps from their conception through to withdrawal and invalidation in the 1970s. The Publication will be sent free to *Bulletin* subscribers. Additional copies can be purchased from Talents House ●

