

Robert Burns A tribute to a national poet

ROBERT BURNS 250TH ANNIVERSARY



The miniature sheet is shown here smaller than actual size (146 x 74mm).

A MINIATURE SHEET commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard, will go on sale at Post Office branches, philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 22 January, three days before the anniversary of Burns's birth. The sheet contains two new special 1st class stamps and the four current Scottish country stamps (2nd, 1st, 50p and 81p). The new stamps feature Burns ploughing, with his famous line 'A Man's a Man for a' That' (in a similar design to 1996 stamps), and a portrait of Burns by Alexander Nasmyth. The sheet background features Burns's birthplace at Alloway, near Ayr. The sheet was designed by Tayburn design group of Edinburgh and printed in gravure by Enschedé.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced first day covers with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Alloway must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for the Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Special Handstamp Centre (for the Alloway postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0903' (Tallents House) or 'FD0904' (Alloway). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Alloway postmark.

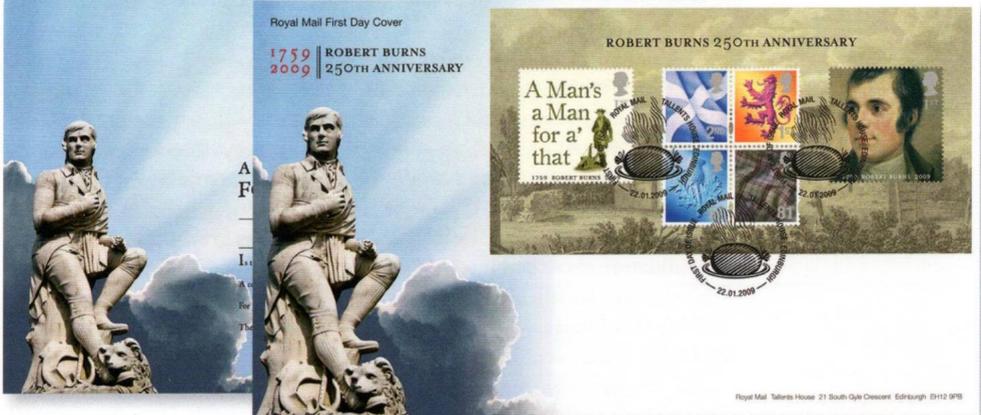
Details of sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe, £24.95 elsewhere). If you would like to receive a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

Robert Burns miniature sheet prices

Miniature sheet	£ 2.66
Presentation pack	£ 3.20
First day cover envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£ 3.60
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£ 3.07
Stamp cards set of three	£ 1.20
Press sheet	£75.41
Coin cover	TBA

THEN LET US PRAY, THAT COME IT MAY,
 AS COME IT WILL FOR A' THAT,
 THAT SENSE AN' WORTH,
 O'ER A' THE EARTH,
 MAY BEAR THE GREE
AN' A' THAT.
 FOR A' THAT, AN' A' THAT,
 IT'S COMIN YET FOR A' THAT,
 THAT MAN TO MAN,
 THE WARLD O'ER,
 SHALL BROTHERS BE
FOR A' THAT.

ROBERT BURNS



Burns on stamps This is Royal Mail's third issue honouring Robert Burns, with two stamps in January 1966 and four in 1996 on the 200th anniversary of his death. In addition he has featured on two Scottish airletters (aerogrammes) issued in 1975 and 1989, and on a number of special hand-stamps and slogan postmarks. Burns has also been depicted on stamps from Rumania and Russia and on many privately produced labels since the 1960s. To accompany the 1966 stamps, the *Bulletin* issued a commemorative booklet, and a new version of this was published when the 1996 stamps were released (*Bulletin* Publication no 3). The 1996 publication, written by the late Dr James Mackay, a noted biographer of Burns, featured relevant philatelic material as well as details of Burns's life •

The presentation pack, above left, features Robert Burns's poem *A Man's a Man for a' That*, written in 1795. Above: the first day cover.