



News Release

2 March 2009

ROYAL MAIL'S KINGS AND QUEEN'S SERIES ENTERS THE TUDOR AGE

Royal Mail continues its 600 year journey through history with the second in its Kings and Queens series celebrating the Royal Houses of England.

Marking the 500th anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII, The House of Tudor, features individual portraits of the six monarchs who ruled during one of the most famous – and infamous - periods in our history, complemented with a four-stamp Miniature Sheet illustrating significant people and events from the period.

The stamps - which are issued on 21 April in three 1st, 62p and 81p pairs - and the Miniature Sheet were designed by Atelier Works who also designed the first of the Kings and Queens issues, the Houses of Lancaster and York, in 2008.

From the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 to the death of Good Queen Bess in 1603, the age of the House of Tudor saw some of our best known kings and queens sit upon the English throne.

Marking the end of the Middle Ages and forged in bloodshed, rancour and upheaval at home and abroad, the Tudor age also saw commerce and arts flourish and the introduction of the Renaissance into England.

In addition to its regular products Royal Mail is also producing a Cachet Cover, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I Coin Cover and a Press Sheet consisting of 12 uncut Miniature sheets (see Notes to Editors for further information).

Julietta Edgar, Head of Special Stamps at Royal Mail said: "Kings and Queens is one of the most significant series of stamps ever issued by Royal Mail. Issued over four years, it will feature portraits of all Great Britain's monarchs across six centuries.

Ends

Issued by Aawaz Communications on behalf of Royal Mail
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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images of the House of Tudor stamps are available by telephoning Kathryn Hollingsworth at Aawaz Communications on 0207 404 6064 or via e-mail from khollingsworth@aawazltd.com

Stamps and stamp products are available at all Post Offices, or online at www.royalmail.com/stamps and from Royal Mail Talents House (tel. 08457 641 641), Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9PB.

House of Tudor, Stamp by Stamp

Value	Description
1 st - First class inland letter rate	Henry VII
1 st - First class inland letter rate	Henry VIII
62p - Rest of World Airmail 10g and World Wide Postcard	Edward VI
62p – Rest of World Airmail 10g and World Wide Postcard	Lady Jane Grey
81p – Airmail letters Europe up to 40gm	Mary I
81p – Airmail letters Europe up to 40gm	Elizabeth I

1st Class – Henry VII (1457-1509)

Son of Edmund Tudor and Lady Margaret Beaufort. He defeated Richard III at Bosworth, and then spent the next fifteen years surviving successive plots and rebellions. He was a great patron of the arts, builder, and a very efficient ruler. He commissioned Europe's first ever, and the world's oldest surviving, dry dock at Portsmouth in 1495.

Born Pembroke Castle 28 Jan 1457
Crowned 30 October 1485 Westminster Abbey
Died 21 April 1509 Richmond Palace

1st Class – Henry VIII (1509-1547)

The son of Henry VII. Famously married six times to secure male heirs. He presided over the English Reformation and more political executions than any other English monarch.

Born Greenwich 28 June 1491
Crowned 24 June 1509 Westminster Abbey
Died 28 Jan 1547 Whitehall

62p – Edward VI (1547-1553)

Son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, Edward became King at the age of nine and died age 15 from tuberculosis. During his reign reform of the Church continued with the issue of the Book of Common Prayer. England's first Protestant ruler.

Born Hampton Court Palace 12 Oct 1537
 Crowned 20 Feb 1547 Westminster Abbey
 Died 6 July 1553 Greenwich Palace

62p – Lady Jane Grey (1553)

Second cousin to Edward VI, Lady Jane Grey is named by Edward and his first minister Northumberland as heir to ensure the Protestant succession and reigns for nine days before being deposed by Mary. Beheaded in 1554 after the failure of Sir Thomas Wyatt's attempt to depose Mary.

Reigned from 19 July 1553 for nine days then arrested by Mary and executed on Tower Green in 1554

81p – Mary (1553-1558)

Daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, Mary was the first woman to rule England in her own right. Restored the Roman Catholic Church in England, but is remembered for her savage persecution of Protestants, about three hundred were burned earning her the name Bloody Mary.

Born Greenwich Palace 18 Feb 1516
 Crowned 1 Oct 1553 Westminster Abbey
 Died 17 Nov 1558 St James's Palace

81p – Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

Daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She turned England into the dominant maritime power, and she presided over a return to the Protestant Church and a tremendous national flowering of literature. Her failure to marry and produce an heir left the royal succession open for the House of Stuart.

Born Greenwich Palace 7 Sept 1533
 Crowned 15 Jan 1559 Westminster Abbey
 Died 24 March 1603 Richmond Palace

The Kings and Queens, House of Tudor Stamps Technical Details:

Feature	Type/Detail
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Atelier works
Acknowledgements	Portraits of <i>Henry VII and Lady Jane Grey</i> both by unknown artists © National Portrait Gallery, London; <i>Edward VI (1537–53)</i> , c.1546, attributed to William Scrots, The Royal Collection © 2008 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; <i>King Henry VIII</i> (oil on oak panel), Hans Holbein the Younger (1497/8–1543)/Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Madrid, Spain/The Bridgeman Art Library; <i>Mary I</i> by Antonis Moro or Mor (1516–75) © The Art Archive/Museo del Prado Madrid; <i>Elizabeth I</i> by Federico Zuccari (1540/42–1609) © The Art Archive/Pinacoteca Nazionale di Siena/Gianni Dagli Orti
Stamp Format	Portrait
Stamp Size	27mm x 37mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meacé, France
Print Process	Lithography
Number per Sheet	25/50
Perforations	14 x 14.
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

The House of Tudor Miniature Sheet - The Age of the Tudors

Value	Description
1 st - First class inland letter rate	Mary Rose – 1510 Warship
1 st - First class inland letter rate	Field of Cloth of Gold – 1520 Royal Conference
90p – Rest of World airmail up to 20gm	Royal Exchange – 1565 Centre of Commerce
90p – Rest of World airmail up to 20gm	Francis Drake – 1580 Circumnavigation

The House of Tudor Miniature Sheet - Stamp by Stamp

1st Class – Mary Rose – Henry VIII's great battleship was launched in 1510. It sank in the Solent in 1545.

1st Class – Field of Cloth of Gold – The site of a spectacular meeting between Henry VIII and Francis I of France to increase the bonds of friendship between France and England in 1520.

90p – Royal Exchange – The Royal Exchange was founded in 1565 as a centre of commerce for the City of London.

90p – Sir Francis Drake – The Elizabethan adventurer and explorer who circumnavigated the globe in 1580.

The House of Tudor Miniature Sheet Technical Details:

Feature	Type/Detail
Number of stamps	4
Size of Sheet	123mm x 70mm
Design	Atelier works
Acknowledgements	<i>Mary Rose</i> © The Art Archive/Magdalene College Cambridge/Eileen Tweedy; <i>The Field of Cloth of Gold, 1520</i> , The Royal Collection © 2008 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; <i>The Royal Exchange of London</i> , Wenceslaus Hollar, 1644 © The Trustees of the British Museum; <i>Sir Francis Drake, 1581</i> , Nicholas Hilliard (1547–1619)/Kunsthistorisches Museum, Austria/The Bridgeman Art Library
Stamp Format	Portrait
Stamp Size	27mm x 37mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meacé, France
Print Process	Litho
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	PVA

Product Portfolio:

Miniature Sheet – The Age of the Tudors

Price £2.58

The miniature sheet is made up of four new stamps (2 x 1st and 2 x 90p) featuring events and individuals from the reign of the House of Tudor. The events featured are Henry VIII's great Battleship the *Mary Rose* launched in 1510, the royal conference between England and France in 1520 known as the Field of Cloth of Gold, the foundation of the Royal Exchange in 1565 and the circumnavigation of the world completed by Sir Francis Drake in 1580. The border design features a timeline of the period.

Presentation Pack No 426 – Kings and Queens, the House of Tudor

Price: £6.75

The fully illustrated presentation pack contains the six Kings and Queens stamps and the Miniature Sheet on a separate designed carrier. Inside the fully illustrated pack there is an overview of the period by historian Professor Ronald Hutton. The pack was designed by Atelier Works and printed by Walsall Security Printers.

First Day Envelope

Price: 30p

First Day Cover

Mail Order Price: Cancelled and stamped only from Tallents House: £4.65 UK for the stamps and £3.43 for the Miniature Sheet

The First Day Cover Envelope was designed by Atelier Works. The envelope is printed by Dobson and Crowther Ltd. The filler card designed by Atelier Works and features potted biographies of each of the Tudor Kings and Queens by historian Professor Ronald Hutton. It is printed by Fulmar Colour Printing Company Ltd.

Press Sheet

Price £55.32

The press sheet consists of 21 uncut mini sheets.

Cachet Cover

Price £9.99

This is the second of six exclusive, limited edition (5,000) cachet covers to accompany each issue in the Great British Monarchs series. Each cover will receive a cachet of the Royal Palace associated with the relevant Royal House.

The House of Tudor Cachet Cover will bear a Hampton Court cachet and be posted from Hampton Court.

The handstamp for the cachet was chosen as SE10 to represent Greenwich, the place of birth of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I

Inside you can read about each of the featured Kings and Queens and see a timeline highlighting some of the significant moments in Hampton Court's history. The Cachet Cover was designed by Atelier Works.

Stamp Cards

Price £4.29 the set (11)

Eleven postcards bearing enlarged images of each of the Kings and Queens, House of Tudor stamps and the miniature sheet go on sale about a week before the stamp issue date. Printed by Fulmar Colour Printing Company Ltd.

Henry VIII and Elizabeth I Coin Cover

Price £24.95 (prov)

To mark the 500th Anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII, and the 450th Anniversary of Accession of Elizabeth I, Royal Mail and the Royal Mint are producing a Coin Cover featuring two £5 commemorative coins together with Henry VIII (1st Class) and Elizabeth I (81p) stamps.

Inside the story of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I is explored, detailing their achievements, influence and their life and times.

First day of Issue: Tallents House, Edinburgh Ref No FD 09 11

Alternative postmarks



Unstamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes (price 30p) will be available from Post Office® branches and philatelic outlets approximately one week before issue. Collectors who hand in or post covers at main Post Office® branches will receive the pictorial LONDON SE10 first day postmark, chosen because it is the location of a palace favoured by Henry VII and also represents Greenwich, the birthplace of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers for the first day of issue to Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, quoting reference FD09 11 (Talents House) or to any Special Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD09 12 LONDON SE10 pictorial postmark) FD09 12NP (non-pictorial).