

## **Northern Ireland Royal Mail first day cover : new definitive stamps / Royal Mail.**

### **Contributors**

Royal Mail Group (Firm)

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
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NORTHERN IRELAND  
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER  
NEW DEFINITIVE STAMPS





SCOTLAND · ROYAL MAIL · DEFINITIVE STAMPS

**D**efinitive stamps for Scotland were introduced in 1958. Since then four designs have been used and the distinguishing feature of the current design is the rampant lion. A rampant lion has been the principal emblem on the shield in the Royal Arms of Scotland since at least the time of King Alexander II (1214-49). In the arms the lion is red on a gold background and is displayed within a double tressure flory counterflory, that is, a double frame laid over fleur-de-lis (formalised representations of lilies) each pointing in the opposite direction from the adjoining ones. Since the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the lion within its double tressure

has appeared in the arms used – both in Scotland and elsewhere – by the Sovereigns of Scotland and England who became, in course of time, Sovereigns of Great Britain and then of the United Kingdom.

The present range of stamps were designed by Jeffery Matthews FSIAD from the bas relief portrait by Arnold Machin OBE RA.

New values are printed by The House of Questa Limited, using the offset litho process. The stamps measure 20 mm x 24 mm and are printed on phosphor coated paper, apart from the second class value, which has a single phosphor bar. The perforations are 15 x 14.

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THE FIRST DAY COVER WAS DESIGNED BY SEDLEY PLACE DESIGN LIMITED.