



**BANK OF ENGLAND**

# News release

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## **Portraits of Her Majesty The Queen from Bank of England banknotes feature on Royal Mail's Diamond Jubilee stamps**

Royal Mail is celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a sheet of new 1st Class stamps, featuring images issued throughout the Queen's 60-year reign. The Diamond Jubilee Miniature Sheet, issued on 6th February 2012, is the first time that official portraits of The Queen as she appears on stamps, coins and banknotes, have been brought together.

The set includes portraits taken from Bank of England banknotes. Queen Elizabeth II was the first monarch to be depicted on Bank of England notes. The portraits featured on the stamps are taken from the first note, £1, which appeared in 1960 and was designed by Robert Austin; and the £5 note designed by Harry Eccleston OBE, issued in 1971.

Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, said today: "We are delighted that these portraits of Queen Elizabeth II, which originally appeared on Bank of England banknotes, have been selected to be part of this commemorative collection."

### **Notes to Editors**

1. For further details, contact Natasha Ayivor at Royal Mail Press Office, 07436-280002.
2. 1st Class – Robert Austin Banknote Portrait: Austin designed the first Bank of England notes to bear the monarch's head. The engraving was based on a pencil sketch taken from a photographic portrait. The first note, £1, appeared in 1960.
3. 1st Class – Harry Eccleston Banknote Portrait: A new series of notes, designed by Harry Eccleston, began to appear in 1970. His portrait of the Queen on the £5 note showed her wearing the robes of the Order of the Garter, as on the subsequent £1 in 1978.