

1000 Years, 78 Designs, Summed Up on 10 Stamps



On April 10 the Isle of Man Post Office issued a set of ten stamps reproducing panels from the Millennium Tapestry. The Tapestry consists of 78 embroidered squares that were created by embroiderers in the Isle of Man during the spring of 1977 to April 1979. The project was widely publicized, and anyone who was skilled with a needle could apply for cloth and design.

Financed through the Millennium committee of Tynwald, the Isle of Man legislature, the tapestry uses a basic design laid out along the lines of a traditional American patchwork, where many needle workers contribute to one piece of work. The tapestry marks 1000 years of Tynwald and the main historical events in the life of Tynwald are given pride of place.

A total of 10 stamps were hand selected from this and include the following highlights: The Viking Arrival—the Norse invasions began in 800AD and remained under Norse rule until 1266AD; The Manx Bill of Rights—passed in 1737 to ensure fair trial; The TT—the motorcycle races celebrated their centenary in 2007; Tynwald Hill—12 feet high and said to be made of soil brought from each of the 17 parishes on the Island; Transport—the Steam Railway

originally built in the late 1800s, the unique Manx Electric Railway built between 1893 and 1899, and the Island bus operation which was introduced later as the Railway Company began to falter.

The stamps capture the uniqueness of the tapestry, the detail and its texture, as well as a glimpse of the most pivotal events in a history of the Isle of Man. President of Tynwald, Clare Christian, said: “The images selected by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins show the skills of the members of the Women’s Institute who, with their strands of embroidery thread, have depicted strands of a thousand years of parliamentary history and Island life. Since it was gifted for the Tynwald Millennium the tapestry has been housed in the Legislative Building where it is enjoyed and admired by all our visitors. Through the medium of this stamp issue Tynwald is very proud to share images from the Millennium Tapestry with the wider world.”

For information on this and other Isle of Man new issues and a link to the Isle of Man postal administration website, please go to:

<https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/>