

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - FIRST DAY COVER

8 September 1982

Prestel was launched in the UK in 1979, the first public viewdata service in the world. It is a joint project in which British Telecom co-operates with the country's television and electronics industries and with Information Providers, to put Britain years ahead in the application of Information Technology.

In 1979, the MacRobert Award, the country's leading engineering award, was made to Mr. Sam Fedida BSc MSc CENG FIEE MBCS, and Post Office Telecommunications for the invention and development of Prestel. The concept originated at the Post Office Research Station in London in the late 1960s and was further developed at British Telecom Research Laboratories at Martlesham Heath, Ipswich. The laboratories are illustrated in a special handstamp accompanying this First Day

Cover, by kind permission of Mr. C.A. May MA FEng FIEE FBCS, the present Director of Research.

Peter Harland's "Best of Prestel" is one of nearly 1,000 organisations, or Information Providers as they are known, supplying information on Prestel. It appears on the Alpha 460 database, and provides screen "pages" of news, sport, books, cookery and other information to Prestel subscribers, who currently number about 18,000.

"Best of Prestel" is marking its first year of operation on Prestel with a specially designed First Day Cover and handstamp to coincide with the issue of Information Technology Stamps on 8 September 1982. The 15½p stamp depicts the "History of Communication" and the 26p "Technology Today", with an illustration of a Prestel set in use. Mr. Sam Fedida is signing a strictly limited edition of 500 of these covers, available from Best of Prestel, 1 Weedon Lane, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5QS.

Technical Details:

Stamp size: 72.3mm x 20.3mm approx, horizontal format.

Printers: Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

Print details: Sheets of 60, printed by photo-gravure on phosphor-coated paper. PVA Dextrin gum. Unwatermarked.

Perforation: 15 x 14

Cylinders: 15½p - 2A, 1B, 1C, 2D, 1E, 1F
26p - 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 1E, 1F.

Designers: Brian Delaney MA RCA, aged 33, and Darrell Ireland MA RCA, aged 34. Both at Royal College of Art and Newcastle College of Art. Joint winners of British Letter Heads Award, 1981. These are their first stamp designs.

First Day Cover and Handstamp design: Clan Creative Ltd., 4 Montagu Row, Baker Street, London W1.

Cover printing: H. Heath, Prospect Works, Waterside, Chesham, Bucks.

BRITISH TECHNOLOGY



Sam Fedida

Inventor of

P R E S T E L

**A GREAT BRITISH INVENTION
FIRST DAY COVER**

PRESTEL IS A TRADEMARK OF BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS



D. G. Taylor
202 Somervell Road
Middlsex
HA2 8TS