

Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

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Dame Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell DBE FRS FRSE FRAS FInstP is a renowned astrophysicist. Born in Northern Ireland in 1943 she has been the recipient of many awards throughout her career including the Royal Medal of the Royal Society, the Institute of Physics President's Medal, and the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.



"All science is either physics or stamp collecting."
Ernest Rutherford



Guernsey Post Office issued a stamp illustrating a quasar in 2009 within a set of six that celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first use of a telescope by Galileo (above).

In 1967, Bell Burnell was involved with the construction of the Interplanetary Scintillation Array – a radio telescope- with the purpose of studying quasars. She is most well known for her discovery of the first radio pulsars in the same year when she was a post graduate student at the University of Cambridge.



In 2018, the Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps celebrating the achievements of British astronomers and astrophysicists including this 1st class stamp illustrating a pulsar (left).

Controversy surrounded the discovery of pulsars when in 1974 the Nobel Prize for Physics was jointly awarded to her supervisor Anthony Hewish and radio astronomer, Martin Ryle. Sir Fred Hoyle was outraged by Bell Burnell's omission and accused Hewish of stealing the prize.

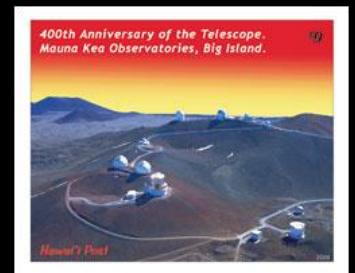
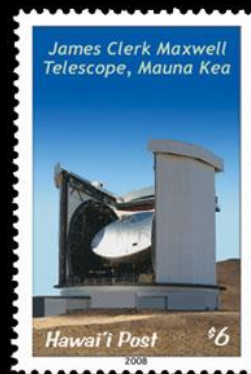


Jocelyn Bell Burnell's autograph on a first day cover which was produced by the Royal Mail to commemorate the bicentenary of the Royal Astronomical Society in February 2020 (above).



A miniature sheet celebrating Astronomy affixed to a first day cover issued by Benham in 2002 featured Sir Fred Hoyle (above).

Bell Burnell has had an extensive career working at the University of Southampton, the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh and in 1986 she was the Project Manager for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawai'i.



The James Clerk Maxwell Telescope featured on a \$6 dollar stamp (left) and a \$9 stamp (above) issued by the Hawai'i Post in 2008. The telescope is the world's largest single-dish submillimetre-wave telescope, with a primary reflector 15 metres across.

She was the President of the Royal Astronomical Society between 2002-2004 and in 2021 received the Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal which features Sir William Herschel's 40-foot telescope on one side.

Herschel's 40-foot telescope featured on a postmark produced for the Royal Astronomical Society's bicentenary (left).

