

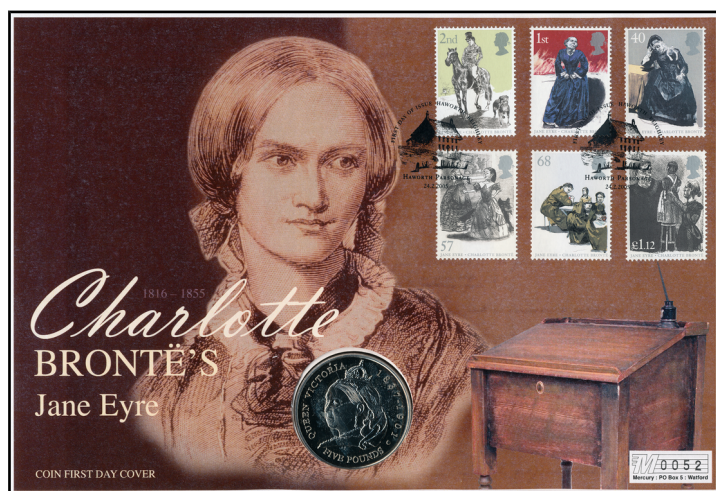
The Brontë Sisters

David W Walker, West Yorkshire, England. (Email micscape@ntlworld.com)

The novels of the Brontë sisters since publication under their pseudonyms have become classics of English literature. I live a few miles from the village of Haworth where the sisters lived for most of their life so the thematic was of local interest. The number of stamp issues with a Brontë theme are few .

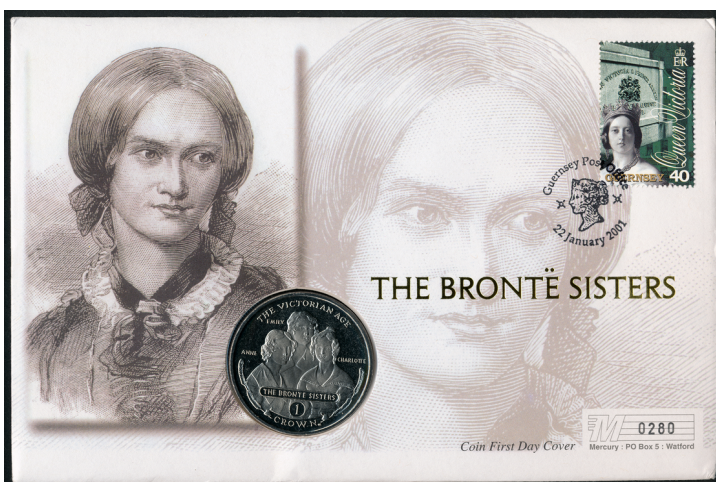


In 1980 Great Britain issued a set of four stamps on the theme 'Famous People' designed by Barbara Brown (above). Emily and Charlotte feature with scenes from their novels, *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*. Elizabeth Gaskell (right above) also featured in the set who wrote a biography of Charlotte.



In 2005 Great Britain issued a set of six stamps to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Charlotte's death in 1855 and feature scenes from *Jane Eyre*. The stamps feature lithographs by the well-known Portuguese born artist Paula Rego. The distinctive designs can be better appreciated and understood in the artist's book *Jane Eyre* 2003 where 23 lithographs are presented full page, each with an accompanying description by the artist.

The full set are shown on a Westminster Collection cover featuring a £5 2001 coin from Guernsey (left, 17% of natural size). One face features Queen Victoria who was on the throne at the latter part of the sisters' lives. The portrait of Charlotte is based on that by George Richmond and was commissioned by Charlotte's publisher George Smith for her father. Another coin cover (2001, below left, 25%) by the same publisher features a one crown coin for Gibraltar with a detailed engraving of Anne, Emily and Charlotte derived from the group portrait by their brother Branwell.



(above centre). She and Emily attended the Pensionnat Heger in Brussels to improve their French and other languages. In 2016 the British Indian Ocean Territory (above right) issued four stamps on the theme of 'Famous Authors Anniversaries' including Charlotte. Her stamp shows the scene when *Jane Eyre* first meets Mr. Rochester.

As the popularity of the sisters' novels increased and their true identities became widely known, Haworth and the surrounding moors became increasingly popular as a place for tourists to visit. Photography was becoming well established as the second half of the 19th century progressed and postcards of the area became available.

Unsurprisingly, the parsonage was a popular subject. Their father Patrick was the curate at Haworth church. The postcard shown was taken after 1861 when the extension on the right was added ('The Parsonage, Haworth' no. 7007. Publisher, Walter Scott, Bradford.) Although there are few stamp issues to collect, there are a wealth of covers and postcards to add to a thematic collection on the sisters.

