

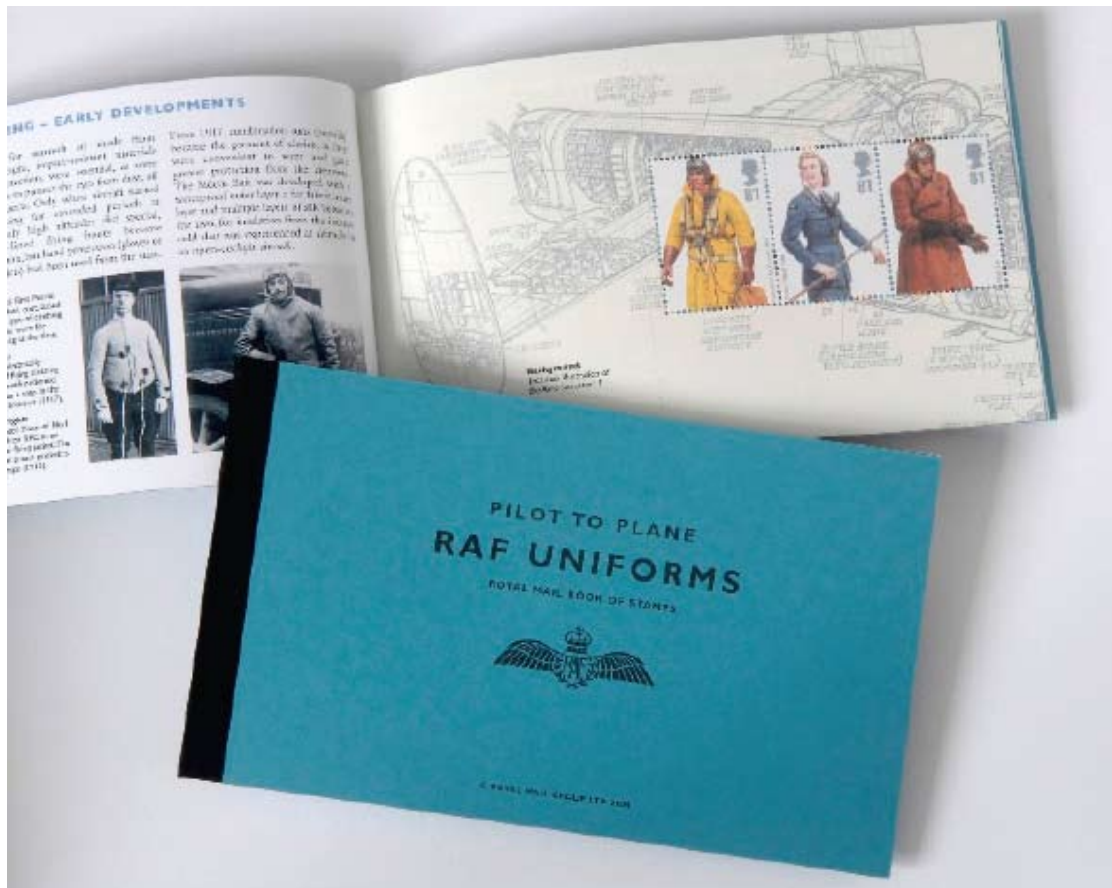
SILK PEARCE JOINS FORCES WITH ROYAL MAIL TO ENSURE RAF CONTINUES TO FLY HIGH

PRESS RELEASE 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

Royal Mail has drafted in Silk Pearce to design a prestige stamp book celebrating the fascinating history of Royal Air Force (RAF) uniforms. "From Pilot to Plane" includes four pages of stamps alongside a history of the service, its uniforms and the men and women who wore them.

The prestige stamp book goes on sale from Thursday 18 September to coincide with the launch of six stamps showing RAF uniforms from 1918 to the present day, illustrated by artist Graham Turner, and designed by Atelier Works.

Silk Pearce's design for this collector's piece features illustrations and photographs drawn from the archives of the RAF Museum, London as well as several private collections. The book charts the evolution of uniforms with changing aircraft technology over the last ninety years: from World War I, when flying clothes were designed primarily for protection from the intense cold in open cockpits,



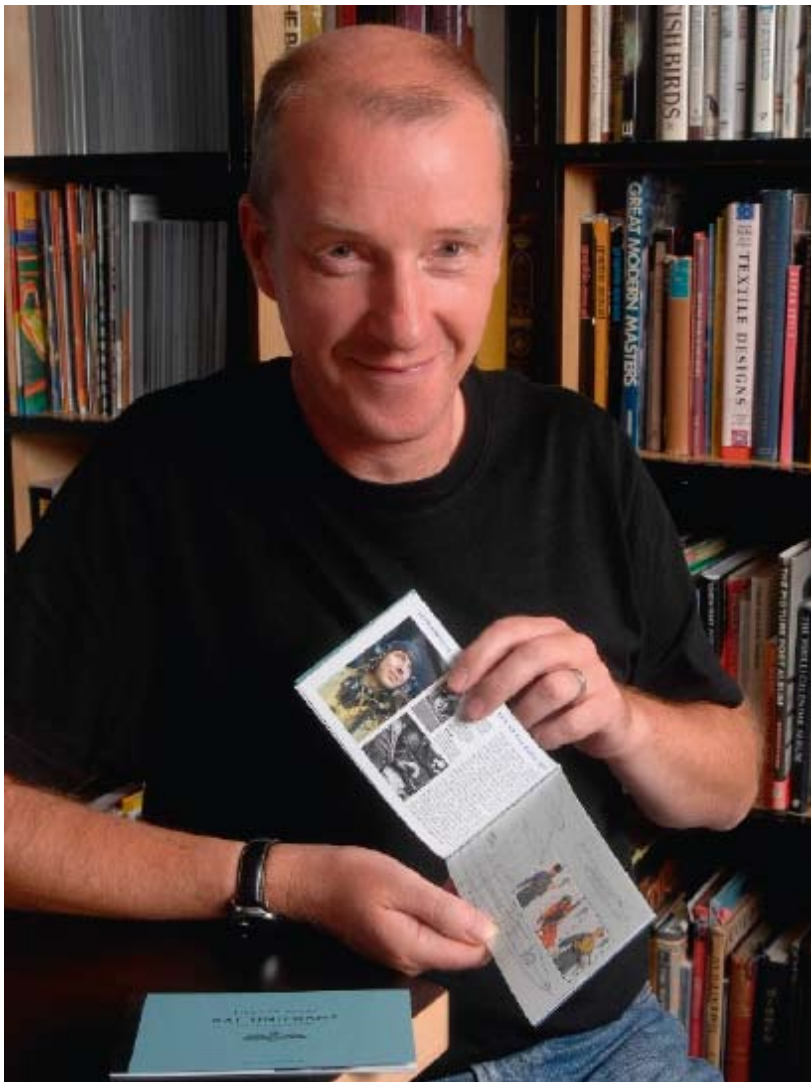
'From Pilot to Plane' cover reminiscent of pilot's notes issued during World War II for military aircraft.





up to the high technology materials and headgear worn by present day jet fighter pilots. The accompanying text has been written by Andrew Cormack, the museum's curator of uniform and author of books on military clothing.

"From Pilot to Plane" is available from www.royalmail.com/stamps and costs £7.15. It covers all facets of RAF uniforms with sections on clothing for women; ground-based personnel such as maintenance staff, security, fire fighters and the medical corps; and Air Sea Rescue. Although initially set up to rescue downed airmen from the sea, Air Sea Rescue is now more widely known for its support during national emergencies and to help members of the public who get into difficulty on mountaineering expeditions or during other high-risk leisure pursuits.



Harvey Lyon, creative director at Silk Pearce highlights two specific pages from the new book charting the development of RAF uniforms between 1920 and the early '40s.

Dean Price, design manager at Royal Mail said: "Silk Pearce has created a unique piece, showcasing our stamps and illustrating different types of RAF uniforms that will be admired and highly prized by anyone interested in the military services, flying and modern history. As an added feature, the cover





of the book has even been specially printed with black text on a blue uncoated stock so that it looks just like the 'pilot's notes' that were issued by the Air Ministry to the aircrew for Spitfires and other military planes used during World War II."

To find out more about Royal Mail's special stamps and associated products please visit www.royalmail.com/stamps.

For additional information please contact:

SIMON MCKAY

Telephone 01353 741075

Email simon@silkpearce.com

