*The magazine for collectors of UK stamps*

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Royal Mail

# Philatelic Bulletin

VOLUME 56 NO.4



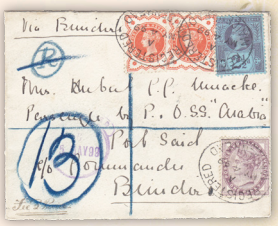







Christmas 2018 and HRH Prince Charles's 70th birthday stamps

**A look at historical late post surcharges**



Heart-warming mail from the torpedoed *HMS India*

**WE INTERVIEW CHRISTMAS STAMPS ARTIST ANDREW DAVIDSON**

# Looking for that special Christmas gift?

If you're struggling for ideas for a special Christmas gift for someone important in your life, our Annual Collections could provide the answer. They comprise a wide range of collectibles, along with pictures, facts and insightful information that you won't find anywhere else. Our 2018 Yearpack, for example, brings together every Special Stamp from 2018 in mint condition. It's presented in a superb decorative folder that will help to keep all the stamps in perfect condition. The Yearpack provides a summary of the story behind each of the stamp themes. Each page features a range of wonderful images to accompany each of the stamp sets. The various postmarks are also featured with all the relevant technical information for each of the 2018 issues. It's just one of several wonderful Annual Products that are on sale now. To find out more simply visit: **www.royalmail.com/annualproducts** or call **03457 641 641**.




**Royal Mail Yearpack 2018**

Royal Mail

# Contents

**The Christmas Quiz** Your chance to win a Christmas 2018 Presentation Pack **511**

## Stamp designer and artist Andrew Davidson

reveals his thinking process before painting this year's idyllic Christmas 2018 Special Stamps set **484**






**The pillar box in the post** We reflect on postcards from the early 20th century and see how artists gave the pillar box centre stage **488**



**Late post surcharges** An important letter misses the post but we look back through history at ways to make sure that it still gets delivered on time **490**




**More from Harry Potter and Hogwarts** Royal Mail release the Medal Covers and Prestige Stamp Book that's sure to have Potterheads spellbound **496**

**Stamp Scene** December isn't the busiest month for stamp fairs but Dane Garrod is sure to help you find one! **498**

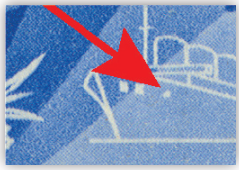
**London 2020** Frank Walton primes our minds for London's big international stamp exhibition **502**

2 2 LONDON

**Charles at 70** A closer look at the stamps celebrating the birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales **504**




**Searching for errors** Insight and tips for collecting stamp errors and varieties **506**



**Disaster Mail** A survivor of the torpedoed *HMS India* writes home after being assumed dead **508**




**Editor** Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

# Christmas 2018: the creative process

A wintery walk, a beloved cocker spaniel, and an ancient letter box he'd known for three decades inspired Andrew Davidson to create the nostalgic, romantic, snow-laden Christmas Special Stamp issue




Andrew with his 1857 Victorian, Albion hand press which printed the beautiful wood engravings for the First Day Cover and Handstamp illustrations







At the end of the last week in November 2017, Andrew had been briefed by Royal Mail Head of Design Marcus James to design the set, and had to deliver concept drawings by the following Monday. A contemplative walk was therefore called for, so with his pet spaniel Toby, Andrew set off up the lane from his home in the pretty Gloucestershire village of Burleigh.

The brief from Marcus, for the set's six stamps, was fairly open, had simply been 'delivering Christmas for over a hundred years', and had mentioned post boxes. 'In themselves, it seemed to me that post boxes weren't particularly Christmassy, just vehicles for delivering and collecting mail, so I had a bit of a task on my hands,' recalls Andrew, 60, who also illustrated the issue's First Day Cover, Presentation Pack, Generic Sheet and Special Handstamps (featured in our November issue of the *Bulletin*). 'And there was a sense of urgency as by Monday I needed to come up with a strong concept, which is at the heart of every design I do. I reached the top of my lane, where there's an Edward VII wall box on the corner, which I was now delivering a letter into, which I'd known and taken for granted for the 29 years I'd lived near it. But suddenly I was paying a little more attention to it than I had done before, and as I walked up the hill, a concept started happening in my head'. Andrew enthuses and recalls: 'Here was Edward VII, I thought, so what about his mother Victoria? I walked a little more, and by this time I was on top of the village common – then I had George V, followed briefly by Edward VIII, then George VI, and of course our current Queen. Bang! I had it. Six stamps, six monarchs, and six post boxes distinguished by the cyphers of each sovereign's reign I could paint on each box – and so a natural narrative of the story of delivering mail, from the Victoria era to the present day.'

Andrew's beautifully neat concept had taken only as long as the walk – just 30 minutes. In return for his 'assistance' in Andrew's inspiration, Toby appears in the £1.55 value helping his elderly owner post her Christmas greetings in an Edward VIII box ('He was a very willing model,' chuckles Andrew). Deploying the cypher device helped Andrew add variety to the stamps as well as a common thread that ties them into a set, as of course he could illustrate the different shapes of boxes from different eras. Yet there are many more layers to the set, which this Royal College ►









The Second Class Stamp above, features Burleigh's Edward VII wall box, which was the catalyst for the concept of post boxes playing centre stage on the Special Stamp issue

of Art alumnus exquisitely rendered in gouache paint (he illustrated the First Day Cover and Handstamps with wood engravings printed on his original Victorian hand press from 1857). 'I wanted to celebrate the fact that you can post a letter with Christmas greetings at Kelso in the Scottish Borders one day and it can arrive in Truro the next,' says Andrew, whose stamp illustration credentials include the Wilfred Owen stamp in this year's First












World War issue, the 2015 Magna Carta set and Ice Age Mammals of 2006. 'So there's a variety of locations, which are all out of my imagination, but could quite easily be real places in the UK. The Thirties housing in the £1.55 value could be, for example, in the Midlands, the chap with the Christmas tree in the £1.45, might, I think, be walking in a street in Northern Ireland, and I think of the £1.25 stamp, where there's heavy snow, as the Scottish stamp – in the Highlands.' He adds: 'I also wanted to celebrate the sheer diversity of Britain, ethnic and otherwise.' Hence people of all ages, from children to pensioners, posting Christmas greetings, and a black postal worker and choirboy on the First Class and £2.25 stamps respectively.

Andrew's wood engraving that appears on the First day Covers




Yet the overriding message is perhaps the importance of the post box in the rituals of Christmas. An importance acknowledged by Andrew, a devotee of the festive season: he and his wife Julia love nothing more than entertaining their grown-up sons Lewis and Hugh when they return home at Christmas time. 'These post boxes are humble pieces of iron but there's also a great romance about them,' he explains. 'That's because we all excitedly anticipate what those boxes deliver – Christmas greetings that people have taken time and love and care to write to you.'●

*Interview by Andrew Neish*

# The red pillar box

## a postal history icon for over a century

The 19th century Victorian Christmas card that features on the front cover of this month's *Bulletin* depicts a boy carrying a large envelope with the image of a Penny Red postage stamp. It proved to be a long wait for stamps to be specifically themed for Christmas in 1966. Winners of a junior stamp design competition supplied the artwork for those inaugural festive stamps. Nonetheless, postcards and greeting cards have long been richly adorned with the season's traditional imagery. At this time of year, synonymous with putting pen to paper and expressing affection to nearest and dearest and those not so near, is the trip to the post box and so 2018 sees the red pillar box celebrated on the Christmas stamps. It's certainly not the first time that the iconic pillar box has been the visual focal point on philatelic and postal items.




Featured here for your perusal are some examples – postcards mostly from the early part of the 20th century ●



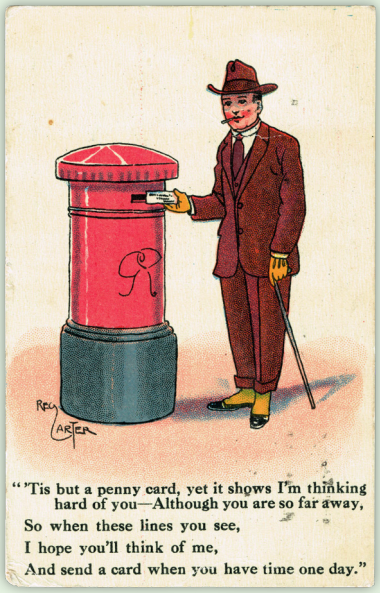

Bamforth & Co. who were producing saucy postcards back in 1910, also created this postcard from the 'Witty Comic' series published in the early 1900s




This Donald McGill postcard featuring a Scottish boy in a kilt was posted in 1918. Scottish soldiers in kilts were also at the brunt of McGill's light hearted wit during the war years




Published by Joseph Asher & Co., this Donald McGill postcard was posted in 1912. In the war years that followed McGill produced humorous anti-German propaganda postcards




This vintage Reg Carter postcard was posted in 1915. Carter also produced cartoons for the *Beano,* creating the 'Big Eggo' ostrich character for the comic in 1938




In the 1920s Buchanan's Red Seal Whisky enjoyed good publicity through this amusing Reg Maurice postcard, produced by The Regent Publishing Co.




This postcard by XL Series of London was sent from a child to her mother in 1932 – perhaps a little poignant given the context of the message's appeal

# Get me to the post on time!

## I'm sure we've all had the experience of dashing out in order to catch the post, much like the young lady in this vintage Donald McGill comic postcard of the 1920s

But what do you do if you miss it? All is not necessarily lost; the people whose mail is shown here found a number of different ways to get their letters back on track (although at a price!), most of them offered by the post office itself.

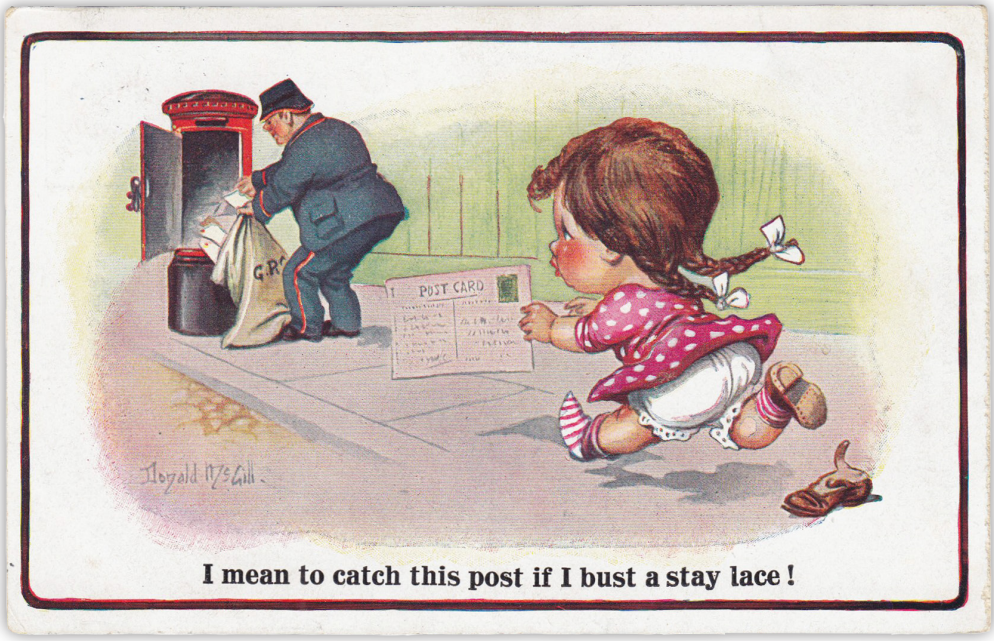



Figure 1

The first thing to try, of course, is to catch up with the post at a later point – or in emergencies, have someone do it for you. This was the original meaning of the term 'express letter' – one sent by a messenger who was hired for that express purpose (as opposed to carrying mail more generally). As the usual reason for doing that was to get it there quicker, of course, the usage of 'express' has drifted to refer primarily to the speed aspect.

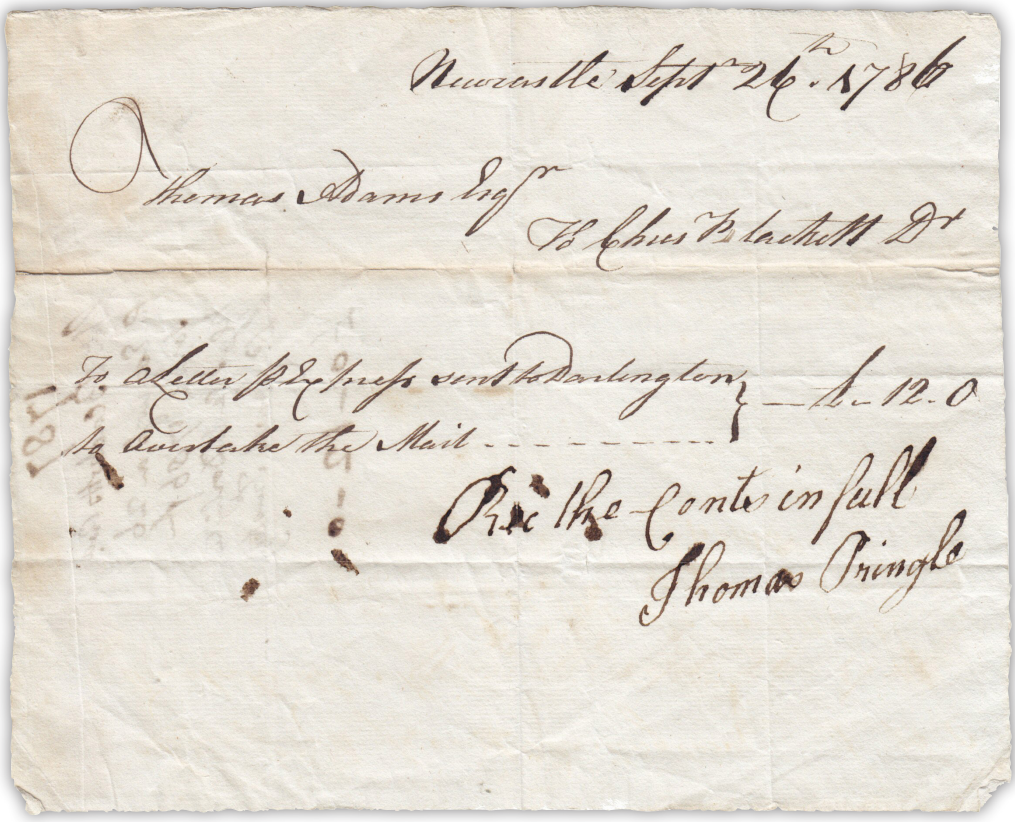



Figure 2

This receipt (fig.2) was for a letter that appears to have been sent by the old Post Office Express service in 1786. The sender had missed the post at Newcastle, and decided that urgency merited paying for someone to get on a horse and head 35 miles south to Darlington, to overtake the mail making a more sedate progress through north-east England. Since the fees were mileage based this was an expensive proposition – the charge in this case was 12s in an era when a single sheet letter could be sent up to 80 miles for 4d. The eventual destination is not stated, but the need was clearly pressing (filing notes on the back suggest some kind of legal business).

An even better solution, of course, is to get the letter into the mail before the local post office sends it on its way. From the late 18th century onwards, there was often an option to pay a 'late fee' after the official last time of posting, by way of compensation for the extra trouble involved. These fees were originally a perk of the postmaster, but beginning from the 1840s were eventually all brought to account as postal revenue. For ordinary letters, the effort needed was minimal and typical fees eventually settled at ½d or 1d, with larger post offices having a special box for late posting. ►

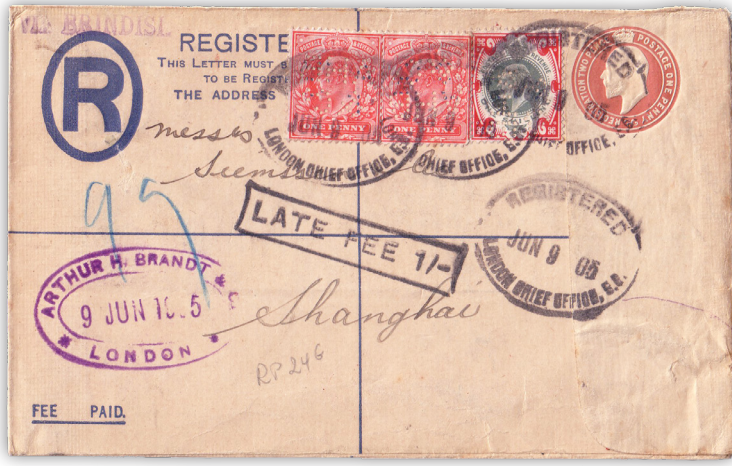



Figure 3




Figure 4

Registered letters were another matter. They needed their own separate paperwork, and last times of posting were significantly earlier to allow for this. Late fee posting was not offered until 1862, and a fee of 4d a letter was standard in the provinces. From the late Victorian era, however, the London postal service was able to offer a range of late fees from 2d to 1s, depending on how central the post office in question was and how fine the sender cut it. This could be especially vital for foreign mail when the next despatch might not be for twelve hours – or twelve days (fig.3). As the Post Office Guide stated, '*On alternate Fridays Registered Letters for China and Japan, &c, via Italy can be posted at St-Martin's-le-Grand [i.e. the General Post Office in London, from where the mails were despatched] up to 9.0 p.m. on payment of a Late Fee of 1s'*. 9pm was very late (normal cut off time for registered mails was 5.30pm, and even Late Fee posting normally ended at 7.30pm), so an extra shilling was a fair investment to avoid a fortnight's delay until the next ship left! For senders who




Figure 5

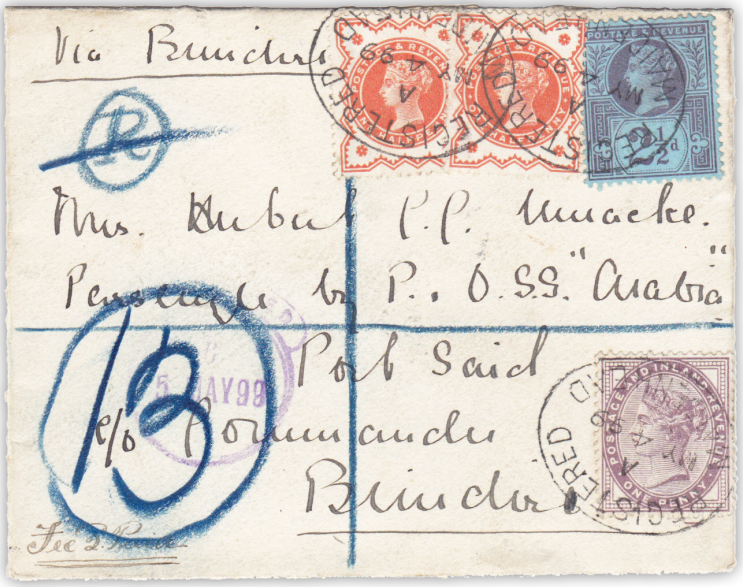



Figure 6

missed even the GPO deadline, the absolute last chance was to get to the railway station in time to post the letter directly onto the mail train leaving London (fig.4). The fee here was also 1s. Well, all right, under certain unusual circumstances it wasn't the absolute last chance. The official packet ships taking the mails beyond Europe carried passengers as well; from 1862, letters that needed to reach them, but missed the boat, could be routed via land to the last port of call before the ship headed off into the open ocean. For the American packets this meant Queenstown in Ireland (fig.5); later, this option extended to ships calling at foreign ports, such as mails for the East via Brindisi (fig.6). Any such letter had to be registered and addressed care of the commander of the vessel. ▶




Figure 7




Figure 8

After airmail services became available, the same considerations could apply to catching a flight (fig.7). This letter with shipping documents from a Belfast foundry was sent to Argentina early in WW2, with a number of journeys before air service even began – it had to cross the Irish Sea, reach London for sorting, and then be routed to France in time to be placed on the weekly Aéropostale flight to South America. This was expensive – the 10s postage paid for a mere 1oz in weight – but the humble ½d stamp for the late fee was equally important to ensure the letter got started on this journey as early as possible.

Finally, there were occasions when a letter was too late for even the late fee service, and the sender had to resort to overtaking the mail, just like their counterpart of 1786. This 1937 letter (fig.8/9) from Cornwall to Argentina was intended for the flight taking off from France on 12th December, but apparently the sender missed the post at Par. Their solution was to send it direct to the GPO in London as a 'railway letter' – a special service that allowed letters to be sent from station to station by the first available train, before entering the post. This was irregular (the service was supposed to be for inland letters only), but successful; the stamps were cancelled at the London Foreign Section on the 10th, and the backstamp shows that the letter duly reached Buenos Aires on the 16th.

Clearly, missing the post could be expensive. My advice if you have a letter to send is that it's well worth 'busting a stay lace' (or whatever form of costume you personally prefer) to get it to the post on time. Now if I could only remember to follow my own advice… *By Maurice Buxton a longterm collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society* ***www.gbps.org.uk***

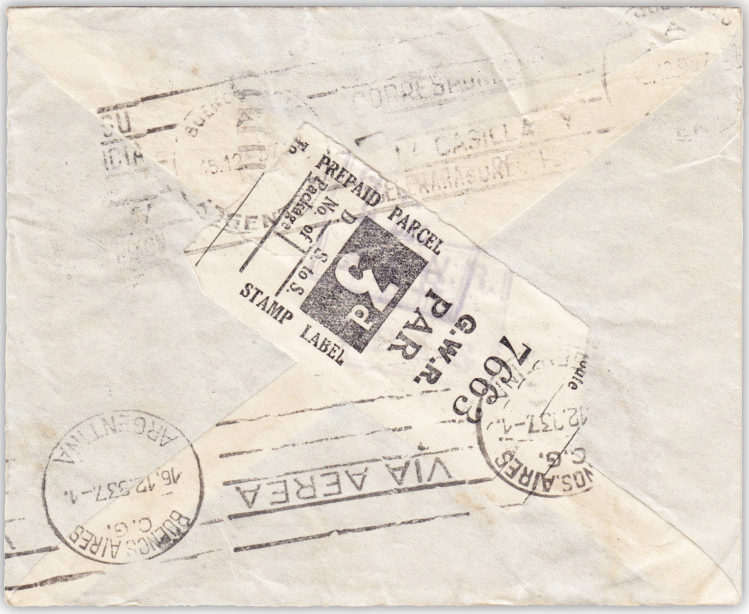
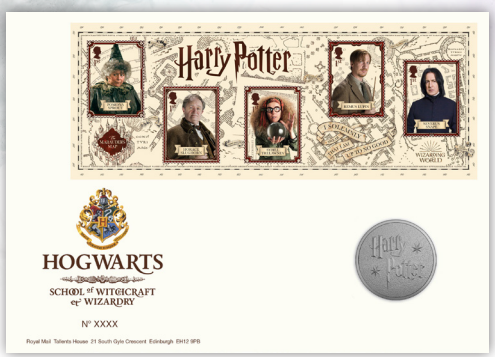


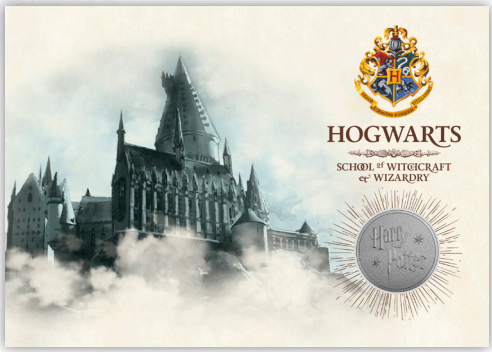

Figure 9

# More mystical charm and magic from Hogwarts

Harry Potter aficionados will no doubt be delighted to view further product releases for 4 December celebrating the movies based on J. K. Rowling's fantasy books. Featured here are the Prestige Stamp Book and Hogwarts School Medal Cover which contains the Miniature Sheet. Also available is the Diagon Alley Medal Cover containing the ten Special Stamps ●




Hogwarts School Medal Cover Envelope

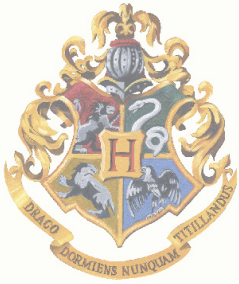



Hogwarts School Medal Cover Insert Front




Hogwarts School Medal Cover Insert Inner















Prestige Stamp Book: Pane One (5 x 1st Class Special Stamps), Pane Two (5 x 1st Class Special Stamps), Pane Three (Machin Definitives – 2 x 1p, 2 x 20p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1.25), Pane Four (3 x 1st Class Special Stamps from Miniature Sheet), Pane Five (2 x 1st Class Special Stamps from Miniature Sheet)




Prestige Stamp Book Front Cover




Pane One




Pane Two




Pane Three




Pane Four and Five

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# **Stamp Scene** Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

With the approach to the Christmas season, there are less stamp fairs and events booked and planned than usual. However, there's plenty for you to choose from, and to visit and find items to enhance your collection.

**2 December** Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.

• Bedford Stamp Fair, St Mark's Church Hall, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers. Enquiries: Paul Harris, 01623 621143.

• Cheltenham Stamp Fair, The Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 0ST, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

• Potters Bar Stamp Fair, Mount Grace School, Church Road, Potters Bar EN6 1EZ, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

DIARY DEC 18 DATES

**5 December** Croydon Postcard Fair, St George's Church Centre, Barrow Road, Waddon, Croydon CR0 4EZ, 9am to 4pm, 7 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Peter Duncan, 01444 482620, pjduncan26@gmail.com.

**7 December** Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

**8 December** Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold refreshments vailable. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com.

• Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, 7 dealers, refreshments available from 12 noon. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

• King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

• Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

• Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk.

• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, ukoldpostcards.com.

**9 December** Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians

Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

• Bristol Stamp & Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

• Wokingham Stamp Fair, St Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

**12 December** Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

**15 December** Hull Stamp Fair, St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, 5 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

• Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 498).

• Thatcham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham RG18 3AG, 9.30am to 2pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk.

• Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jan Shepherd, 07729 967206

16 December Dronfield Stamp Fair, Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AY, 9.30am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

**16 December** Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

• December Amersham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• December Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

**22 December** Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 498).

• December Addlestone Stamp & Postcard Fair, Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone KT15 2NJ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, davidmilton139@gmail.com.

• December Crawley Stamp Fair, St Paul's Church Hall, Woodfield Road, Northgate, Crawley RH10 8ER, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

**27 December** Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury HP22 5AA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.



**29 December** Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 498).

• December Morley Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley LS27 3HZ, 9.30am to 4pm, 15 dealers. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

**1 January** Felbridge Stamp Fair with Postcards, Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2NT, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175. ►

**5 January** Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• January Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 10am to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.



• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 498).

• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

• Hastings Stamp Fair with Postcards, Christ Church, London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6GL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

**6 January** Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Worthing Stamp Fair with Postcards, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

**9 January** Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.



**11 January** Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

**12 January** North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434.

• Northampton Stamp Fair, The Abbey Centre, Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0RZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Laindon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 498).

• Eastbourne Stamp Fair with Postcards, St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Eastbourne BN22 9PP, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.



**13 January** Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

• Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299 ●

The fourth meeting of the season for the **Great Britain Philatelic Society** will be hosted by Stanley Gibbons Ltd at their premises at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX. This will be an evening reception where members of the society will present standing displays from 6pm onwards on Wednesday 12 December. Non-members are welcome if they telephone the society's secretary Phil Waud on 07484 629171, in advance of the event. The **National Philatelic Society's** first meeting of 2019 will be a display by Tony Bosworth FRPSL entitled 'Anti-Communism in Europe 1919-1945', and will be from 2.45pm on Saturday 12 January at The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome with tea, coffee and food available during the day. There will be two meetings in the period under review at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, the current home of **The Royal Philatelic Society London**. A display from 1pm onwards followed by a PowerPoint presentation at 5pm on Thursday 6 December by John Walker with the long title of 'Patriotic Covers used within and from the Confederate States of America during the Civil War 1861-1865'. After Christmas and the New Year there will be standing displays by members of Essex Philatelic Associations from 1pm to 6pm on Thursday 10 January which will undoubtedly cover many areas of wide appeal. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests, but are required to contact Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 0207 486 1044 during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day. The last few weeks remain to visit and see the excellent exhibition at **The British Postal Museum & Archive** which runs until 13 January 2019 and entitled 'Voices from the Deep'. Told in some depth for the first time are stories from 700 personal letters that were trapped on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean half a mile deeper than the *RMS Titanic*. The *SS Gairsoppa* was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on 16 February 1941 and lay undisturbed on the sea bed ever since. From soldiers writing to loved ones, to businessmen and missionaries, the letters offer a unique insight into the lives of ordinary people who were living in extraordinary circumstances during the Second World War. Visit the website at postalmuseum.org for more information and on-line previews of the exhibition ●

# London 2020 International Exhibition

## Keeping up the tradition of a major international exhibition in London every ten years, the show in 2020 is now launched

**When and Where?** The London 2020 International Exhibition will be held from Saturday 2 May 2020 – Saturday 9 May 2020 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

**Patronage** The show has philatelic patronage of the FIP, and recognition from FEPA. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has also granted her patronage to the exhibition.

**Exhibition** There will be 2,750 frames of competitive material. As at London 2010 there will be a change-over of material in the frames after four days. The competitive classes will be: Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Literature (including digital), Open, Modern, Picture Postcards and Youth. This will be a true international exhibition, with over 60 countries having already appointed commissioners.

**Dealers' Stands** The exhibition has already sold 97% of the commercial booths to retail dealers, auctioneers, postal administrations and other stakeholders in philately.

**To Exhibit** Contact the United Kingdom Commissioner, Mike J Y Roberts FRPSL at ukcommissioner@london2020.co. The closing date for applications is 30 June 2019, so the final qualifying exhibitions in the UK will be Spring Stampex in February 2019 and Perth in April 2019.




The Business Design Centre Islington, London



The whole of the Business Design Centre will be used for the exhibition, with the competitive displays being mounted in the Gallery Hall which is not used for the national Stampex shows



**Supporters and Patrons** Please help support the exhibition for as little as £250 and receive a range of exclusive gifts and invitations.

**Volunteers** This show is organised and run solely by volunteers. The chairman of the Organising Committee is Frank Walton RDP FRPSL. There are many, many roles where volunteers are needed to help the show to be a success. If you can help in any way, perhaps assisting with mounting or manning the enquiry desk, please contact Mike J Roberts FRPSL by email on staff@london2020.co. (Kindly note that two different people called Mike Roberts are involved).

**Want to be kept Informed?** Sign up via our website to receive updates about the progress of the Exhibition and receive important announcements as they are made. **www.london2020.co**



Volunteers in the bin room



Busy dealers at previous international shows in London




The Royal Mail stand at London 2015

# Royal Mail celebrate the 70th birthday of Prince Charles

## with a Miniature Sheet paying tribute to the heir to the throne

The Miniature Sheet released on 14 November is complimented with a Presentation Pack, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards and three Coin Covers (as previewed in the November edition of the *Bulletin*).

**Stamp by stamp** Printed by web offset lithography, HRH The Prince of Wales 70th Birthday Miniature Sheet comprises three First Class stamps and three £1.55 values.

**Portrait of HRH The Prince of Wales** Charles was born in Buckingham Palace at 9.14pm on 14 November 1948, was christened by the Archbishop of Canterbury one month later, and at the age of three became heir apparent upon his mother's accession to the throne in 1952. Man and boy, Charles has faithfully followed his destiny, supporting The Queen in royal duties, but he has also become a charity champion, raising hundreds of millions of pounds for worthy causes. First Class

**HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall** This intimate image was taken during Charles and Camilla's annual holiday to Scotland, and was used for the cover of their official Christmas card in 2015. First Class

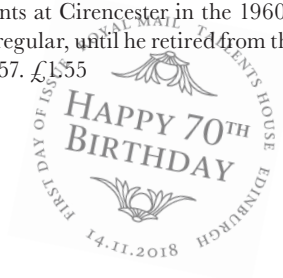
**HRH The Prince of Wales with HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH The Duke of Sussex** In this previously unseen image, Prince Charles appears with his sons in full military uniform. Charles is well known for his unstinting support of the armed forces. He himself trained with the RAF as a jet pilot and as a Royal Navy helicopter pilot, and commanded his own ship. The Prince has links with units of all three services, and is Colonel of the Welsh Guards and Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment. First Class







**HRH The Prince of Wales and his sons share a joke** It's all smiles as Charles, William and Harry get together at Cirencester Park Polo Club, which has hosted many a royal player. Edward VIII was the first member of the Royal Family to play there, in the 1920s; and the Duke of Edinburgh took part in many tournaments at Cirencester in the 1960s. Charles was also a regular, until he retired from the game at the age of 57. £1.55






Top row: three stamps First Class, (Portrait of HRH The Prince of Wales, HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, HRH The Prince of Wales with HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH The Duke of Sussex) Bottom row: three stamps, (HRH The Prince of Wales and his sons at Cirencester Park Polo Club, HRH The Prince of Wales at the Castle of Mey, HRH The Prince of Wales at Llancaiach Fawr Manor). Right: the Miniature Sheet featuring six Special Stamps
















**HRH The Prince of Wales at the Castle of Mey**
Every August, Charles stays at Mey, the most northerly inhabited castle in Scotland. He is president of the trust that looks after this 16th century gem, bought and restored by his grandmother The Queen Mother in the 1950s. The trust is involved in the preservation of Scottish heritage and historic buildings. £1.55

**HRH The Prince of Wales greets schoolchildren**
Charles is pictured talking with pupils during a visit to Llancaiach Fawr Manor in South Wales. Invested as Prince of Wales by The Queen in 1969 at Caernarfon Castle, Charles has an abiding affection for the country that gave him his royal title. £1.55




Portrait of HRH The Prince of Wales © Hugo Burnand; HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall © Clarence House; HRH The Prince of Wales with HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH The Duke of Sussex © Chris Jackson/Getty Images; HRH The Prince of Wales and his sons share a joke at Cirencester Park Polo Club © Barry Batchelor/PA Archive/PA Images; The Prince of Wales at the Castle of Mey © John Paul; HRH The Prince of Wales greets school children during a visit to Llancaiach Fawr Manor © Camera Press London

# Stamp Errors

## Passionate stamp collector Paul Dauwalder has 50 years of experience catering for the needs of philatelists from his shop in Salisbury, here he offers advice and insight into stamp errors




Yellow is omitted on Portugese and Swedish flags on this 1967 1s 6d European Free Trade Association (EFTA) stamp. The stamp (top) is a normal for comparison

Right: the 'B blank' penny red

Below: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth 1½d Coronation stamp from 1937. This perfectly printed mint example contrasts to many that have positional flaws

In previous editions of the *Royal Mail Philatelic Bulletin*, writers have dwelt upon stamp errors dealing with features that collectors look for, most of these flaws occurring through human error either at the design or plate making stage. I note that most of the errors displayed are from the 1960s and 70s, during this period missing colours were quite bountiful, witness the 1966 birds set which has a listing of eleven missing colours and the multi miscoloured 1967 EFTA set which lists no less than 21 different colour omissions.




Stamp errors have occurred going back to the dawn of philately with the 1840 penny black (paper flaws) or more dramatically the 1847 printing of 1d red-brown letters BA showing latter 'A' omitted (Plate 77) commonly known as 'B blank' and listed at £20,000 by Stanley Gibbons. Have you checked your one penny reds imperforate lately? The stamp error detailed from imperforate plate 77 should not be confused with perforated plate 77 which was issued much later from 1858 as a readable plate number.

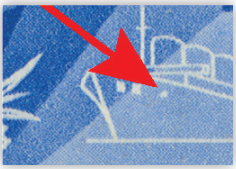
The advent of photogravure printing commenced in 1934 with a series of definitives from halfpenny to one shilling. In 1937 the Post Office (as it was then called) introduced a 1½d stamp celebrating the coronation of our present Queen's parents King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The stamp was a rather dull brown colour. However it was the first commemorative issue for over two years and collectors enjoyed a bonanza of searching for the prolific positional errors from differing printing cylinders. The stamp was produced in very large numbers and much research has been carried out on this stamp. A total of at least 18 positional flaws are known and listed on this stamp. For further information refer to *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue – Volume 2* which details known varieties from the four Kings issues of the 20th Century. As this stamp is available in large quantities (three hundred and eighty million), collectors may find it rewarding to research either mint blocks or used singles to find the listed varieties many of which have a catalogue price of several pounds. Bulk coronation stamps are plentiful and priced at a few pence each in mint or used condition.



King George VI was a reluctant monarch who did not enjoy the best in health, he was addicted to tobacco as was his uncrowned brother and father King George V. His 14 year reign generated a modest number of stamp issues most of which are available from dealers at reasonable cost. The lower values of definitive were introduced in stages from 1937 and printed in gravure until 1951 when the King died. There are constant varieties known but the most noticeable differences are the revised colours on the low values which occurred in 1941 due to wartime ink shortages and again in 1950 when the ½d to 2½d and 4d changed colour to meet universal Postal Union regulations. There are eight commemorative sets to collect from King George VI reign. The 1946 Victory set was produced in large quantities and keen eyed collectors may find an extra port hole variety depicted on the 2½d value; one of which is priced at £120 in Stanley Gibbons catalogue. Other sets worth researching include 1948 Olympic Games set of four, all of the values are known with positional flaws in particular the 3d violet which features a crown flaw within the no dot cylinder block.

To enable you to spot such errors suitable tools are needed for the job, an obvious choice is a decent magnifier of 8-10x, you will be surprised at what a good glass will find. Another useful appliance is a portable ultra-violet lamp. Shortwave lamps are essential for determining any phosphor bands and a longwave lamp will illuminate fluors or fluorescent papers. It will also show up repairs or aniline inks. A good reference book is also essential for cataloguing errors and don't forget that philately is a well-researched hobby so online investigations to build knowledge and find stamps with errors can be very fruitful.









Top: the 1946 2½d, Victory stamp, the extra port hole variety is illustrated for comparison, also the 1948 3d Olympic Games stamp is compared to the crown flaw variety

Left: 1966 Christmas 3d, a very rare and unusual paper fold and partially missing gold head

Below: 1936 King Edward VIII definitive, the stamp's design was belatedly credited to H J Brown

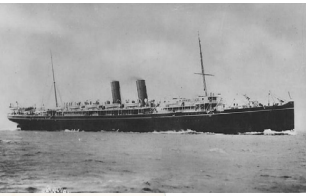



With Christmas and children in mind Royal Mail should be congratulated in maintaining over 50 years of continuous Yuletide stamps incorporating the work of both great master and infant designers. The first children's stamp design was the 3d 1966 Christmas 'Wenceslas' by Tasveer Shemza aged 6. The design was the result of a competition on a BBC *Blue Peter* programme. I wonder has Tasveer Shemza built a wonderful collection of stamps during the intervening 50 odd years since or was this a one off? The stamp bears the name of the young prodigy and was one of the largest ever stamp print runs of British Christmas stamps. There are numerous printing variations mainly involving the Queen's head position. The gold head was punched and glued from a gold foil. Beware when buying 'gold head' stamps that the head can be chemically removed.

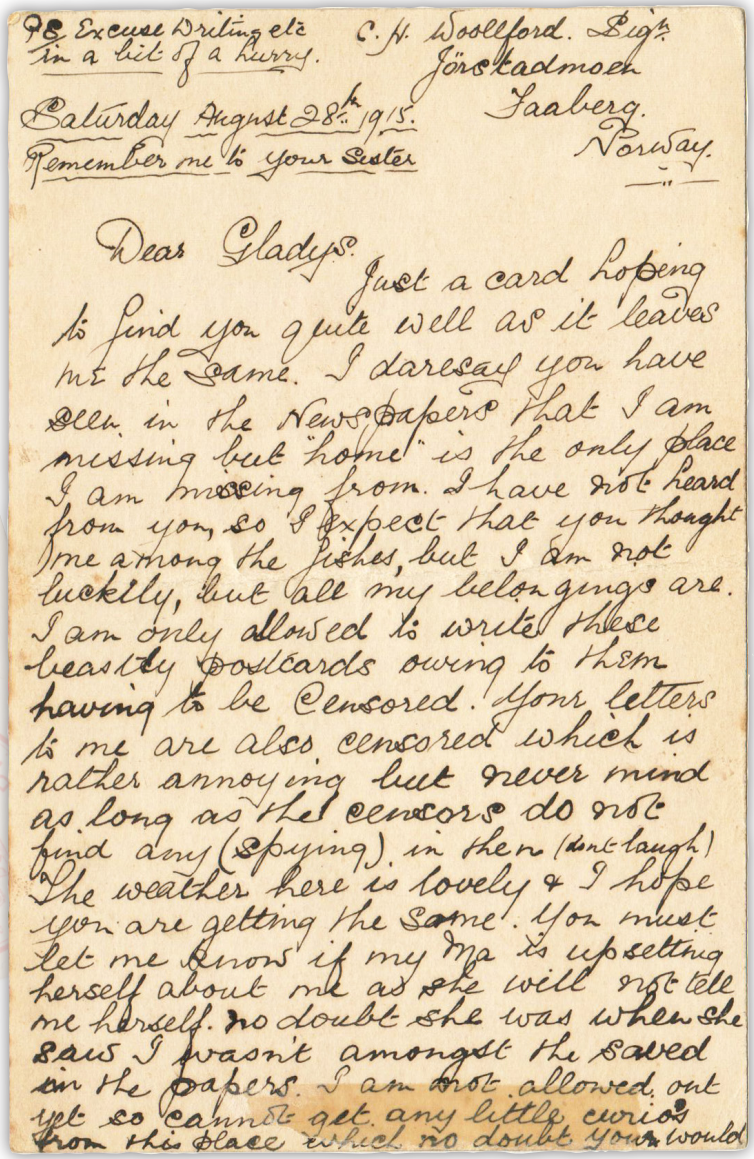
Another British stamp designed by a juvenile with a design for the King Edward VIII definitive was submitted to The Post Office by an 18 year old student named H J Brown. The design was then forwarded to Harrison and Sons, the printers. Many other essays were offered by eminent graphic designers but H J Brown's efforts were chosen. Browns efforts were never renumerated by The Post Office who wrote saying the design was inacceptable but then went on to use the design. Latterly, The Post Office sent a letter of acknowledgement in response to a complaint from Browns father ●

*Grateful thanks for images to Barry Fitzgerald of Embassy Stamps, Stanley Gibbons and Mark Bloxham (1d red image)*





*HMS India* was sunk on 8 August 1915 in the North Sea by a torpedo from a German submarine. Captained by Commander W G A Kennedy, RN, 160 lost their lives, twenty two officers and 119 ratings were saved, but eleven of the latter died afterwards from the effects of exposure. The survivors were interned in Norway



98 Excuse Writing etc in a bit of a hurry.

C. H. Woolford. Esqre
Jörstadmoen
Faaberg.
Norway.

Saturday August 28th 1915.
Remember me to your Sister

Dear Gladys.

Just a card hoping to find you quite well as it leaves me the same. I daresay you have seen in the Newspapers that I am missing but "home" is the only place I am missing from. I have not heard from you, so I expect that you thought me among the fishes, but I am not luckily, but all my belongings are. I am only allowed to write these beastly postcards owing to them having to be Censored. Your letters to me are also censored which is rather annoying but never mind as long as the censors do not find any (spying) in them (don't laugh) The weather here is lovely & I hope you are getting the same. You must let me know if my Ma is upsetting herself about me as she will not tell me herself. no doubt she was when she saw I wasn't amongst the saved in the papers. I am not allowed out yet so cannot get any little curios from this place which no doubt Your would

*Images are reproduced with the kind permission of Bath Postal Museum*

# Maritime Disaster Mail

## **In 1915 HMS India was sunk by a German U-boat** but we can share the relief of a survivor and the joy of his family back home

With Royal Mail's recent final centenary Special Stamps issue commemorating the First World War, the *Bulletin* has featured content that dovetails by featuring post from the Western Front and mail salvaged from ships sunk by the Imperial German Navy's U-boats. The various cachets and postmarks help to document military activities and the messages penned reveal warm hearts not to be eclipsed by the hatred that warfare ferments. Epitomising the spirit of many writing home are the words on this postcard sent from a survivor of the torpedoed *HMS India*, interned in Norway. His family back home no doubt shared the dread of many, that of receiving mail on His Majesty's Service announcing the loss of their loved one. It was a fear further fuelled when British newspapers failed to list their beloved as a survivor of the attack on his ship the *HMS India*. However we can leave this year's war focus on a positive note and consider the joy of the family on receiving his letter announcing his survival and making light of censorship, when in all probability they had thought their loved one had perished in freezing seas ●




The postcard from one of the survivors of the *HMS India* sent from Faaberg, Norway, to Brighton bears a special Norwegian adhesive frank stamp with the Norwegian Coat of Arms above the word PASSERER enclosed in an oval two lined frame, the entire stamp is printed in red. The postmark is HAMAR 30 VIII 15 which barely touches the stamp




# Bath Postal Museum

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**Learn about the most famous Postal Pioneers, and how they shaped worldwide communications**

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**Tel: 01225 - 460333**
**www.bathpostalmuseum.org**

# Christmas Quiz






**1** What type of press was used for the wood engravings?
a) Albion
b) Vandercook
c) Platen

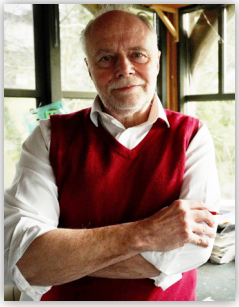
**2** How many post boxes are there across the UK? More than
a) 70,000
b) 100,000
c) 30,000




**3** Can you name the dog illustrated in the £1.55 stamp?
a) Toby
b) Benji
c) Scooby




**5** The artist used what medium to paint the Christmas issue illustrations?
a) Oil
b) Acrylic
c) Gouache



**4** The Christmas 2018 stamp artist Andrew Davidson also illustrated which stamp set?
a) Songbirds
b) Sustainable Fish
c) Magna Carta

**How to enter** Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Christmas Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.

**Prizes** The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Christmas 2018 Presentation Pack.

**Closing Date** 15 January 2019.

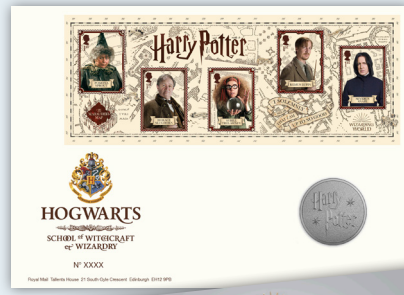
**September solutions – The Old Vic Quiz** 1a 2c 3a 4b 5b 6c.
**Winners**
Edward H Paton, Chesterfield;
Reverend Peter T Hanna, Cork;
Andrew Gosling, Kendal.

**Terms and conditions** Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

# New Issues and Withdrawals

**4** December

**Issue** Harry Potter: Harry Potter Complete Character Collection Pack (7 x 1st Class Special Stamps – Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley, Ginny Weasley, Neville Longbottom, Hagrid, Dumbledore *(issued 2011)* and Lord Voldemort *(issued 2011)* – contained in a special carrier). Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover (Containing the definitive pane). Prestige Stamp Book First Day Envelope. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 5 x 1st Class Special Stamps from set, pane two: 5 x 1st Class Special Stamps from set, pane three: Machin definitives 2 x 1p, 2 x 20p, 2 x 50p, and 2 x £1.25, pane four: 3 x 1st Class Special Stamps from the Miniature Sheet, pane five: 2 x 1st Class Special stamps from the Miniature Sheet. Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book (as standard but with special features). Hogwarts School Medal Cover containing the Miniature Sheet (limited edition of 15,000). Diagon Alley Medal Cover containing the ten Special Stamps (limited edition of 15,000). Hogwarts Silver Proof Medal Cover containing the Miniature Sheet (limited edition of 1,000). Diagon Alley Silver Proof Medal Cover containing the ten Special Stamps (limited edition of 1,000). Framed Stamps (set of the 7 Harry Potter character stamps).










You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote **19BUL9**, the *Bulletin* media code.

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