The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 58 No.4

The light of the world



Heavenly art for season's greetings

NEW MACHINS ISSUE • ADVANCE XMAS POSTINGS • 1965 COMMEMORATIVES

Royal Mail 2020 Annual Collections



Complete collections of 2020 Special Stamps, Miniature Sheets and Presentation Packs. Carefully curated compilations beautifully presented in decorative folders and limited edition hardback publications. This year's stamp issues include End of the Second World War, Palace of Westminster, Rupert Bear, Roman Britain, James Bond and *Star Trek*.

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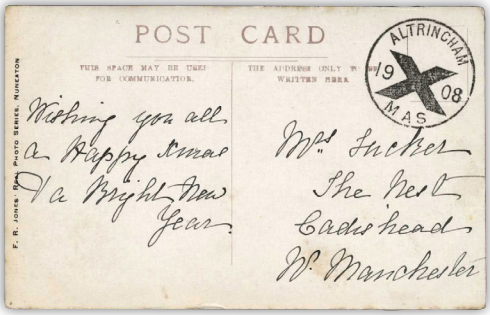
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Editor Tim Lees, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 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) are priced at £4.99 and are 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** 2633 2310 ● 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.



New values for the home nations In readiness for the New Year – December's Country Definitives issue **116**



It's the Year of the Ox – The 10th in a series of Generic Sheets celebrates the Lunar New Year **118**



'Never was so much owed by so many to so few' A reflection on the Battle of Britain issue and all the other commemoratives from 1965 **120**

Adore them...

the Christmas 2020 stained glass creations



St Andrew's Church, East Lexham *– 2nd Class*



St Andrew's Church, Coln Rogers *– 1st Class*



Church of St James, Hollowell *– £1.45*



All Saints' Church, Otley *– £1.70*



St Columba's Church, Topcliffe *– £2.50*



Christ Church, Coalville *– £2.55*

2nd class – Adoration of the Magi (detail) from St Andrew's Church, East Lexham © Peter J Hatcher/Alamy Stock. Photo; 1st class – Virgin and Child (detail) from St Andrew's Church, Coln Rogers © Colin Underhill/Alamy Stock Photo; £1.45 – Virgin and Child (detail) from the Church of St James, Hollowell © Alastair Carew-Cox/Bridgeman Images; £1.70 – Virgin and Child (detail) from All Saints' Church, Otley © Alastair Carew-Cox/Bridgeman Images; £2.50 – The Holy Family (detail) from St Columba's Church, Topcliffe © Alastair Carew-Cox/Bridgeman Images; £2.55 – Virgin and Child (detail) from Christ Church, Coalville © Colin Underhill/Alamy Stock

Christmas 2020 – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	3 November
Number of stamps	Eight (2nd Class Large, 1st Class Large, 2nd Class, 1st Class, £1.45, £1.70, £2.50, £2.55)
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd and Up
Stamp format (standard)	Portrait
Stamp format (large)	Landscape
Stamp size (standard)	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size (large)	34mm x 28mm
Number per sheet	50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive



St Andrew's Church, East Lexham
– 2nd Class Large



St Andrew's Church, Coln Rogers
– 1st Class Large

The wonder of Christ's birth is brilliantly illuminated by new Christmas stamps colourfully depicting the Nativity on stained glass windows. Across the country, from soaring cathedrals to quiet country churches, the inspiring story of the infant Jesus, mother Mary and the Adoration of the Magi has been told on exquisitely decorated windows for almost a thousand years. Now the gloriously rich eight-stamp set pays tribute to this religious art, featuring masterpieces that adorn Anglican churches from Yorkshire and Leicestershire to Norfolk and the Cotswolds. The issue, released on 3 November, is accompanied by a Miniature Sheet presenting the Christmas stamps over a backdrop of sunlight reflecting off a stained glass window at St Grada and Holy Cross Church in Cornwall. Also available are a Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards and Presentation Pack, which relates the story of this extraordinary art form.

And what a tale it is. Saxon, Norman, Victorian and modern – churches of every era across the country have depicted Christ's birth and life on stained glass. Ecclesiastical stained glass making has attracted the greats of art and design: William Morris, Rossetti, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Pugin, and Russian modernist Marc Chagall, whose work graces windows at Chichester Cathedral and a little village church in Kent. The sheer scale and majesty of cathedral stained glass is exemplified at York Minster. Its 15th century Great East Window, 24 metres tall and the size of a tennis court with 311 panels, is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the country. And in the Trinity Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral, the Miracle Windows depict pilgrims walking and riding to the town, one struggling on crutches. The windows were created in the 1180s, less than 20 years after Becket was assassinated – making them the earliest known art showing pilgrims travelling to Canterbury. Yet the beauty of stained glass shines through at any scale – just look at the mini-masterworks from parish and village churches lighting up the Christmas issue. The First Class and Second Class stamps also have large versions, which show a wider Nativity scene, but all eight offer a focused, finely composed view of Madonna and Child. ►



The Miniature Sheet features all eight Christmas 2020 stamps perforated against a striking background which shows light reflecting from a stained glass window of St Grada and Holy Cross Church in Cornwall

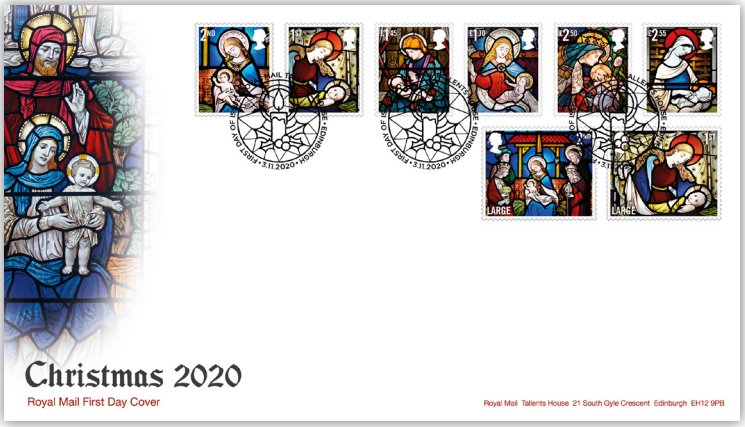
The stamps concentrate largely on work from the 19th century 'gothic revival' of stained glass – often executed by Pre-Raphaelite painters working for a cluster of leading studios – when makers resurrected medieval production techniques. However, also on display is the simpler, clean-lined 20th century style that rejected the flourishes of the Pre-Raphaelites: the lean, unvarnished beauty of modern master Harry Harvey's vision is plain to see in his window at Christ Church, Coalville, Leicestershire, on the Christmas set's £2.55 value. The variety of styles and historical eras is linked by the religious symbolism in every stamp depiction: the blue of Mary's clothing is associated with her purity and divinity and the 'sky' of heaven; the red reflects the love and devotion of motherhood, as the Virgin is of course the 'Mother of God'. Yet the truly astonishing thread that connects them all is that even over a millennium, the art of crafting ecclesiastical stained glass has hardly altered. Windows traditionally comprise glass panels coloured in a molten state by metal oxides; artists use vitreous paint to create images, and these painted elements are kiln-fired so the paint properly adheres to the window surface; finally all the glass elements are carefully bonded together with lengths of lead called calmes. The magnificent result of this painstaking technique is in clear evidence on the Christmas stamps…

Nestling in a farmyard, the Church of St Andrew at East Lexham, Norfolk, with its round Saxon tower of flint dating from 900AD, is the very definition of traditional rural worship. Enter its hushed interior, and you'll find it illuminated by the sunlit east window, featuring Mary with Jesus on her lap surrounded by the Magi, featured on the Large Second Class value. The work was created by the studio Clayton & Bell in around 1859, though the Adoration of the Magi had been a popular theme for ecclesiastical stained glass since the 15th century.

Henry Holiday, a sculptor and painter admired by Whistler, lent his talents to an apse window at the early Victorian Church of St James in the Northamptonshire village of Hollowell. His 1863 design, on the £1.45 stamp, shows Mary praying with her son on her lap. Mary's robes, richly decorated

Christmas 2020 – Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	3 November
Number of stamps	Eight (2nd Class Large, 1st Class Large, 2nd Class, 1st Class, £1.45, £1.70, £2.50, £2.55)
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd and Up
Stamp format (standard)	Portrait
Stamp format (large)	Landscape
Stamp size (standard)	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size (large)	34mm x 28mm
Miniature Sheet size	179mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA





First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp and the Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp which has the Bethlehem, Llandeilo location. Both postmarks feature line illustrations depicting stained-glass art. The Tallents House postmark shows a lit candle, and a winged angel is illustrated in the alternative postmark



FD2019-TH



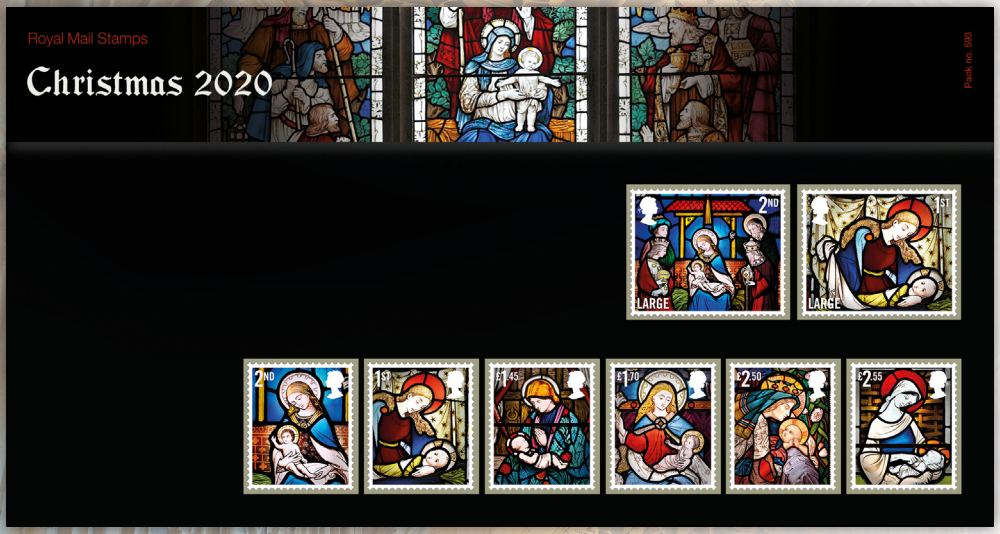
FD2019-PL



FD2019-NP

in a floral pattern and finished in a beautifully saturated colourway of aquamarines and mid-blues, along with her russet hair, underscore Holiday's Pre-Raphaelite credentials. His stained glass work is ubiquitous in Britain; his windows in the chapel of Worcester College, Oxford map the life of Christ; he drew the images for a memorial window to Isambard Kingdom Brunel at Westminster Abbey too.

Coln Rogers in the Cotswolds is known as a 'thankful village', the term for one of those few places in Britain that lost none of its menfolk in the slaughter of the First World War. Indeed today the village, named after a Norman knight, seems a place of peace: its church, St Andrew's, a little Saxon treasure, sits quietly by the calm waters of the River Coln. Above the altar, an 1865 stained glass window made by prominent studio Heaton, Butler & Bayne tells the story of the Nativity in three stunning sections. The central section, which appears on the First Class value, shows Mary tenderly cradling Christ. In sections on the right and left, the Magi deliver their precious gifts, and the shepherds bear humbler offerings – handfuls of fruit. The ►



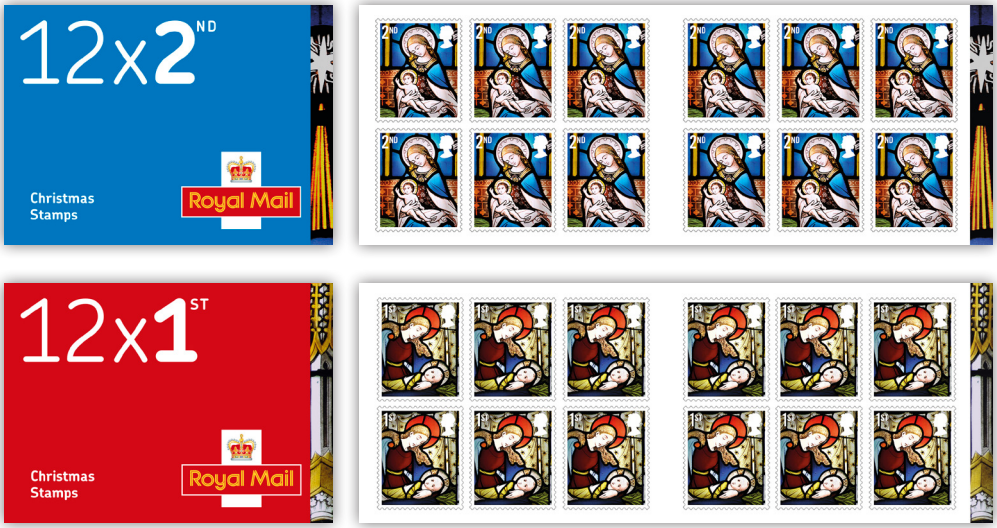
Presentation Pack and (below) the Presentation Pack Inner

Christmas 2020 – Prices	
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£11.64
Presentation Pack	£12.55
Miniature Sheet	£11.64
First Day Cover	£14.65
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£14.65
Stamp Souvenir	£14.65
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£14.65
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (9 in set)	£4.05
Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class)	£7.80
Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class)	£9.12
Collector's Sheet	£20.60
Half Sheet (25 x 2nd Class)	£16.25
Full Sheet (50 x 2nd Class)	£32.50
Half Sheet (25 x 1st Class)	£19.00
Full Sheet (50 x 1st Class)	£38.00



"The qualities needed in the design... are beauty and character of outline; exquisite, clear, precise drawing of incident."

William Morris, 1890



2nd Class and 1st Class Stamp Books (both housing 12 stamps)

three sections are brought together by the enduring prayer from Luke's Gospel which flows across the entire width of the window: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men'. Peace and good will… the hope of us all at Christmas time and beyond ●



Generic Sheet: comprising 8 x 2nd Class, 8 x 1st Class, £1.45, £1.70, £2.50, £2.55. Alongside each stamp is a label carrying either a section of stained-glass window from the background or a quote relating to the art of stained-glass windows



Stained glass even has its own fascinating language. A 'badger', for example, is a brush used to spread glass paint evenly – so called because it was once made from badger's hair



The full-sized drawing of an artist's design for a window, detailing the exact measurements and colour of the glass parts, is called a 'cartoon'



'Sanguine' is the name given to a pigment made with rust-red iron oxide, which turns into a variety of colours upon firing, from rose to red-brown, and was used in the 15th century to paint flesh tones.



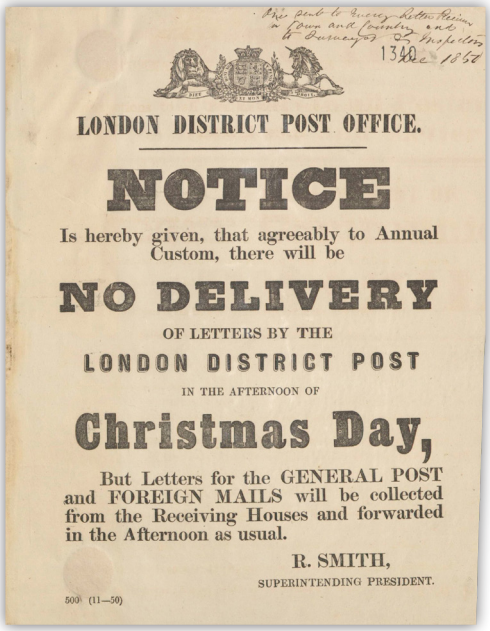
Glass sections have their edges shaped to fit a window design by a tool called a grozing iron – and so the process is called 'grozing'.





Posting in advance for Christmas Day delivery

The latter part of the nineteenth century saw growth in the literacy of the British population, and consequently demands on the postal system became increasingly challenging, and none more so than during the Christmas season. The increase in postal volumes can be traced back to the 1870s when the Postmaster General, Lord John Manners, stated in his annual report of 1878 that the previous year's Christmas and New Year's period had swelled 'letters' passed through the Inland Branch by 4,500,000. Two years later in 1879 the Post Office was processing an additional nine



LONDON DISTRICT POST OFFICE.

NOTICE

Is hereby given, that agreeably to Annual Custom, there will be

NO DELIVERY

OF LETTERS BY THE

LONDON DISTRICT POST

IN THE AFTERNOON OF

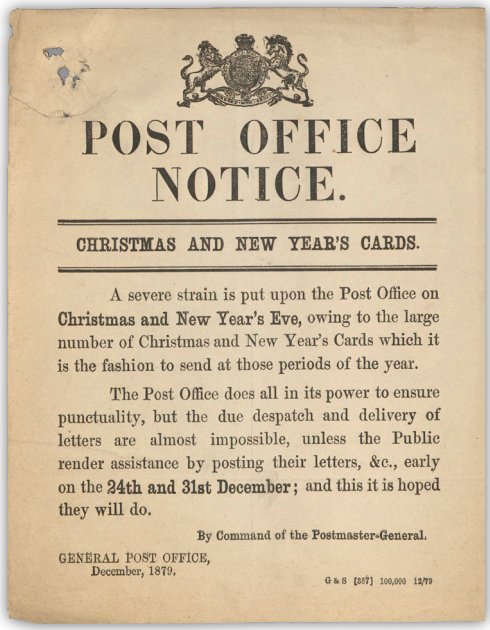
Christmas Day,

But Letters for the GENERAL POST and FOREIGN MAILS will be collected from the Receiving Houses and forwarded in the Afternoon as usual.

R. SMITH,
SUPERINTENDING PRESIDENT.

500 (11—50)

London District Post Office Notice from 1850 confirming the norm, that on Christmas Day there would only be a morning delivery



POST OFFICE NOTICE.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

A severe strain is put upon the Post Office on **Christmas and New Year's Eve,** owing to the large number of Christmas and New Year's Cards which it is the fashion to send at those periods of the year.

The Post Office does all in its power to ensure punctuality, but the due despatch and delivery of letters are almost impossible, unless the Public render assistance by posting their letters, &c., early on the **24th and 31st December;** and this it is hoped they will do.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
December, 1879.

G & S [887] 100,000 12/79

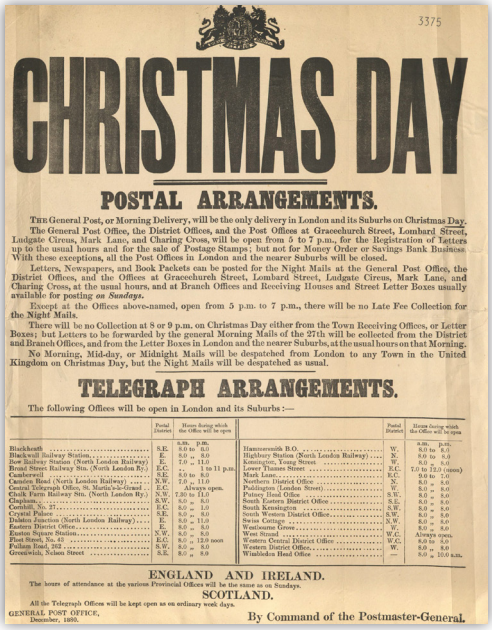
General Post Office Notice of December 1879 encouraging the public to post Christmas cards early – on 24 December!

Post Office Notice images are reproduced with the permission of The Postal Museum.

million letters over the festive period. The initial surge of increased mail on Christmas Day 1877 was not a surprise to everyone. At the beginning of the year, anticipating a potentially heavy workload, a proposal on 17 January 1877 located in Post Office Records revealed a plan to alleviate mail processing congestion in advance of Christmas Day.

The suggestion was that letters could be posted a week before Christmas and not delivered prematurely, but at a time as indicated by way of an affixed label. Traditionally mail for Christmas Day was posted on the 23rd or 24th of December, so the proposal would facilitate more time for sorting mail. This initiative, along with similar ideas put forward in 1885 and 1889, although not pursued, proved to be embryonic concepts behind an experiment set up in Rochdale in 1902. The Surveyor of Manchester, John Phillips wrote to the Secretary to the Post Office on 13 September 1902, in order to endorse proposals he'd submitted for a project the previous year. His scheme, which was given approval, enabled the public to hand in postal items between 17 and 22 December for local Christmas Day delivery. Phillips acknowledged that Manchester was too large a town, at such short notice to trial the service, and that Rochdale would be a more realistic option for a successful pilot. No charge was made for this advance posting service, which was validated with a cancellation indicating that the delayed delivery was intentional. The handstamp (Type 1 – see page 108) was struck in black on the 1d red stamp on sealed letters and applied in red on the ½d green. The lettering reads 'POSTED IN ADVANCE / FOR DELIVERY / ON / CHRISTMAS DAY / 1902'.

It was an auspicious start, large volumes of mail were processed at Rochdale – subsequently on 13 August 1903 the Secretary could report to the Postmaster General, Austen Chamberlain: *'As many as 18,910 letters and cards were posted, of which nearly all were for the Town delivery; they were sorted and* ►



3375

CHRISTMAS DAY

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE General Post, or Morning Delivery, will be the only delivery in London and its Suburbs on Christmas Day.

The General Post Office, the District Offices, and the Post Offices at Gracechurch Street, Lombard Street, Ludgate Circus, Mark Lane, and Charing Cross, will be open from 5 to 7 p.m., for the Registration of Letters up to the usual hours and for the sale of Postage Stamps; but not for Money Order or Savings Bank Business. With these exceptions, all the Post Offices in London and the nearer Suburbs will be closed.

Letters, Newspapers, and Book Packets can be posted for the Night Mails at the General Post Office, the District Offices, and the Offices at Gracechurch Street, Lombard Street, Ludgate Circus, Mark Lane, and Charing Cross, at the usual hours, and at Branch Offices and Receiving Houses and Street Letter Boxes usually available for posting *on Sundays*.

Except at the Offices above-named, open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be no Late Fee Collection for the Night Mails.

There will be no Collection at 8 or 9 p.m. on Christmas Day either from the Town Receiving Offices, or Letter Boxes; but Letters to be forwarded by the general Morning Mails of the 27th will be collected from the District and Branch Offices, and from the Letter Boxes in London and the nearer Suburbs, at the usual hours on that Morning.

No Morning, Mid-day, or Midnight Mails will be despatched from London to any Town in the United Kingdom on Christmas Day, but the Night Mails will be despatched as usual.

TELEGRAPH ARRANGEMENTS.

The following Offices will be open in London and its Suburbs:—

	Postal District	Hours during which the Office will be open
		a.m. p.m.
Blackheath	S.E.	8.0 to 8.0
Blackwall Railway Station	E.	8.0 „ 8.0
Bow Railway Station (North London Railway)	E.	7.0 „ 11.0
Brunel Street Railway Stn. (North London Ry.)	E.C.	7.0 „ 1 to 11 p.m.
Camberwell	S.E.	8.0 to 8.0
Camden Road (North London Railway)	N.W.	7.0 „ 11.0
Central Telegraph Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand	E.C.	Always open.
Chalk Farm Railway Stn. (North London Ry.)	N.W.	7.30 to 11.0
Clapham	S.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Cornhill No. 37	E.C.	8.0 „ 1.0
Crystal Palace	S.E.	8.0 „ 8.0
Dalston Junction (North London Railway)	N.E.	8.0 „ 8.0
Eastern District Office	E.	8.0 „ 8.0
Euston Square Station	N.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Fleet Street, No. 42	E.C.	8.0 „ 12.0 noon
Fulham Road, 382	S.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Greenwich, Nelson Street	S.E.	8.0 „ 8.0
Hammersmith B.O.	W.	8.0 to 8.0
Highbury Station (North London Railway)	N.	8.0 to 8.0
Kensington, Young Street	W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Lower Thames Street	E.C.	7.0 to 12.0 (noon)
Mark Lane	E.C.	9.0 to 7.0
Northern District Office	N.	8.0 „ 8.0
Paddington (London Street)	W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Putney Heal Office	S.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
South Eastern District Office	S.E.	8.0 „ 8.0
South Kensington	S.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
South Western District Office	S.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Victoria Street	S.W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Westbourne Grove	W.	8.0 „ 8.0
West Strand	W.C.	Always open.
Western Central District Office	W.C.	8.0 to 8.0
Western District Office	W.	8.0 „ 8.0
Whitehall Road Office	—	8.0 „ 10.0 a.m.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

The hours of attendance at the various Provincial Offices will be the same as on Sundays.

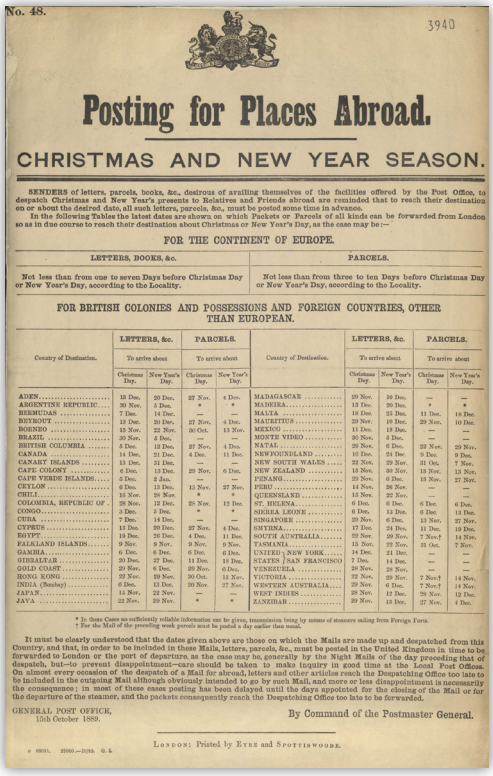
SCOTLAND.

All the Telegraph Offices will be kept open as on ordinary week days.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
December, 1880.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

General Post Office Notice of December 1880 showing that the public could expect to receive post on Christmas Day



No. 48. 3940

Posting for Places Abroad.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON.

SENDERS of letters, parcels, books, &c., desirous of availing themselves of the facilities offered by the Post Office, to despatch Christmas and New Year's presents to Relatives and Friends abroad are reminded that to reach their destination on or about the desired date, all such letters, parcels, &c., must be posted some time in advance.

In the following Tables the latest dates are shown on which Packets or Parcels of all kinds can be forwarded from London so as in due course to reach their destination about Christmas or New Year's Day, as the case may be:—

FOR THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

LETTERS, BOOKS, &c.	PARCELS.
Not less than from one to seven Days before Christmas Day or New Year's Day, according to the Locality.	Not less than from three to ten Days before Christmas Day or New Year's Day, according to the Locality.

FOR BRITISH COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES, OTHER THAN EUROPEAN.

Country of Destination.	LETTERS, &c. To arrive about		PARCELS. To arrive about	
	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.
ADEN	12 Dec.	29 Dec.	27 Nov.	4 Dec.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC	30 Nov.	3 Dec.	*	*
BERMUDAS	7 Dec.	14 Dec.	—	—
BEYROUT	13 Dec.	30 Dec.	27 Nov.	4 Dec.
BORNEO	15 Nov.	22 Nov.	30 Oct.	13 Nov.
BRAZIL	30 Nov.	3 Dec.	—	—
BRITISH COLUMBIA	5 Dec.	12 Dec.	27 Nov.	4 Dec.
CANADA	14 Dec.	21 Dec.	4 Dec.	11 Dec.
CANARY ISLANDS	13 Dec.	21 Dec.	—	—
CAPE COLONY	6 Dec.	13 Dec.	29 Nov.	6 Dec.
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS	2 Dec.	2 Jan.	—	—
CEYLON	6 Dec.	13 Dec.	13 Nov.	27 Nov.
CHILI	16 Nov.	28 Nov.	*	*
COLOMBIA, REPUBLIC OF	28 Nov.	12 Dec.	29 Nov.	13 Dec.
CONGO	3 Dec.	3 Dec.	*	*
CUBA	7 Dec.	14 Dec.	—	—
CYPRUS	13 Dec.	30 Dec.	27 Nov.	4 Dec.
EGYPT	19 Dec.	30 Dec.	4 Dec.	11 Dec.
FALKLAND ISLANDS	9 Nov.	9 Nov.	9 Nov.	9 Nov.
GAMBIA	6 Dec.	6 Dec.	6 Dec.	6 Dec.
GIBRALTAR	20 Dec.	27 Dec.	11 Dec.	18 Dec.
GOLD COAST	29 Nov.	6 Dec.	29 Nov.	6 Dec.
HONG KONG	29 Nov.	29 Nov.	30 Oct.	13 Nov.
INDIA (Sunday)	13 Dec.	13 Dec.	29 Nov.	27 Nov.
JAPAN	15 Nov.	22 Nov.	—	—
JAVA	22 Nov.	29 Nov.	*	*
MADAGASCAR	29 Nov.	10 Dec.	—	—
MADEIRA	13 Dec.	20 Dec.	*	*
MALTA	18 Dec.	25 Dec.	11 Dec.	18 Dec.
MAURITIUS	29 Nov.	19 Dec.	29 Nov.	10 Dec.
MEXICO	11 Dec.	11 Dec.	—	—
MONTE VIDEO	30 Nov.	3 Dec.	—	—
NATAL	29 Nov.	6 Dec.	22 Nov.	29 Nov.
NEWFOUNDLAND	10 Dec.	24 Dec.	9 Dec.	9 Dec.
NEW SOUTH WALES	22 Nov.	29 Nov.	31 Oct.	7 Nov.
NEW ZEALAND	15 Nov.	30 Nov.	13 Nov.	13 Nov.
PENANG	29 Nov.	6 Dec.	13 Nov.	27 Nov.
PERU	14 Nov.	26 Nov.	—	—
QUEENSLAND	15 Nov.	22 Nov.	—	—
ST. HELENA	6 Dec.	6 Dec.	6 Dec.	6 Dec.
SIERRA LEONE	6 Dec.	13 Dec.	6 Dec.	13 Dec.
SINGAPORE	20 Nov.	6 Dec.	13 Nov.	27 Nov.
SMYRNA	17 Dec.	24 Dec.	11 Dec.	19 Dec.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	22 Nov.	29 Nov.	† Nov.	† Nov.
TASMANIA	15 Nov.	22 Nov.	31 Oct.	7 Nov.
UNITED STATES (NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO)	14 Dec.	21 Dec.	—	—
	7 Dec.	14 Dec.	—	—
VENEZUELA	28 Nov.	28 Nov.	—	—
VICTORIA	22 Nov.	29 Nov.	† Nov.	† Nov.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	29 Nov.	6 Dec.	† Nov.	† Nov.
WEST INDIES	28 Nov.	12 Dec.	28 Nov.	12 Dec.
ZANZIBAR	29 Nov.	13 Dec.	27 Nov.	4 Dec.

* In these Cases no sufficiently reliable information can be given, transmission being by means of steamers sailing from Foreign Ports.
† For the Mail of the preceding week parcels must be posted a day earlier than usual.

It must be clearly understood that the dates given above are those on which the Mails are made up and despatched from this Country, and that, in order to be included in these Mails, letters, parcels, &c., must be posted in the United Kingdom in time to be forwarded to London or the port of departure, as the case may be, generally by the Night Mails of the day preceding that of despatch, but—to prevent disappointment—care should be taken to make inquiry in good time at the Local Post Offices. On almost every occasion of the despatch of a Mail for abroad, letters and other articles reach the Despatching Office too late to be included in the outgoing Mail although obviously intended to go by such Mail, and more or less disappointment is necessarily the consequence; in most of these cases posting has been delayed until the days appointed for the closing of the Mail or for the departure of the steamer, and the packets consequently reach the Despatching Office too late to be forwarded.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
15th October 1889.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

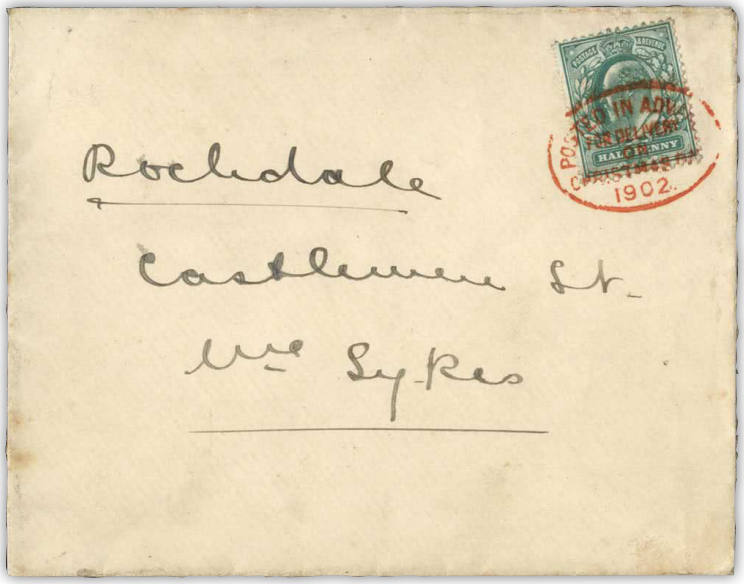
LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE.

General Post Office Notice of 15 October 1889 with schedules for posting mail abroad – for prompt arrival during the festive season

prepared for delivery in a room adjoining the Sorting Office, and were sent out by a special delivery early on Christmas morning partly by the ordinary Postmen and partly by temporary men; and it is claimed that the relief afforded by avoiding a heavy rush of posting on Christmas Eve made it possible to deal promptly with the outward mails from Rochdale on that evening, and to dispose of the work in due course'. The Secretary then sought the approval of the Postmaster General to expand the scheme the following



Type 1



Cover with Type 1 cancellation, posted in December 1902 in Rochdale, which was the only town trialling the advanced posting scheme in its first year. The King Edward VII ½d green, printed by De La Rue was first issued the same year on 1 January

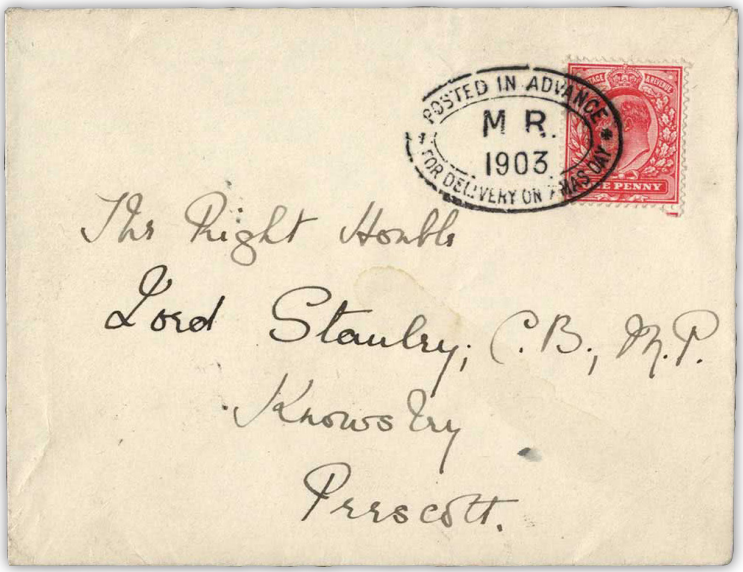


Cover posted and delivered in Rochdale in 1902 – endorsed with manuscript 'For Xmas morning delivery'. The Type 1 handstamp was the only one utilised in the scheme's inaugural year, here it cancels the King Edward VII 1d red (issued on 1 January 1902)

Christmas (1903) to embrace another 15 towns. Whilst doing this he also relayed the view of some Surveyors that the scheme *'...could not be adopted generally with advantage'*, and was in agreement with the Controller of the London Postal Service that *'the arrangement is an impracticable one... under present circumstances'* – to be rolled out in the capital. The Postmaster General, gave the plan the green light by appending to the report *'On the whole I think it is worth while to make the experiment on a larger scale as you propose'*. In fact arrangements were made to exceed the scale of proposed operations by engaging a further 13 towns – and so postal workers in 28 towns participated through the festive season in 1903.

Participating towns utilised a double oval cancellation (Type 2) inscribed 'POSTED IN ADVANCE / FOR DELIVERY ON XMAS DAY'. A code indicating location is centred in the oval above the year indicator. However, specimens of cancellations from several towns have not been recorded, but it's generally assumed that the Type 2 handstamp would have been used. Type 2 handstamps were used in all towns from which items are known in 1903, 1904 and 1905 (except Cheltenham – see page 113, Type 6).

Surveyor appraisals of the scheme were mixed – five judged the scheme a success, whilst a weightier 13 judged it a failure, these included reports from Clevedon, Shrewsbury, Dover, Cork, Waterford and Knutsford – towns that recorded less than 1,000 postings. Conversely, the Surveyor at Manchester deemed the project a success, and enthused that the bulk of the 250,000 recorded deliveries were *'in the hands of the public by 1.15pm, a considerable advance on the previous Christmas Day'*. Despite that, only nine towns participating in the scheme in 1903 did so again the following year in 1904, however an additional five new towns joined and participated. All towns recorded increased postings in 1904, but in spite of this, in many towns enthusiasm ►





Type 2

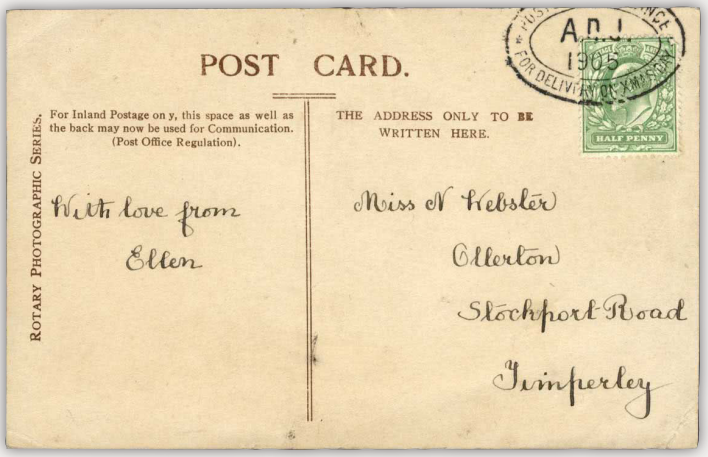
Cover posted in advance for Christmas Day 1903 in Manchester. The envelope addressed for local delivery in Knowsley bears a King Edward VII 1d scarlet which is tied by a very fine strike of the Type 2 handstamp in black. All Type 2 postmarks had codes designating the postal town. The example illustrated above has the initials 'W.F.' which indicates posting in Wakefield



German 'POSTKARTE' posted in advance for Christmas Day at Walsall (as indicated by 'W.L.') for local delivery in 1903. The ½d blue-green is tied by a superb example of the Type 2 handstamp in 'red'. The German 'POSTKARTE' is translated into Hungarian, Czech, French, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian, Bulgarian, Polish and Russian



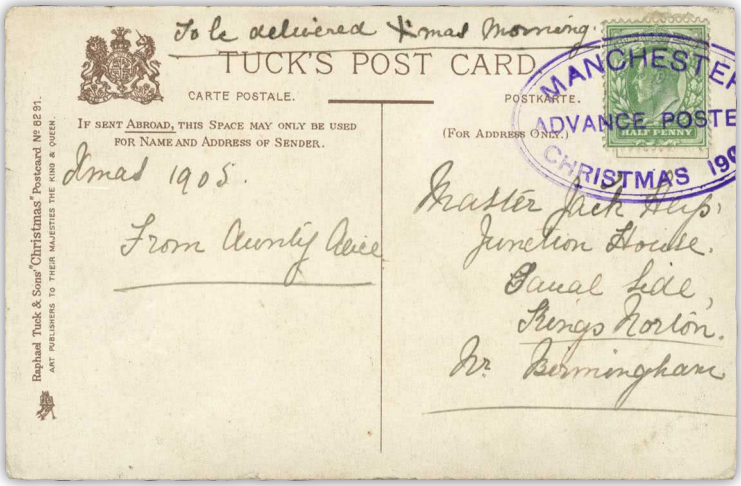
Another example of a 1903 Type 2 in red cancelling a ½d blue-green. 'H.U.' denotes the posting in Hull. The Post Card has a local Hull address



Type 2 postmarks were used at all towns (except possibly Cheltenham) from which specimens are known in 1903, 1904 and 1905. This Post Card from 1905 has the Type 2 postmark coded 'A.D.J.' for Altrincham – for local delivery in Timperley. The cancelled stamp is the yellowish-green King Edward VII ½d

for the project declined, and in 1905 only Altrincham, Manchester, Sale, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan participated – although they were joined by Eccles and Stockport. The project continued to thrive in Manchester, resulting in the production of a rubber handstamp (Type 3) which reads 'MANCHESTER / ADVANCE POSTED / CHRISTMAS 1905'. As the date was not changeable an almost identical (Type 3) handstamp was made for 1906. In cases where the Type 3 handstamp's year is indecipherable, the year can still be ascertained – as the centred type 'ADVANCE POSTED' prints fractionally lower for the 1906 cachet.

In 1906 in advance of Liverpool joining the scheme, Mr J Muir, the Surveyor of the Manchester District and Mr F Salisbury the Surveyor of the Liverpool District liaised in order to plot the best way forward for the scheme. Muir's subsequent report of 14 November 1906 explained that *'a complete interchange of correspondence between the two districts'* had been agreed, and that Southport would also be embraced to receive advance post – due ►



1905 Raphael Tuck Christmas Post Card sent from Manchester to Kings Norton. The card bears a partial strike of the Type 3 cancellation in violet. 'To be delivered Xmas morning' is the hand written endorsement. Below: the complete Type 3 handstamp is struck on the yellowish-green King Edward VII ½d





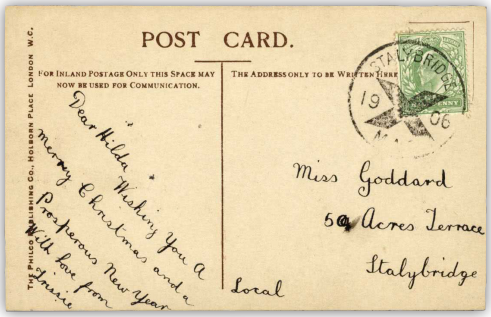
Type 3 (with bar indicating slightly lower position of 'ADVANCE POSTED' in the 1906 handstamp



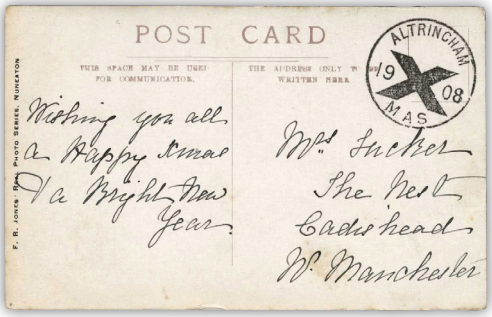
Type 4

to the considerable volume of correspondence received there from the two districts. Accompanying developments in 1906 was the Surveyor's request for a more impactful handstamp – resulting in the Type 4, which was used between 1906 and 1909 at 26 different offices. The 'X for 'XMAS' being the dominant feature in a circular design which gives location and year.

Volumes of mail being posted in the scheme in Manchester dictated the need for a more rapid cancellation process, consequently Columbia machine adaptations were made which created five varieties of the final Type 5 handstamp used in Manchester in 1907-1909. Towns still utilising the scheme in 1908 and 1909 accepted advance mail for delivery on Christmas Day to addresses all over the country. However the widening out of the scheme didn't infuse enough popularity to sustain it, and on 5 July 1910 the Secretary of the Post Office wrote to Herbert Samuel, the Postmaster General, and explained: *'It is obvious that to secure any real relief and to affect appreciably the postings on the 23rd and 24th December the advance postings must be very heavy, but it will be*



Post Card sent to a local Stalybridge address with a yellowish-green ½d tied by a strike of the Type 4 handstamp



An excellent, crisp strike of the Altrincham Type 4 handstamp dated 1908, on an unstamped Post Card, sent to the west of Manchester at Cadishead



1906 embossed 1d postal stationery envelope, cancelled with an exceptional Douglas, Type 4 handstamp. The cover addressed to Ballagawne has the endorsement 'Xmas Post' in manuscript

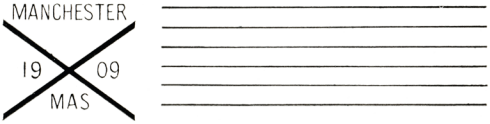


Cover with a strike of the Stockport 1908, Type 4 handstamp sent to Disley, bearing a haphazardly placed 1d red

seen from the statement showing the numbers of letters posted under the system since its inception in 1902, that the results hitherto obtained have been very disappointing... there seems little doubt that most people do not care very much whether their Christmas Cards are delivered on Christmas Day or a day or so before or after... The slight relief that may have been afforded by the adoption of the system at particular towns such as Manchester and Liverpool, is hardly sufficient to justify a repetition of the experiment in view of the expense and extra trouble involved and of the fact that similar arrangements cannot be applied generally.'

And so after eight years, sentence was passed on the experimentation, and it was deemed unworthy of further utilisation of postal resources. However, this captivating study of festive postal history continues to generate interest – with collectors happy to pay tidy sums for rare items to add to their collections ●

Article by Ian Boardman, with the considerable help of Cyril Kidd's excellent study: *Posted in advance for delivery on Christmas Day* – published by Robson Lowe Ltd., from which the handstamp illustration Types 1-5 are taken. Thanks also to Louise Todd, archivist at The Postal Museum for research on previous studies from which information was also gleaned. Cover illustrations are courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, except Manchester 1908 cover – courtesy of Elstree Stamps.



Type 5



POST OFFICE.

CHRISTMAS, 1907.

ADVANCE POSTING.

LETTERS, ETC., intended for

DELIVERY ON CHRISTMAS DAY

in LIVERPOOL (including suburban districts—Blundellsands, BOOTLE Formby, Gateacre, Woolton, Garston, etc.

BIRKENHEAD (including Oxton, Liscard, New Brighton, West Kirby, etc.

	and District		and District		and District
Warrington		Manchester		Stalybridge	
Wigan	,,	Oldham	,,	Eccles	,,
St. Helens	,,	Stockport	,,	Runcorn	,,
Ormskirk	,,	Ashton-u-Lyne	,,	Knutsford	,,
Widnes	,,	Altrincham	,,	Glossop	,,
Newton-le-Willows	,,	Hyde	,,	Prescot	,,
Isle of Man		Leigh (Lanc.)	,,	Dukinfield	,,

may be

HANDED IN AT THE COUNTER of any POST OFFICE in this District from the 12th December up to Sunday the 22nd December, inclusive; at Head Office only on the latter date.

Post your Christmas Letters and Cards for the places named in the manner described and thus ensure

CERTAIN DELIVERY ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Post Office Notice of December 1907 promoting 'ADVANCE POSTING' for 'CERTAIN DELIVERY ON CHRISTMAS DAY'



Posted in Manchester for Christmas Day delivery in London. This Post Card of 1908 has one of the five varieties of the Columbia Machine Type 5 postmarks



Type 6

Stanley Gibbons's *Collect British Postmarks* states 'only two specimens of the Cheltenham (Type 6) postmark are known to us, and the year is thought to be 1903 though not confirmed by the envelope contents'



FD2101-TH



FD2101-PL



FD2101-NP

Three new Machins in readiness for 2021

Christmas has come early for Machin collectors with the announcement that three new Machin definitives are to be issued on 23 December. The stamps are being issued in preparedness for new postal rates that will be operational from 1 January 2021. Colours for the new £1.70, £3.25 and £4.20 values have been selected from the Jubilee palette. The stamps will facilitate payment for the new charges which pertain to Royal Mail International Standard Letters and Large Letters as detailed below.



Marine Turquoise *£1.70*

Weight up to and including 100g International Standard Letter Europe and 20g World Zones 1-3

DS1090A



Aqua Green *£3.25*

Weight up to and including 100g International Large Letter Europe

DS1090B



Plum Purple *£4.20*

Weight up to and including 100g International Large Letter World Zones 1-3

DS1090C



Machin Definitives – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	23 December
Number of stamps	Three (£1.70, £3.25, £4.20)
Design	The stamp features the bas-relief portrait by Arnold Machin OBE, RA, with typography by Jeffery Matthews MBE, FCSD, FRSA
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Number per sheet	25



First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp



First Day Cover with Windsor alternative pictorial handstamp



The Presentation Pack houses all three new value Machin Definitives. The Presentation Pack Inner and Outer offers insight into the background and history of the iconic Machin stamps

For further information of prices, letter and parcel specifications visit www.royalmail.com/price-finder. Information defining the geographical zones can be found at www.royalmail.com/international-zones. All Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles can be purchased at www.royalmail.com/stamps.



Country Definitives

the new £1.70 values



England stamps – designed by Sedley Place: the English oak was sculpted by David Dathan with photography by Chris Ridley





Scotland stamps – designed by Tayburn: the thistle was sculpted by Tim Chalk





Wales stamps – designed by Tutssels Enterprise IG: daffodil was created in Welsh slate by Ieuan Rees. Dyluniwyd stampiau Cymru gan Tutssels Enterprise IG: crëwyd y genhinen Bedr o lechen Gymreig gan Ieuan Rees

Country Definitives – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	23 December
Number of stamps	Four (£1.70)
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA
Number per sheet	25



Northern Ireland stamps – designed by Rodney Miller Associates: the linen slip case is courtesy of the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum with photography by David Pauley



FD2102-PL



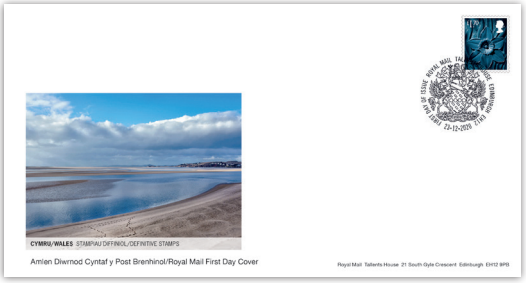
FD2102-NP



FD2103-PL



FD2103-NP





FD2104-PL



FD2104-NP





FD2105-PL



FD2105-NP

The four Country Definitive First Day Covers with the Tallents House handstamp. To the right are the other handstamp options

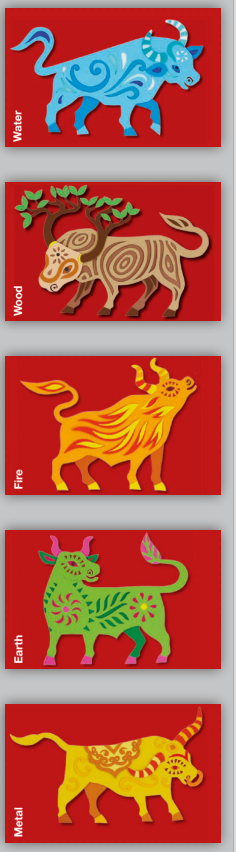


Lunar New Year

The Year of the Ox

The Lunar New Year 2021 is the 'Year of the Ox'. The Ox is the second in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac. Individuals born under this sign are believed to be intelligent, conservative, dependable, honest, cautious and hard working. On 8 December, Royal Mail is celebrating the Lunar New Year with the tenth in a series of Generic Sheets. The labels feature paper cut-outs representing the five elements of Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth and are the creation of artist Rebecca Sutherland. These five labels are duplicated on the Sheet and are accompanied by the Fireworks stamp from the Smilers® range. The Sheet also features a variety of ten different pictorial labels that depict UK festivities and generic images related to the Lunar New Year. These labels are likewise complemented with the same Fireworks stamp.

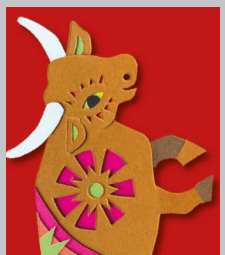
On New Year's Eve, many Chinese families prepare meals born out of superstitions – dishes with symbolic significance denoting luck. Dumplings are associated with wealth and fish dishes with prosperity. Sweet rice balls relate to reunion and family bonds ●



Five (duplicated) labels with illustrations of animals from the Chinese horoscope feature on the Generic Sheet



The First Class Fireworks stamp from the Smilers® range – 20 of which feature on the Generic Sheet, each with an adjoining label



The Year of the Ox – Generic Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	8 December
Number of stamps	20 x 1st Class (Fireworks stamp from the Smilers® range)
Design	hat-trick design
Sheet format	Landscape
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive





The Year of the Ox Generic Sheet: featuring Rebecca Sutherland's paper cut-outs





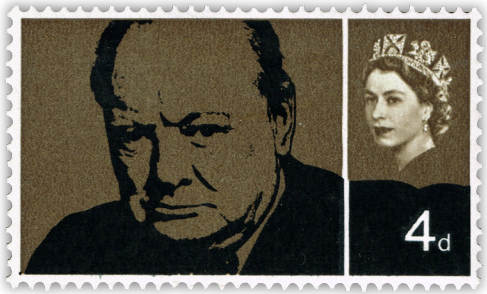
Two of the labels that feature on the Generic Sheet alongside the Fireworks stamp from the Smilers® range

1965 The Commemorative Year

Having reviewed the new frontier of British commemorative stamps that began in 1963 and progressed to 1964, this issue will examine the nine separate issues of 1965, a year of cultural and political change, and much else. For those of us who can recall this time, young though we may have been, certain events stand out – the service in Westminster Abbey for Sir Winston Churchill and the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain for this writer, and no doubt many others for you. Both of these events were celebrated with stamp issues.

The philatelic year got off to a slow start, with nothing at all in the first six months, and then the issues started, naturally perhaps, with a 'Churchill Commemoration' in July. There had been a state funeral for Sir Winston with a ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral in London. We will recall the well-known photograph of the British war time leader sitting at a desk, which was taken by Yousuf Karsh in December 1941 at the Canadian Parliament and entitled 'The Roaring Lion'. This was used for the two stamps issued on 8 July which were designed by David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease. Appropriately, the designs were simple and the colours sombre. But there were printing differences. The 4d (fourpenny) in black and olive-brown was printed on two machines. A Rembrandt machine which gave a lack of shading detail on Churchill's portrait, and HM The Queen's portrait appearing dull, and a Timson machine where there was more detail on Churchill's portrait with a furrow on his forehead, left eye-brow fully drawn and more shading on the cheek with HM The Queen's portrait lighter and sharper. The higher value at 1/3 (one shilling and threepence) was in black and grey and had the same image of Churchill but a little larger. Although issued on 8 July, stamps postmarked 7 July are known.





The lower value of the Churchill commemoration pair was printed on two different machines. The Rembrandt machine with a lack of shading and a duller portrait (above), and the Timson machine where Churchill's portrait was more defined, and that of HM The Queen lighter and sharper (above right)







The two stamps of the 700th Anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament are here shown on a First Day Cover postmarked in 'London E.C.' on 19 July 1965

Eleven days later came the next issue – on 19 July for the 700th Anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament, which had met in various buildings at Westminster in January 1265. There were two values, vastly different in shape and size, the 6d (sixpenny) in olive-green showing Simon de Montfort's seal alongside the usual Wilding portrait of HM The Queen. The high-value 2/6 (two shillings and sixpence) was thin and long so as to portray the Parliament buildings from across the River Thames. In black, grey and pale drab, Professor Guyatt had drawn the design based upon the 1647 engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar, a Bohemian graphic artist who spent much of his life in England. Both values were accidently released in several post offices in the London area on 8 July – the first day of the Churchill issue, where the proximity to issue dates had caused confusion. Covers are also known bearing First Day cancellations of this earlier date, so something to look out for. ►

The sixpenny value of the 700th Anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament designed by Stewart Black has an image of the Earl astride his horse. De Montfort was governor of England in all but name for over a year, but was defeated at the Battle of Evesham early on the morning of 4 August 1265





The unusually shaped higher value of the pair issued for the 700th Anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament is well suited to show the Parliament buildings beside the River Thames, a view taken from the 1647 engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar

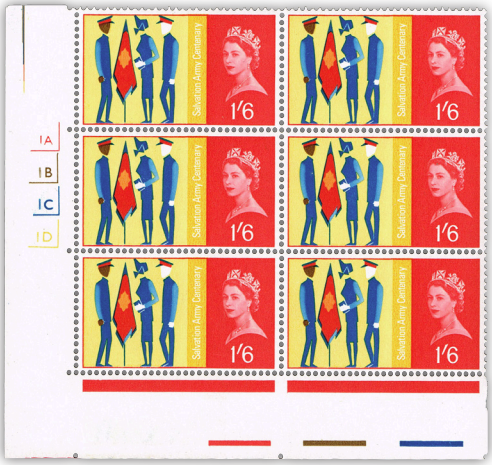
Both stamps from the Salvation Army Centenary issue were used on this First Day Cover that was sent from Hastings by Air Mail to Canada. The cover was no doubt a philatelic gift – the high value 1/6 stamp would have more than covered the 1/3 required to post to the Americas (Zone B)



Just 21 days later on 9 August was the next issue, a colourful pair for the Salvation Army Centenary. A religious movement, the Salvation Army had been founded in 1865 in Whitechapel, London, as the Christian Mission by William Booth who became its General in 1880, two years after the present name was adopted. The Postmaster General had in mind stamps that portrayed the Army's crusading spirit, and the two stamps issued do just that. A well designed 3d (threepenny) showing bandsmen and banner and the 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence) with three salvationists. Colourful with class, this writer would venture to say, but you can decide. Michael Farrar-Bell who had designed the top value in the 1953 Coronation issue brought his expertise to the lower value which came in indigo, grey-blue, cerise, yellow and brown. The three salvationists were drawn by Geoffrey Trenaman, and the colours printed were red, blue, yellow and brown.



Plate block '2A 2B 1C 1D 1E' from the threepenny value of the Salvation Army Centenary issue showing bandsmen marching, one with a banner and two others with brass musical instruments



The higher value of the Salvation Army Centenary pair shown in a plate block of six - '1A 1B 1C 1D' - with three salvationists, a woman and two men, all in uniform, together with an unfurled banner

Now we have a short time gap, but only until 1 September when the Centenary of Joseph Lister's discovery of antiseptic surgery was to be commemorated with a two stamp issue. One hundred years earlier in August 1865, James Greenlees was admitted to Glasgow Hospital with a compound fracture of the leg and was under the care of Professor Joseph Lister whose experimental treatment transformed surgery from an extremely dangerous last resort into an essential cornerstone of modern medicine, using carbolic acid antiseptic. Lister's Carbolic Spray is shown on the 4d (fourpenny) value in indigo, brown-red and grey-black designed by Peter Gauld, and the higher value 1s (one shilling) designed by Frank Ariss has a portrait of the inventor along with chemical symbols 'OH'. Both stamps exist postmarked 1 August 1965 at Skeabost Bridge on the Isle of Skye. One assumes that the postage clerk turned the date stamp from '31' to '1' for the new month, but forgot to also change the month. So, not actually postmarked even a day early. However, elsewhere others made this error and the pair can be found cancelled 31 August.

On that same day when the two Lister stamps were issued, another pair of stamps were issued for another event – the Commonwealth Arts Festival – which was aimed at promoting the cultural traditions of Commonwealth countries. The festival events in 1965 were held in London and other centres between 16 September and 2 October. Once again, the postal clerk at Skeabost Bridge continued his or her activity on 1 September with postmarking envelopes with the date stamp a month in arrears. One wonders how many days passed before it was noticed. The two stamps were designed by David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease, who had both been successful in July with the Shakespeare stamps. The 6d (sixpenny) value had a moving scene of Trinidadian carnival dancers and the 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence) depicted Canadian folk-dancers. Colours were black and orange, and black and light reddish violet, with the higher value showing even more activity than the lower value stamp. ►





One hundred years after Professor Joseph Lister pioneered antiseptic surgery, the two stamps issued show his carbolic spray dispenser, and a portrait of the man. The picture of Her Majesty The Queen continues to be the one used since 1953 and is taken from a Dorothy Wilding photograph





The Commonwealth Arts Festival stamps both portray dancing movement as in Trindad and Canada - carnival dancers and folk-dancers respectively. Portrayed as single colour stamps, they have a simplicity that works well from two different stamp designers



The first time that a block of six designs had featured in a stamp sheet show six action air battles on the fourpenny issues in the Battle of Britain Anniversary set. The designs cover all the main types of aircraft that featured at this time and in this battle.

Hawker Hurricanes Mk 1 over Wreck of Dornier Do-17Z2s Bomber, 4d, with 'new blue' omitted



Image courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

The Battle of Britain was the first major campaign in world history to be fought entirely between opposing air forces, and therefore warranted a stamp issue of some note. We were fortunate - that is what we got, with an issue date of 13 September. The designer names were already well-known to us by September 1965, being David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease for the six 4d (fourpenny) values and the one 1/3 (one shilling and threepence) value, and Andrew Restall for the 9d (ninepenny) stamp. It is fitting that such an event should be considered worthy of an issue of eight stamps, the largest up to this time. The fourpenny values individually showed the relevant aircraft involved in the fight, Spitfires, Heinkel He 111s, Hurricanes, Dornier Do 17Z2s and Messerschmitt Me 109s, and were printed in various colours showing the aircraft in flight. The anti-aircraft artillery in action and the air-battle over St. Paul's Cathedral were not forgotten, being the images on the two higher values. The fourpenny values were issued together se-tenant in blocks of 6 (3 x 2) within the sheet. One stamp which shows Hawker Hurricanes over the wreck of a Dornier bomber is known commercially used on a cover from Truro in Cornwall with the 'new blue' colour for the sea omitted. Surely there must be others…



The Battle of Britain Anniversary ninepenny value with just three colours gives a vivid impression of anti-aircraft artillery in action, together with two people running and in the middle background, an aircraft that is trailing fire and about to hit the ground



A scene that has often been portrayed is the air-battle over St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The condensation trails left by the aircraft remind us of the complexity of air battle when there were vast numbers of aircraft fighting. This stamp is the highest value in the eight stamp set for the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain

What is now known as the BT Tower in Central London and a famous landmark was conceived, built and opened as the Post Office Tower. The official date of opening was 8 October 1965 by the then Prime Minister Harold Wilson, and was the tallest building in the United Kingdom, a title it held until 1980. Since 2003 it has been awarded Grade II listed building status. For this issue on the official day of opening, it was a vertical-shaped 3d (threepenny) olive-yellow, new blue and bronze-green stamp, and a usual-shaped horizontal 1/3 (one shilling and threepence) bronze-green, yellow-green and blue stamp. Both designed by Clive Abbott who had previously designed greetings telegrams for the G.P.O., but had never before attempted stamp design. An additional feature of this issue was the inclusion of the names of both the designer and printers at the foot of the stamps, a practice for many later issues until 1969. The well-known missing colour is the olive-yellow on the threepenny stamp – the image of the tower which leaves a large white blank area and now you know it, if you didn't before, you're equipped to find one. The catalogue price, although high, does show that there are/were a number of these around. Naturally, there was an excellent Presentation Pack, issued to a total of 25,060.

HM The Queen visited the tower on 17 May 1966, two days before it was opened to the public, from when these stamps were issued from automatic machines giving a block of four of the 3d and a pair of the 1/3, dispensed in envelopes. Presentation Packs were also issued from a machine. These continued to be available after the stamps had been withdrawn elsewhere on 30 June 1966, and they were finally withdrawn on the introduction of decimal currency. ►



Cover posted to London on board the transatlantic passenger service ship – *RMS Queen Mary*. The postmark dated '18-9/1967' gives the location of '50 CHERBOURG' 'MANCHE'. This was one of the ship's last journeys. The following month on 31 October she set sail from Southampton for Long Beach, California, for the last time – where she remains moored as a tourist attraction





The simple but very effective designs for the Opening of the Post Office Tower has the threepenny in vertical format showing the tower in its height and splendour, and Georgian buildings around the base. If the olive-yellow colour was missing, then so was the complete tower, and this is a well-known variety



The 1/3 green stamp - bronze-green, yellow-green and blue, to be precise - is in the usual horizontal format and with the tower shows a Nash designed terrace in Regent's Park. Varieties that exist in both the ordinary and phosphor versions are with the watermark inverted



The emblems for the United Nations and International Co-operation Year are shown on the two stamps issued on 25 October 1965 celebrating both events. Although large on the two stamps, the '20' and the 'UN' can be missed to the eye due to the design within of the olive leaves and globe for the 3d stamp, and clasped hands for the 1/6



Just probably different enough not to be confused with each other, the similar and well-matched pair of ITU Centenary designs show a network of telecommunications, radio waves and switchboard

Later in October came the two-stamp issue to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the United Nations. 1965 was also designated International Co-operation Year and the symbol of clasped hands is shown on the 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence) black, bright purple and light blue stamp. The 3d (threepence) stamp in black, yellow-orange and light blue has the image of the globe with the olive leaves of peace surrounding it - the usual United Nations emblem. As we write today, the 20 years has grown to 75 years with 193 member states. The stamp designer was Jeffery Matthews, a British artist specialising in postage stamp design and responsible for the conception of the later Machin definitive series' colour palette in the mid-1980s.

Finally in this exceptional year of stamp design and issues we come to the ninth and last celebration, that of the ITU Centenary. Created in 1865, ITU was then known as the International Telegraph Union. Originally scheduled for issue on 17 May 1965 as the first issue of the year, supplies from the Philatelic Bureau were sent in error to reach a dealer on that date and another received his supply on 27 May. The delayed issue date was 15 November and comprised two stamps, a 9d (ninepenny) printed in six colours, and a 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence), produced in five colours from a different palette. Andrew Restall was again the successful designer.

All of these issues in the year came in what is described as ordinary and phosphor, where the phosphor issue has visible bands when held at an angle to the light. The phosphor bands are to assist automatic facing under a phosphor scanner. The issue of phosphor coated stamps was less than the so-called ordinary issue, and so continue to command a premium increase in value.

So there we have it, nine separate commemorative issues totalling 24 stamps. What would the next year bring we wondered at the time. 1966 was 900 hundred years since 1066, and all that. And then there was the football World Cup event. Perhaps England might do well enough for a stamp or two ●

Article by Dane Garrod

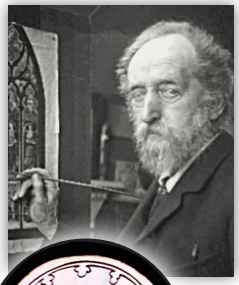
Christmas quiz



1 The stained glass depicted on this stamp was designed by Henry Holiday in what year?
a) 1862 b) 1863 c) 1864



2 The Great East Window of York Minster has how many panels?
a) 211 b) 311 c) 411



4 Henry Holiday's designs are seen in the Church of St James in which village?
a) Holcot
b) Holdenby
c) Hollowell



5 Which studio created this stained glass?
a) Heaton, Butler & Bayne
b) Clayton & Bell
c) Ballantine & Allen



3 In what year was this Christmas stamp issued?
a) 1992 b) 1994 c) 1996

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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.lees2@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Christmas 2020 Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 January 2021.

September solutions Rupert Bear quiz
1)b 2)a 3)c 4)b 5)c.

Winners Linda Sergent, West Lothian; G Patterson, Wilmslow; Mr J Mackin, Castlederg; Jane Price, Bishops Stortford; David McLellan, Bournemouth.

New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

3 December **Withdrawal** Rupert Bear: Stamp Souvenir.



23 December **Issue** Machin Definitives: Stamps (£1.70, £3.25, £4.20). First Day Cover. Presentation Pack. First Day Envelope.



Issue Country Definitives: Stamps (£1.70 for each country – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland). First Day Cover. Presentation Pack. First Day Envelope.



31 December **Withdrawal** Annual Collections 2018: Yearbook. Yearpack. Year of Presentation Packs. Year of Miniature Sheets.

31 December **Withdrawal** Women and Men's Cricket World Cup Winners: Presentation Pack. First Day Envelope. Miniature Sheet.



Withdrawal Royal Navy Ships: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.



1 January **Withdrawal** Brilliant Bugs: Stamp Souvenir.



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