The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 57 No.6

Enter the world of astrophysics



Celebrate with us the 200th anniversary of the Royal Astronomical Society

THE BIRKENHEAD DISASTER • ASTRONOMY AND SPACE TRAVEL THEMATIC

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Royal Mail Yearbook 2019

If you are struggling for ideas for a special 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. This beautifully crafted, individually numbered, limited edition Yearbook for example, makes an exquisite gift and a wonderful souvenir of 2019. This glossy hard-back book with protective casing, comes complete with a wealth of details, photography and art celebrating the significance of each issue. The book houses every mint Special Stamp and Miniature Sheet from 2019, along with the stories behind them. 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

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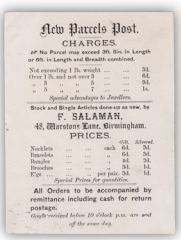
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Let Britain's renowned astronomers take you on a voyage of discovery **164**

Test your knowledge of our fascinating cosmos with the Visions of the Universe quiz for your opportunity to win the Presentation Pack **171**





Victorian promotions A Birmingham business man promotes a new parcels post service to sell his jewels **180**


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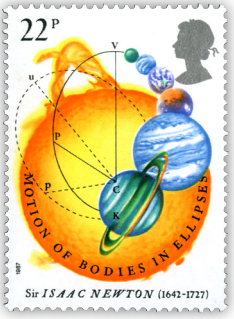


The Birkenhead disaster Postal history tells a maritime story of courage and chivalry that established a new protocol for seafarers **172**



Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you up to speed with the various philatelic events happening around the country in February **182**

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Issues and Withdrawals A reference for Royal Mail's upcoming stamp issues and product deletions **192**



Editor Claudia Lee, 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) £10.16, 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** 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.

Visions of the Universe



Cat's Eye Nebula – *Second Class*
In 1864, William Huggins used optical spectroscopy to prove that the Cat's Eye Nebula was a tenuous gas, rather than solid



Geysers on Enceladus – *Second Class*
Enceladus is a small, icy moon of Saturn with a system of geysers that spray water and vapour into space



Jupiter's auroras – *£1.55*
Auroras are produced when charged particles accelerate into the atmosphere, giving off light as they collide with gas atoms



Gravitational lensing – *£1.55*
This occurs when massive celestial objects bend light from more distant sources to form distorted and multiple images

Visions of the Universe – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	11 February
Number of stamps	Eight (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60)
Design	True North
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	50mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

They are the masters of the universe, the British scientists who explored our solar system and beyond – and now star in a new stamp set celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Royal Astronomical Society. The eight-stamp Visions of the Universe issue pays homage to the achievements of our heroes of space science, including the discovery of pulsar stars by Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Antony Hewish, and William Huggins, who proved way back in 1864 that the Cat's Eye Nebula was gas, not solid. Two Coin Covers celebrate the life of Stephen Hawking and his pioneering work on black holes, and the nature of time and space.



Pulsars – *First Class*
Pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars. As they rotate, they beam radiation across space like a lighthouse



Black holes – *First Class*
Black holes are areas of space where the density of matter is so great that nothing can escape the gravitational pull



Comet 67p – *£1.60*
An icy body just 4.3km long that was explored by the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission



Cygnus A Galaxy – *£1.60*
This is an active galaxy, which means that something other than stars is producing a significant amount of energy within it

The stamps also salute the institutions that have made advances in astrophysics – the Jodrell Bank observatory, for example, that examined the cause of radio emissions flowing out of the galaxy Cygnus A. Accompanying the issue, out on 11 February, is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Prestige Stamp Book, set of eight postcards and Framed Stamps. One of the £1.60 values shows the 'rubber duck'-shaped comet 67P whizzing through space, which in 2014 was the scene of scientific firsts made possible by British scientists and companies. The Rosetta spacecraft, on a mission to discover more about the nature of comets, was the first ever to orbit, and touch down on one – with its Philae lander. Scientists from Oxford University and Imperial College London, for example, contributed expertise and were involved in research. UK firms designed innovative batteries for the Rosetta and Philae, as well as imaging instrumentation for the lander, and stabilising gear for when Philae touched down on 67P's surface. The landing was an astonishing feat. First, the Rosetta kept pace with the comet as it bulleted towards the inner solar system at more than 100,000 km/h. From a height of 25km, its cameras scoped out potential landing spots on the 4.3km-long hunk of rock, ice and dust. Finally, ▶

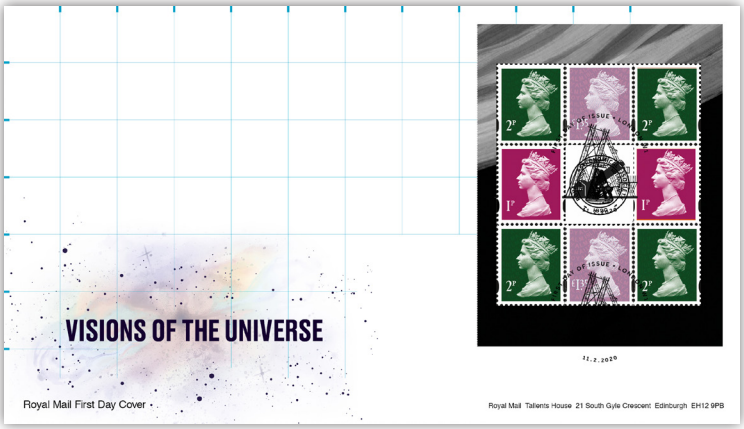
THE RICH 200-YEAR HISTORY OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS STUDDED WITH BRITISH SCIENCE'S BIGGEST STARS. WILLIAM HERSCHEL, WHO DISCOVERED URANUS, WAS ITS FIRST PRESIDENT IN 1821. HIS WORK WAS AIDED BY POWERFUL TELESCOPES HE MADE HIMSELF BECAUSE OPTICIANS DIDN'T HAVE MIRRORS BIG ENOUGH FOR HIS DEVICES. WILLIAM HUGGINS, PRESIDENT IN 1876, TRANSFORMED ASTRONOMY BY APPLYING ADAPTING SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS TO ESTABLISH THE CHEMICAL MAKE-UP OF STARS. CHARLES BABBAGE, WHO CONCEIVED THE MODERN DIGITAL COMPUTER, ALSO SERVED AS PRESIDENT. AS WELL AS HIS 'DIFFERENCE ENGINE' CALCULATING MACHINE, BABBAGE'S INVENTIONS INCLUDED SHOES FOR WALKING ON WATER (THEY DIDN'T WORK) AND A SPEEDOMETER.

OF COURSE YOU KNOW THIS, LEARNED *BULLETIN* READERS, BUT A BLACK HOLE ISN'T ACTUALLY A HOLE. IT'S A HUGE LOAD OF MATTER CRAMMED INTO AN EXTREMELY SMALL SPACE. BLACK HOLES ARE, HOWEVER, ENORMOUS. SCIENTISTS BELIEVE 'SUPER-MASSIVE' BLACK HOLES COULD BE BILLIONS OF TIMES MORE MASSIVE THAN THE SUN.

NOT EVERYTHING STEPHEN HAWKING DID WAS BRAIN-ACHINGLY COMPLICATED. HAWKING WROTE CHILDREN'S BOOKS WITH DAUGHTER LUCY ABOUT CHILD ASTRONAUT GEORGE AND HIS ADVENTURES, SAVING EARTH AND MEETING ALIENS AND ROBOTS. TITLES INCLUDE GEORGE AND THE BIG BANG, GEORGE'S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE AND GEORGE'S COSMIC TREASURE HUNT.

ONE OF THE MORE BIZARRE DISCOVERIES MADE ABOUT COMET 67P BY THE ROSETTA MISSION WAS THAT IT STANK. CHEMICALS ON 67P IDENTIFIED BY THE SPACECRAFT – HYDROGEN SULPHIDE, AMMONIA AND METHANOL – CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMET'S WHIFF OF ROTTEN EGGS, THE INSIDE OF A STABLE, CAT'S URINE AND STALE BOOZE.





First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp which features a drawing of a pulsar and the PSB Pane First Day Cover with alternative hand-stamp featuring a telescope used by William Herschel



FD2001-TH



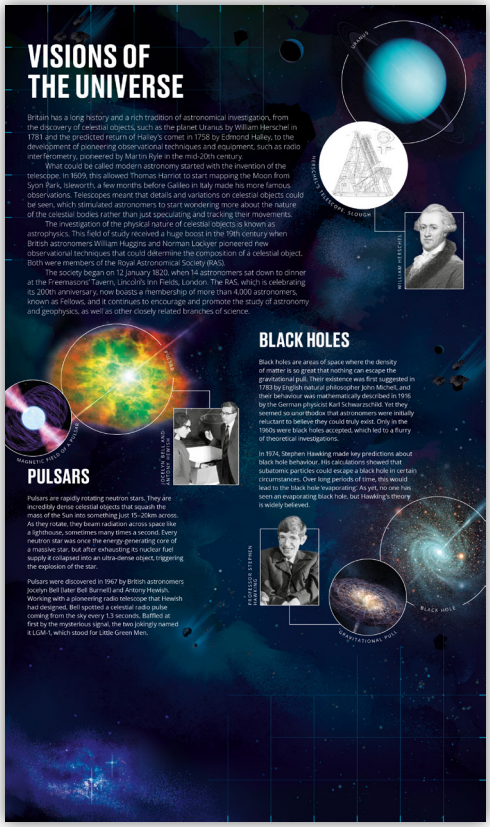
FD2001-PL

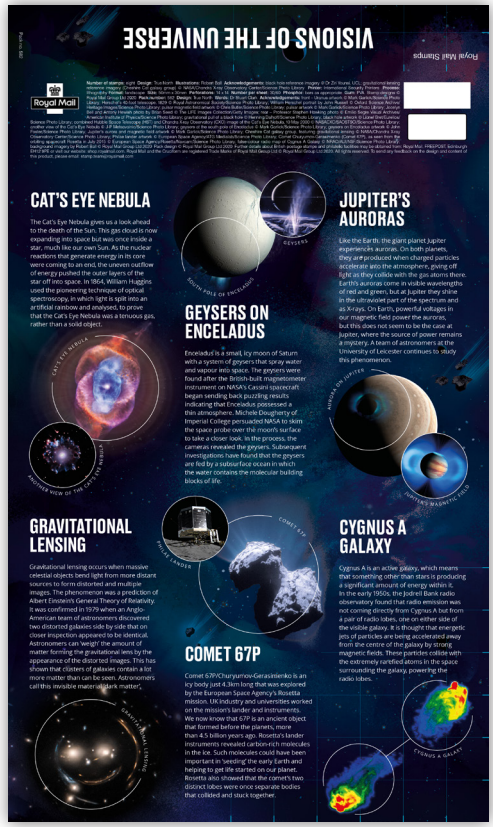


FD2001-NP

Philae hit the surface after a seven-hour descent, and its probing and sampling equipment made some intriguing discoveries about 67P and comets. It's over 4.5 billion years old, older than our planets, and made up of two comets that collided and fused together. The spacecraft found the building blocks of life on 67P, including an amino acid glycine, which is commonly found in proteins, and phosphorus, an essential component of DNA and cell material. This suggests life on Earth could have been 'seeded' by organic compounds delivered by comets. Comets also 'sing': Rosetta picked up low-frequency humming coming from 67P, probably caused by charged particles.

Jocelyn Bell Burnell's discovery of pulsar stars is honoured on one of the First Class stamps. Bell was just a 24-year-old postgraduate student at Cambridge when she spotted a radio pulse among around 300 metres of printouts of readings from her telescope. She and Antony Hewish, an astrophysics professor, jokingly named the signal LGM-1 (Little Green Men), as Hewish at first believed its source was artificial. They later realised the signal, emanating from space every 1.3 seconds, was generated by a pulsar, a spinning neutron star. Pulsar signals ▶





Presentation Pack Inner and Presentation Pack Outer (right): the pack explores Britain's long history and rich tradition of astronomical investigation and explains how telescopes have helped in the exploration of the universe. It also includes a brief history of the Royal Astronomical Society as well an explanation of its purpose. With engaging imagery and illustrations, the pack additionally provides a short explanation of the astronomical phenomena depicted on the stamps

Prestige Stamp Book



Pane one: (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60)



Pane two: (2 x 5p, 2 x 10p, 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives)



Presentation Pack: Contains all eight Visions of the Universe Special Stamps

are so incredibly regular and precise that they've been used in scientific measurements – for example, planets in our solar system have been weighed through reference to pulsar signals. In 1977, maps of pulsar stars were placed by NASA in the Voyager spacecraft, so that if aliens found them, they could follow them and make their way to Earth.

Another £1.60 value shows the Cygnus A galaxy. In the 1950s Jodrell Bank radio observatory in Cheshire discovered that radio signals seemingly generated by the galaxy in fact came from two radio 'lobes' at each end of Cygnus A. Its Lovell Telescope is named after pioneering Manchester University physicist Bernard Lovell. He built the device at the Jodrell Bank location because background interference from electric trams outside the university was disrupting his research into cosmic rays. The Lovell Telescope, once the largest in the world (it's now the third), features a 1,500-tonne, 76 metre-wide bowl that picks up radio signals from space, which are then translated into data about their source. The telescope has played a major part in the discovery of pulsar and quasar stars.

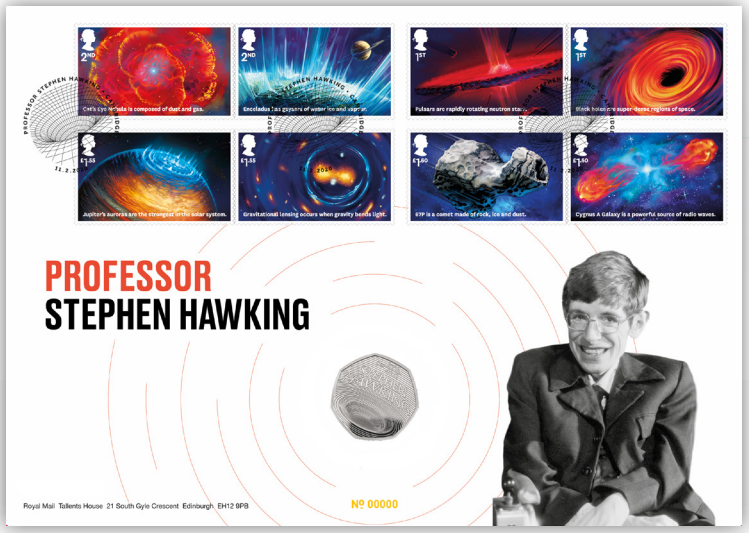
The rest of the stamps complete the story of British space science expertise. One Second Class shows the water and ice geysers of Enceladus, a moon of Saturn – first observed by the spacecraft Cassini after Imperial College scientist Michele ►



Pane three: (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60)



Pane four: (2 x 1p, 4 x 2p, 2 x £1.35)



Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover

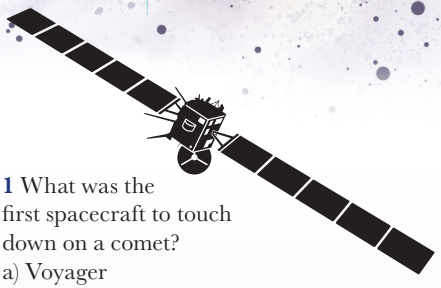
Dougherty persuaded NASA to send Cassini close in to observe Enceladus. A £1.55 value shows Jupiter's auroras, now being studied by a team from Leicester University. Another features gravitational lensing, a phenomenon that takes place when gravity curves light. This was discovered by a joint Anglo-American group of scientists.

Black holes, one of Stephen Hawking's many areas of expertise, are the subject of the issue's other First Class value, and feature in the cupro-nickel and silver proof Coin Covers. Hawking battled the devastating effects of motor neurone disease to make extraordinary advances in astrophysics. In 1974 he found that subatomic particles could escape black holes. Hawking also showed that when two black holes merge, the resulting single hole is bigger than the original two. And while still in his 20s, his singularity theorem established that the universe began with the Big Bang. Indeed, Hawking's genius encapsulates Britain's brilliance in space science ●

Visions of the Universe – Prices	
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£8.92
Presentation Pack	£9.75
First Day Cover Stamps	£11.30
Stamp Souvenir	£11.30
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane	£3.95
Prestige Stamp Book	£16.10
Framed Stamps	£29.99
Framed and Signed Stamps	£45.00
Stephen Hawking BU Coin Cover	£17.50
Stephen Hawking Silver Proof Coin Cover	£65.00

Black hole reference imagery © Dr Ziri Younsi, UCL; gravitational lensing black hole reference imagery (Cheshire Cat galaxy group) © NASA/Chandra X-Ray Observatory Center/Science Photo Library

VISIONS OF THE UNIVERSE quiz



1 What was the first spacecraft to touch down on a comet?
a) Voyager
b) Rosetta
c) Apollo



4 Who designed this telescope?
a) William Herschel
b) Bernard Lovell
c) Jerry Nelson



2 How old is the comet 67P? Over...
a) 3 billion years
b) 4 billion years
c) 4.5 billion years



5 Which of these is a moon of Saturn?
a) Callisto
b) Titania
c) Enceladus

3 In what year were Pulsars discovered?
a) 1965 b) 1967 c) 1968



6 This 4d stamp was issued in what year?
a) 1965 b) 1966 c) 1967



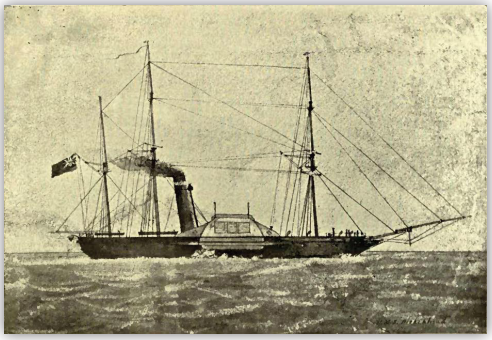
How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Visions of the Universe Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to claudia.lee@royalmail.com.
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Visions of the Universe Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 March 2020.
November solutions – Xmas Quiz 1)a 2)b 3)a 4)b 5)c
Winners David Bowcock, Leeds; Wim Dols, The Netherlands; Edward H Parton, Derbyshire; Mrs L Tibbs, Merseyside; J Matthews, Morayshire.

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.

Women and

The maritime convention of loading lifeboats – women and children first, is a long established practice that can be traced back to the Victorian era, and specifically the *Birkenhead* disaster of 1852. It's an account of chivalry that's inspired painters and poets as well as setting the standard for seafaring captains and officers into the 21st century.

HMS Birkenhead, named after the town in Cheshire where she was built, was a British troopship – one of the earliest iron-hulled, paddle steamers. She set sail from Portsmouth in January 1852 bound for the Cape via southern Ireland with several regiments on board to bolster the forces during the Kaffir War. Having swiftly navigated the Atlantic, the ship arrived in Simon's Bay near Cape Town on 23 February. There, she docked for two days and, having loaded supplies, the ship with approximately 643 men, women and children onboard continued its journey. Ship Captain Robert Salmond, whose family naval heritage dated back to Elizabethan times, was given instructions to hasten to the destination of Algoa Bay. To comply with the order he sailed close to the coastline which proved to be a fateful decision. Shortly before 2am on 26 February, whilst travelling at eight knots *HMS Birkenhead* struck a submerged rock off aptly named Danger Point near Gansbaai South Africa. The ship's hull was torn open, and seawater flooded the front section of the lower troop deck taking the lives of hundreds of soldiers as they slept.



A contemporary painting of *HMS Birkenhead. She* was driven by two large 564 horse-power steam engines driving a pair of 20 foot paddle wheels and three sailing masts. Launched in 1845 she was a modern vessel, larger, more comfortable and swifter than the typical wooden sail powered troopships of her era. She had a top speed of ten knots, able to make the trip from Britain to the Cape in just 37 days. Her iron-hull included twelve airtight compartments separated by strong bulkheads

The surviving men scrambled to the deck where the most senior officer on board, Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Seton serving in the 74th Royal Highland Fusiliers took charge of military personnel – encouraging them to remain cool and disciplined. Distress rockets were fired to no avail. Due to poorly maintained lowering gear, two of the *Birkenhead's* lifeboats were rendered inoperable, leaving just the cutter and two other small boats – woefully inadequate for everyone to escape the sinking vessel. Consequently the naval tradition of women and children first was inaugurated with several being rowed away to safety. In a bid to dislodge the ship from the rock, Captain Salmond ordered the engines in reverse – only to inflict further damage to the *Birkenhead* and seal its fate. With the ship now breaking up Salmond ordered the horses be thrown overboard (eight of the nine managed to swim ashore) and for the men to jump overboard and swim for the lifeboats.

However Colonel Seton was acutely aware that adding more weight to the small lifeboats would result in them being perilously overloaded, and so he shouted to his men: 'the cutter with the women and children, it will be

children first!



Image: Williamson Art Gallery & Museum

Wreck of HMS Birkenhead by Thomas Marie Madawaska Hemy (1852–1937)

swamped, I implore you not to do this thing, I ask that you stand fast'. And so as the ship broke up around them, Seton's troops bravely stood to attention in what became known as the 'Birkenhead Drill'. A surviving officer Captain Edward Wright of the 91st regiment wrote 'everyone did as was directed and there was not a murmur or cry among them. All received their orders and carried them out as if they were embarking instead of going to the bottom'.

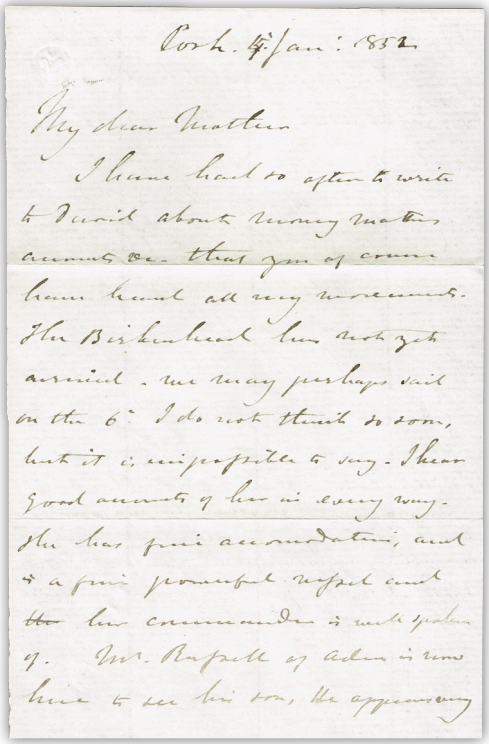


Lieutenant-Colonel, Alexander Seton (1814–1852), was born at Mounie in Aberdeenshire on 4 October 1814. He was educated at home until the age of fifteen, and then studied mathematics and chemistry for some months under Ferdinando Foggi at Pisa. On 23 November 1832 he was gazetted second lieutenant (by purchase) in the 21st (Royal North British Fusiliers). The following year he was sent with part of his regiment to the Australian colonies. He returned to Scotland on leave in 1838, and was promoted to a first lieutenancy (by purchase) on 2 March. He re-joined his regiment in India, and received a company on 14 January 1842 when promoted to Captain (without purchase). Shortly after he exchanged into the 74th, (Royal Highland Fusiliers) and was stationed at Chatham. He studied there for two years in the senior department of the Royal Military College, and in November 1847 received a first-class certificate. In 1849 he proceeded to Ireland as assistant deputy quartermaster-general of the forces there. He held this post until 24 May 1850, when he was promoted to a majority (purchased). On 7 November 1851 he obtained the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and about the same time was ordered to take command of the drafts destined for the Cape of Good Hope, where his regiment was engaged in the Kaffir war. He sailed from the Cove of Cork, Ireland on 7 January 1852 on the steam troopship *Birkenhead*. The ship put in to Madeira, Sierra Leone, St Helena on 9 February and Simon's Bay on 23 February before embarking on her final voyage two days later to Port Elizabeth in Algoa Bay – which of course ended in tragedy

QV 1d embossed pink prepaid envelope cancelled with an 1844 Irish, diamond cancellation, Courtmacsherry (Cork) 158. The letter is from Alex Seton to the addressee – his mother, Mrs Seton, 9 Brighton Crescent, Portobello, Edinburgh

Below: Letter from Alexander Seton written in Cork, dated 4 January 1852, before he embarked on the troopship *Birkenhead*. (The letter is quoted on page 129 of *A Deathless Story or the Birkenhead and its Heroes* by Addison and Matthews, 1906, as having a 'foreboding' of what was about to happen)

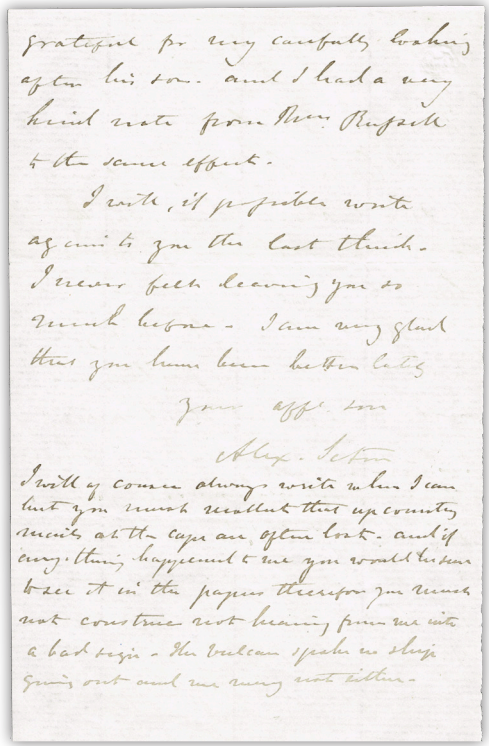




Cork. 4th Jan: 1852

My dear Mother

I have had so often to write to David about money matters accounts etc. that you of course have heard all my movements. The Birkenhead has not yet arrived. We may perhaps sail on the 6th I do not think so soon, but it is impossible to say. I hear good accounts of her in every way. She has fine accommodation, and is a fine powerful vessel and her Commander is well spoken of. Mr. Russell of Aden is now here to see his son. He appears very grateful for my carefully looking after his son and I had a very kind note from Mrs Russell to the same effect. I will, if possible write again to you the last (?) I never felt leaving you so much before. I am very glad that you have been better lately. Your affectionate son Alex Seton. I will of course always write when I can but you must recollect that up country mails at the Cape are often lost and if anything happened to me you would be sure to see it in the papers therefore you must not construe not hearing from me with a bad sign – The Vulcan (?) no ships going out and we may not either.



My dear mother, I have had so often to write to David (brother) about money matters accounts etc., that you of course have heard all my movements. The Birkenhead has not yet arrived. We may perhaps sail on the 6th. I do not think so soon, but it is impossible to say. I hear good accounts of her in every way. She has fine accommodation; and is a fine powerful vessel and her Commander is well spoken of. Mr Russell of Aden is now here to see his son. He appears very grateful for my carefully looking after his son and I had a very kind note from Mrs Russell to the same effect. I will, if possible write again to you the last (?) I never felt leaving you so much before. I am very glad that you have been better lately. Your affectionate son Alex Seton. I will of course always write when I can but you must recollect that up country mails at the Cape are often lost and if anything happened to me you would be sure to see it in the papers therefore you must not construe not hearing from me with a bad sign – The Vulcan (?) no ships going out and we may not either.

Alex Seton wrote home to his mother from Sierra Leone on 29 January, sadly, she didn't receive the letter until after his untimely death



Rear of cover has a typical Irish country post-town postmark – Cork, dated 4 January 1852; handstamp 5 January 1852 (red); back-stamp Edinburgh 6 January 1852 (red water-colour ink applied with a wooden stamp); receiving mark Portobello, 6 January 1852

The *Birkenhead* sunk some 25 minutes after impact with the rock. Alex Seton is thought to have been killed by falling wreckage, many were sucked down as the ship descended to the seabed. Eyewitness accounts also revealed that several men were horrifically taken by great white sharks. However 193 survived – including all the women and children. Rather belatedly in 1895, the Danger Point Lighthouse was built, providing more security for ships sailing the dangerous coastline. The *Birkenhead* disaster is the first documented example of using the protocol 'women and children first' when loading lifeboats. Although this hasn't been officially codified in maritime law, the general principle endures and is globally recognised – that aid be given to the most vulnerable first.

The conduct of Seton and his soldiers aboard the *Birkenhead* has been esteemed as the epitome of discipline and self-sacrifice. Such was the impression that the event made on Emperor of Prussia Frederick William IV, that he had the account read out to every regiment in his army. Today both in England and South Africa there are several monuments paying tribute to the victims of the *Birkenhead*, and respect to the soldiers for their remarkable spirit of altruism as personified by Alex Seton. A wooden tablet was inscribed at Royal Hospital, Chelsea by command of Queen Victoria, that honours Seton and his men 'to record heroic constancy and unbroken discipline.' The gallantry of Seton and his men was further etched in history by Rudyard Kipling in his poem *Soldier an' Sailor too* –

'But to stand an' be still to the Birken'ead drill
is a damn tough bullet to chew,
An' they done it the Jollies, 'Er Majesty's Jollies,
soldier an' sailor too!'

Article by Ian Boardman

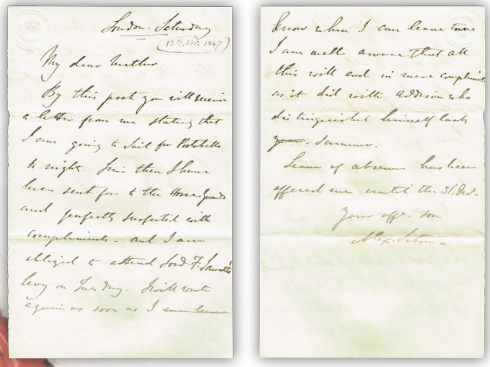
Cover bearing a QV 1d Penny Red imperforate EB blue paper. Tied with an 1844 London inland section cancellation, Chelsea (11). The letter is from Alex Seton to the addressee – his mother, Mrs Seton, Bellfield, Portobello, Edinburgh



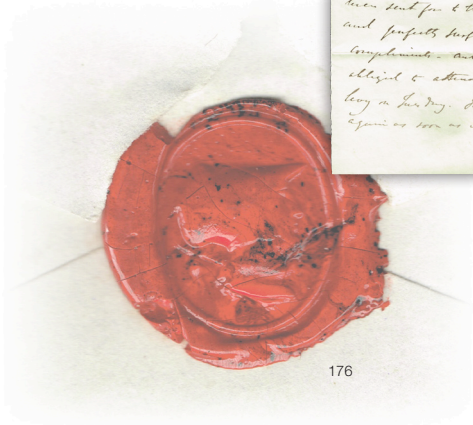
The back has a faint red Maltese Cross Charing Cross date stamp (CX12 in use from 5 April 1846 to 20 October 1848) over stamped by an oblong Portobello 14 November 1847 receiving mark. Also a Red Edinburgh 14 November 1847 backstamp and an unbroken wax seal with the head of Achilles



The letter from Alexander Seton dated 13 November 1847 follows his army staff examinations – as a Captain in the 74th Highlanders, at Sandhurst



My Dear Mother, By this post you will receive a letter from me stating that I am going to sail for Portobello to-night. Since then I have been sent for to the Horse Guards and perfectly surfeited with compliments and I am obliged to attend Lord F S(?) levy on Tuesday. I will write again as soon as I know when I can leave town. I am well aware that all this will end in mere compliments as it did with Addison who distinguished himself last summer. Leave of absence has been offered me until the 31st Dec. Your affectionate son Alex Seton



Charles Kerr Renwick (1823-1863) was the Assistant Chief Engineer on duty when the *Birkenhead* struck the rocks. Renwick gave the following verbal testimony to David Seton (Alex's brother) in October 1852, and later formalised it in writing: 'Colonel Seton was perfectly cool and collected during the whole time of the wreck. The Colonel himself superintended the embarkation of the women and children into the boats, standing by and directing as they were passed down. At a later period, when the men were advised to swim to the boats, then lying at a short distance from the wreck, Colonel Seton called to them not to do so, as it would only swamp the boats and drown the women and children'



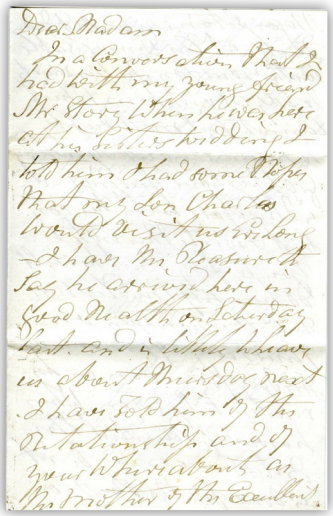
Cover of October 1852 with a QV 1d imperforate Penny Red LD (SG8). Tied with a rectangular 1844 Scottish town cancellation (187 Jedburgh). The reverse has an oblong Jedburgh 11 October 1852 postmark. Red Edinburgh 12 October 1852 backstamp and Portobello afternoon 13 October 1852 receiving mark

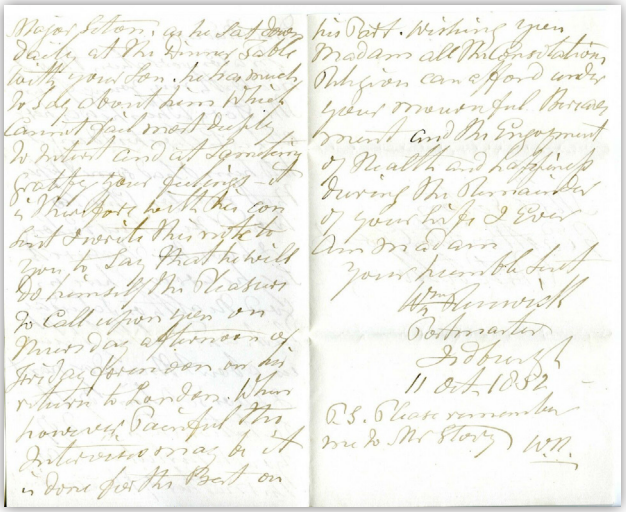
Letter of October 1852 to Alex Seton's mother, from Mr William Renwick, Postmaster of Jedburgh. He writes to arrange a meeting for her and his son Charles K Renwick RN (survivor of the *HMS Birkenhead* disaster)

'…I have told him of the relationship and of your whereabouts as the Mother of the excellent Major Seton, as he sat down daily at the dinner table with your son. He has much to say about him which cannot fail most deeply to interest and at same time gratify your feelings…'

'…He will do himself the pleasure to call upon you on Thursday afternoon or Friday forenoon on his return to London.'

'…Wishing you Madam all the consolations religion can afford under your mournful burden…'


Dear Madam
In a Conversation that I had with my young friend Mr Story when [illegible] at his sister's wedding I told him I had some hopes that my son Charles would visit Jedburgh — I have Mr Beaston[illegible] say he arrives here in Good Health on Saturday last and is likely to leave us about Thursday next I have told him of the Relationship and of your Whereabouts as the Mother of the Excellent


Major Seton, as he sat down daily at the Dinner Table with your Son, he has much to say about him which cannot fail most deeply to interest and at same time gratify your feelings — I have also written to you to say that he will do himself the Pleasure to call upon you on Thursday afternoon or Friday forenoon on his return to London. When however such visit may be it is done for the best on his part. Wishing you Madam all the Consolations Religion can afford under your mournful Bereavement and the Enjoyment of Health and happiness during the remainder of your days I Ever Am Madam Your humble Servt Wm Renwick Postmaster
Jedburgh
11 Oct 1852
PS. Please remember me to Mr Story Wm.

Cover bearing a perforated QV 1d Penny Red Star GD cancelled with an oblong CHARLOTTE PLACE stamp (used 26 October 1854 to April 1858) with a MORE TO PAY stamp and 'Above ½oz' stamp. Rear has a faint Edinburgh handstamp and Portobello 23 April receiving mark. The envelope addressed to Alex Seton's mother, housed a letter from Miss Helen Walker of Hawthornden. Helen enclosed a letter from Catherine Sinclair – a Scottish novelist and writer of children's literature which departed from the moralising approach common in that period. She is credited with discovering that the author of the anonymous Waverley Novels was Sir Walter Scott





Cover bearing a 1d Penny Red imperforate PC (SG8). Cancelled with a tied 1844 London Brompton (37) cancellation. Rear has an official red 20 November 1852 postmark, a red Edinburgh 21 November 1852 handstamp and a Portobello 22 November 1852 receiving handstamp. The red seal is marked 'Home'. The reverse also has a faint Clapham handstamp. The envelope housed a letter relating to the *Birkenhead* shipping disaster from Lt. General Sir William Francis Napier to Alex Seton's brother – David Seton (1817-1894) Army Ensign (November 1836) 93rd Sutherland Highlanders Lieutenant April 1841, and transferred to 49th Regt 1846 and served during the Irish famine before retiring in 1849

Cover bearing a QV 1d Penny Red Star perforated IG. Tied with a dual postmark Gosport (326) and 6 May 1857. The reverse of envelope has a red official postmark 7 May 1857; a red round Edinburgh 8 May 1857 backstamp; and a Portobello 8 May 1857 receiving handstamp. Addressee: David Seton Esq, 9 Brighton Crescent Portobello Edinburgh. The envelope contained correspondence from Colour Sergeant John Drake (1820-1905), Royal Marines Light Infantry a hero and survivor of the *HMS Birkenhead* disaster. He was standing on the forecastle when the ship struck the rock and remained on the scene saving lives. His account relating to Alex Seton is recorded in *A Deathless Story or the Birkenhead and its Heroes:* 'I heard him distinctly give orders to the various officers that soon surrounded him to order the troops to fall in... I distinctly heard him say to the troops, *'Silence, men, steady !'* I then saw him take up a position on the port gangway, where he continued to superintend the embarkation of the women and children in the boats, preventing the men getting into them (several of whom attempted to do so)







Cover bearing a QV 1d Penny Red Star BF. Cancelled with an 1844 London cancellation Highgate (1) . The addressee is David Seton Esq, 9 Brighton Crescent, Portobello, Edinburgh. Rear has a faint Clapham handstamp; a faint red Edinburgh 1856 backstamp as well as two other faint 1856 handstamps – one of which is a receiving mark at Portobello. The hand writing on the envelope is that of Lt General Sir William Napier. The envelope housed a letter clarifying reports relating to the *Birkenhead* disaster. He had previously failed to acknowledge Alex Seton's role in the tragedy, in a letter he wrote to *The Times*

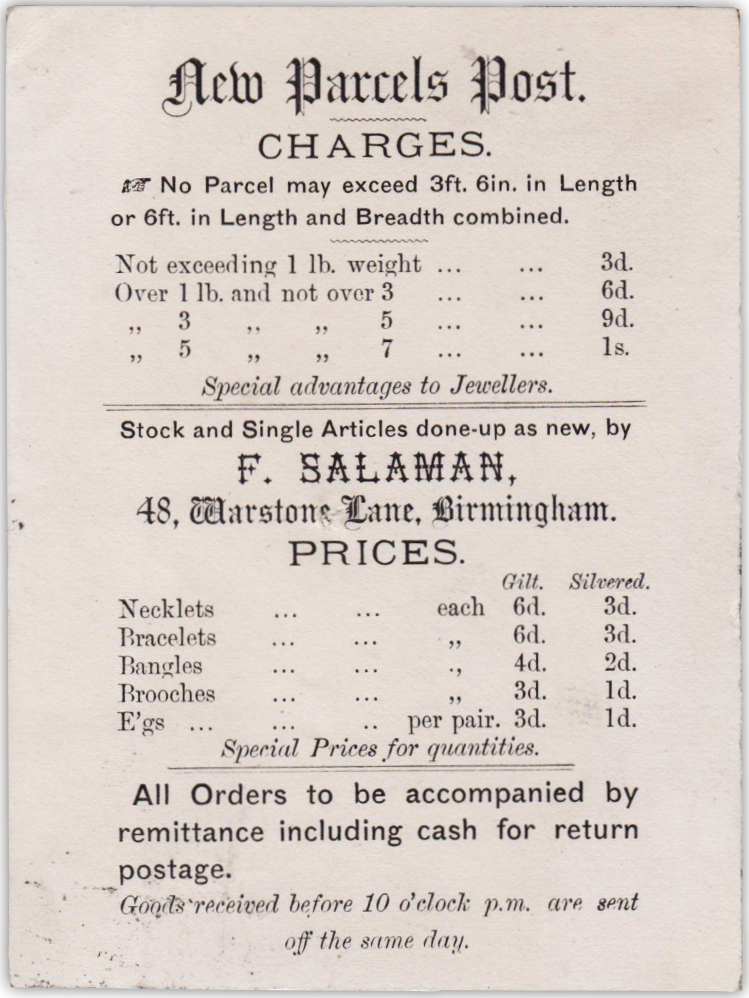
Plugging the Parcels Post

Parcel carriage has never been part of the postal monopoly, and indeed for a long while the Post Office was content to leave the task to the private sector. However, after the formation of the Postal Union it became necessary for member countries to handle this class of traffic within their official postal systems. A 'Parcels Post' (from the name of which the pedantic and fiddly final 's' was soon dropped) was introduced on 1 August 1883, and rapidly became popular with the public. Although it was well advertised by the Post Office itself, there were those who were willing to give it a bit of help when it suited them.

This printed card was posted by a Birmingham businessman a week after the start of the service, presumably as part of a batch sent out to existing or potential customers – the addressee is John Dyson, a Leeds watchmaker and jeweller who in 1883 was well on his way to becoming a wealthy local notable. The sender, F Salaman, appears to have been offering to quote for wholesale jewellery supplies, and may have been related to the Birmingham silversmith Joseph Salaman.

The novel feature of the text on the card is, however, that it starts with a list of rules and charges for the 'New Parcels Post', with a contention that it was of 'Special advantages to Jewellers' – possibly on the reasoning that postage of a few pence for weights of pounds rather than ounces would come in handy. Their stock was, after all, made with heavy metals, with plenty of packaging. Mind you, registration could not be used with the new service until 1891, so security would have been somewhat lacking – but then again, the prices quoted on





New Parcels Post.

CHARGES.

☞ No Parcel may exceed 3ft. 6in. in Length or 6ft. in Length and Breadth combined.

Not exceeding 1 lb. weight		3d.
Over 1 lb. and not over 3		6d.
„ 3 „ „ 5		9d.
„ 5 „ „ 7		1s.

Special advantages to Jewellers.

Stock and Single Articles done-up as new, by

F. SALAMAN,

48, Warstone Lane, Birmingham.

PRICES.

		Gilt.	*Silvered.*
Necklets	each	6d.	3d.
Bracelets	„	6d.	3d.
Bangles	„	4d.	2d.
Brooches	„	3d.	1d.
E'gs	per pair.	3d.	1d.

Special Prices for quantities.

All Orders to be accompanied by remittance including cash for return postage.

Goods received before 10 o'clock p.m. are sent off the same day.

Printed card of 1883 facilitating cross-fertilisation promotion of wholesale jewellery and Parcels Post

the card suggested that Mr Salaman was operating at the Victorian equivalent of what might be called the Ratner end of the market anyway. Still, it's rather unusual to find somebody plugging a new postal service as part of their own advertising material!

Incidentally, while the card itself is in the general form of a postcard, it didn't actually count as one as far as the Post Office were concerned – at the time, the only cards that qualified for the reduced ½d postcard rate were the pre-stamped stationery ones. However, the printed matter rate was also ½d, so an item such as this with a wholly typeset message was perfectly acceptable with a halfpenny stamp stuck on it (in this case the first surface printed version in green, used from 1880-84, and cancelled here with one of the early 'squared circles'). The format was a convenient one and popularised by the introduction of postcards in 1870, and although it wasn't possible to stick an adhesive stamp on your own piece of card and have it treated as a postcard until 1894, 'forerunners' of this type are occasionally seen ●

By Maurice Buxton a long-term collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society – www.gbps.org.uk.



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

1 February Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 6 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, 0116 235 0441.

Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 07540 144433, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

2 February Wolverhampton Stamp & Postcard Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Road, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.

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.

Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, The Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 0ST, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

8 February Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Cardiff Stamp & Postcard Fair, Cardiff City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington1@hotmail.co.uk.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry above)

Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 3 stamp dealers & 20 postcard dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

9 February Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Bristol Stamp & Postcard History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, 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.

15 February Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry above)

Exeter Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

16 February Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 01827 63367, sales@stampsgb.co.uk.

Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Stembrook Shopping Arcade, Stembrook, Dover CT16 1PF, 9am to 2pm, 10+ dealers, hot & cold refreshments all day. Enquiries: Jan & Keith Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.

Torquay Stamp & Postcard Fair, Torquay Boys' Grammar School, Shiphay Manor Drive, Torquay TQ2 7EL, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489.

22 February Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 182)

East Malling Stamp Fair, East Malling Village Hall, New Road, East Malling ME19 6DD, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 14 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Mike Thompson, 01474 325507.

Guildford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Onslow GU2 7QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

23 February Shifnal Stamp Fair, Shifnal Village Hall, Ashton Street, Shifnal TF11 8DZ, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

25 February Exeter Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Collyer, 07966 565151, simoncollyer289@btinternet.com.

29 February Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 182)

1 March Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

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 & Postcard Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Wolverhampton Stamp & Postcard Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Road, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.

7 March Inverurie - Grampian Stamp & Postcard Fair, Garioch Heritage Centre, Loco Works Road, Inverurie AB51 4FY, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society will meet at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, from 11am on Saturday 22 February for two events. Maurice Buxton will present on 'The Card Post' from 11am, and after lunch, the society competitions will commence from 2pm. Prospective new members are always welcome to attend.

The Royal Philatelic Society London meetings at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW include a regional display by members of the Thames Valley Region from 1pm on Thursday 6 February, a display by Colin Hoffman FRPSL on 'Rhodesia Postal History' on Thursday 20 February from 1pm, and a PowerPoint display at 5pm on Thursday 5 March by Bob Galland FRPSL entitled 'Evolution of the British Franking System'. If you would wish to attend as a non-member, then please make a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Adminstration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044.

The National Philatelic Society meetings at the Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL from 2.15pm, are on Saturday 8 February with 'Newfoundland', presented by Cliff Hurst, and 'Dominica' with Simon Richards FRPSL on Saturday 14 March. If you haven't yet attended a meeting of this society, you are most welcome to do so.

Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

Weston-super-Mare - Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XU, 10am to 4pm.
Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 182)

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

Launceston Stamp & Postcard Fair, Central Methodist Hall, Castle Street, Launceston PL15 8BA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Evelyn Sandercock, 01566 772846.

8 March Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9.30am 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.

11 March Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm.
Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

14 March 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, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.

Upminster Stamp Fair, St. Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

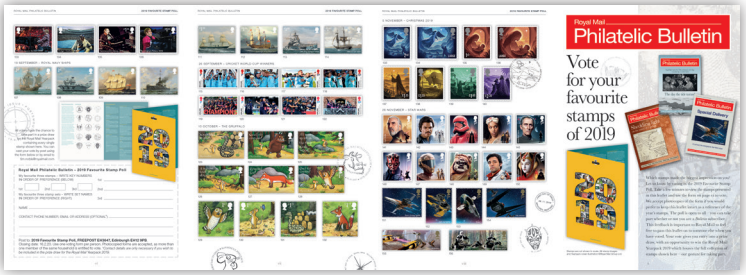
Laindon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 182)

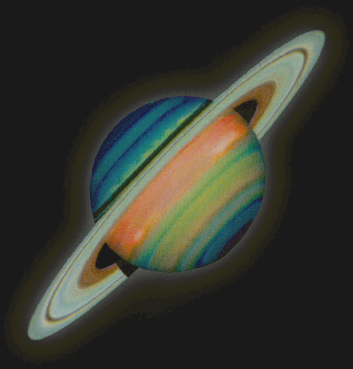
Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available.
Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

15 March Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available.
Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 01827 63367, sales@stampsgb.co.uk.

Don't forget to vote for your favourite stamps of 2019



The annual stamp poll closes 16 February



astronomy



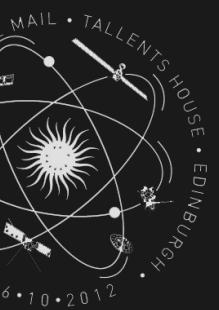
astrophilately

thematic

astrophysics

Ever since the government of Brazil issued the first stamp with an astronomy theme in 1887 – depicting the Southern Cross, a vast array of philatelic items have been produced on the same theme. Postal bureaux around the world have created a plethora of collectible items highlighting the discoveries that are giving us greater insight into the celestial lights. As man ventured into space with the Apollo projects and subsequent moon landings, a whole new area of philatelic interest was sparked for items with direct connections to space missions – astrophilately. This is a class now recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie.

Britain of course has contributed greatly to space science and this is reflected in the tributes paid by Royal Mail with a variety of stamp issues including the latest Visions of the Universe set which is sure to appeal to a broad spectrum of collectors. The following pages are dedicated to a diverse display of UK philatelic items which have celebrated space travel and themes akin – astronomy and astrophysics.





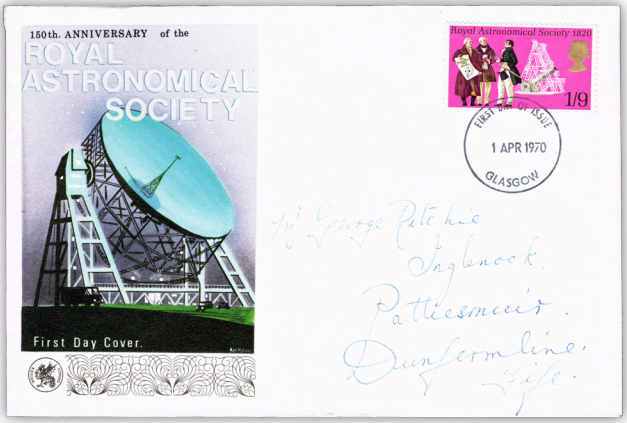
19 September 1966 – Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, 4d (British Technology)
Right: cover by Stuart's of Southampton, commemorating the landing on the moon. Macclesfield, Cheshire CDS 21 July 1969 and two Jodrell Bank magenta cachets





1 April 1970 – Sir William Herschel, Francis Baily, Sir John Herschel and Telescope, 1s 9d (General Anniversaries – 150 years of the Royal Astronomical Society)

Right: Wessex First Day Cover celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Royal Astronomical Society. Glasgow CDS 1 April 1970





8 September 1982 – Modern Technological Aids, 26p (Information Technology)

18 June 1985 – 'Marecs A' Communications Satellite and Disk Aerials, 31p (Safety at Sea)



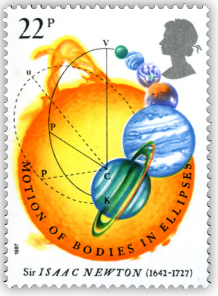








18 February 1986 – Dr Edmond Halley as Comet, 17p; Giotto Spacecraft approaching Comet, 22p; 'Twice in a Lifetime', 31p; Comet orbiting Sun and Planets, 34p (Halley's Comet)



24 March1987 – Motion of Bodies in Ellipses, 22p (Sir Isaac Newton)





Above: 16 October 1990 – Armagh Observatory, Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope and La Palma Telescope, 22p; Newton's Moon and Tides Diagram with Early Telescopes, 26p; Greenwich Old Observatory and Early Astronomical Equipment, 31p; Stonehenge, Gyroscope and Navigating by Stars, 37p (Astronomy)

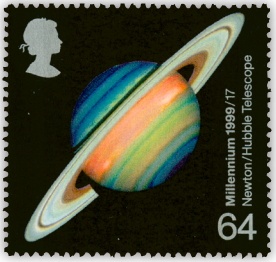
Left: Royal Mail First Day Cover with Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh alternative handstamp



23 April 1991 – Man looking at space – left, 22p; Man looking at space – right, 22p; Space looking at man – left, 37p; Space looking at man – right, 37p (Europe in Space)

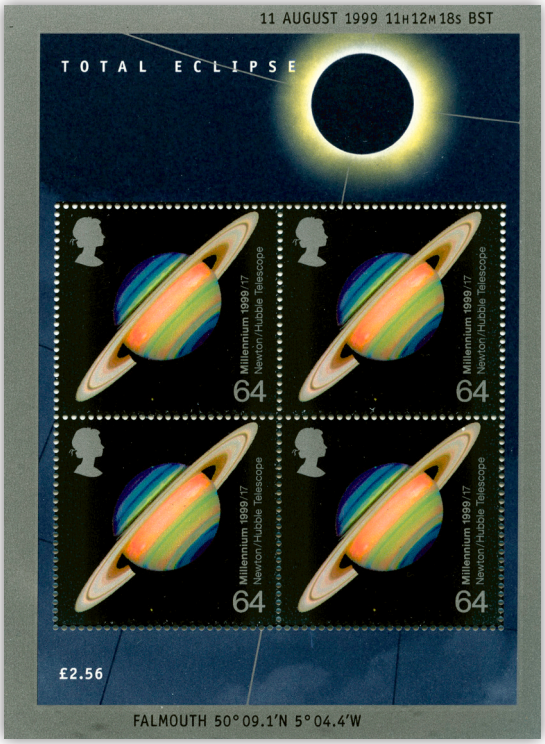


Stuart's of Southampton, Europe in Space, First Day of Issue souvenir



3 August 1999 – Newton/Hubble Telescope, 64p (Scientists Tale – Millennium Series)

Right:
11 August 1999 Total Eclipse Miniature Sheet



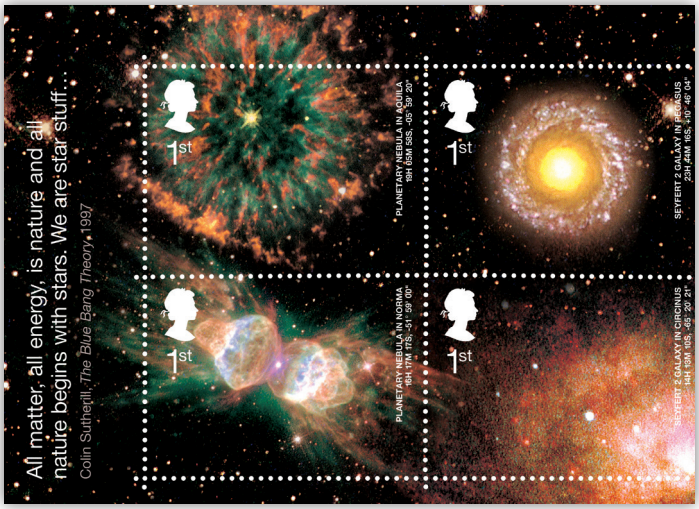


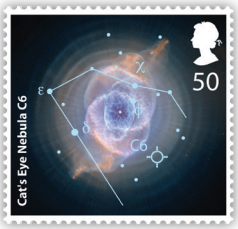




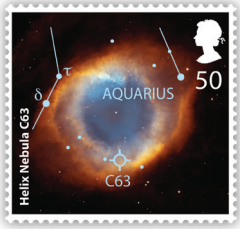


24 September 2002 – Planetary nebula in Aquila, 1st Class; Seyfert 2 galaxy in Pegasus, 1st Class; Planetary nebula in Norma, 1st Class; Seyfert 2 galaxy in Circinus, 1st Class. (Astronomy) Below: Astronomy Miniature Sheet





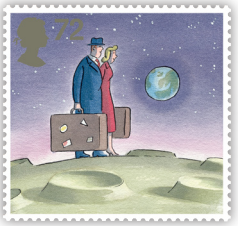
13 February 2007 – Cat's Eye Nebula C6, 50p; Eskimo Nebula C39, 1st Class; Flaming Star Nebula C31, 72p (The Sky at Night)



Helix Nebula C63, 50p; Saturn Nebula C55, 1st Class; The Spindle C53, 72p



18 January 2000 – Night Sky, 26p (Millennium Projects – part 1, Above and Beyond)



13 February 2007 – Space Travel, 72p (World of Invention)

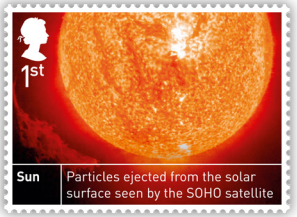


8 October 2009 – Sir Martin Ryle, 1st Class (Eminent Britons)



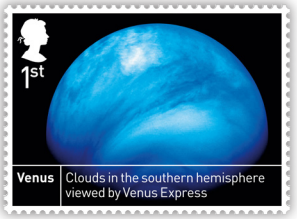
13 October 2011 – Jodrell Bank, 1st Class (A to Z of the UK – part 1)

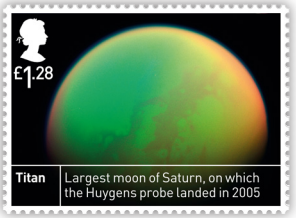












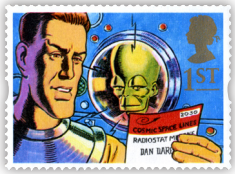
16 October 2012 – Mars, 77p; Lutetia, 77p (Space Science)

Sun, 1st Class; Venus, 1st Class

Saturn, £1.28; Titan, £1.28



Cover by Stuart's of Southampton commemorating the landing on the moon. Machin 4d is cancelled with Southampton, CDS 21 July 1969. The cover is also updated with Apollo 11 1969, 25th Anniversary 1994 cachet. The Dan Dare stamp is cancelled with THE EAGLE HAS LANDED handstamp dated 21 July 1994



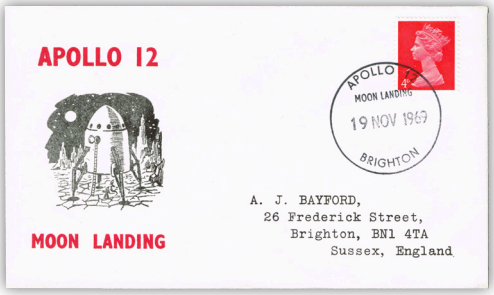
1 February 1994 – Dan Dare and the Mekon, 1st Class (Greetings – Messages)



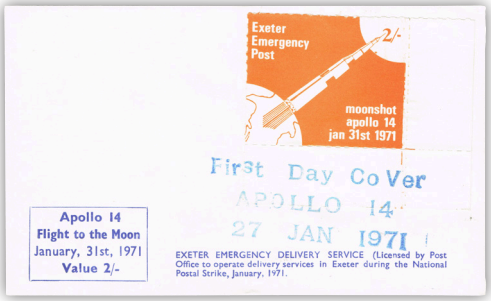
Cover by Southampton City Council: First man on the moon. The Machin 5d is cancelled with Southampton, CDS 21 July 1969



Cover by Solent Covers: The first moon landing. The Vickers FB-27 Vimy Aircraft 5d is cancelled with Weybridge CDS 20 July 1969. The magenta cachet links the Alcock and Brown flight of 1919 with the Apollo 11 crew's moon landing 50 years later



Cover commemorating the less celebrated Apollo 12 moon landing. The Machin 4d is cancelled with a Brighton CDS 19 November 1969

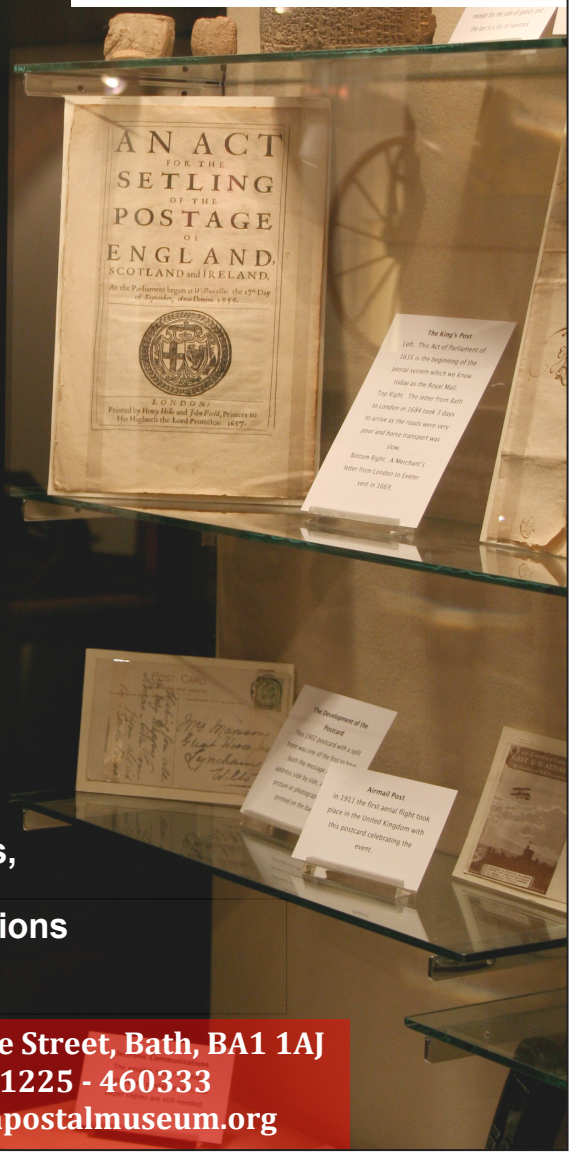


Cover by the Exeter Emergency Delivery Service generating anticipation for the Apollo 14 launch. The service was licensed to operate by the Post Office during the postal strike of 1971

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New Issues and Withdrawals

5 February — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2019: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



11 February — **Issue** Visions of the Universe: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (8 in set). First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60, pane two: 2 x 5p, 2 x 10p, 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives, pane three: 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60, pane four: 2 x 1p, 4 x 2p, 2 x £1.35. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Souvenir Pack. Framed Stamps. Framed Stamps (signed limited edition).

26 February — **Withdrawal** Star Wars: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



17 March — **Issue** James Bond: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.60 – 2 x horizontal se-tenant strips). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 2 x £1.60, pane two: 3 x 1st Class, 1 x 1.60, pane three: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, pane four: 2 x 2p, 2 x 2nd Class Machin Definitives, 2 x 2nd Class Scottish Saltire Definitives, 2 x 1st Class Union Jack Definitives. Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book. Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin Definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Press sheet. Generic Sheet (5 x 1st Class, 5 x £1.60 Special Stamps). Character Stamp Sets. Postcards (11 in set). Framed Stamps. Framed Miniature Sheet. Framed Collector Sheet. Framed Prints (various).

31 March — **Withdrawal** Lunar New Year: Year of the Pig Generic Sheet.



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