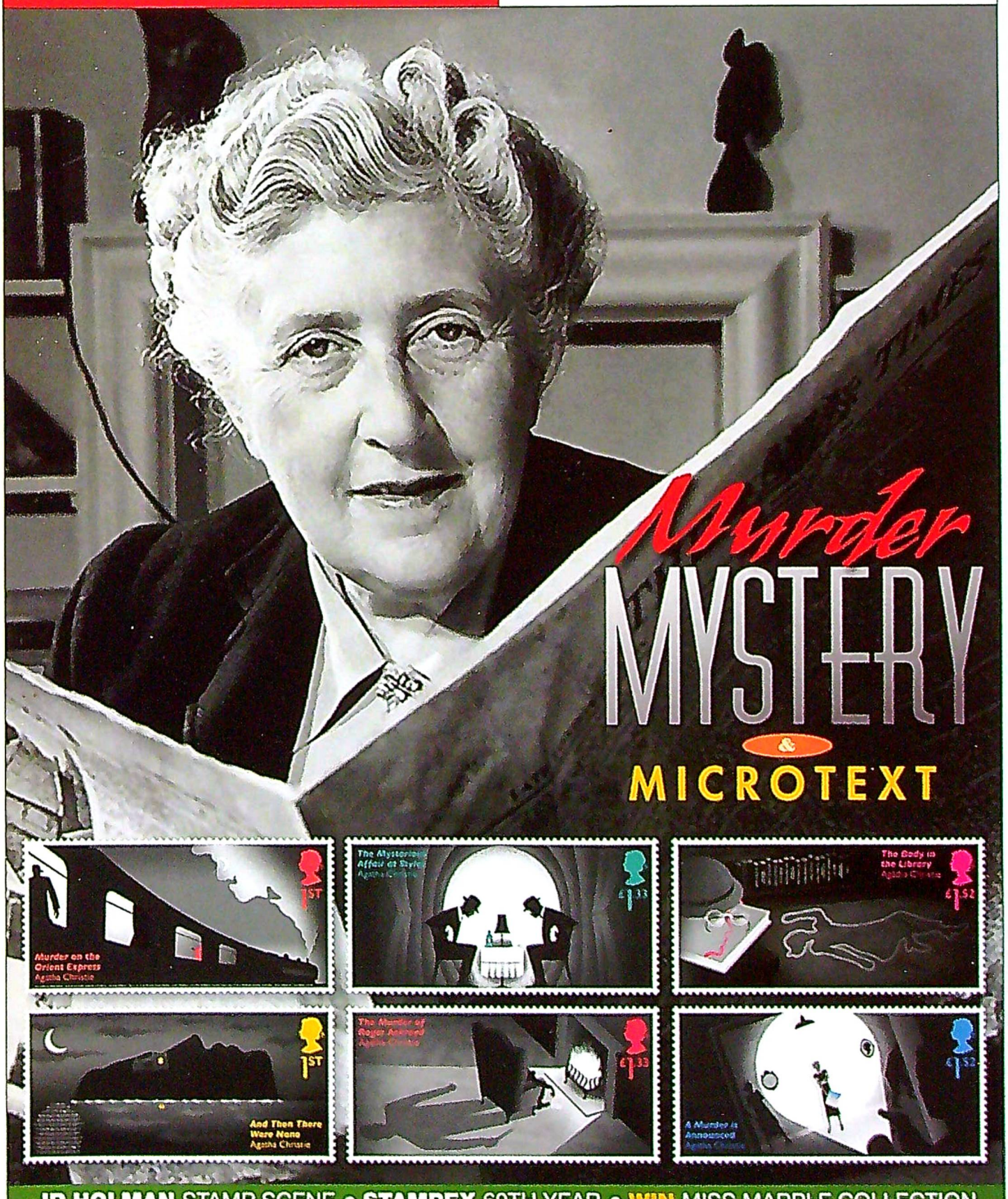
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

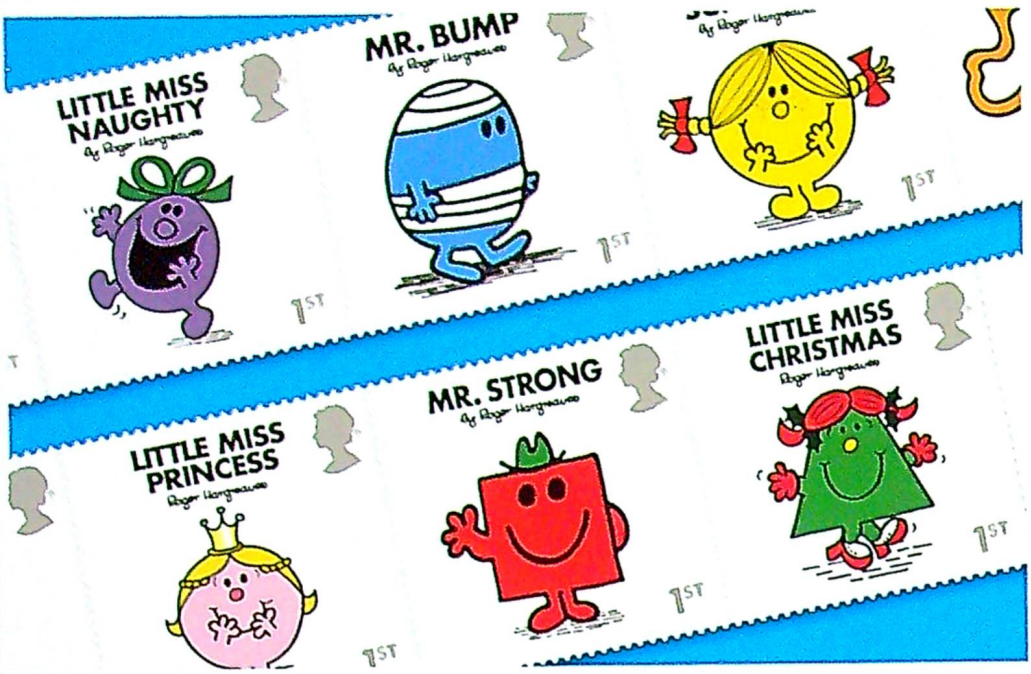
VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1 | SEPTEMBER 2016 | £1.95

Previews: Mr. Men Little Miss • Battle of Hastings • Eddie Stobart

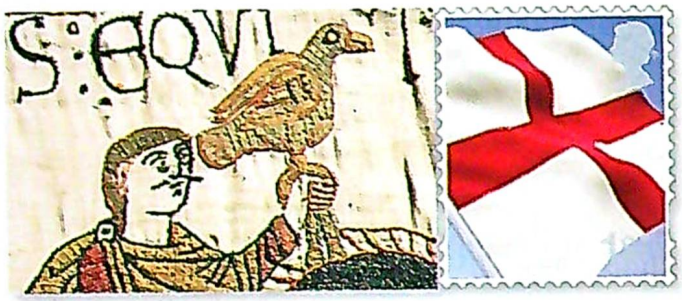


JR HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • STAMPEX 60TH YEAR • WIN MISS MARPLE COLLECTION

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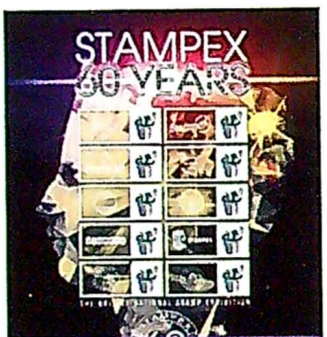
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Royal Mail Editor William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● **Price** £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail publishes online the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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Harold is history The fateful day in 1066 that ended King Harold II's rule over England is marked by the Battle of Hastings Commemorative Sheet



The brutal, bloody clash in the Sussex countryside changed the course of our nation's history forever. Now Royal Mail commemorates the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings with a dramatic Commemorative Sheet. It maps the background to the battle, the engagement itself, and the aftermath. Released on 14 October, the date in 1066 when William of Normandy won the English crown from Anglo-Saxon King Harold II, the Sheet comprises ten First Class English Country Definitives with dramatic labels. The labels are as follows:

Edward The childless Edward the Confessor ruled England from 1042 to 1066. He was the final king in the line of the House of Wessex, which had begun in the sixth century. Edward would have a close ally in Harold Godwinson, his brother-in-law.

Harold, Earl of Wessex Harold Godwinson was the richest earl in England, and he claimed the crown on Edward's death. In this detail from the Bayeux Tapestry, he is carrying a hawk on his journey to visit William in 1064.

William William was the illegitimate son of Robert I of Normandy. In 1035, at the age of about seven, William became Duke of Normandy on Robert's death. According to Norman sources, William was promised the English throne by Edward the Confessor.

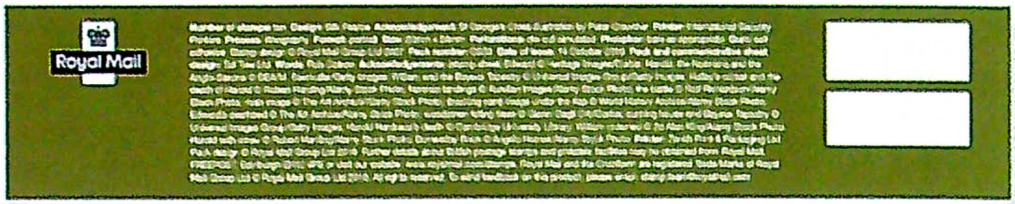


Above: the Battle of Hastings Sheet and the Pack

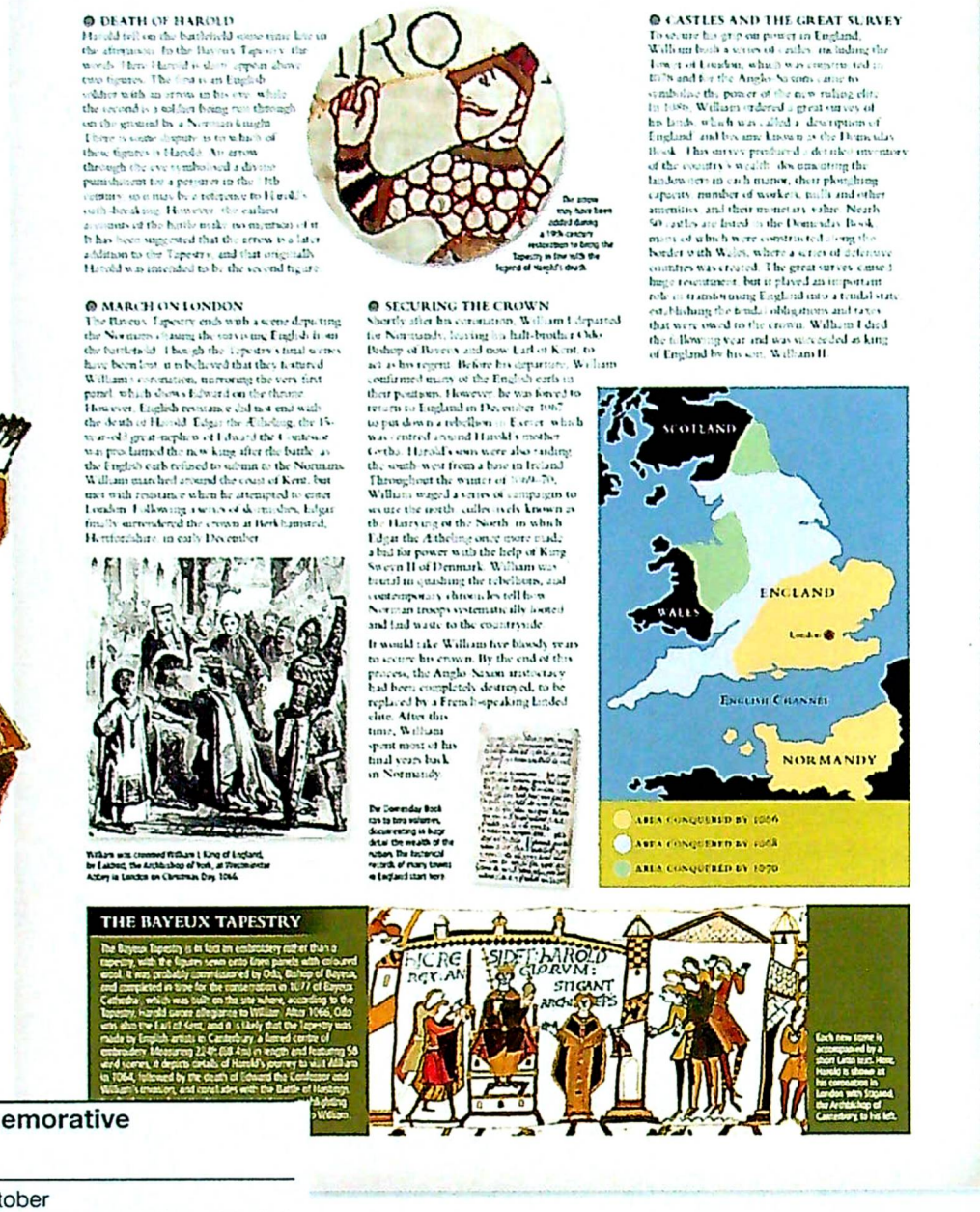
An Omen in the Sky Halley's comet appeared over England early in 1066, shining with one-quarter of the brightness of the Moon. It was widely considered to be a bad omen, and in the Tapestry a crowd is shown pointing at it fearfully following Harold's coronation.

The Normans Descended from Vikings who had settled in France, many ▸

Right: the informative Backing Card







Battle of Hastings Commemorative Sheet – Specifications

Issue date	14 October
Number of stamps	Ten First Class English Country Definitives
Sheet and Pack design	Tall Tree Ltd
Sheet format	A4
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulate
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

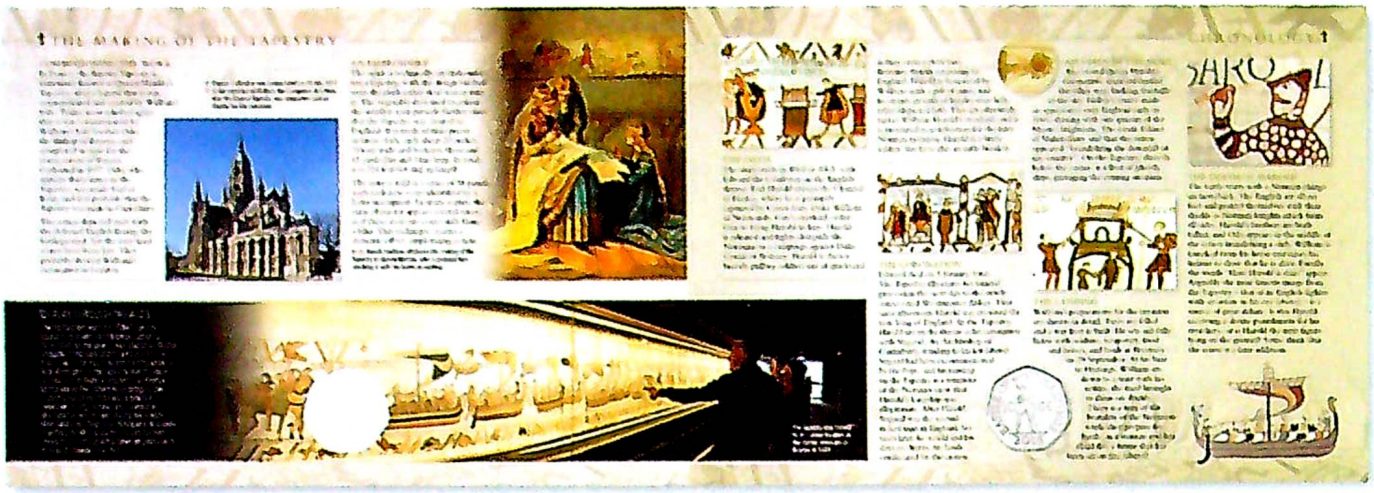
Norman knights were poor, and were thirsty for conquests. Norman soldiers were clean-shaven, which to the English made them look like priests. *The Anglo-Saxons* The Anglo-Saxons had arrived in Britain from the fifth century, soon after the Romans left. The lands they settled in became 'Angle-land', or England. In contrast to the Normans, Anglo-Saxon soldiers are portrayed as long-haired and bearded in the Bayeux Tapestry. *Norman Landings* Before the invasion, William built up a vast war fleet from nothing, carrying

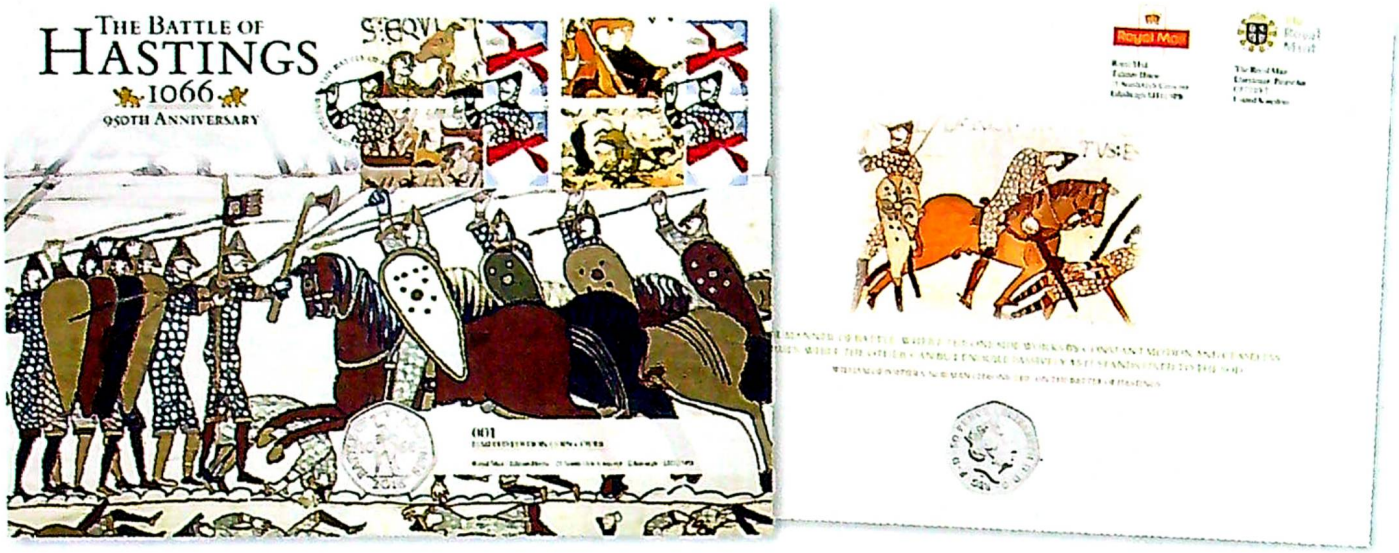


men, arms, provisions and horses across the English Channel. After bad weather had delayed the Norman army's crossing by several weeks, William's fleet landed in England on 28 September 1066.

The Battle The Battle of Hastings began at about 9am on 14 October 1066. The Tapestry illustrates the brutality of the fighting – the Normans and the Anglo-Saxons would both sustain heavy casualties – and the dead from each side fill the Bayeux Tapestry's bottom border. ▶

Above: the stamps and labels from the Battle of Hastings Commemorative Sheet





Above: the Coin Cover Envelope and Insert

Below: Coin Cover postmark



Death of Harold Harold was killed late in the afternoon. The soldier depicted in this scene may be Harold, or the arrow may be a later addition, reflecting a story that emerged around 1080, which revealed how God had punished Harold on the battlefield for his act of perjury.

Bayeux Tapestry Commissioned not long after the Battle of Hastings, the Bayeux Tapestry tells the story of William's invasion and provides a unique insight into the customs, architecture and weaponry of the period. Here, William has an open-air feast after landing in England.

Also in the issue is a Coin Cover in a limited edition of 10,000 and featuring a cupro-nickel 50p coin. The coin shows King Harold receiving the famous fatal arrow wound to his eye. The Coin Cover handstamp has the location of Battle, East Sussex, the present-day town close to the site of the confrontation between William of Normandy and Harold Godwinson, about seven miles northwest of Hastings.

You can order the £14.95 Sheet from the Tallents House address on page 32 or visit www.royalmail.com/specialsheets, quoting *Bulletin* code 16CDT •

Battle of Hastings Coin Cover – Specifications

Denomination	50p
Diameter	27.30mm
Weight	8g
Alloy	Cupro-nickel
Obverse design	Jody Clark
Reverse design	John Bergdahl

A wheel legend The Eddie Stobart Stamp Sheet reveals how a famous haulage firm with a cult following of lorry spotters keeps on trucking

Royal Mail's Eddie Stobart Stamp Sheet tells the extraordinary story of the much loved trucking legend. The limited edition Sheet, released on 30 August, features ten First Class Union Flag stamps with labels showing various Stobart vehicles and trailers in the distinctive company livery. The Presentation Folder contains a beautifully illustrated timeline focusing on pivotal moments and key individuals involved in the success of the company, which famously names its trucks and has thousands of fans who enjoy 'spot the Eddie Stobart truck' games while on the road. The labels are as follows:

The legend is born Eddie Stobart Ltd was established in 1970. The business has grown into one of the largest privately owned transport and distribution companies in the UK today, controlling over 2,500 trucks. The truck on the label is Eva Jane, a Volvo FH pulling a curtainside trailer.

High flyers Stobart Group-owned London Southend Airport has a fleet of liveried airside support vehicles. The label shows a Charlatte Baggage Truck named Julie.

On the right track Stobart Rail Infrastructure Engineering is a rail maintenance operation with trucks to transport equipment to site. On the label are four of its Scania R Series trucks.

Lightening the load Stobart walking floor trucks can automatically unload themselves. The label features Morgan Ellie, a Scania R Series.

In-cab technology The Eddie Stobart mechanical offload trucks have in-cab telematics. The vehicle on the label is called Clara May, and is a Scania R Series vehicle.

On the road Eddie Stobart also operates road trains. The truck shown is Meiriona, a Scania R Series prime mover.

Transport of delight Stobart Automotive operates a fleet ▸



Below: the Eddie Stobart Stamp Sheet is issued in a limited edition of 5000, each individually numbered

Right: stamp labels from the Eddie Stobart Stamp Sheet



Eddie Stobart Stamp Sheet – Specifications	
Date of issue	30 August
Number of stamps	Ten First Class Union Flag Stamps
Sheet and folder design	Royal Mail and Stobart Group
Union Flag Stamp design	Dick Davis/Anton Morris
Sheet format	Portrait
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive
Folder production	Zenith Print and Packaging

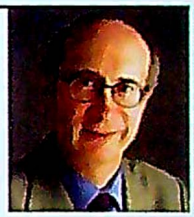
◂ of articulated car transporters. Pictured on the label are MAN transporters.

Cutting the carbon Stobart freight services offer a solution for reducing carbon emissions. The trains use Stobart's custom-made containers. On this label is a Scania R Series called Kaye Marie.

Residential The company also operates a fleet of fuel tankers. The label features fuel trucks with 43,000 litre tanker trailers.

Name that truck In the 1970s Eddie Stobart trucks began to be given female names – the first one to be named was called Twiggy.

You can order this £14.99 Sheet from the Tallents House address on page 32 or visit www.royalmail.com/specialsheets, quoting *Bulletin* code 16CDT •



Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

9 September Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

10 September Poolepex annual fair, Upton Community Centre, Poole BH24 5JA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01202 604741.

14-17 September Autumn Stampex: details on page 15.

16-18 September Cinderella Stamp Congress, hosted by Cinderella Stamp Club, at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Cinderella and Revenue stamp displays, dealers, auction. Enquiries: J Aitchison, 01279 870488, or see www.cinderellastampclub.org.uk.

24 September Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Autumn Rally, Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford DA1 2JZ.

7 October Strand Stamp Fair: see 9 September for details.

8 October Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention, South of England Showground, Ardingly RH17 6TL. Enquiries: Jim Etherington, 01273 471897.

14-15 October SCOTEX, Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH. Friday 11am to 5.30pm, Saturday 10am to 3.30pm. Organised by SPTA.

14-16 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition), Griffith Conference Centre, South Circular Road, Dublin 8, 11am to 6pm. Enquiries: info@stampa.ie.

15 October Hampex, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Fareham PO17 5AL, 10am to 4.30pm. Inter-society exhibits, junior workshop, 20 dealers. Admission £1, accompanied children free. Enquiries: 01794 514902, www.hantsfederation.org.uk.

21-26 October Philataipei international stamp exhibition, World Trade Centre, Taipei, Taiwan.

22 October Cornex, Liskeard Community College, Greenbank Road, Addington, Liskeard PL14 3EA, 10am to 4pm.

29 October Bolton Society Stamp Fair and NW Federation Convention, St Joseph's RC High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6HW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01942 813386.

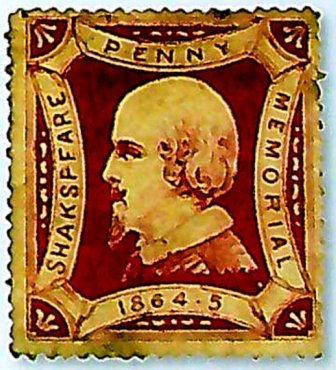
29 October Solihull Philatelic Society Stamp Fair, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 0PT, 10am to 4.30pm.

29 October Surrey Federation of Philatelic Societies Annual Event (hosted by Kingston & District Philatelic Society), Claygate Village Hall, Church Road, Claygate, Surrey KT10 0JP. Enquiries: brian.sole@btinternet.com.

29 October Autumn Stamp Essex, Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford CM2 9FH.

29 October GB Philatelic Society meeting at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. GB stamps and postal history from the late 17th century to 1900 by Ken Burr (11am), Standing in the SPECIMEN footsteps of Marcus Samuel by David Leathart (2.15pm). Enquiries: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755 •

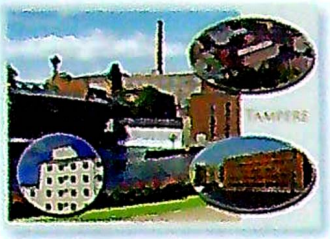




Above: a classic Cinderella stamp dating from 1864
Below: publicity for the Taipei international exhibition



Future exhibitions



Autumn Stampex will be at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 14 to 17 September. The GB Philatelic Society's meeting is on 17 September at 2.15pm and will include a display of Suffolk postal history by Tom Slemons. For more details, see 'Stampex at 60' on page 15.

The popular Scotex event takes place at the Dewars Centre, Perth on 14 to 15 October, and Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition) at Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin 8 on 14 to 16 October. The Stampa souvenir on sale at the exhibition comprises a Centenary of Easter Rising miniature sheet with exhibition overprint. Special handstamps will be used each day of the exhibition on the themes Lighthouses (14 October), Easter Rising (15th) and Dogs (16th).

The next major international of 2016 will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 21 to 26 October. Looking ahead to 2017, internationals will be held in Melbourne, Australia (30 March to 2 April), and Tampere, Finland (24 to 28 May) to mark the centenary of independence of the Republic of Finland. See www.finlandia2017.fi for further information •

The Postal Museum

Located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, The Postal Museum is near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office. It is open from Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on the second Saturday of each month (10am to 5pm). The Search Rooms at Freeling House will close at 5pm on 11 November and will reopen in new premises nearby in 2017 (date to be announced). Meanwhile staff will continue to deal with telephone and email enquiries but will not be able to undertake detailed research for enquirers. For more about the Museum see the interview with its Director Adrian Steel in the February 2016 *Bulletin* (pages 179 to 181).

The Museum's Post Office in the Community exhibition continues at the Blists Hill Victorian Town, Leggs Way, Telford TF7 5DU (see *Bulletin* May 2012, www.ironbridge.org.uk, or call 01952 884391). Online exhibitions, on The Postal Museum website include Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

The popular Pillar to Post: GPO Walking Tour takes place on 26 September, 23 October and 26 November, starting at Farringdon station at 11am. The tours last about two hours, fee payable. For details of all events see the The Postal Museum website or contact the Museum on 020 7239 2570. You can also email info@postalheritage.org.uk for a copy of the Museum Events what's on guide or to book for tours or talks. The Postal Museum's online shop offers a wide range of cards, DVDs, maps, posters, prints, publications and stationery.

Members of the Friends of The Postal Museum visited Apsley House in London on 21 May. This is a home of the Dukes of Wellington and it is often known as No. 1 London, from a time when the countryside started from the Hyde Park Corner turnpike at the end of Piccadilly. The more prosaic address now is 149 Piccadilly W1J 7NT. The original building designed by Robert Adam was bought by the first Duke from his brother in 1817. The House is particularly noted for the Waterloo Gallery, the State Dining Room and the magnificent collection of porcelain, silver and the paintings given to the Duke to thank him for defeating Napoleon. Interestingly, one of the most spectacular exhibits is

an enormous nude statue of Napoleon by Canova. The tour of the house was followed by a visit to the nearby Wellington Arch to enjoy the view from the top and displays on the history of the Arch and about the Battle of Waterloo.

The Friends have a programme of similar visits throughout the year; the next will be a tour of the poster collection at the London Transport Museum. In addition, the Friends raise money to pay for specific projects for The Postal Museum and Mail Rail Experience (due to open in 2017), and publish the *Cross Post* magazine. For details about becoming a Friend go to www.postalmuseum.org/friends or write to: Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL •

The National Postal Museum anniversary

While we wait for the opening of The Postal Museum in 2017, we can reflect that it is 50 years this month since the original National Postal Museum was opened in the London Chief Post Office in King Edward Street near St Paul's Cathedral. The National Postal Museum, opened by Postmaster General Edward Short, housed the Reginald M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps given to the nation by Mr Phillips in 1965. In addition, material from the Post Office's own collection was on display. The Museum was initially very small, and after 18 months closed for extension. The new, enlarged National Postal Museum was opened by The Queen in February 1969. After the Chief Post Office closed in 1994, the Museum took over the counter area to display posting boxes, uniforms, vehicles and other memorabilia – it thus became a true postal rather than just stamp museum. The Post Office sold the King Edward Building and the National Postal Museum closed in 1998, the collections combining with the Post Office Archives at Mount Pleasant and renamed the British Postal Museum & Archive. Many will have fond memories of the old National Postal Museum and look forward to seeing how the new Museum compares •



Above: the King Edward Building, London EC1, the home of the National Postal Museum from 1966 to 1998

Torquay commemorates Agatha Christie

New stamps commemorating the crime fiction work of Dame Agatha Christie will provide the centrepiece to this year's celebrations of the bestselling author's birth in her home town of Torquay, Devon. The event, on Dame Agatha's birthday, 15 September, at Torre Abbey, The King's Drive, Torquay TQ2 5JE from 2.30pm, will include Christie's grandson Mathew Prichard reading the short story *The Witness for the Prosecution*, soon to be turned into a major new BBC production by Sarah Phelps. Author Sophie Hannah will introduce *Closed Casket*, the new mystery she has created for Hercule Poirot as a follow-up to her globally successful novel *The Monogram Murders*. An illustrated talk about the Christie stamp set and stamp art in general will be given by Jim Sutherland, the artist commissioned to create the anniversary issue, and a Royal Mail stamp specialist. Informal talks and book signings will be held by Tom Adams, the artist responsible for the paperback covers of more than 100 Agatha Christie titles, and John Curran, the decoder and author of *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks*.

In addition, there will be sales and signings of the commemorative sets, a showcase of original artwork, a Devonshire cream tea, and a mail box where every item posted with a stamp from the new issue will be franked with a special First Day from Torquay postmark. Tickets for the event can be booked on 01803 293593, or see www.agathachristiefestival.com for further details • ▸



Postal history lecture

Chris King will give the Stuart Rossiter Trust memorial lecture for 2016 on 4 November at 5pm at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. His lecture is entitled Challenges and Opportunities of Researching Online: Napoleonic Denmark, a Case Study. Hidden behind the letters and documents held by postal historians around the world is the history of the writers and recipients and the geography of the past. This lecture concerns the use of the internet to reveal these. Today's researchers have more knowledge, literally at their fingertips, than any previous generation, and the challenges are how to find it and how to judge its authenticity. This lecture addresses these issues with particular reference to Napoleonic mail in northern Europe, though it applies to postal history, archives and correspondences from any time and place.

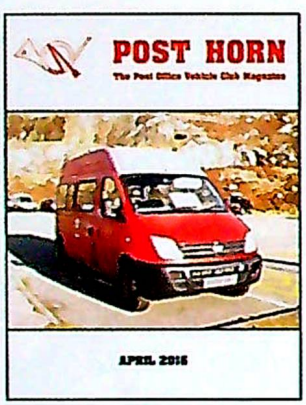
Chris King is a lifelong collector, now specialising in the postal history of the Jutland Peninsula – which includes Denmark, Schleswig, Holstein and the Hanseatic cities of Hamburg and Lübeck – among other subjects. A member of many philatelic societies, Chris was President of the Royal Philatelic Society London from 2013 to 2015.

Free admission to the lecture is only by non-transferable ticket on application to Rex Dixon at rexdixon@btinternet.com. Early application is advised. The Stuart Rossiter Trust is a charitable trust which promotes research into the history of the postal services and supports publication in this area to a high academic standard •

New publications

Stanley Gibbons has recently published a new tenth edition of its Australia catalogue (£32.95) and the first edition of a French Colonies catalogue (£34.95). All SG catalogues are available from the SG shop at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Donnington Priory, Oxford Road, Newbury RG14 2JE (call 01425 472363) •

Society news

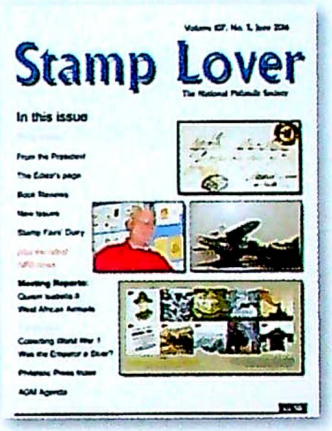


The April 2016 edition of *Post Horn*, journal of the Post Office Vehicle Club, includes interesting articles and reports on a range of vehicles used by the Post Office for postal and telephone services. Among the photographs of vehicles is one of a Bedford OWB bus that was rebodied as a mobile call office for the London Telephone Region in 1955 at the cost of £500. There is a report on the ending of full-size postbuses with the withdrawal of the services in Western Isles on 31 March 2016. Now there is just the Talmine-Tongue-Lairg service in Sutherland operated by a Vauxhall Combo four-seat crewbus. Postbuses were introduced in February 1967 with the first service at Llanidloes in Wales. Lists of the services operated were published in the *Bulletin* in May and June 2007. For details of the Post Office Vehicle Club contact Frank Weston, 13 Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard LU7 3PD, see www.povehclub.org.uk, or email POVehClub@aol.com •

Much of the May 2016 *Newsletter of the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain* concerns the Society's activities, but includes reports on recent Royal Mail issues, and De La Rue's plans to move its postage stamp printing operation from Gateshead to Malta (banknotes will now be produced at the location in the North East). The Society celebrated its 65th anniversary with

a lunch in London in June and will hold a postal auction in October. New members employed in, or retired from, the financial services industry are welcome to join and should contact Dudley Baker, 25 Bunbury Way, Downs View, Epsom KT17 4JP or email Dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com.

The National Philatelic Society (NPS) has published *Stamp Lover* since 1908. The June 2016 issue includes comprehensive reports of recent NPS meetings, a feature on collecting First World War postal history, a useful checklist of articles in the British philatelic press from July to December 2015, lengthy and thoughtful book reviews, a look at some new issues of Austria, Germany, Lithuania, New Zealand and South Africa, and an alphabetical listing of forthcoming stamp fairs with contact telephone numbers. Details are given of the famous NPS Library, which houses over 7,500 books and 1,100 journal titles (UK and foreign). For information see www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps and click on the NPS Library Database button. UK membership of the NPS is £30 (£25 for those living over 60 miles from London). There is a reduced rate if you receive *Stamp Lover* electronically. See www.ukphilately.org.uk/mps or contact Membership Secretary Peter Mellor on 01582 762284 (email npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk).



The Summer 2016 issue of *TPO*, journal of the TPO & Seapost Society, includes features on the Aberdeen & Elgin Sorting Carriage, markings and labels used on Fragile Mail unsuitable for transfer by the Mail Apparatus, and Ship-Shore Communications in the early 20th century, as well as articles relating to overseas TPO and Seapost services. The Society will attend the Hampex event at Wickham on 15 October. For details of the TPO & Seapost Society visit ww.tpo-seapost.org.uk, email TPO_Seapost@hotmail.com or write to the Secretary Tony Nicholson, Burracoppin, Parkersfield, North Petherton, Bridgwater TA6 6PN.



Topical Time, the well-produced magazine of the American Topical Association (ATA), includes features on postmarks depicting squirrels and nuts, writing a thematic article, weather modification on stamps, John Dickinson and his silk-thread paper, artwork for the USA 1977 Butterfly stamps, and Magna Carta on stamps (including Royal Mail's 2015 issue). There are reports of the activities of the ATA's numerous units and chapters and of thematic exhibits at overseas exhibitions – including Spring Stampex in London. For details of the ATA and its work contact ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008, USA, email americantopical@msn.com or see www.americantopicalassn.org.



The Petersfield & District Philatelic Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in March. Three of the original 12 founders from 1966 are still members. After the annual competition, the President David Allen unveiled a celebration cake, suitably inscribed with the society's emblem. For details of the Society contact David Allen on 01730 261244 or email Tosca.joy@yahoo.co.uk. A list of philatelic societies and stamp clubs celebrating important anniversaries in 2016 was published in the November 2015 *Bulletin* (page 73).



The Scarborough Philatelic Society, now in its 77th year, publishes *Scarborough Post*, which gives details of its activities. For details about the Society call Chris Phillips on 01723 368475 or email chris@philatelic.org.uk •

News from the islands

Jersey Post launches a new set of Post & Go designs alongside an exhibition overprint at Stampex this month. The new designs feature a selection of Jersey's beetles painted by natural history illustrator Lizzie Harper: orange ladybird, harlequin ladybird, bloody-nosed beetle, banded sexton beetle, striped ladybird and the seven-spot ladybird.

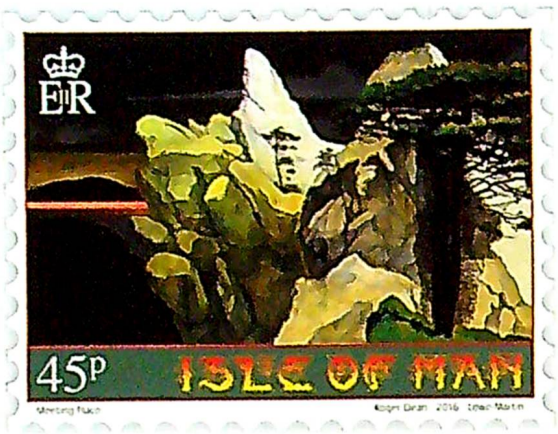
They are available on 14 September from both of the Jersey Post kiosks – JE01 at Stampex in Islington and the JE02 kiosk situated at Jersey's main Broad Street post office in St Helier. Post & Go collectors can look forward to an exhibition overprint at the JE01 kiosk, featuring the Jersey Flag design and the words, The Battle of the Somme 1916-2016.

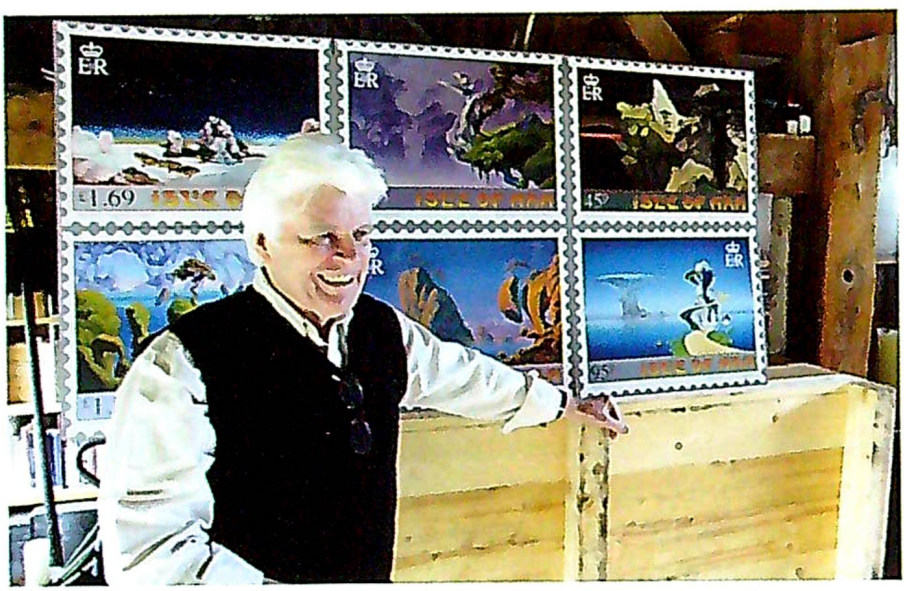
For both the beetles design and the Somme overprint, collectors strips will also be available from the 'B series' back office kiosk B002 and can be ordered now through Jersey Philatelic Bureau.

Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF or www.jerseystamps.com.

Technical information

Images:	Roger Dean
Text:	Dave Mousley, Richard Branson, Rick Wakeman
Printer:	Lowe Martin
Stamp size:	52mm x 40mm
Colours:	Four plus metallic
Process:	Offset lithography
Perforations:	13 per 2cm
Paper:	110gsm PVA gummed
Format:	Sheets of 20
Issue Date:	19 August





The Isle of Man Post Office showcases the exotic landscapes of internationally renowned artist and designer Roger Dean in a special stamp issue released last month. Roger is well known for his album cover designs, posters and books. He has had a long association with the Isle of Man and its long-term resident Rick Wakeman, a member of the rock band Yes, for whom Roger has designed album artwork.

The first stamp in the Islands and Bridges issue features a painting called *Meeting Place*, inspired by the Isle of Man and created exclusively for the stamp issue. These new stamps mark a significant collaboration between the Isle of Man Post Office, Manx National Heritage and Roger Dean himself. A landmark exhibition of Dean's work is also currently showing at the Manx Museum in Douglas on the island. For more details and to purchase stamps, visit www.iompost.com/rogerdean.

Guernsey's next issues will be Christmas and Centenary of the First World War on 8 and 11 November respectively. New stamps for Alderney marking the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings will go on sale on 14 September, and a Christmas issue follows on 8 November. Enquiries: visit www.guernseystamps.com or call 01481 716486 •

Stampex at 60

Top UK stamp show Stampex celebrates its 60th anniversary by hosting a Court of Honour when it opens this month. On display are the stamp albums of John Lennon, courtesy of the Smithsonian Museum, and Freddie Mercury, whose collection was bought by the then National Postal Museum in 1993. This is the first time that the boyhood collections of the two music legends have been brought together, and there is a fitting coincidence of dates as Freddie Mercury would have celebrated his own milestone, his 70th birthday, this month – he was born on 5 September 1946 in Zanzibar.



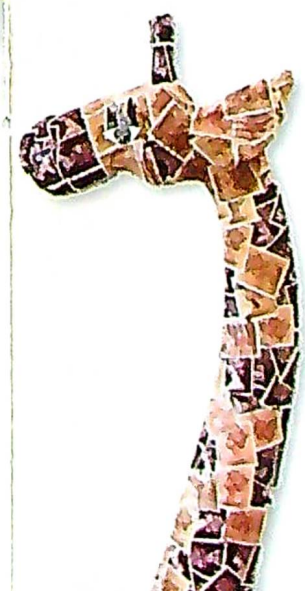
Above: the handsome Stampex Smilers® Sheet

Visitors to Autumn Stampex can also see a newly discovered journal from the British stamp world of the 19th century. Inside a small black notebook is a fascinating record of events, stamp notes, letter drafts and daily reminders, handwritten by none other than Stanley Gibbons!

After the Court of Honour, you might tread carefully towards stand number 18, or you could find yourself lost in a stamp jungle. Suzanne Rea of Art Stamped continues to look for creative ways of attracting new people to the hobby and will be showcasing some 3D jungle-themed pieces of stamp art. The most absorbing highlights of Stampex for collectors of UK stamps are, of course, regularly found in the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) National Exhibition in all classes, including Open Philately and Picture Postcards. And this month promises to be no exception: the ABPS exhibition includes specialist displays of George VI and cinderella material.

The handsome Stampex customised Smilers® Sheet continues the theme, from Spring Stampex, of the 60th anniversary of the show. Over 100 dealers and postal administrations, including Royal Mail, will have stands. Royal Mail will be issuing Agatha Christie stamps (see background feature on page 16 and philatelic preview in August *Bulletin*, pages 374 to 377) and Post & Go Ladybirds (see page 370) •

Autumn Stampex will be at the Business Design Centre, London N1 0QH, 14 to 17 September – Wednesday 14 September 11.30am to 7pm; Thursday 15 September 10am to 6pm; Friday 16 September 10am to 6pm; Saturday 17 September 10am to 5pm. Find more details at www.thephilatelictraderssociety.co.uk/stampex. For details of the most recent guidelines for philatelic and competition displays, visit www. abps.org.uk/exhibiting or contact exhibiting@abps.org.uk







Below: the collections of Freddie Mercury and John Lennon and something from the Art Stamped jungle



Agatha Christie by Angus McBean

Christie, queen of crime fiction

Never has there been a more intriguing set of Royal Mail stamps than this month's Agatha Christie issue, out on 15 September. The six Special Stamps mark the timeless characters and absorbing plots created by 'The Queen of Crime' and each includes its own mysteries in miniature: thermochromic printing techniques, ultra-violet inks, microtext and subtle visual trickery should have stamp collectors running for their loupes for magnified investigation!

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller (her pen name comes from first husband Archie Christie) was born in 1890 to comfortably off middle-class parents in genteel Torquay. Yet instead of a sedentary, conventional life, she chose the challenge of literary endeavour which earned her fame and fortune. Christie has sold billions of books and 40 years after her death in 1976 her work enjoys multimillion-pound annual sales. The new stamp issue marks her achievements on the centenary of her first story *The Mysterious Affair at Styles.*

On the following pages we celebrate this special anniversary with our investigation of the stories behind the stamps and the much-loved sleuths, Poirot and Marple, with hints at where to look for those hidden clues…

The philatelic preview of the Agatha Christie stamp set is on page 374 of August's Bulletin



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

(1934)

Plot On the Orient Express bound for France from Syria, Mr Ratchett lies dead with a dozen stab wounds. Luckily for justice, Monsieur Poirot is on board…

Inspiration The story is loosely based on the real-life case of the abduction and murder of wealthy American aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh's baby son – unsolved at the time Agatha's story was published. In her book, Ratchett turns out to be a gangster who had kidnapped a child and received a ransom.

Literary life The book's glamorous setting is no accident: Agatha Christie had for many years dreamed of travelling on the Orient Express before she finally did so in 1928.

Stamp secrets • Is that a moon or a moustache? • Place your thumb over the window and…. aaaaagh! • Apply your loupe to the foot and you can read the names of

Detective dossier #1: HERCULE POIROT

The retired Brussels detective with the fastidious dress sense and eccentric mannerisms appears in 33 novels and 54 short stories.

First appearance In Agatha Christie's debut novel, The Mysterious Affair at Styles in 1920, where he meets Captain Arthur Hastings for the first time.

The look Poirot is petit as they say in Brussels – 5ft 4in, perhaps a shade taller in his trademark patent leather boots. His head is egg-shaped, often cocked slightly to the left. His intelligent eyes famously shine with a green light when on the trail of a fresh clue.



THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES
(1920)

Plot Injured in the First World War, Captain Arthur Hastings recuperates at Styles Court, a sumptuous pile in Essex and the home of Mrs Emily Inglethorpe. When she is found poisoned by strychnine, Poirot is called in to investigate.
Inspiration Agatha's handling of the poisoning plot was helped by her knowledge gained working in the dispensary at a Red Cross hospital in Torquay during the First World War.
Literary life Agatha and her first husband Archie gave the name Styles to their house in Sunningdale, Berkshire, following the success of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*.
Stamp secrets • Spot the skull-like central image on this stamp, created by the two men sitting at the table with a lamp • Can you locate the second skull? It is reproduced in miniature elsewhere on the stamp.



THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD
(1926)

Plot Roger Ackroyd is discovered stabbed to death in his study, a highly decorated knife in his neck. Bafflingly, the room is locked from the inside. Only the little grey cells of Hercule Poirot can solve this seemingly impossible crime.
Inspiration Warning – plot spoiler! The story is narrated by Ackroyd's friend James Sheppard, who turns out to be the killer. Agatha's plot twist was partly influenced by Mountbatten, who wrote to her suggesting a murder mystery narrated by the murderer.
Literary life Agatha's book dedication for Roger Ackroyd reads: 'To Punkie, who likes an orthodox detective story, murder, inquest, and suspicion falling on everyone in turn!' No, not Sid Vicious or Johnny Rotten – Punkie was the nickname for her sister Madge.
Stamp secrets • See the famous face in the flames? • Check out the spooky shadow! • Dare you read the blood-stained letter in the dead man's hand?

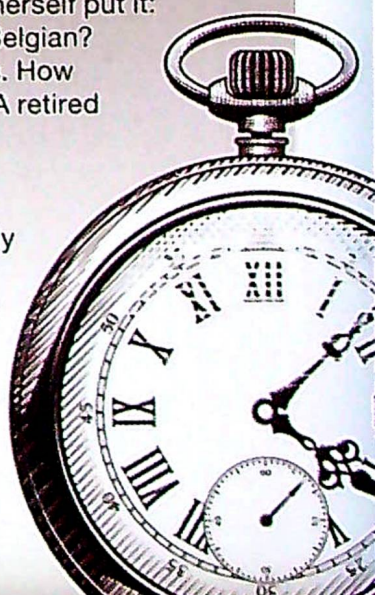
He dresses immaculately, his neatness is legendary, his moustache a study of waxed perfection. As Hastings says of Poirot: 'I believe a speck of dust would have caused him more pain than a bullet wound.'

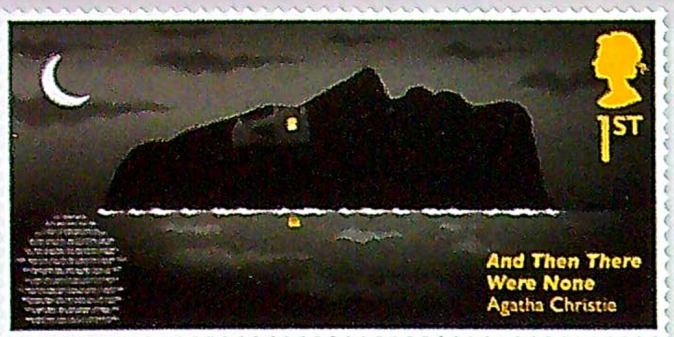
Inspiration Poirot's nationality was prompted by the Belgian refugees living in Torquay in the First World War. As Agatha herself put it: 'Why not make my detective a Belgian? There were all types of refugees. How about a refugee police officer? A retired police officer...'



Collider Videos

In his own words 'My name is Hercule Poirot and I am probably the greatest detective in the world.' (*The Mystery of the Blue Train*)





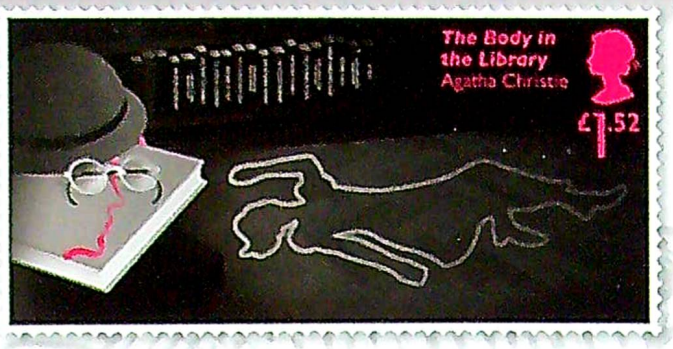
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
(1940)

Plot Ten people with terrible secrets from their past are invited to a mansion on an island off the Devon coast. Over dinner a gramophone plays a record of a voice accusing them of crimes for which they must pay. Soon the guests start dying one by one…

Inspiration The book was originally called *Ten Little Niggers* (but later changed for obvious reasons) after the 19th century children's rhyme.

Literary life The success of the book made Agatha Christie the best selling author in history and it is still read in more than 50 languages. There have also been numerous TV and film adaptations. In 1965 it was even made into a Bollywood movie.

Stamp secrets: • Island or headland? • The moon's reflection is sheer poetry • A house light reflects a significant name.



THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY
(1942)

Plot One morning Arthur and Dolly Bantry find the corpse of a young blonde woman, clad in an evening dress and smudged make-up, in their library – as you do (in a Miss Marple mystery, anyway). Jane Marple is hired and beats several police detectives to uncovering the killer.

Inspiration The novel's book title comes from a scene in Agatha Christie's 1942 Poirot thriller *Cards on the Table*. In it, the character Ariadne Oliver, a crime writer and self-parody of Agatha, says she has penned a book called *The Body in the Library*.

Literary life In another blurring of fact and fiction, one of the characters, Peter Carmody, says he owns books signed by Agatha Christie.

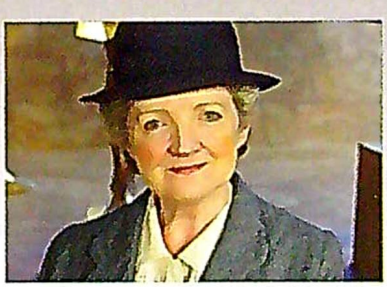
Stamp secrets • Book spines carry titles to date • A UV light adds body • Pink ribbon reminds one of a key character.

Detective dossier #2 JANE MARPLE

BThe often unsung, always unpaid amateur detective and lifelong resident of the village of St Mary Mead is the star of 12 novels and 20 short stories. Miss Marple discovers a surprising amount of evil lurking under the cosy veneer of English village life.

First appearance Jane Marple was presented to the world, in her 60s, in 1927's The Tuesday Night Club. At the first meeting of the newly created Tuesday Night Club, the members investigate the case of three people poisoned at dinner – with only one diner dying…

The look Spinster chic: Miss Marple's snowy white hair is piled up over china blue eyes and she is given to wearing widow black while frequently indulging her passion for knitting. Popeye Doyle she is not, but Miss Marple's homely, fragile appearance hides a sharp brain and implacable determination to snare the killer.



© ITV for Masterpiece

Inspiration Miss Marple was based on Agatha's maternal grandmother Mary Ann. The author



A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED
(1950)

Plot 'A murder is announced and will take place on Friday October 29th, at Little Paddocks at 6.30 p.m.' The strange advert in the local paper excites villagers in Chipping Cleghorn and half turn up to Little Paddocks. The lights go out, followed by shots. The lights go back on, and Little Paddocks owner Letitia Blacklock lies wounded next to a dead man.

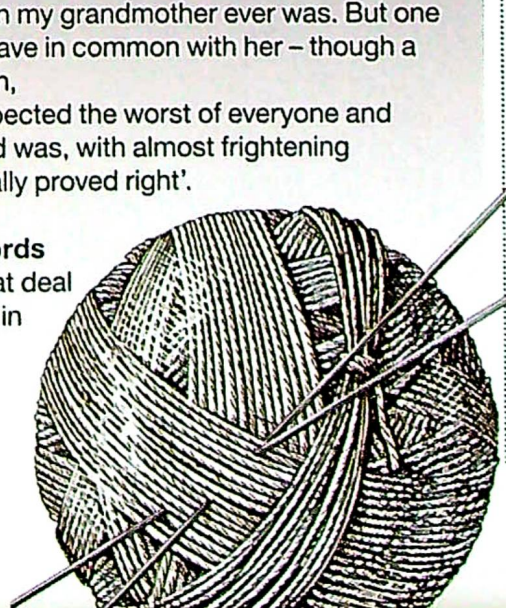
Inspiration Christie acted out the plot with neighbours in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, where she lived with her husband Max Mallowan, an archaeologist.

Literary life The cat at the local vicarage in Chipping Cleghorn is called Tiglath Pileser – named after an Assyrian king whose relics were discovered at one of Max's archaeological digs.

Stamp secrets • More time with your UV pen… • There is a time and a place on the clock face • Read the newspaper announcement in microtext.

described the sleuth as 'far more fussy and spinsterish than my grandmother ever was. But one thing she did have in common with her – though a cheerful person, she always expected the worst of everyone and everything, and was, with almost frightening accuracy, usually proved right'.

In her own words
'There is a great deal of wickedness in village life.'



CHRISTIE BY THE NUMBERS

2 billion

The number of Agatha Christie books sold globally – one billion in English and one billion in more than 100 other languages.

3.5 million

The average annual worldwide sales of Agatha Christie's work.

150

Agatha Christie is the author of 150 short stories.

The number of crime novels written by Agatha. **66**

30 Her books have been made into 30 feature films.

Six hidden letters on the stamps spell Agatha. **6**

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And Then There Were None © 1939 Agatha Christie Limited. All rights reserved.
The Mysterious Affair at Styles © 1920 Agatha Christie Limited. All rights reserved.
The Murder of Roger Ackroyd © 1926 Agatha Christie Limited. All rights reserved.
The Body in the Library © 1942 Agatha Christie Limited. All rights reserved.
A Murder Is Announced © 1950 Agatha Christie Limited. All rights reserved.
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This page and opposite: the Mr. Men Little Miss stamp set available on 20 October

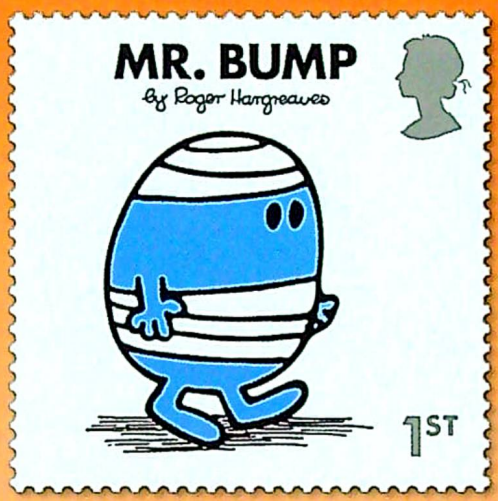


Marvellous Men and Misses The genius of author and illustrator Roger Hargreaves is honoured in the Mr. Men Little Miss issue out next month

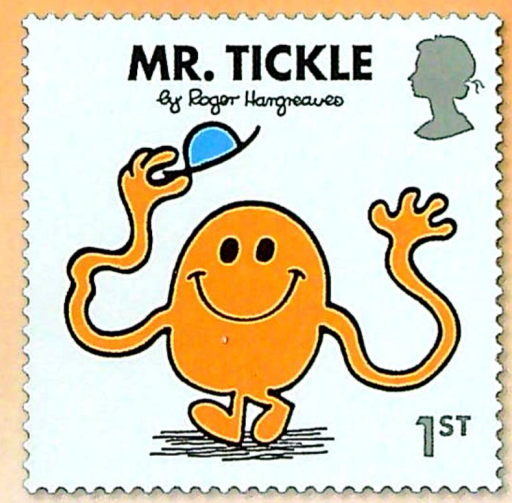
Funny, grumpy, cute or contrary, Mr. Men and Little Misses have amused millions of children for decades. Now a Special Stamp issue marks the 45th anniversary of the very first publication of Roger Hargreaves' much-loved books. Hargreaves was inspired to invent these colourful, iconic characters

Mr. Men Little Miss – Prices	
Stamp Set (2 se-tenant strips of 5)	£6.40
Stamp Book (2 x 1st Class Specials, 4 x definitives)	£3.84
Presentation Pack	£6.90
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover	£8.10
Stamp Souvenir	£8.10
Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover	£14.99
Mr. Men Smilers®	£10.20
Collector Sheet	£6.90
Stamp Cards (10 in set)	£4.50
Framed Stamps	£29.99

Mr. Men Little Miss – Specifications	
Issue date	20 October
Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	Supple Studio
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA







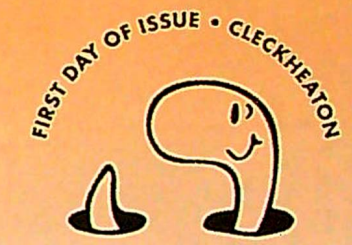






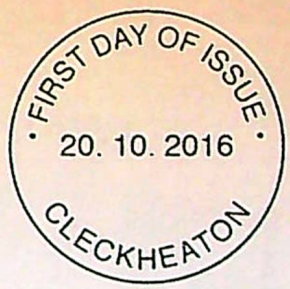


FD1622-TH



• 20.10.2016 •

FD1622-PL



FD1622-NP

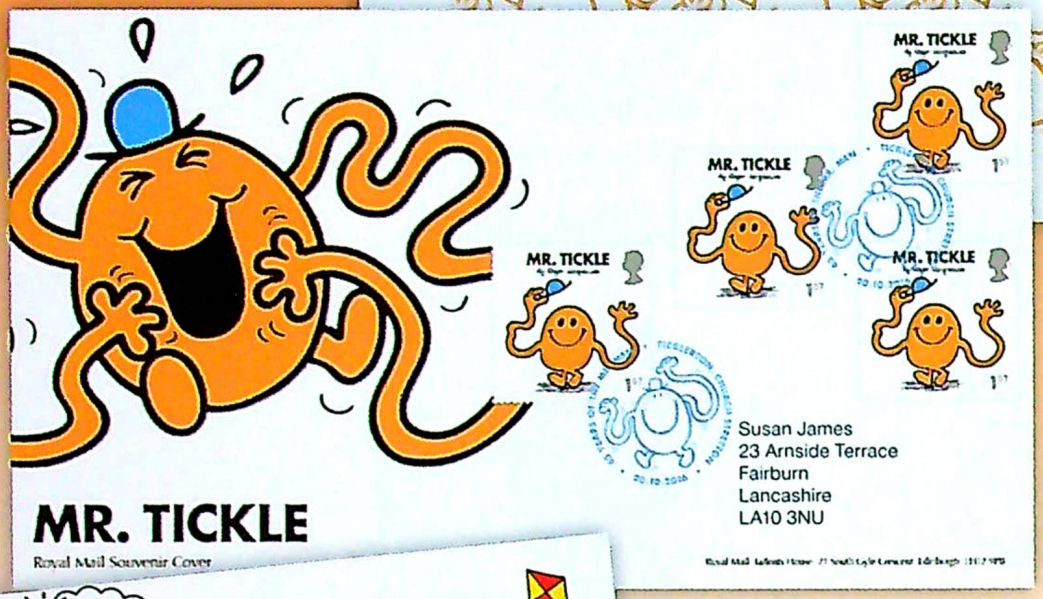
Above: the Tallents House and alternative postmarks

when his eight-year-old son Adam asked him at the breakfast table what a tickle looked like. Hargreaves responded by sketching a small orange man with very long arms, who became Mr. Tickle and starred in the first Mr. Men book in 1971.

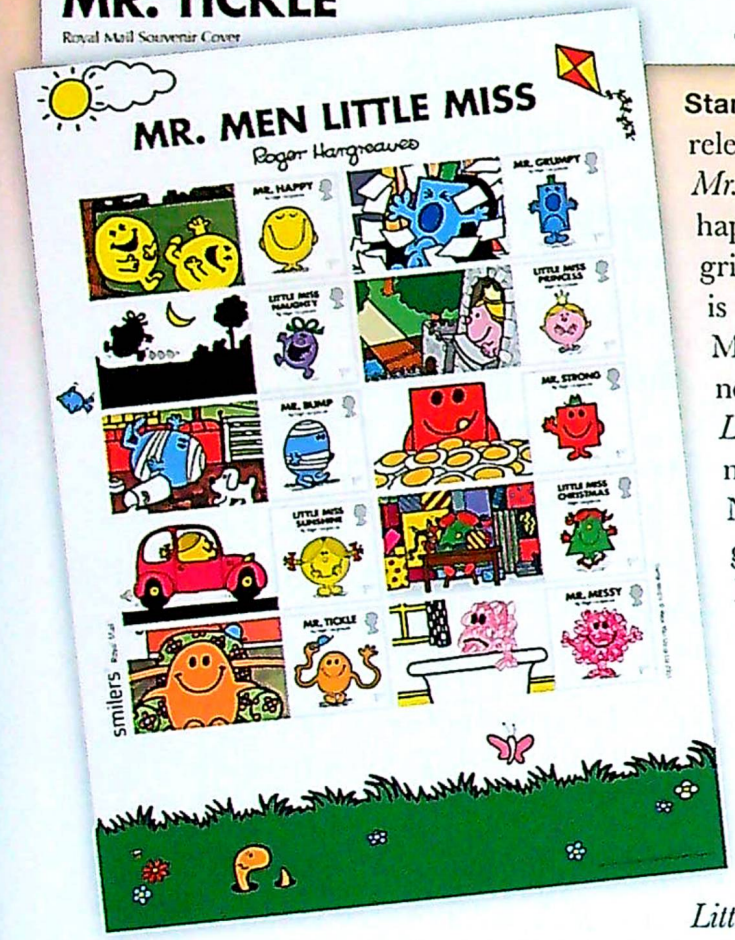
The Little Miss series of books began in 1981. The books are now written and illustrated by Adam Hargreaves after his father's death in 1988. Accompanying the Mr. Men Little Miss issue, is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover, Collector Sheet, Smilers® Sheets, Stamp Cards, Framed Stamps and Retail Stamp Book. ▶











Stamp by stamp The Mr. Men Little Miss stamp issue, released on 20 October, features ten First Class stamps.

Mr. Happy Always joyful and smiling, Mr. Happy is the happiest person in all the land. He always has a large grin on his face and will try and cheer up anyone who is feeling down – he can even make a worm smile. Mr. Happy is best friends with Mr. Nobody, and lives next to a big wood in Happyland.

Little Miss Naughty Every day is a good day to be naughty for mischievous and playful Little Miss Naughty. Why, she once even broke Mr. Clever's glasses – not a very nice thing to do at all! Little Miss Naughty can run very, very fast, which is useful when she wants to escape from trouble…

Mr. Bump Poor Mr. Bump just cannot stop having accidents. In fact, he is an accident waiting to happen. If there is something for Mr. Bump to bump into, he will bump into it. No wonder he goes through 300 metres of bandage a week and spends half his life horizontal.

Little Miss Sunshine Sparkling and radiant, Little Miss Sunshine always looks on the bright side of life. She is the world's golden girl whose favourite pastime is smiling. Unsurprisingly she is very good friends with Mr. Happy.

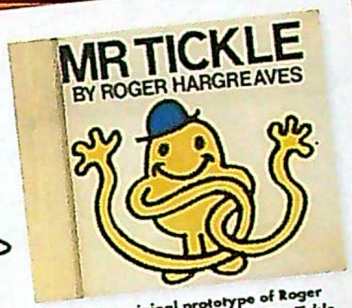
MR. MEN LITTLE MISS Tickle

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

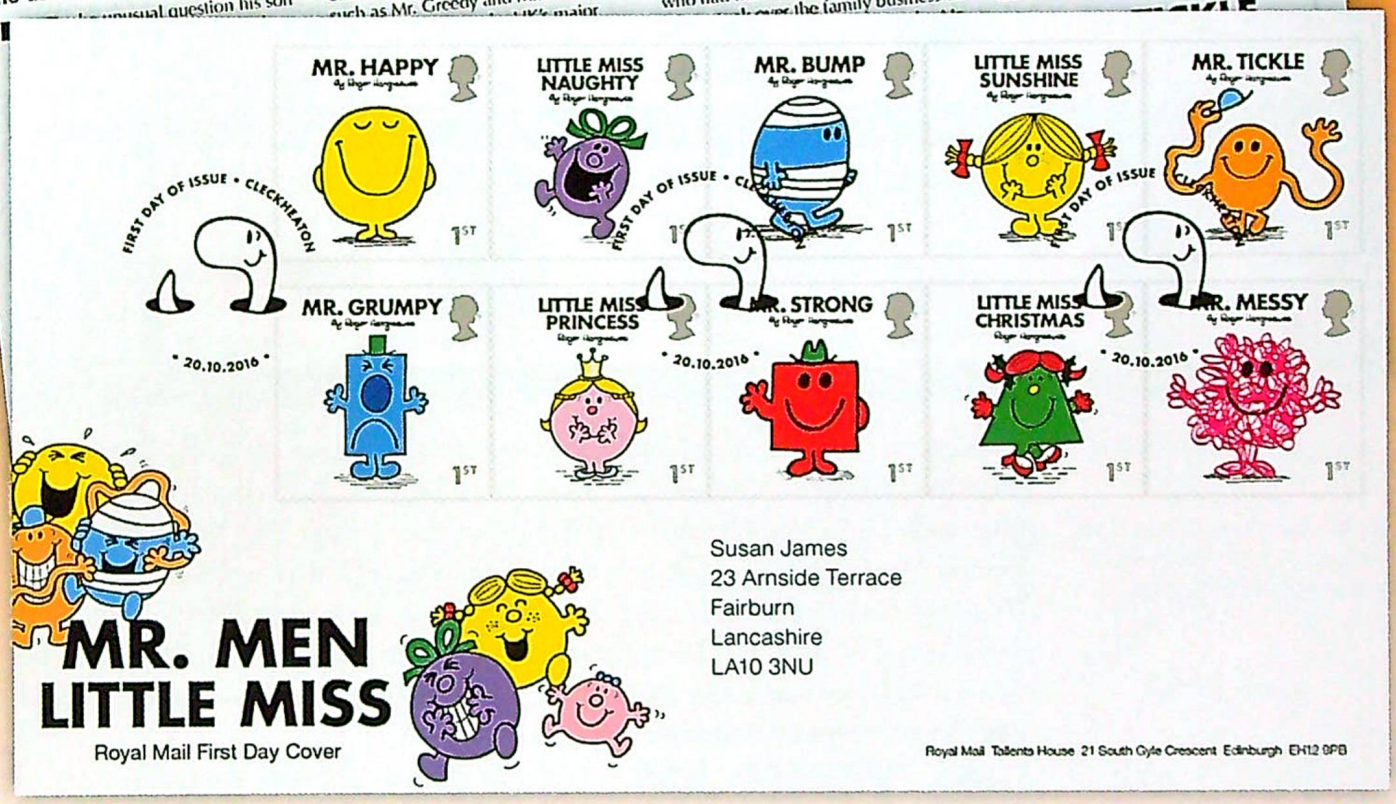
One day, when Adam Hargreaves was about eight years old, he asked his father Roger, "What does a tickle look like?"

unusual question his son other little books, featuring characters such as Mr. Greedy and Mr. Nosey.

Sadly, in 1988 Roger Hargreaves died suddenly at the age of 53. Adam, who had inherited his father's artistic the family business and



Above: The original prototype of Roger Hargreaves' *Mr. Tickle*. Below: *Mr. Tickle* was first published on 10 August 1971.



Mr. Tickle The first Mr. Men character in Happyland, boisterous and unruly Mr. Tickle has extraordinarily long arms, all the better for tickling with. Indeed, he is 50 per cent arms, 50 per cent mischief, and 100 per cent tickle! His arms are so long he can reach the fridge from his bedroom.

Mr. Grumpy The most miserable of the Mr. Men, cranky, grouchy Mr. Grumpy has a shockingly bad temper. Among many other dislikes, Mr. Grumpy cannot stand books and he hates pretty flowers.

Little Miss Princess Living in elegant luxury, Little Miss Princess is daughter to the King and Queen of Happyland, and has lots of people to do things for her. She may have the kindest heart but she is also best at one particular thing: giving orders. But the princess is not spoilt – everyone else is just very accommodating...

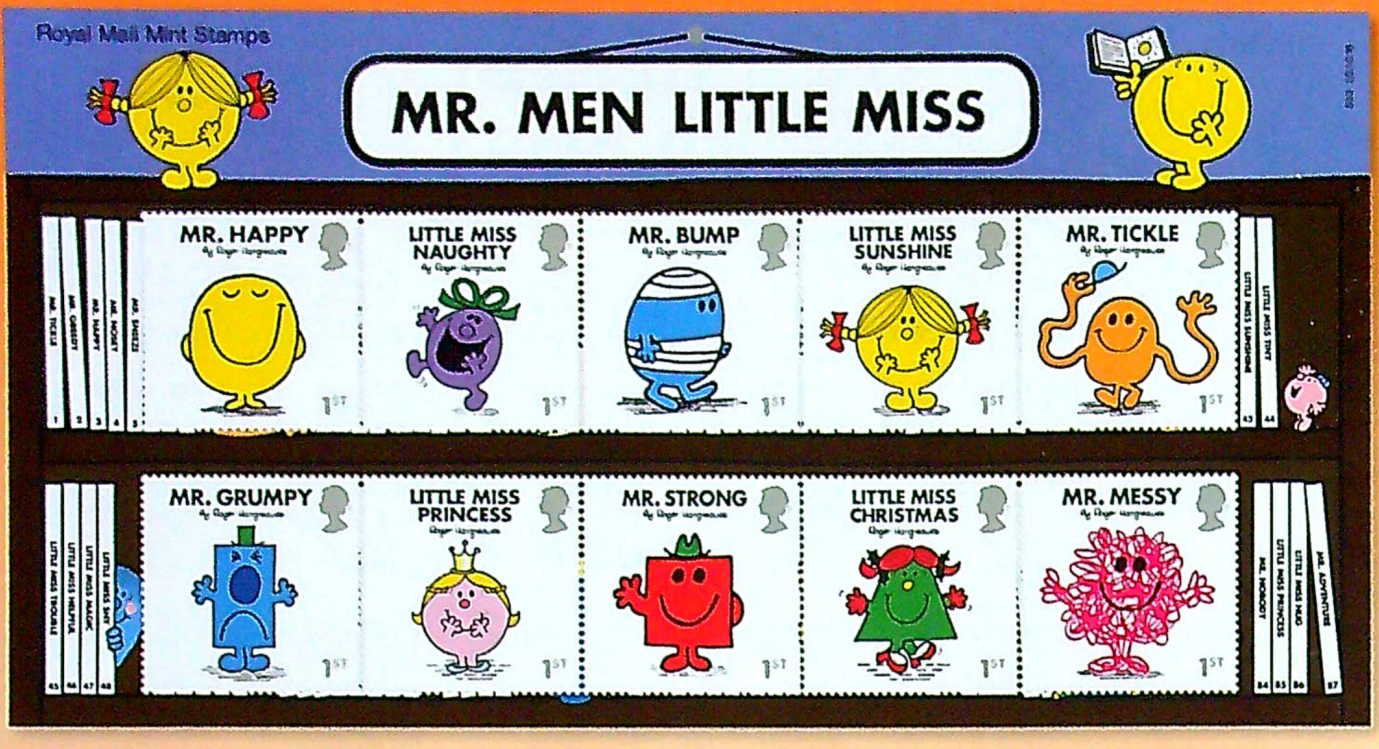
Mr. Strong Active and very well-built, Mr. Strong is the strongest person in the world. He is so strong he can bend an iron bar and tie knots in it. And he can lift up ▸

Above: the issue's First Day Cover with Information Card

Below: the Framed Stamps featuring the complete issue

Far left: Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover, with unique Ticklerton postmark in blue and black; and Generic Sheet





Above: the Mr. Men Little Miss Presentation Pack

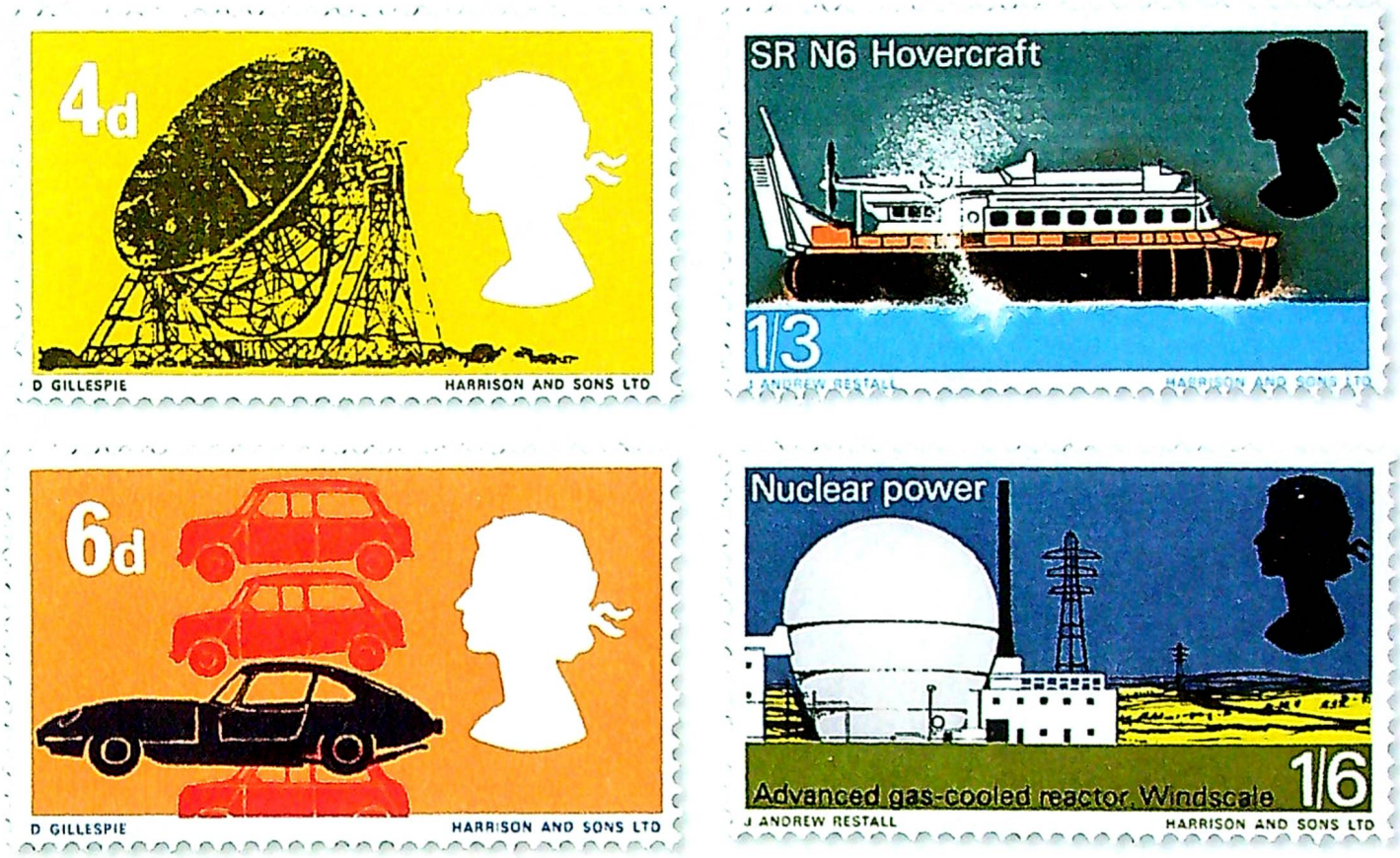
Below: the Retail Stamp Book comprises four definitives and two Special Stamps

65 elephants at once. Incidentally, Mr. Strong is rather partial to an egg or 12. *Little Miss Christmas* Organised, clever, busy Little Miss Christmas lives in an igloo next to her uncle Father Christmas and a long way away from her brother Mr. Christmas. There is nobody who loves Christmas more than her. *Mr. Messy* Careless and chaotic, this sloppy fellow is the messiest man you will ever meet. The only Mr. Men character who does not have a black outline (he is too untidy for one), Mr. Messy never cuts his lawn – which infuriates his neighbours – and he hates having a bath.

Also in the issue is a beautifully designed Presentation Pack written by Adam Hargreaves. In the Pack he has also drawn new illustrations of these much-loved characters to tell the story of his father's creations. Available in a limited edition of 3,000, a Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover features a unique Ticklerton postmark found only on this product. The Smilers® Sheets come with labels that can be personalised with photos to send to friends and family.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 20 October. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (the Tallents House address is on page 32 – please quote the *Bulletin* code 16CDT) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The postmark features a drawing of Mr. Tickle's arms. The alternative postmarks have the location Cleckheaton, the West Yorkshire town where Roger Hargreaves was born on 9 May 1935. The pictorial version has a picture of the Walter the Worm character, who frequently crops up in the stories •





This Month in History

John Holman zips back to 1966 when the four-stamp British Technology issue showcased the nation's talent for innovation – from the hovercraft to nuclear power

Above: the full 1966 British Technology issue that went on sale in September 1966

In 1966 the Post Office introduced special or pictorial stamps to feature the British way of life, economy and flora and fauna, among other subjects, in addition to commemorative stamps marking a particular anniversary or event. The first of the new 'specials' was the Landscapes set issued on 2 May 1966, followed by the British Birds issue in August. The third issue featured british technology, a particular interest of the then Postmaster General Tony Benn. The British Technology stamps went on sale on 19 September 1966, by which time Mr Benn had left the Post Office and been promoted to Cabinet rank as Minister of Technology.

A number of artists and two stamp printers were invited to submit designs, with Concorde as one of the suggested subjects. Designs by David Gentleman, submitted to Tony Benn, were also considered by the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee. Concorde was one of the subjects suggested to the artists.

Some 14 designs were offered by David and Ann Gillespie, eight by Henry and Joyce Collins, four by Andrew Restall (designer of the 1964 Forth Road Bridge pair), four by Harrison & Sons Ltd, and six by Bradbury Wilkinson Ltd. The designs included the SR N6 Hovercraft, Concorde, ▸



Above: the Jodrell Bank 4d stamp with colour shift error so the designer and printer names appear on the lemon coloured background instead of in the white stamp border

Severn Bridge, power stations, the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, a North Sea oil rig, VC10 jet, Moulton bicycles, cars, a Lotus Grand Prix racing car, various aspects of railway electrification, steam and modern railway locomotives, synthetic fibres and chemical engineering. The Committee had a wide range to choose from. Some 17 of the unused designs were shown in the *Bulletin* of October 1966. Finally the Committee selected designs showing Jodrell Bank and cars (Jaguar E Type and Mini) by the Gillespies, and hovercraft and the Windscale nuclear reactor by Andrew Restall, with another design by Restall of the Severn Bridge as a reserve.

The five designs were submitted to The Queen, who approved the Committee's main choice of four. Being the work of different artists, the 4d and 6d stamps and 1s 3d and 1s 6d pair are in contrasting design styles. The 4d and 6d stamps, by the Gillespies, showed rather stark images of Jodrell Bank and the cars against vivid background colours. The cars design was, I always thought, somewhat strange, giving the impression of a multiple pile-up. Andrew Restall's hovercraft and Windscale nuclear reactor designs took a more conventional, almost photographic, approach. No captions are given on the 4d and 6d, but the higher values were helpfully inscribed 'SR N6 Hovercraft' and 'Nuclear power – Advanced gas-cooled reactor, Windscale'.

Like the earlier special stamps, these four carry the adapted Mary Gillick silhouette of The Queen, in white reversed out of the background colour on the lower values, and in black on the higher denominations. Oddly, on the 4d the head appears to be tilting forward slightly, and backwards on the 6d. The black silhouette is somewhat smaller on the 1s 3d and 1s 6d stamps and the base of The Queen's neck more rounded than on the white heads on the 4d and 6d. Designers' and printers' names appear in the lower margin, but only David, not Ann, was credited, as 'D GILLESPIE'. Andrew Restall was

given the longer 'J ANDREW RESTALL', and the printers 'HARRISON AND SONS LTD' so there would haves been space for 'D AND A GILLESPIE'... The stamps were announced in the August 1966 *Bulletin*, under the heading 'Pictorial Technology Issue', but, in keeping with the practice of the time, they were not illustrated until the following month when the 1s 3d stamp was also shown enlarged on the *Bulletin* front cover.

The stamps were printed by Harrisons in photogravure in sheets of 120 in both plain and phosphor-lined versions. The stamps were printed in ascending order of two, three, four and five colours: 4d in lemon and black, 6d in orange, red and blue, 1s 3d in blue, slate, orange and black, and 1s 6d in bronze-green, lilac, black, yellow-green and blue. Major errors, now of considerable value, comprise missing red (Mini cars) and missing blue (Jaguar) on the 6d. Eighteen mint copies are known of the former and 24 of the latter. Some 120 6d stamps are known with the red printed doubled, and others with the red shifted down so part of the bottom Mini appears in the white stamp border. The 1s 6d exists with the black colour misplaced upwards, so the top of The Queen's silhouette is in the top margin and the pylon rises above the white building. A colour shift on the 4d results in the designers' and printers' imprints being on the lemon-coloured background rather than in the white stamp border. Errors in the phosphor overprinting result in pairs of the 4d with and without phosphor; two instead of three phosphor bands on the 1s 6d; and the 6d and 1s 6d are recorded with phosphor bands on the back as well as the front of the stamps.

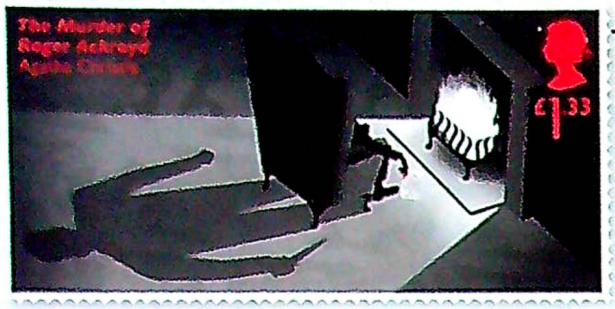
The *Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue* lists two constant varieties – a strong retouch on the struts of the radio telescope on the 4d, and broken letter D in 'LTD' of the Harrison imprint on the 6d. The *Woodstock Catalogue* also lists a 'thumb print' flaw above The Queen's head on the 4d, though this is only given 'minor flaws' status in the SG catalogue.

The Post Office provided a first day cover service with, for the first time, covers postmarked at the new Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. The Bureau's first day postmark was in a small neat size, whereas the local first day postmarks applied at about 80 post offices were considerably larger in diameter. A first day machine slogan postmark was used at Paddington, W2 on bulk mailings of FDCs, mostly just bearing the 4d stamp and sent by pharmaceutical companies to doctors. No special handstamps were used on the day of issue, but FDC collectors look out for covers with appropriate local first day of issue handstamps or operational date stamps. Covers with Macclesfield date stamp and Jodrell Bank cachet are particularly sought after, as are British Hovercraft Corporation covers cancelled by the Cowes, Isle of Wight date stamp. The presentation pack, sold at 4s 6d, included pictures of the designers David and Ann Gillespie and Andrew Restall, and a stamp printing press at Harrisons.

The stamps were withdrawn from sale on 18 September 1967, though supplies of the 6d phosphor stamp had become exhausted earlier. Numbers sold were: 91.8 million of the 4d, 13.5 million of the 6d, 6.6 million of the 1s 3d, and 1s 6d of the 6.7 million (combined plain and phosphor versions), as well as 35,437 presentation packs •



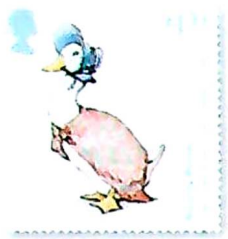
Above: on the 4d value of the Landscapes set of 1966, the head appears to be tilting forward slightly, and backwards on the 6d. On the higher values the black silhouette is somewhat smaller on the 1s 3d and 1s 6d stamps and the base of The Queen's neck is more rounded.



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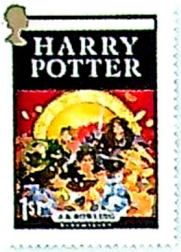


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Women writers quiz

As the new Agatha Christie issue celebrates the world's best-selling crime novelist, we have penned a quiz on stamps linked to women authors. Simply solve the clues here and you could be on the trail of our brilliant first prize – the complete Agatha Christie Special Stamp issue plus Agatha Christie's Miss Marple Movie Collection. Happy sleuthing

1 This thriller of a stamp is of course from this month's Agatha Christie issue. Christie dedicated her book The Murder of Roger Ackroyd to her sister Madge but she used her nickname. What was it?
a) Funky **b)** Monkey
c) Punkie

2 The Beatrix Potter stamps released in July paid tribute to the author's enduring fictional animal characters. But Potter was also a farmer who kept a real-life rare breed called the Herdwick. What kind of animals were they?
a) Weasels **b)** Cows
c) Sheep

3 One of the 2013 Great Britons stamps featured pioneering food and drink writer Elizabeth David. She was the first cookery author to receive a blue… what?
a) Blue Peter badge
b) Blue plaque
c) Bluetooth device

4 2009's British Design Classics includes this stamp showing a vintage cover of The Edwardians by Vita Sackville-West. Her beautiful country home where she often wrote is now a visitor attraction. What is it called?
a) Thorpe Park
b) Chessington World of Adventures
c) Sissinghurst

5 Birth control pioneer Marie Stopes, who features on a 50p stamp in 2008's Women of Distinction, wrote a controversial book in 1918. What was the book about?
a) Carp fishing
b) Sex
c) Tap dancing

6 The 2007 Harry Potter set was issued to mark the final book in JK Rowling's series about the boy wizard, called Harry Potter and the Deathly… what?
a) Shallows **b)** Hallows
c) Marsh Mallows

7 The Maisy Mouse books are honoured in this stamp from the 2006 Animal Tales issue. But who narrated the Maisy Mouse TV adaptation?
a) Neil Kinnock
b) Neil Diamond
c) Neil Morrissey

8 Mr Rochester from Jane Eyre sits proudly astride his horse on this second-class stamp in the 2005 set marking the 150th anniversary of Charlotte Bronte's death. But what did he call his dog?

June Animal Quiz Winners: Mr M Perry Wembdon,Taunton; Mr J Constantine, Beaconsfield;

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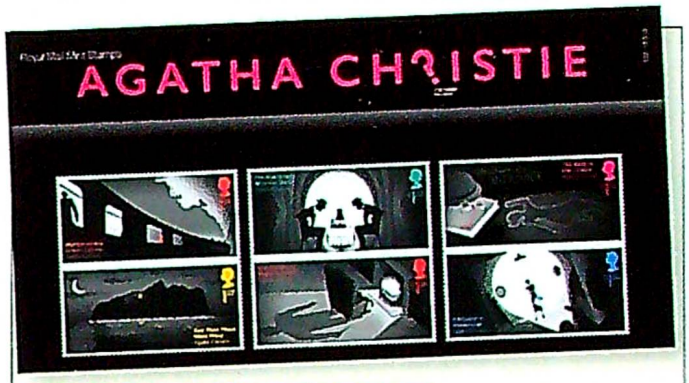
a) Pilot **b)** Peanut
c) Doughnut

9 This stamp from the 1997 issue, which commemorates the birth centenary of Enid Blyton, shows the Secret Seven. What was their dog called?
a) Scamper **b)** Scampi
c) Derek

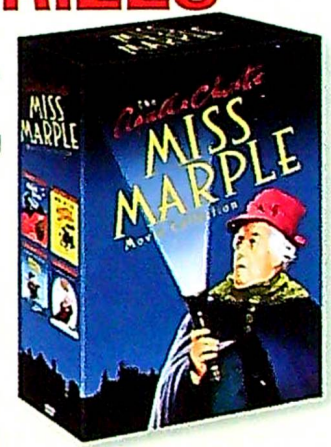
10 Daphne Du Maurier is celebrated in the 37p stamp from the 20th Century Women of Achievement issue of 1996. Where was Manderley in her classic novel Rebecca?
a) Cardiff
b) Cornwall
c) Cromer

11 George Eliot appears in the Famous Authoresses set of 1980. What novel features on her stamp?
a) The Mill on the Floss
b) The Hill on the Floss
c) The Thrill of Kate Moss

12 The 1975 stamps commemorating the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth include one showing a scene from Pride and Prejudice. What was Austen's original title for the book?
a) First Impressions
b) Darcy's in a Huff Again
c) All Men Are Useless, Actually



WIN THESE GREAT PRIZES



For the lucky winner: the Agatha Christie Special Stamp issue, comprising Mint Stamps, Presentation Pack, Souvenir Cover and Postcards. The Miss Marple Movie Collection includes four DVDs of British films starring Margaret Rutherford, produced between 1961 and 1964: Murder Ahoy, Murder She Said, Murder at a Gallop and Murder Most Foul.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Writers Quiz' to Bulletin Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.
Closing date 18 October 2016.
Prizes The first correct entry will receive the complete Agatha Christie Special Stamp issue and Miss Marple Movie Collection. Ten runners-up receive the handsome Agatha Christie Presentation Pack.

Browse UK Special Stamps by decade at www.rmspecialstamps.com

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Mrs A Kemp, Scarborough; Mr G Thompson, Leyburn; Mrs L Bowry, Metheringham.

Correspondence

Design debate

On the subject of the 2015 Readers' Poll in the *Bulletin*, the choice of the Bees set as the individual stamp winner and as the favourite set was not a great surprise.

Too many new issues rely on photos which are cut and 'Photoshopped'. These 'instant' stamps do not make the best designs, but an illustration drawn or painted by an artist provides an image which is a tribute to the artist's skill. Painted designs make best use of the desired shape and size and portray an image which is memorable.

No photographs used on stamps were intended to appear reduced in size on paper 35mm square. Today collectors will have great difficulty naming the set in which 'photo' stamps appeared. They are all so, so similar.

This was not a problem with illustrated stamps from the 1960s to the 1980s. Time to bring back designers like David Gentleman, Jennifer Toombs and their ilk, perhaps?

Alan Godfrey, Warwickshire

Every year Royal Mail's stamp programme features a varied range of subjects – from the fantasy world of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and the architectural wonders of Bridges to the natural history world of Bees. Such disparate themes require diverse creative solutions. Royal Mail's design team strives to find the most inventive ways of presenting stamp subjects in an engaging style. Commissioning new material for a stamp issue can be the most rewarding means of illustrating a stamp topic. Bees featured brilliant new illustrations from Richard Lewington. Sometimes, though, commissioning new illustrations would not be appropriate: with the Shackleton set, it felt at odds to create brand-new illustrations when we had access to the original plate photography of Frank Hurley. The images capture the severe conditions and show the stunning landscape in a way illustrations could not.





Throughout 2015 nine of the 14 issues featured newly commissioned content and the remaining five featured a combination of new and existing imagery. Using found imagery is a creative discipline in its own right. Curating existing content is not dissimilar to producing an exhibition: you become a visual detective, searching out arresting, thought-provoking images and carefully selecting, cropping and presenting them so that the viewer is taken on a visual journey. The creative approach should always be respectful of the subject, and in a balanced stamp programme there is always room for both newly commissioned and curated content.

Marcus James, Head of Design and Editorial, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles

Old post, new box

Recently a new post box has been installed on Alexandra Road, Illogan, Cornwall. This is the first time that I have seen a new post box installed on an old post, and thought it may be of interest to *Bulletin* readers, particularly those who have post box-related collections. Many thanks.

Steve Tilbury, Cornwall



Write to... The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com. Readers' letters published will receive a Royal Mail Presentation Pack.



New look padlock book

Collectors have been locked in conversation about the padlock image that recently made its debut on stamp books. We welcome your thoughts on this design innovation at rmbulletin@rocketmail.com

The message is clear on this new 6 x 1st Class stamp book. Its padlock design is part of a wider Royal Mail brand campaign to highlight the concept of security and trust. The stamp book image aligns with similar new messages carried on Royal Mail vehicles and brochures.

Specifications of Stamp Books with Padlock design and 6 x 1st Class	
Issue date	28 July, 2016
Design	M&C Saatchi
Print	International Security Printers
Process	Gravure
Format	6 x 1st Class self-adhesive stamps
Phosphor	Two bars
Perforation	Simulated

Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

10 September **Withdrawal** Long to Reign Over Us: Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class Amethyst Definitives).

15 September **Withdrawal** 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain: Coin Cover, Brilliant Uncirculated 50p.

16 September **Withdrawal** Post & Go: Sea Travel, six designs.



18 September **Withdrawal** Rugby World Cup 2015: stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.52 in se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (8 in set) set, Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps).



14 October **Issue** Battle of Hastings Commemorative Sheet: 10 x 1st Class Union Flag Smilers® with illustrated labels. Details: page 3.

14 October **Issue** Battle of Hastings Coin Cover, with Brilliant Uncirculated 50p coin. Details: page 6.

20 October **Issue** Mr. Men Little Miss: 10 x 1st Class Stamps (2 x se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set), Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir Cover, Mr Tickle Souvenir Cover, 6 x Smilers® Sheets of 10 Smilers® Stamps and labels (Mr. Bump, Mr. Grumpy, Mr. Happy, Mr. Messy, Little Miss Princess, Little Miss Sunshine), Framed Mint Stamps. Details: page 20.

20 October **Change of font** on definitives Business Sheet, 100 x 1st Class, 100 x 2nd Class, 50 x 1st Class LL, 50 x 2nd Class LL.

20 October **Change of font** on Retail Stamp Books.

24 October **Reintroduction** Lest We Forget: definitive-size 1st Class Poppy Stamp, self-adhesive sheets of 50. POL only.

24 October **Reintroduction** Symbolic Flowers: 1st Class Poppy Stamp, in POL SSK offices and selected sites.



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Royal Mail

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