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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

VOLUME 57 NO.4

Spacial Delivery



it's arrived, the intergalactic Star Wars issue

THE CREATION OF XMAS STAMPS • BRADBURY WILKINSON CASTLES • MACHIN CHECKLIST

Looking for that special Christmas gift?



Royal Mail Yearbook 2019

If you are struggling for ideas for a special Christmas gift for someone important in your life, our Annual Collections could provide the answer. They comprise a wide range of collectibles, along with pictures, facts and insightful information that you won't find anywhere else. This beautifully crafted, individually numbered, limited edition Yearbook for example, makes an exquisite gift and a wonderful souvenir of 2019. This glossy hardback 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

Contents

Royal Mail completes the Star Wars stamps trilogy with a final stellar issue **100**





Is the Force with you? Test your knowledge of a galaxy far, far away and be in with a chance to win a Presentation Pack **106**

Creators of Christmas 2019 Artists Hari & Deepti explain their concepts and methodology **108**





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Final impressions Michael J Y Roberts concludes his three-part analysis of the Castle high values with the Bradbury Wilkinson printings **114**



Stamp Scene Philatelic fairs and events that you can visit around the country in December **120**

The centenary of the RAF Benevolent Fund

The RAF's leading welfare charity has produced a special commemorative cover to mark one hundred years of support to servicemen and their families **123**



Machin 2019 checklist The year's Machin issues and the various products in which they featured **124**





Star

Count Dooku The sinister and elegant Count Dooku trained as a Jedi Master but joined Darth Sidious as a Sith. Working secretly with Sidious, he leads a droid army against the Republic and initiates the deadly Clone Wars at the Battle of Geonosis, where he engages in a lightsaber battle with Jedi Master Yoda. Sidious betrays Dooku, and the Count is killed by Anakin Skywalker.
First Class



Lando Calrissian The one-time owner of the 'fastest ship in the galaxy', the Millennium Falcon, Lando Calrissian was a gambler and a smuggler who lost the Falcon in a game of sabacc to Han Solo. Later the administrator of a sophisticated resort on Bespin, Cloud City, he allies himself with the Empire before joining the Rebel Alliance and helping to destroy the second Death Star.
First Class



Sith Trooper Inspired by the power of a dark and dangerous legacy, the Sith troopers are Kylo Ren's new breed of highly skilled soldiers. Trained to elite level, these fearsome warriors can handle close-combat blades and blaster rifles as well as long-range heavy artillery. The Sith troopers are to be employed in the First Order's final push for ultimate galactic domination.
First Class



Jannah Armed with weapons such as an energy bow and a grapple hook, Jannah is the honourable leader of a fierce band of warriors from an oceanic moon. Jannah is athletic and superbly skilled at archery and riding. She joins legendary heroes such as Lando Calrissian and Chewbacca in the fight against the evils of the First Order.
First Class



Grand Moff Tarkin Wilhuff Tarkin became the Emperor's first Grand Moff, a title given to a governor who rules over star systems that show signs of rebelliousness. Tarkin commanded the Death Star, a superweapon employed against whole planets to demonstrate his maxim of 'ruling through fear of force'. Tarkin dies on the Death Star when it is obliterated by the Rebel Alliance.
First Class



'We're going in!' declares Luke Skywalker, dropping his X-wing into the Death Star trench on a do-or-die bomb run to destroy the most sinister enemy base ever. His youthful battle cry has resonated with us through the years since we first heard it as children or as parents taking the family to see that debut movie in 1977. We've grown up with this and other iconic Star Wars cinematic moments: Han's cantina gunfight; the menacing march of the AT-ATs in the Battle of Hoth; Luke and Leia's speeder chase in the forests of Endor; Vader to Luke: 'I am your father'; Rey's discovery of an older, more profound Skywalker on the sea-battered crags of Ahch-To. And no doubt there'll be more moments as the Resistance and the First Order prepare for an epic clash in (apparently) the final movie, *The Rise of Skywalker*, out in December.

Its cast and characters reflect the enduring appeal of Star Wars and the legacy of its creator George Lucas, with new heroes joining the originals – something reflected by the latest Royal Mail Special Stamp issue. As well as old hands Lando Calrissian and Grand Moff Tarkin, the stamps feature warrior chief Jannah, spice smuggler Zorii and an all-new crimson-armoured Sith trooper.

Star Wars – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	26 November
Number of stamps	Ten (10 x 1st Class)
Design	Interabang
Illustrations	Malcolm Tween
Stamp format	Square
Sheet format	25/50
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Wars

In Rise, the late Carrie Fisher movingly returns as Leia Organa, after director JJ Abrams found unused footage of her from *The Force Awakens*, which he has blended into the film. Chewie is here, played now by 6ft 11in Finnish former pro basketball player Joonas Suotamo, after the retirement of London hospital porter-turned-actor Peter Mayhew. C-3PO is back, and Lando is once again piloting the Millennium Falcon. Rey is the central hero, armed with a new double-bladed lightsaber, determined to defeat First Order leader Kylo Ren and his armies. (There's even an updated stormtrooper, complete with jet-powered armour.)

Star Wars has it all: extraordinary special effects, majestic locations and sweeping cinematography. But the core allure of this movie series is that it is both an adventure-packed fairy tale and a compelling family drama: the real focus is on Luke and Vader, the bitterest father-son relationship of them all, and on the betrayal by Leia and Han's son Ben, who became Kylo, the new enemy.

Now it's being speculated that Rey, star of *The Rise of Skywalker*, is the Skywalker of the movie's title. This year they finished final filming in the Jordanian desert, which doubled as Pasaana, a desert world that bears an uncanny resemblance to Tatooine, the dusty planet of Luke's childhood. In the Rise trailer Rey does battle on an unnamed desert planet. Is it Tatooine? Has Rey 'Skywalker' returned home? Perhaps the never-ending story of Star Wars has finally come full circle ●

Royal Mail's new set of Star Wars stamps features characters from across all three epic trilogies. All ten characters are original, exclusive illustrations by digital artist and Star Wars fan Malcolm Tween, blending the main images with backgrounds scenes to create striking and hyper-realistic montages. The set includes much-loved characters from the original trilogy and also introduces three brand-new characters from the latest blockbuster: *The Rise of Skywalker*

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Darth Maul A Zabrak with head horns and face tattoos, Maul is trained in the dark arts as a Sith warrior by Darth Sidious. He emerges from his training on Tatooine and confronts Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan Kenobi. In this battle, Jinn is killed, while Maul is sliced in two at the waist. However, he manages to survive and fights in the Clone Wars on robotic legs.
First Class



Zorii Zorii Bliss is a tough spice runner from the snowy planet Kijimi. Armed with twin blaster pistols and wearing a visored helmet to hide her face, Zorii just wants to keep her business to herself. But even streetwise scoundrels such as Zorii are forced to take sides in the increasingly high-stakes war between the First Order and the Resistance.
First Class



Wicket Warrick The Ewok scout and warrior befriends Leia Organa on his homeworld, the forest moon of Endor. The planet has become the site of an Imperial generator that powers the energy shield protecting the second Death Star. Using simple weapons and traps, Wicket and his fellow Ewoks help Leia and the Rebel Alliance defeat the Empire during the battle of Endor.
First Class



Poe Dameron
Ace pilot Poe Dameron is a highly skilled member of the Resistance. Assisted in his customised T-70 X-wing fighter by his trusty droid, BB-8, he leads a daring raid to find a weak spot in Starkiller Base. Preferring action to passivity, he clashes with the leadership of the Resistance over his desire to strike at the First Order but remains at the heart of any battle.
First Class



Queen Amidala At the age of 14, Padmé Amidala becomes the monarch on her planet Naboo. A skilled diplomat and fighter, she goes on to represent Naboo as its senator on Coruscant, where she falls in love with a dashing young Jedi, Anakin Skywalker. Witnessing Anakin's fall to the dark side, Amidala is forced to flee after she becomes pregnant with their twins, Luke and Leia.
First Class

First Day Cover: with Tallents House handstamp depicting crossed lightsabers



Miniature Sheet First Day Cover: with alternative pictorial handstamp featuring the spiked head of Darth Maul





FD1920-TH



FD1920-PL



FD1920-NP



Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover: with eight Machins and Tallents House handstamp



Presentation Pack: houses ten First Class Stamps



Presentation Pack Inner: highlights some of the characters, and salient activities in the Star Wars galaxy

STAR WARS QUOTES

'The Force will be with you. Always'
Obi-Wan Kenobi's last words to Luke in Star Wars.

'I find your lack of faith disturbing'
A disappointed Darth Vader as he chokes Admiral Motti with the Force in the first movie.

'When gone am I, the last of the Jedi will you be'
Yoda predicts Luke's future career in *Return of the Jedi.*

'So this is how liberty dies. With thunderous applause'
Padmé Amidala responds to Palpatine's evil plans in *Revenge of the Sith.*

'A thousand generations live in you now. But this is your fight'
Rey recalls the stirring words of Luke in *The Rise of Skywalker.*

CELEBRITY STAR WARS FANS

CARA DELEVINGNE

Who? Supermodel and actress.
Fan credentials She ditched her usual stellar couture for a very badly cut Jabba The Hutt costume and lightsaber for the London premiere of *The Force Awakens.*

MARK ZUCKERBERG

Who? Facebook mogul.
Fan credentials In 2015 the Zuck posted a snap of his newborn daughter Max on Facebook, dressed as a Jedi and surrounded by a toy Chewbacca, Darth Vader and BB-8 droid. He later put up a picture of his Hungarian sheepdog Beast in a Sith lord outfit.

SIMON PEGG

Who? Actor and comedy writer.
Fan credentials The *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz* star was so obsessed with Star Wars that he wrote a Marxist critique of the movie for his dissertation as a film student at Bristol University.



Miniature Sheet: features six new First Class stamps, bringing together some of the most iconic vehicles in the Star Wars galaxy

Poe's X-wing fighter This Incom T-70 X-wing fighter is the signature ship of the Resistance. Fast and powerful, these craft are able to dogfight against First Order TIE fighters and attack much larger ships with their proton torpedoes.
First Class





TIE Silencer The next-generation space-superiority fighter with incredible speed and firepower. It carries an onboard hyperdrive and deflector-shield generator, with missiles and cannons located within the wing apertures.
First Class





Jedi starfighter In a space battle above the Galactic Republic's capital planet, Coruscant, Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker pilot small, highly manoeuvrable starfighters equipped with powerful laser and ion cannons. Astromech droids assist with navigation and in-flight repairs.
First Class





Slave I Bounty hunter Jango Fett piloted this patrol-and-attack ship. After his death, it passed to his son, Boba, who also became a bounty hunter. The ship is fitted out with many defensive features and hidden weapons, including projectile launchers, laser cannons and proton torpedoes.
First Class



Podracers These light, repulsorlift racing vehicles consist of a cockpit for a single pilot and huge engines, and can reach extremely high speeds. Anakin Skywalker built his yellow podracer from scavenged parts and piloted it to win his freedom from slavery with the help of Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn.
First Class



Speeder bikes Imperial stormtroopers use open-air repulsorlift speeder bikes for hunting and scouting missions. At the Battle of Endor, Rebels Luke Skywalker and Leia Organa capture two of these fast and highly manoeuvrable vehicles from an Imperial outpost, using them in a high-speed chase through the trees.
First Class

Right: the Prestige Stamp Book is a 24-page booklet with information and photography which explores the making of some of the most iconic vehicles in the Star Wars galaxy

LOCATIONS

TATOOINE / TUNISIA

Where is it actually?
The troglodyte Berber village of Matmata, southern Tunisia, said to date back to the third century BC.
What's it meant to be? Luke's childhood home on desert planet Tatooine – the underground moisture farm run by his uncle and aunt, Owen and Beru Lars.
What's there to see? The Lars farmstead is in fact the Sidi Driss hotel, converted from a Berber house, with its sunken courtyards and rooms carved out of the courtyard walls. You can eat in the dining room where Luke and his family had their meals.
Appearances A New Hope, Attack of the Clones, Revenge of the Sith.

D'QAR / BERKSHIRE

Where is it actually? Former US nuclear missile complex at Greenham Common, just outside Newbury.
What's it meant to be? General Leia Organa's Rebel hideaway on the Outer Rim planet of D'Qar – and base for its fleet of Incom-FreiTek T-70 X-wing Starfighters. They're seen in the hangers that once held the cruise missiles of the American air force's 501st Tactical Missile Wing. In the 1980s the base was surrounded by thousands of women protesting against nuclear weapons.
What's there to see? The blast-proof missile bunkers, the 501st HQ building with its war room and nuclear decontamination suite, and the remains of the runway – at 10,010 feet, once the longest military runway in Europe.
Appearances The Force Awakens, The Last Jedi.

HOTH / NORWAY

Where is it actually? The Hardangerjøkulen glacier near the town of Finse.
What's it meant to be? The ice planet Hoth, scene of the now-legendary battle between Imperial and Rebel forces, where AT-AT walkers made their first appearance. The movie crew, effectively cut off by avalanches, filmed in snow almost 20ft deep.
What's there to see? Ice. Lots. There's 73 square miles of glacier, which is more than 6,000ft high, and hiking tours give you sight of the spectacular 'blue ice' at Blåisen.
Appearances The Empire Strikes Back.

Star Wars – Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	26 November
Number of stamps	Six (6 x 1st Class)
Design	Interabang
Miniature Sheet size (exc. margin)	192mm x 74mm
Miniature Sheet size (inc. margin)	204mm x 74.25mm
Stamp Size, Format (Perforations)	
Poe's X-wing fighter and TIE silencer (landscape)	41mm x 30mm, (14.5 x 14)
Jedi starfighter and Slave I (portrait)	27mm x 37mm, (14 x 14)
Podracer and speeder bikes (landscape)	60mm x 21mm, (14.5 x 14.5)
Printer	International Security Printers
Print Process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive



Prestige Stamp Book: pane one



Pane two



Pane three



Pane four



Pane five



The Skywalker Family Brilliant Uncirculated Medal Envelope



A Galaxy of Vehicles Brilliant Uncirculated Medal Envelope





Star Wars quiz

1 Who directed *'Rise of Skywalker'?*
a) J J Abrams
b) George Lucas
c) Irvin Kershner

2 What film features the location of the Hardangerjøkulen glacier, Norway?
a) *The Last Jedi*
b) *The Empire Strikes Back*
c) *The Force Awakens*

3 Who said 'When gone am I, the last Jedi will you be'?
a) Darth Vader
b) Yoda
c) Luke

4 Which actress played Princess Leia?
a) Caroline Blakiston
b) Genevieve O'Reilly
c) Carrie Fisher

5 Who pilots the Millennium Falcon?
a) Chewie
b) Rey
c) Lando

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

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Star Wars Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 January 2020.

September solutions – Rocketman Quiz 1c 2b 3b 4c 5b 6a
Winners Rev Peter T Hanna, County Cork; Mrs J Constantine, Beaconsfield; Mr J Cooke, Northwood; Stuart Hicks, Reading; David Bowcock, Leeds.

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.

Retail Stamp Book: features four First Class definitive stamps and the Poe Dameron and Sith Trooper Special Stamps. Both characters will appear in final episode in the Star Wars saga; *The Rise of Skywalker.* As with all retail stamp books the stamps are printed in gravure and are self-adhesive (unlike the individual stamps from the set which are litho and gummed)



IMMORTAL ICONS

LIGHTSABER

Cutlasses, you're so last week, the lightsaber is where it's at. This space age 'blade' can cut through any known material and even deflect laser blasts – but only operates for one with the Force, which activates the kyber crystals powering the weapon. Advanced, right? The reality is more prosaic: the props boys built Luke and Obi-Wan's lightsabers from the body of a vintage camera flashbulb, and Vader's comprised an Armitage Shanks bath tap knob, a bit of a First World War rifle grenade, and a pipe from an aircraft engine. The sound came from the hum of a clapped-out film projector.

CHEWBACCA

A Wookiee mechanic from forest planet Kashyyyk, 7ft 6in 'Chewie' has a fearsome reputation as a Rebel fighter. But his origins are somewhat closer to home than his 'birthplace' in the Mid Rim sector of the Star Wars galaxy. The inspiration for Han Solo's co-pilot was George Lucas's 130lb pet dog Indiana, a giant, long-haired Alaskan Malamute.

DEATH STAR

It's an estimated 100 miles in diameter, with a crew of more than one million, and kitted out with a planet-destroying superlaser… what's not to love about the Death Star if you're an evil Imperial commander? Well, 34,435 Americans loved it so much they signed a petition in 2012 demanding the Obama administration build its own Death Star. The White House rejected their demands, saying: 'The Administration does not support blowing up planets.' Referring to an estimate that the battle station would cost $850 quadrillion to build, and the fact that it had been destroyed by Luke Skywalker, officials wrote: 'Why would we spend countless taxpayer dollars on a Death Star with a fundamental flaw that could be exploited by a one-man starship?'

MILLENNIUM FALCON

A souped-up Corellian YT-1300 freighter won by Han Solo from Lando Calrissian in a game of sabacc (like pontoon but played with an interference field), the Falcon famously made the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs. How, goodness only knows: the original scale models for flying scenes were made using bits of Ferrari and tank model kit as the Star Wars props workshop in California happened to be near to a hobby store. Oh, and thinking of a hamburger with a bite out of it inspired George Lucas to create the Falcon's distinctive shape.

YODA

It's experience not size that counts when you're a Jedi master. A shade over two feet he might be, yet Yoda has trained Jedi novices for 800 years. But how to portray the little fella? For his debut in *The Empire Strikes Back*, the plan was to train a monkey to walk in costume with Yoda's stick; but a crew member who'd worked with the unruly apes on *2001: A Space Odyssey* cautioned against it, so puppetry was used instead.

Star Wars – Prices

Set of 10 Special Stamps	£7.00
Miniature Sheet	£4.20
Presentation Pack	£12.00
Stamp Pack	£7.20
Miniature Sheet Pack	£4.40
First Day Cover Stamps	£9.00
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£5.65
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane	£6.45
Stamp Souvenir Cover	£9.00
Miniature Sheet Souvenir Cover	£5.65
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Prestige Stamp Book	£17.65
Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book	£49.99
Retail Stamp Book	£4.20
Generic Sheet	£8.10
Composite Sheet	£21.00
Postcards (17 in set)	£7.65
Press Sheet	£69.30
Star Wars: The Official Stamp Collection	£24.99
Complete Stamp Set Souvenir	£22.99
Full Stamp Sheet – Count Dooku	£35.00
Full Stamp Sheet – Darth Maul	£35.00
Half Stamp Sheet – Count Dooku	£17.50
Half Stamp Sheet – Darth Maul	£17.50
Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet	£44.99
Framed Collector Sheet	£39.99
Framed Complete Stamp Set	£54.99
Complete Stamp Set Mount	£24.99
Framed Ewok Print Signed by Warwick Davis	£134.99
Presentation Pack TRILOGY	£29.99
Prestige Stamp Book TRILOGY	£49.99
Skywalker Family BU Medal Cover	£19.99
Skywalker Family Silver Medal Cover	£99.99
Vehicles BU Medal Cover	£19.99
Vehicles Silver Medal Cover	£99.99



Christmas 2019 stamp issue

The inspirations and methods behind the creative process

'Be clearly aware of the stars and infinity on high. Then life seems almost enchanted after all'

Vincent van Gogh



Vibrant, vivid, almost incandescent, the light-filled illustrations of artists Harikrishnan Panicker and Deepti Nair for this year's Christmas issue literally illuminate the story of the Nativity. The Mumbai-based husband-and-wife creative team – known to the art world as Hari & Deepti – created these sumptuous scenes with not much more than paper cutouts and LED lights. Yet these simple components belie the skill and patience with which the artists conjured up their narrative on the six stamps – including the Archangel Gabriel's announcement of Christ's imminent arrival, the journey of the Magi, and baby Jesus in the manger.

Their process is a smart mix of materials, methods and tools: hand-cutting up to 20 layers of archival-quality watercolour paper with craft knives; construction of the layers in a wooden shadow box decked with LED strip lights; using painted sheets to change the shade of the light, thereby setting the palette for the picture; and image manipulation on a Mac. 'The process starts with a sketch, which is split into layers, and each layer is then hand-cut on individual layers of paper,' explains Hari, 39. 'These are then assembled in a light box at varying depths and then back-lit. The sculpture is photographed and taken into Photoshop to remove any irregularities.'

A seemingly simple sequence, perhaps, yet each sculpture could take anything from a week to ten days for Hari & Deepti to complete, with a further two to three days for the photo shoot and image editing. The result is a visual treat, seen on the artists' work across the entire stamp set, including the Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Filler Card, First Day Envelope and Generic Sheet (featured in last month's *Bulletin*).











The images are saturated with rich colour yet soaked in gleaming white light, reflecting the glittering allure of the guiding star at the centre of the Nativity – and on every stamp. But what did they hope their carefully crafted light sculptures would say about Christmas? 'We wanted to create a magical representation of the Christmas story, engage with the audience and encourage them to feel like they are a part of the scene,' says Deepti, 38.

Drawing the viewer in is integral to Hari & Deepti's work, and the reason why they love their style of art. It's all about, says Deepti, 'the satisfaction we get when we assemble the artwork and turn the lights on. It feels like a portal ready to transport you to another world.' There were, however, challenges along the way. The couple, who both have master's degrees in design, usually work purely in silhouette, yet the brief from issue designers Charlie Smith Design required more facial detail than they usually do: 'We wanted to make sure we conveyed the emotions of those involved, to capture the warmth of the stories related to Christmas,' says Hari. This is a challenge they have clearly overcome. Simple though the faces may be, they convey a sense of wonder and adoration that accompany the arrival of Christ. And it's quite a triumph considering this is Hari & Deepti's first stamp issue. They are more used to illustrating book covers (they recently finished their own first children's book, called *The Seekers*) and exhibiting larger pieces abroad, including the US, Norway, Dubai and Taiwan. Yet in their work on the Christmas issue, the artists have been supported by a heritage of philately. Explains Hari: 'We collected stamps as kids, and both our fathers were avid stamp collectors. So to have our work showcased as stamps was absolutely something we never expected – and we loved every bit of the process.'



Deepti perfects the angle of a shepherd's staff



Arranging elements for the Miniature Sheet background image

Hari & Deepti



Positioning a shepherd with his flocks in the rolling hills



Various paper cuts create a charming ensemble for photography



Miniature Sheet

Meet the artists

What art and design qualifications do you have, and where did you gain them?

Deepti: 'Hari completed his Masters in Design (Visual Communication) from the Industrial Design Centre/IIT Bombay and I completed my Masters in Design (New Media Design) at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India.



The resulting image is an invitation to peer through a magical portal – a primary objective of the artists

Where you born and brought up?

Deepti: 'We were born and raised in India. Hari was raised in Mumbai and Deepti in New Delhi. We lived in the US from 2009-2014'.

Why did you decide to relocate to Mumbai?

Hari: 'We moved back to Mumbai from Denver in October 2014 to be with family, and it gave us more access to travel and explore Asian countries.

PAPER CUTTING

How did you discover paper cutting and lighting?

Hari: 'We got married in 2009 and moved to Denver, where we would try and be a part of the art scene through charity art shows. It's for one of these shows, that we started working with cut paper as a medium. These were painted, unlit dioramas which were much appreciated, and later evolved into cut-paper dioramas with light'.

METHOD

Hari, could you explain a little more about the processes... what materials did you use?

'Archival quality watercolour paper of varying weights'.

What tools did you use, and what did you use them for?

'We hand cut every sheet of paper with cutting knives (Olfa)'.

What lighting system do you use?

'The light box is a wooden shadow box with LED strip lights'.

Is machinery employed to create any of the paper cuts?

'No – *every layer is hand cut with cutting knives'.*

What thickness of paper do you use?

'Varying weights from 300–140gsm'.





Paper cuts seen from the reverse, depicting the Magi riding camels for the Filler Card image

How many layers does each illustration have, and how are the layers fixed together?

'The layers depend on the illustration, and they vary from 10–20 layers. They are fixed together with foam separators'.

How do you achieve the light and shade effects?

'Each artwork is different, and we work with different grades and weight of paper along with painted coloured sheets to manipulate the lighting'.

Do you utilise colour paper and lighting to achieve the variety of colours?

Deepti: 'The sculpture is always white, however we work with colour paper to manipulate the lighting for colour effects'.

What were the dimensions of the stamp cutouts?

Deepti: 'The stamp artworks were always made much bigger in size but in proportion to the stamp'.

What tasks did you do together and what tasks did you do individually on the stamp products?

Deepti: 'We always work together on most of the tasks, we brainstorm on the concept and decide on a composition. Hari then draws out the master sketch which is then transferred to individual layers. We then split them between us and cut the paper separately. Assembly and lighting are done together'.

Did you photograph the sculptures yourselves for the stamps?

Deepti: 'We had some help with the final shoot, and with the editing of images for any irregularities and blemishes'.

How long did it take to cut out each illustration, and to complete the issue, including lighting?

Hari: 'The time depends on the content and complexity of each artwork. It took anywhere from a week to ten days to complete, and another two to three days for the shoot and edits'.

BRIEF AND VISUAL MESSAGES

Who briefed you – Charlie Smith Design or Royal Mail – and which person briefed you?

Hari: 'Our point of contact for the project was Charlie Smith & Hannah Hancox from Charlie Smith Design for all design briefs'.

What was the brief for the stamps?

Hari: 'We were briefed to create a set of stamps from the classic themes around Christmas. The subjects were preselected and we came up with our interpretations'.

What kind of atmosphere did you try to create?

Deepti: 'Every stamp had a different feel to them, some of them were capturing indoor scenes and were more intimate, the outdoor themes were more about the scale of the landscape. We tried to capture these with our style of paper cut and use different colours to represent different themes and storylines for the stamp'.

What were the challenges relating to scale in creating such detailed cutouts for stamps?

Hari: 'There was a big learning curve for us to work on a stamp. We had to make sure all our details would be visible in that small a size. We went through various iterations to get them right and there was a lot of back and forth between the teams. We had lovely support from Charlie & Hannah and they guided us in the right direction'.

What did you find challenging about illustrating such an important story?

Hari: 'Our art primarily features silhouettes and some of the artworks required to depict facial expressions. We wanted to make sure we got the emotions conveyed with classical well known imagery'.

INSPIRATIONS

What are your inspirations and why?

Deepti: 'Our inspirations come from nature and our travels, the people we meet, and the stories we collect on our trips. Our work has always revolved around the balance in nature and our coexistence with it'.

How do you deal with artist's block?

Hari: 'We take a break from work and try to catch up on some sleep. We read books, listen to music. Often moving away from the routine helps us think better, and we find travelling to new places and meeting new people really helpful'.



Checking the paper cuts' layers of contrasting opacity



A final appraisal of the Magi paper cuts prior to photography

Who are your favourite artists and why?

Deepti: 'Our favourite artists are people who create their own world and transport the audience into it. They are filmmakers, musicians and artists, ranging from animators like Hayao Miyazaki to filmmakers like Wes Anderson. And painters like Van Gogh, Matisse and musicians like Sigur Ros'.

What is your dream commission and why?

Hari: 'We have been lucky to have worked on some amazing projects, we just recently finished our first children's book – The Seekers that we wrote and illustrated over the past three years. That was definitely one of our dream projects and it was something that we were really passionate about. We are also interested in doing large scale installations of our work on paper, and we would love to juxtapose it with an existing historical/architectural structure as a medium of storytelling. That would be challenging and exciting'.



The final image with its mix of both subtle and stark purple hues

Castle high values

Michael J Y Roberts FRPSL concludes his three-part analysis of the 1955–70 Castle Issue with the printings of Bradbury Wilkinson & Co

Bradbury Wilkinson & Co Printings By early 1963, a decision had been made to re-offer the printing contract. The then incumbent, De La Rue & Co Ltd had enjoyed a run of five years. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co Ltd (BW), an English engraver and printer of banknotes, postage stamps and share certificates was awarded the contract. They took over all the original master dies, transfer rollers and plates (those which had not been destroyed) and set about making a set of their own new plates. Two examples of the £1 black are known as plate proofs (see fig 1). The purpose was to test for flaws and alignment of imagery.



Fig 1: Die proof of the finished design taken from the master die by the new printers Bradbury Wilkinson & Co Ltd

In common with the usual procedures, BW produced a handful of *Imprimatur* sheets of each value. The history of these is the same as the earlier examples, they were initially retained by The Postal Museum and subsequently released onto the market in part and were acquired by Stanley Gibbons.

It is worth reflecting on the original designer of these stamps, Lynton Lamb, because a few presentation cards exist of the Bradbury Wilkinson printing which are signed by him (see fig 2). He was an English artist, designer, lithographer and illustrator, who was notable for his book jacket, poster, architectural decoration, and postage stamp designs. Lamb was born in India and later educated in Bath. He exhibited at the Festival of Britain in 1951 and designed the binding of the Bible used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Characteristics of the Printing The newly printed stamps continued to be produced on multiple crown watermarked paper, which appeared whiter than previously. It has been observed that the watermark in the paper was a little crisper and better defined than previously, probably because of the use of a new dandy roll. ▶



Fig 2: Presentation card with Bradbury Wilkinson Castles on watermarked paper and signed by the designer Lynton Lamb

Fig 3: Illustration to show the positioning of the plate number label in the bottom right hand corner of the pane



Fig 4: Chalky paper printing (plate 9) compared to ordinary paper (plate 2)



Fig 5: The £1 value on chalky paper, nearly all were destroyed and none were ever issued through the PO



Fig 6: Vertical paper fold on the 5/- value showing missing ink



The new plates (there were initially nine for the 2/6) were all numbered underneath the bottom row of stamps three and four, an 'A' followed the number on the right hand pane of 40 (fig 3). The plate numbering was carried out in the same format for the 5/- (4 plates), 10/- (2 plates) and £1 (1 plate). These plates produced a heavier and more detailed impression than the later examples of DLR. The heavier lines on The Queen's face and the Diadem of her Crown are noticeable. Examples of Plate 4 and 4A are particularly notable for their rarity. The colours varied little; 2/6 the established Blackish Brown, 5/- more of a red shade, 10/- bright ultramarine and the £1 a similar less intense black as used by DLR. The key dates of issue were; 2/6 1 April 1963, 5/- 3 September 1963, 10/- 16 October 1963 and the £1 14 November 1963.

Efforts were made to improve the clarity and contrast of the stamps and internal trials took place with coated paper. This culminated in the production of what is termed 'chalky' paper. This printing was only released for the 2/6 value, on 30 May 1968 and is only known from plate 9/9A. A comparison with the uncoated paper shows the increased clarity which the technique produces (fig 4). The same experiment was carried out for the £1 value and the Post Office had produced about 10,000 sheets. These were never issued and in the main subsequently destroyed, although it is worth noting that a handful have survived in private hands (fig 5). At the same time, given the improvement in security matters, it was felt unnecessary to continue with the use of watermarked paper. From December 1967, all printings were progressively produced on un-watermarked paper.

A number of interesting errors continued to occur in stamp production. Amongst these are a variety of paper creases resulting in missing ink along the paper folds (fig 6). Paper folds also caused issues in the perforation process resulting in some bizarre examples (fig 7). Another problem occurred with the introduction of foreign bodies into the press, in this instance white punched paper dots giving rise to ink voids; these being known as confetti flaws (fig 8). ▶



Fig 7: Plate 3A of the 5/- value showing a perforation error in the margin because of folding



Fig 8: The confetti flaw on the 5/- value showing the presence of a paper dot between the printing plate and the ink source

Fig 9: School Specimen overprints on the 10/- and £1 value, and 2/6, 5/- cancelled by black bars for use at the PO Training School



There is insufficient space here to go into the details of more minor errors and flaws, of which there are many and varied but one important aspect is worthy of note, the use of these stamps by the Post Office Training School. The stamps were marked in a number of different ways, by overprinting with several different fonts 'School Specimen' or by the application of vertical black bars (fig 9).

Uses of the Castle High Values This is a massive subject on its own. Suffice to say, none of the values accord with any single rate but a combination of rates. Large air mail letters and parcels both domestic and international account for most usages. They were not intended for revenue purposes; only 'postage' is included in the wording on each stamp. They were extensively used on parcel

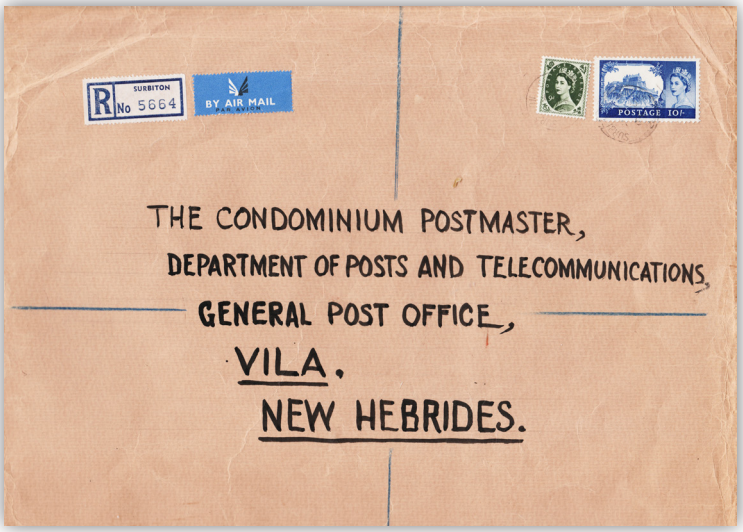


Fig 10: Registered cover from London to the New Hebrides, 2 June 1964, at the rate of 10/9, registration 1/9 and 3 oz at 1/6 per ½ oz



Fig 11: Registered cover from London to Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, 1965 at the rate of 6/3, 1/6 registration and 6/3 for 2½ oz

tags, in particular 'High Value Parcels' and national and international telegrams of which numerous examples exist. As examples, the most interesting usages include those to very unusual destinations such as the New Hebrides (fig 10), the Falkland Islands (fig 11) or by a special 'Superscribed Parcel' service (fig 12).

The Epilogue With the advent of decimal currency, all the values except the £1 were invalidated, having all been withdrawn from sale in the Post Office following the introduction of the new 'Machin' head design. To this day the £1 is still valid as a payment for postage as can be seen from a January 2017 cover from London to Hong Kong where seven £1 castles pay part of postage, the remainder has been paid in cash (fig 13) ●



Fig 12: Parcel piece showing the rare use of the Superscribed Parcel service to the USA



Fig 13: Registered cover to Hong Kong, 5 January 2017 at the rate of £9.25, paid partly in cash but also £7 in Castle £1 values, still valid for use



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

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

1 December Hopton Stamp Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759.

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.

Taplow Stamp & Postcard Fair, Taplow & Hitcham W.I. Hall, Institute Road, Taplow SL6 0NS, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

Uckfield Stamp Fair, Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield TN22 5TE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

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

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

Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 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.

Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

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

Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' 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, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, 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.

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

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

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

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

14 December Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

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

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

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

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 120)

Bexhill Stamp Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 10am to 4pm, 4 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

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

Shoreham-by-Sea Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Janette McCutcheon, 07810 564299, forestfairs.janette@gmail.com.

15 December Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 01827 63367, sales@imperiumstamps.co.uk.

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

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

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

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.

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

Addlestone Stamp & Postcard Fair, Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone KT15 2NJ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 120)

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

Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

The National Philatelic Society meeting on the First Floor of The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA from 2.15pm on Saturday 7 December will feature members' displays, and will therefore have great variance of content. The first new year meeting will be on Saturday 11 January at the Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, when from 2.15pm Frank Parsons will show and entertain with 'The Postal History of Brighton'. You are welcome to attend either or both. Please note the two different venues, but they are not far apart.

The Royal Philatelic Society London meetings at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW are a 5pm presentation on 'Paris by Night' by Seija-Riitta Laakso on Thursday 12 December, and a 5pm presentation on Thursday 9 January by Hugh Feldman entitled 'The First Four Decades of Mail by Railroad in the United States of America (1838 to 1880)'. Should you wish to attend either as a non-member, then a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Adminstration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044, will suffice.

27 December Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

28 December 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.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 120)

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

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

4 January Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Mill Street Town Centre, 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.

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

5 January 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.

11 January Telford Stamp & Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, Telford TF1 1HJ, 9.30am to 2pm, 15 dealers, home-made refreshments available. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk.

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.

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

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.

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

Centenary of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

2019 sees the centenary of The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF). It is the Royal Air Force's leading welfare charity, providing financial, practical and emotional support to serving and former members of the RAF – regardless of rank – as well as their partners and dependants.

Lord Trenchard founded the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund in 1919, one year after the formation of the Royal Air Force. It was originally known as the Royal Air Force Memorial Fund as one of their charitable objects was to raise a memorial to airmen who died in the First World War. The Royal Air Force Memorial was completed in 1923 and the charity's name changed to the Benevolent Fund in June 1933.

BFPS, in collaboration with the RAFBF, produced a commemorative cover to mark this historic occasion which was issued on the 23 October 2019.



The image on the cover represents the cross section of people that the RAFBF supports. A unique special handstamp numbered BFPS 3224, with the Centenary logo silhouetted in the centre, was used to cancel the 1st class stamp 'Hurricane MK 1'.

Three versions have been issued:

- standard unsigned version costing £7.50.
- 'flown' version – flown on a mission in 'Tiger' Puma HC2 aircraft XW224 by No. 230 Squadron, RAF Benson, costing £10.
- numbered limited edition signed by Air Vice-Marshall The Honourable David Murray CVO OBE, Controller of the RAFBF, costing £15.

Profits are donated to the RAFBF.

These covers have an A4 information insert and are presented in a protective cellophane sleeve making a superb memento of the Fund's centenary.

These covers can be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk) or by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS, The Old Post Office, Links Place, Elie, LEVEN, KY9 1AX.

The British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of volunteers who are Veterans. BFPS was specially set-up to ensure that the Forces Philatelic Bureau survives and thrives. BFPS is a registered Community Interest Company (CIC) working closely with the British Forces Post Office (BFPO).

The BFPO has had responsibility for all aspects of military mail, including philatelic matters, since its formation in 1882. More recently, as part of a Strategic Defence and Security Review, BFPO was reorganised and as a result of this the Forces Philatelic Bureau was transferred to BFPS, which was specially set up, as the sole authorised body empowered to deal with all matters concerning the Forces Philatelic Bureau. BFPS is officially licensed by the UK MOD.

BFPS is managed by a retired career Army officer, who has had extensive experience working within the BFPO in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular. The second member of the management team is an ex Royal Engineer Warrant Officer who has a passion for Forces philately. Both are volunteers and are dedicated to keeping the Forces Philatelic Bureau alive and are working hard to ensure the future of this unique area of BFPO operations is secure and flourishes.

The RAF Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity with a proud tradition of looking after its own. We are there for all serving and former members of the RAF as well as their partners and dependent children.

Website: www.rafbf.org
Phone: 0207 580 8343
Email: cmail@rafbf.org.uk
Address: RAF Benevolent Fund
67 Portland Place
London W1B 1AR

Machin Checklist 2019

Low-value Stamps

19 March
£1.35 Orchid Mauve (DS553A); £1.60 Amber Yellow (DS553B); £2.30 Gooseberry Green (DS553C); £2.80 Spruce Green (DS553D); 3.45 Dark Pine Green (DS553E); £3.60 Bright Orange (DS553F).
Walsall, Gravure

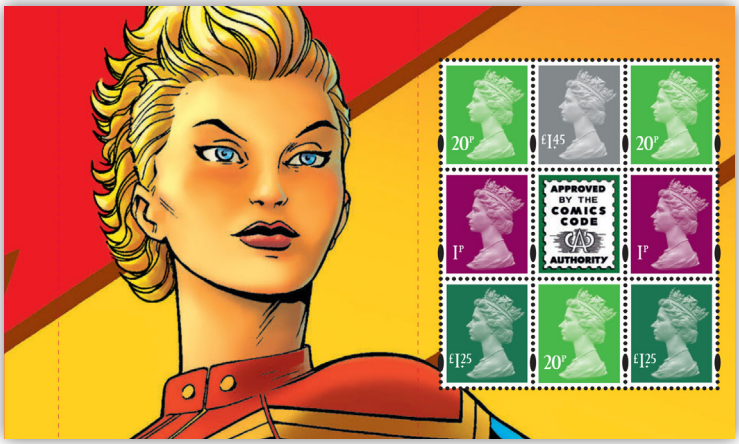


Prestige Stamp Book Panes

13 February
Leonardo da Vinci (YB081) Pane 4: Machins – 2 x 5p, 4 x 10p, 2 x £1.55.
Cartor, Lithography



Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists



14 March
Marvel (YB082)
Pane 5: Machins – 2 x 1p, 3 x 20p, 2 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45.
Cartor, Lithography



24 May
Queen Victoria Bicentenary (YB084)
Pane 2: Machins – 2 x 2p, 2 x 50p, 4 x 1st Class.
Cartor, Lithography



26 November
Star Wars (YB085)
Pane 1: Machins – 2 x 5p, 4 x 2nd Class, 2 x £1.17.
Cartor, Lithography

Retail Stamp Books

14 March
Marvel (UB421)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



4 April
Birds of Prey (UB422)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



6 June
WWII - D-Day (UB424)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



Country Definitives



19 March
England (ES020)
£1.35
Cartor, Lithography



England (ES021)
£1.55
Cartor, Lithography



Scotland (SS031)
£1.35
Cartor, Lithography



Scotland (SS032)
£1.55
Cartor, Lithography



3 September
Elton John (UB423) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



19 September
Royal Navy Ships (UB425) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



26 November
Star Wars (UB428) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



Wales (WS030)
£1.35
Cartor, Lithography



Wales (WS031)
£1.55
Cartor, Lithography



Northern Ireland (IS017)
£1.35
Cartor, Lithography



Northern Ireland (IS018)
£1.55
Cartor, Lithography

New Issues and Withdrawals



26 November — **Issue** Star Wars: Stamps (10 x 1st Class – 2 x horizontal se-tenant strips of 5). Miniature Sheet (6 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack (10 x 1st Class plus Miniature Sheet). Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir (Miniature Sheet affixed). Postcards (17 in set). First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 2 x 5p, 4 x 2nd Class, 2 x £1.17, pane two: 3 x 1st Class from Miniature Sheet, pane three: 3 x 1st Class from Miniature Sheet, pane four: 4 x 1st Class Special Stamps, pane five: 6 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book (in special tin case). Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin Definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Full Stamp Sheet – Count Dooku or Darth Maul (50 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Half Stamp Sheet – Count Dooku or Darth Maul (25 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Press Sheet. Smilers® Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Composite Sheet (featuring all 30 character stamps from 2015/17/19). Complete Stamp Set Souvenir (all 30 Stamps). Skywalker Family Medal Cover (BU or Silver). A Galaxy of Vehicles Medal Cover (BU or Silver). Framed Generic Sheet. Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet. Framed Composite Sheet (all 30 stamps). Complete Stamp Set Mount. Framed Ewok Print signed by Warwick Davis.

3 December — **Withdrawal** Elton John: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



19 December — **Withdrawal** Royal Navy Ships: Stamp Souvenir.

31 December — **Withdrawal** RAF Centenary: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Prestige Stamp Book. Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book. Press Sheet. Framed products. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Stamp Book. Red Arrows Stamp Book. BU Coin Cover. Red Arrows BU Coin Cover.



You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Board from responsible sources FSC® C019570

tim.noble@royalmail.com

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