The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 56 No.3



Royal, Radiant &70

We preview the stamp issue that celebrates the 70th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales

CHRISTMAS 2018 STAMPS PREVIEW • DEFINING STAMP ERRORS

Looking for that special Christmas gift?

If you're struggling for ideas for a special Christmas gift for someone important in your life, our Annual Collections could provide the answer. They comprise a wide range of collectibles, along with pictures, facts and insightful information that you won't find anywhere else. Our 2018 Yearpack, for example, brings together every Special Stamp from 2018 in mint condition. It's presented in a superb decorative folder that will help to keep all the stamps in perfect condition. The Yearpack provides a summary of the story behind each of the stamp themes. Each page features a range of wonderful images to accompany each of the stamp sets. The various postmarks are also featured with all the relevant technical information for each issue. It's just one of several wonderful Annual Products to be issued on 14 November 2018. To find out more simply visit: **www.royalmail.com/annualproducts** or call **03457 641 641**.



Royal Mail Yearpack 2018

Royal Mail

Contents

The Royal Quiz Your chance to win a Royal Presentation Pack **462**

HRH Prince Charles's 70th Birthday These Special Stamps capture Charles very much at ease with Camilla, William, Harry and life **452**



Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps us up to speed with all the philatelic events and activities that are happening up and down the country in November **456**



Maritime Disaster Mail German U-boats sink *SS Kingstonian* in the Mediterranean, we view the salvaged mail **464**

Christmas 2018 The pillar box is centre stage in a very traditional issue of Special Stamps **468**

The iconic post box A reoccurring theme on postcards **472**





Postal workers on the front line We reflect on the courage of the Post Office Rifles during World War I **463**



Defining the errors We clarify the terms that characterise the error types **474**

The Year of the Pig View the stunning new Generic Sheet celebrating the Chinese new year **478**

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

Favourite Stamp Poll

Don't forget to choose your top three Special Stamps and stamp issues of 2018. Cast your vote with the leaflet inside of this edition



HRH Prince Charles's 70th birthday

The extraordinary life and times of Prince Charles are celebrated in a new Miniature Sheet that wishes him a very happy 70th birthday

While Charles has long been renowned for his staunch support of The Queen as heir to the throne, fulfilling a hectic schedule of royal duties, the six-stamp Sheet focuses on Charles the father and husband, surrounded by his family. It shows a contented man very much at ease with the world, smiling with his two much-loved sons and with wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. But his 'professional' activities are not forgotten, as he is also pictured with cheering schoolchildren during a royal visit in Wales.



The Presentation Pack featuring the Miniature Sheet with stamps celebrating the 70th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales: 3 x First Class, 3 x £1.55

HRH Prince Charles's 70th Birthday – Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	14 November
Number of stamps	Six (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.55)
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Miniature Sheet Size	192mm x 74mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Web offset lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



A special feature of this set is a stamp showing a previously unseen photograph, taken this year, of Charles, William and Harry standing together in full military uniform. Welsh customers will be pleased to know that, given Charles's title and his affection for Wales, information on the Sheet and other products is presented in Welsh as well as English. Accompanying the HRH The Prince of Wales 70th Birthday Miniature Sheet is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards and three Coin Covers. These celebration items are all released on 14 November, Charles's birthday. The First Day Cover Insert and Presentation Pack feature a 'royal portrait' illustrated timeline of Charles at different stages of his life. It shows, for example, the young prince celebrating his 18th birthday clad in the Balmoral tartan; sporting a new Royal Navy captain's uniform on the occasion of his 40th birthday, and attending a game of polo, a sport that has always enthused him. ►

Above: Miniature Sheet with Special Stamps featuring: Portrait of HRH The Prince of Wales, Charles and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Charles with his sons HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH The Duke of Sussex, Charles and his sons share a joke at Cirencester Park Polo Club, Charles at the Castle of Mey, Charles greets school children during a visit to Llancaiach Fawr Manor

The First Day Cover Insert



The Miniature Sheet
First Day Cover





FD1823-TH



FD1823-PL



FD1823-NP



COIN COVER

These images sum up the many private interests and public concerns of the Prince and encapsulate the man he is – his close support and respect for the armed forces, his love of Scotland, and his passion for sport and the outdoor life. While the Prince is known for his forward-looking views, on sustainability for example, the Presentation Pack also highlights his abiding respect for tradition and continuity as much as change. To this end it presents a quotation from the Prince, which says: 'Our heritage informs who we are, helping to give us our identity and sense of belonging. We lose touch with it at our peril.'

The Coin Covers, issued in association with the Royal Mint, contain all six Miniature Sheet stamps and an official Prince of Wales 70th Birthday £5 Coin available in Brilliant Uncirculated, Silver Proof and Gold Proof finishes. The Silver and Gold Proofs are in limited editions of just 750 worldwide, and the Uncirculated comes in a limited edition run of 10,000; all Coins are individually numbered, and bear Charles's portrait. The Covers present a richly illustrated analysis of the Prince's life and service to the British Monarchy, the United Kingdom and to the Commonwealth. They focus particularly on his charity work. The Prince's Trust, explains the Coin Cover text, has expanded to become the nation's biggest multi-cause charity network, raising more than £100 million every year for young people

HRH Prince Charles's 70th Birthday – Prices	
Miniature Sheet	£6.66
Presentation Pack	£7.40
Miniature Sheet First Day Cover	£8.55
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£8.55
Miniature Sheet First Day Envelope	30p
Postcards (7 in set)	£3.15
Press Sheet (12 per sheet)	£87.91
Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover	£19.95
Silver Coin Cover	£82.50
Gold Coin Cover	£1,980.00







Coin Cover Insert Front and Insert Back

Below: The Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover

and causes, such as the environment, the countryside and regeneration. It reveals that Prince Charles is the patron of over 400 charities and groups across the globe.

Charles's passion for the environment is also highlighted, including his championing of organic farming long before it went mainstream, and his construction of the sustainable settlement Poundbury on Duchy of Cornwall land. The Coin Covers detail his private passions – skiing, polo (which he only gave up at the age of 57), watercolour painting and classical music. It features a gallery that takes us on a tour of Charles's public duties and his family life. An image shows him as a young Royal Navy helicopter pilot, and on a royal visit to India with Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. Less formal shots include one of Charles acting in a school production of Macbeth at Gordonstoun, and another with Prince William and Prince Harry on the ski slopes at Klosters in Switzerland.

The postmark displays a 'Happy 70th Birthday' message. Two alternative postmarks have the location SW1, the postcode for Clarence House, the official London residence of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on the Mall. The pictorial version has a stylised '70' motif to mark this very special milestone for our future monarch. Royal Mail is extending the period for which Prince Charles's 70th Birthday First Day of Issue postmarks will be available, until 30th November 2018. This is aimed at giving customers sufficient time in which to submit their covers to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Drive, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, for the Tallents House postmark (please quote the *Bulletin* media code, 19BUL9) ●

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





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

2/3 November Stafford Stamp Show, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm, over 50 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

3 November Huddersfield Stamp Fair, St Thomas's Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield HD1 3HU, 9.30am to 4pm, 4 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Alastair Campbell, 01484 681559.

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

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

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



• Charing Cross Market, 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, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

• Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

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

4 November Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, 8 dealers, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 0780 886 4297.

• Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Novotel, Saxon Street, Leybourne Court, Heelands, Milton Keynes MK13 7RA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 0753 449 6845.

• Croydon Postcard Fair, St George's Church Centre, Barrow Road, Waddon, Croydon CR0 4EZ, 9am to 4pm, 7 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Peter Duncan, 0144 448 2620, pjduncan26@gmail.com.



9 November 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.

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

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

• Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.
• Upminster Stamp Fair, St Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 49 6845.
• Laindon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 456).
• Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132.
• Maidstone & Mid-Kent Stamp Fair, Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone ME14 5BT, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, home-made refreshments available. Enquiries: Brian Stonestreet, 01622 675784.
• Folkestone Stamp Fair, Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2UQ, 9am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

11 November Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.
• Wokingham Stamp Fair, St Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• November Bexley Stamp Fair, Freemantle Hall, High Street, Bexley DA5 1AA, 9.30am to 3pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518, lornehw@btinternet.com.

14 November 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.
• Bexhill Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 4 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Bill Anderson, 07824 881635.

16 November Hythe Stamp Fair, United Reformed Church, East Street, Hythe CT21 5ND, 10am to 4pm, 5 dealers. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

17 November Hull Stamp Fair, St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, 5 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.
• Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold refreshments available. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com.
• November Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 456).
• Orpington Stamp & Postcard Fair, Christ Lutheran Church, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1RD, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Keith Jupp, 01689 827086, kjstampspts@btconnect.com.
• Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station ►





Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

• Basingstoke Stamp & Postcard Fair, Costello Technology College, Cross-borough Hill, Basingstoke RG21 4AL, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk.

• Taunton Stamp Club Annual Stamp Fair, St James's Church Hall, St. James Street, Taunton TA1 1JS, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Peter Hardie, 01823 666371.

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

17-18 November Leeds 28th Annual Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 5TA, Saturday 10.30am to 5pm, Sunday 10.30am to 4pm, over 30 dealers both days, café area with hot and cold refreshments. Enquiries: Derek Baron, 01943 465236.

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


Image – bestwestern.co.uk

• Norwich Stamp Fair, Brook Hotel, Barnard Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich NR5 9JB, 10am to 3pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

• Sevenoaks Stamp Fair, Stag Plaza, Stag Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

24 November North East Postcard Fair, St. Aidan's Centre, 408 Brook Street, Broughty Ferry DD5 2EY, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.

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

• 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.

• Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 456).

25 November Doncaster Stamp Fair, Park Social Club, Eden Grove Road, Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2LS, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

• Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm, 10 dealers. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594, richard@lewis8571.plus.com.

• Rugby Stamp & Postcard Fair, Benn Hall, Newbold Road, Rugby CV21 2LN, 10am to 3pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Simon Hemmings, 01455 642248, stamps@midphil.com.

• Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

1 December Huddersfield Stamp Fair, St. Thomas's Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield HD1 3HU, 9.30am

to 4pm, 4 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Alastair Campbell, 01484 681559.

• Reepham Stamp Fair, Reepham Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9am to 4pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Jo Finch, 07786 647103, siskinjo77@yahoo.co.uk.

• Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.



Image – trivago.co.uk/leicester

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

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

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 456).

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

• Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132.

• Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.



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

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

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

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

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

7 December Strand Stamp Fair, (as entry page 456).

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

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

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

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

If you are looking to attend a stamp fair, it is perhaps advisable to check beforehand that the event is still running and has not been subject to alteration or cancellation, as occasionally does happen

• Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 456).
• Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk.
• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, ukoldpostcards.com.

9 December Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.
• Bristol Stamp & Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.
• Wokingham Stamp Fair, St Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

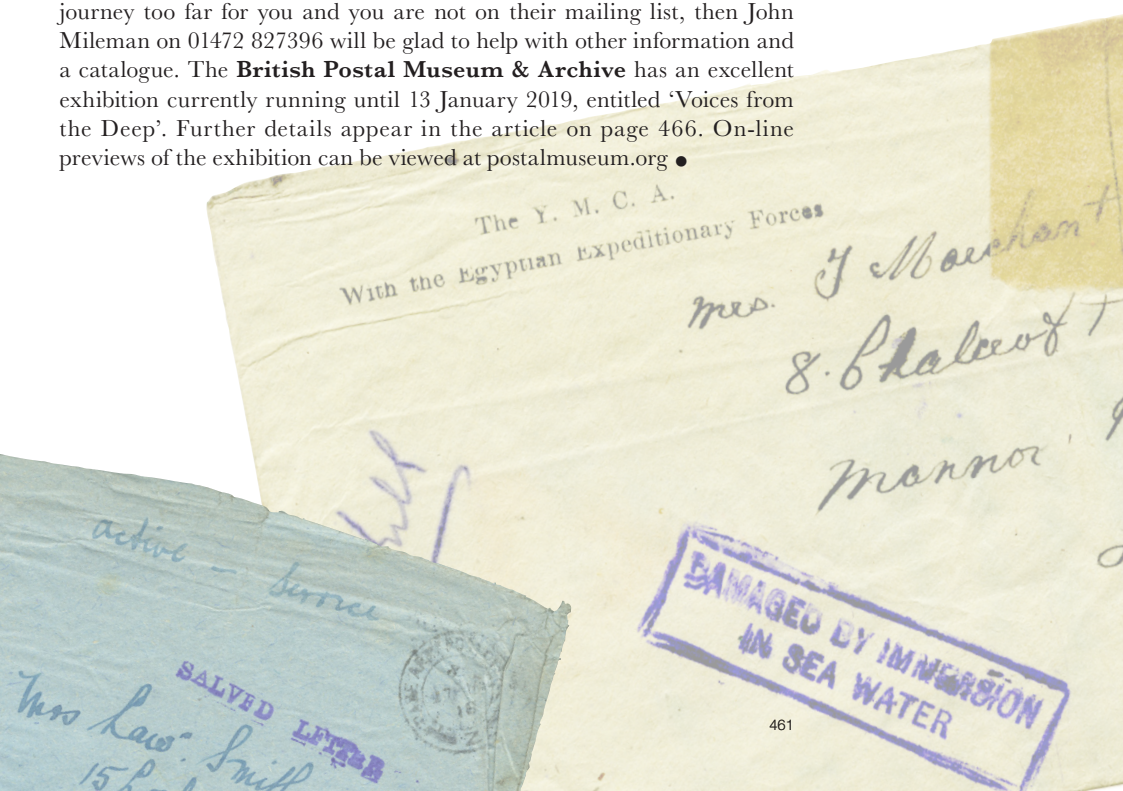
12 December Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

15 December Hull Stamp Fair, St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, 5 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.
• Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry page 456).
• Thatcham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham RG18 3AG, 9.30am to 2pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk.
• Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jan Shepherd, 07729 967206 ●

Recent meeting details for GB collectors

The third meeting of the new season for the **Great Britain Philatelic Society** will be at the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, on Saturday 24 November from 11am. This is entitled 'Machin Day' and will cover presentations and displays relating to this very long running and highly studied and collected current series of Great Britain definitive stamps. Visitors are welcome to come and see what this society can offer, as well as enjoy the day. A residential week-end meeting of the **Great Britain Overprint Society** will take place from 2-4 November at the Grasmere House Hotel in Salisbury, where members will give presentations and displays. If any non-member wishes for further details with a view to attendance, they should initially contact the President, Tony Stanford, on 01628 482270. The **National Philatelic Society** meet on the First Floor of The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, where visitors and prospective new members are most welcome, and refreshments are available. On Saturday 3 November there will be the annual competitions,

and on Saturday 8 December there will be members' displays at the Christmas meeting. The **Royal Philatelic Society London** has three meetings in the period under review. A display from 1pm onwards on 8 November by the Society President, Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL, entitled 'Belgians Overseas', and a display by members of the ArGe Deutsche Besetzung im 1. Weltkrieg from 1pm on 15 November. A week later on 22 November, members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle will entertain from 1pm with a display covering an area of wide appeal. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests, but are required to contact Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 0207 486 1044 during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day. The **Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture 2018** is to be held at 5pm on Friday 9 November at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, when Frank Walton RDP FRPSL will be discussing different perspectives on the wide topic of 'Should Aerophilately be a subject of Postal History?'. Come along on this evening to find out what the conclusions will be. Free admission is only by non-transferable ticket on application to Rex Dixon FRPSL, at rexdixon@btinternet.com. The **Grimsby & District Philatelic Society** hold an annual philatelic auction to raise money for St Andrew's Hospice, with all monies raised going directly to the charity. With 350 lots, no buyers' fees, and the only extra being postage if you are not attending, this worthwhile event needs our support. The date, time and place is Wednesday 5 December, viewing from 5.30pm, auction from 7pm, held at No.2 Meeting Room, Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG. Should this be a journey too far for you and you are not on their mailing list, then John Mileman on 01472 827396 will be glad to help with other information and a catalogue. The **British Postal Museum & Archive** has an excellent exhibition currently running until 13 January 2019, entitled 'Voices from the Deep'. Further details appear in the article on page 466. On-line previews of the exhibition can be viewed at postalmuseum.org ●



The Royal Quiz

1 The Prince is patron of approximately how many organisations?
a) 200 b) 300 c) 400

2 In what year did Charles and Camilla marry? a) 2002
b) 2004 c) 2005

3 At what age did the Prince become Heir Apparent?
a) 3 b) 4 c) 6

EUB Tywysog Cymru
PEN BLWYDD YN 70 OED

HRH The Prince of Wales
70TH BIRTHDAY



4 Where was the above photo taken of Charles and his sons in polo shirts?
a) Guards Polo Club
b) Tidworth Polo Club
c) Cirencester Park Polo Club

5 Which Castle is featured behind Charles in the stamp above?
a) Windsor Castle
b) Castle of Mey
c) Balmoral Castle

6 Where is the Prince's Welsh home?
a) Caerphilly
b) Conwy
c) Carmarthenshire

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'The Royal 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 HRH The Prince of Wales 70th Birthday Presentation Pack.
Closing date 15 December 2018.

August Solutions – The Captain's Quiz 1c 2b 3c 4c 5a 6c 7c.
Winner Reverend Peter T Hanna, Cork, Ireland. **Runners-up** Peter Clutton, Newport Pagnell. Mr P Jeffery, Teignmouth. Melvyn Neaves, Liskeard.

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.



8th London Battalion
Post Office Rifles Cap Badge

The Post Office Rifles on the front line

Immense pride should be taken when reflecting on the activities of postal workers during World War I. In addition to maintaining postal services throughout the conflict 75,000 members of staff left their jobs to fight overseas. The Post Office Rifles (the Post Office's own Battalion) were engaged in some of the bloodiest battles of the war including the Somme and Ypres. Over 2,000 gallantly gave their lives for our country whilst leaving 4,500 wounded.



[FORM FOR FEMALES.]

This is to Certify that

Ellen Bairnfather

(Name in full)

Postwoman

(Occupation)

(of the address stated on the back of this Certificate)

has been Registered under the National Registration Act, 1915.

CODE NO. 28

Date of issue of Certificate 17 JAN 16

LONDON

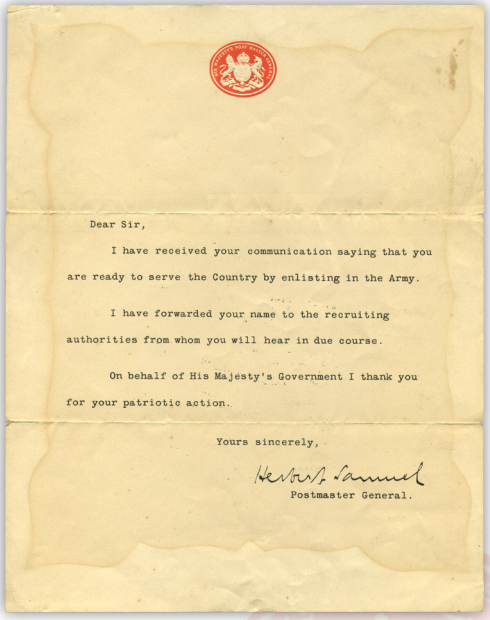
(Signature of Holder)

NOTICE TO THE HOLDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE.

This Certificate must be signed at once, and carefully kept by you. If your permanent address is changed, this Certificate must be delivered **within 14 days** to the Clerk of the Council of the Borough, Urban or Rural District in which your address is situated (or in Scotland, the Town or County Clerk) with the particulars written in the space provided on the back.

For this purpose the Certificate may be handed over the counter at a Post Office, if possible in the district of your new address.

A registration certificate for Ellen Bairnfather, a postwoman, under the National Registration Act of 1915. This Act was passed to find out how many men of fighting ability were available. How a postwoman came to be included in the list is not clear



Dear Sir,

I have received your communication saying that you are ready to serve the Country by enlisting in the Army.

I have forwarded your name to the recruiting authorities from whom you will hear in due course.

On behalf of His Majesty's Government I thank you for your patriotic action.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert L. Samuel

Postmaster General.

A letter signed by Herbert L Samuel, the Postmaster General from 19 February 1910 – 10 February 1914 and 28 May 1915 – 2 January 1916, probably during his second term of office. Although the letter is not personally addressed, it is likely to have been sent to a postal worker, many of whom served on the Western Front



The Battle of Passchendaele, commonly referred to as the Third Battle of Ypres, was a campaign that resulted in enormous cost in casualties to both sides. It was also a battle in which extraordinary courage was shown by Post Office Rifleman Sergeant Alfred Knight (left). He was awarded the highest accolade of the Victoria Cross for capturing a German position having single handedly charged German lines ●

Registration certificate and Postmaster General letter are reproduced with the kind permission of Bath Postal Museum

Maritime Disaster Mail

In 1918 SS Kingstonian became part of 13 million tons of wreckage from 5,000 ships sunk by German U-boats. We look at the salvaged mail

On 5 September 1914, *HMS Pathfinder* fell victim to the first self-propelled torpedo launched by a German submarine, the ship sank rapidly taking over 250 down to their deaths. The strike announced the German U-boat's arrival as the nemesis of allied Naval shipping. Trade routes around the British Isles were subject to blockades and attack, hampering and destroying imports of food and raw materials for the war industry.

The Mediterranean seabed also became the resting place of many a British ship. One casualty was the steamship *SS Kingstonian* which was torpedoed by the German Imperial Navy's *UB-68* whilst on voyage from Alexandria to Marseille. One person lost his life in the attack at Carloforte Roads which occurred on



Cachet: BATEAU NAUFRAGE MARSEILLE This appears on two letters from Egypt to France. Monsieur Tournier suggests that the mails were landed at Marseille where the mark was applied. Pieces of mail from this wreck are not uncommon, but only one strike of the cachet which is at all clear has been seen. Most are barely decipherable. The sudden change from large to small capitals in setting up the type is interesting. There's also a strike of the French military postmark of PORT SAID 1 AVRIL 18



11 April 1918. The liner carrying troops and equipment was then beached by the captain nearby in Sardinia. However that wasn't the end of the drama. On 29 April whilst being repaired with assistance from the Navy tug *HMS Dalkeith,* another German U-boat launched an attack. The *UB-48* sunk both ships killing one person on the stranded *Kingstonian* and nine on the *Dalkeith.*

The *UB-48* was one of the deadliest of World War I, sinking 32 ships including a destroyer. The *UB-68* that launched the initial attack, became a casualty of war itself six months later when after surfacing, as a result of technical issues, it was sunk by gunfire believed to be delivered from *HMS Snapdragon.* Thirty three of the German crew survived the attack with just one loss of life. ▶



Cachet: BATEAU NAUFRAGE MARSEILLE With postmark Cairo 20 MR 18. Monsieur Tournier says that on all the examples he had seen, the handstamp is very defective and the envelopes have suffered considerably. Nonetheless, aesthetically the erosion creates a stunning palette and blend of hues

SS Kingstonian was a steel steam ship built in 1901 by Hawthorn Leslie & Co Ltd. The owner was Leyland Frederick & Co., Liverpool

All Maritime Disaster Mail pictures are reproduced with the kind permission of Bath Postal Museum. Image left – warmemorial.org



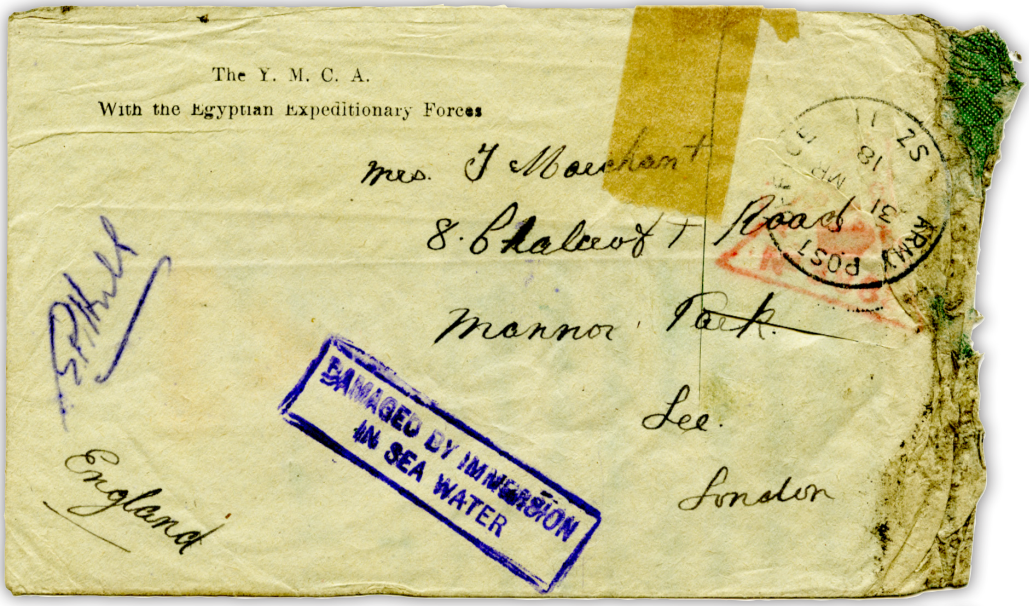
Cachet: NAUFRAGIO (Italian for shipwreck) Another cover salvaged from the *Kingstonian* with postmark Alexandria 21 MR 18, the ROMA 26.5.18 strike on the reverse confirms its arrival in Rome

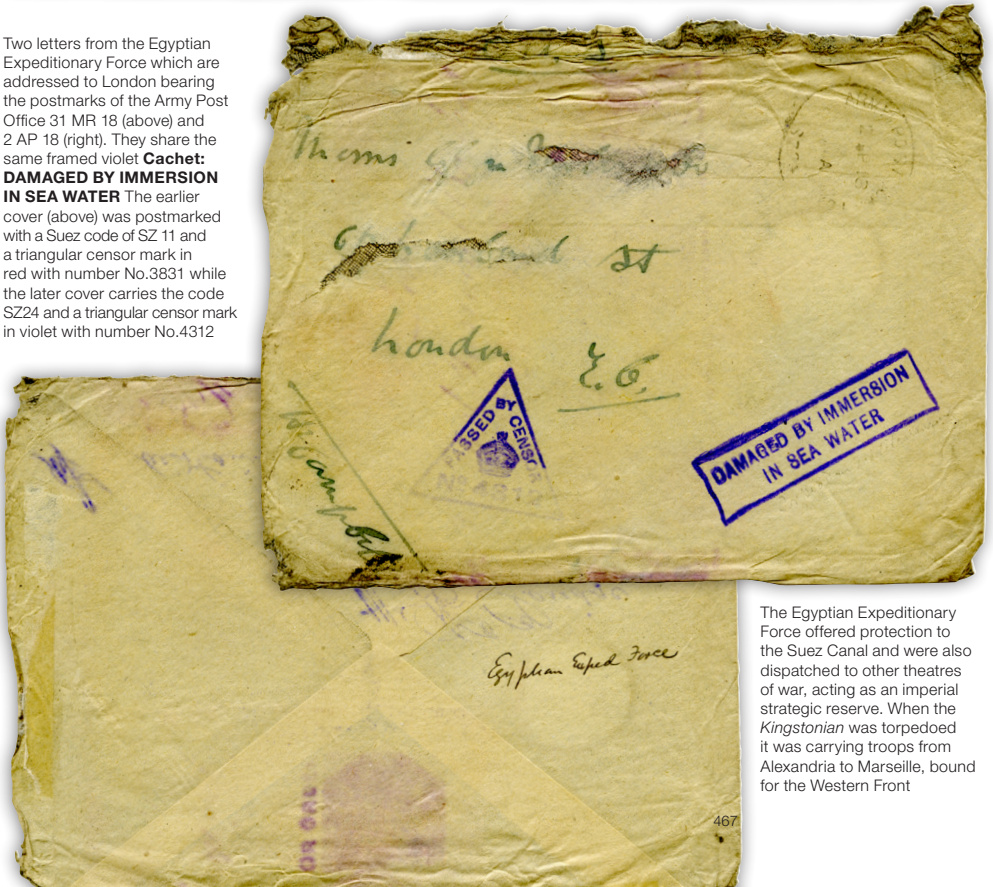


Today 100 years on, shipwrecks like the *Kingstonian* (a dangerous wreck) lie in the depths of crystal clear Mediterranean waters. They're now the intrigue of scuba divers enjoying life in considerably more favourable season than those traversing seas during the dark era of World War I. Indeed the relics of war still engender the fascination of historians and collectors alike with wreck mail being a source of interest to those seeking greater insight into military logistics, postmarks and cachets and yet many of us simply find ourselves engaged by the poignancy of rescued words that were never spoken. For those that share a fascination on the subject it may be of interest to know that the British Postal Museum & Archive has an excellent exhibition currently running until 13 January 2019, entitled 'Voices from the Deep'. Here is told in some detail for the first time, stories from 700 personal letters that were trapped on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean half a mile deeper than the *RMS Titanic*. The *SS Gairsoppa* was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on 16 February 1941, and has lain undisturbed on the seabed ever since. From soldiers writing to loved ones, to businessmen and missionaries, the letters offer a unique insight into the lives of ordinary people who were living in extraordinary circumstances during the Second World War. Visit the website at postalmuseum.org for more information and online previews of the exhibition ●

Numerous cachets were applied to the *Kingstonian* wreck including the one shown below, **Cachet: SALVED LETTER** This letter addressed to Edinburgh has the postmark BASE ARMY POST OFFICE Z. The BAPO in Egypt was the first to be established outside of France serving the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) which had been evacuated from Gallipoli. The Egyptian Expeditionary Force which played a prominant role in the destruction of the Ottoman Empire in Levant was born out of the remnants of the MEF. The triangular censor cachet is barely decipherable







Two letters from the Egyptian Expeditionary Force which are addressed to London bearing the postmarks of the Army Post Office 31 MR 18 (above) and 2 AP 18 (right). They share the same framed violet **Cachet: DAMAGED BY IMMERSION IN SEA WATER** The earlier cover (above) was postmarked with a Suez code of SZ 11 and a triangular censor mark in red with number No.3831 while the later cover carries the code SZ24 and a triangular censor mark in violet with number No.4312

The Egyptian Expeditionary Force offered protection to the Suez Canal and were also dispatched to other theatres of war, acting as an imperial strategic reserve. When the *Kingstonian* was torpedoed it was carrying troops from Alexandria to Marseille, bound for the Western Front

A very traditional Christmas 2018 issue

Snow-clad hills and country churches, glowing windows casting welcoming light on wintery village streets...

Royal Mail has painted the perfect festive season on this year's Christmas stamp issue. All the magical elements are here: illuminated Christmas trees, a cheeky robin, carol singers and fresh green holly. Yet the vital element on every stamp is the post box: by allowing us to exchange greetings and gifts with family and friends, it is also a symbol of the ideal Christmas when we communicate, catch up and celebrate with loved ones.



The Presentation Pack that houses the full set of eight Special Stamps



Christmas 2018 – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	1 November
Number of stamps	Eight (2nd Class Large, 1st Class Large, 2nd Class, 1st Class, £1.25, £1.45, £1.55, £2.55)
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Illustrations	Andrew Davidson
Stamp format (standard)	Portrait
Stamp format (large)	Landscape
Size (standard)	24mm x 28mm
Size (large)	34mm x 28mm
Number per sheet	50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-Adhesive



The Miniature Sheet depicting a mother and child walking to a pillar box with a beautiful snowy village backdrop

The Royal Mail Christmas 2018 Special Stamp issue is accompanied by a Miniature Sheet, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Generic Sheet, Postcards, and First and Second Class Retail Stamp Books. The set, released on 1 November, comes in a range of values: Second Class, Second Class Large, First Class, First Class Large, £1.25, £1.45, £1.55 and £2.25. Printed in gravure, they are illustrated by leading philatelic artist Andrew Davidson.

As well as evoking the cosy atmosphere of a Christmas we all dream of, each stamp is also a stage in the fascinating evolution of post boxes. On the £1.45 value, for example, a man eagerly taking his Christmas tree home approaches a hexagonal Penfold box from the Victorian era, which accordingly sports Queen Victoria's cypher. On the Second Class stamps, a young girl, assisted perhaps by her grandfather, posts a pile of greetings cards in an Edward VII wall box, set in a snowy wall crowned by holly. These boxes were introduced in 1857 for rural regions, where there would be little or no pavement space for a ground-based box. Edward's elaborate, scrolled cypher can clearly be seen. ►

The Miniature Sheet First Day Cover



Christmas 2018 – Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	1 November
Number of stamps	Eight (2nd Class Large, 1st Class Large, 2nd Class, 1st Class, £1.25, £1.45, £1.55, £2.55)
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Illustrations	Andrew Davidson
Stamp format (standard)	Portrait
Stamp format (large)	Landscape
Size (standard)	24mm x 28mm
Size (large)	34mm x 28mm
Sheet Size	179mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



FD1822-TH



FD1822-PL

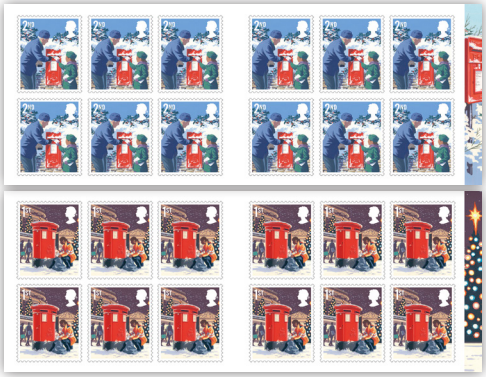


FD1822-NP



Two types of 'lamp' post boxes also appear, on the £1.25 stamp where an adult and child walk towards a George VI model clutching their Christmas cards, and on the £2.25 value, where a choirboy rushes from church through the snow to a box showing George V's cypher. Small lamp boxes were originally fitted to lamp-posts in London squares in 1896, and later in the countryside where volumes of mail were smaller. They were attached to lamp-posts and telegraph poles, or mounted on their own pedestals. There are also stamps showing boxes that bear the cyphers of Edward VIII and, of course, our own Queen. The wonder of Christmas is colourfully explored throughout the rest of the products in this non-religious festive issue – part of Royal Mail's practice of alternating each year between religious and non-religious themes for its Christmas Specials. On the Presentation Pack Outer section, we see what gets posted every festive season through more than 100,000 post boxes across the UK – a collection of pretty Christmas cards with all our favourite themes: the Magi following a very special star on the way to meet the baby Jesus; a robin balancing on a holly branch; silent snowscapes; and Santa Claus soaring over the rooftops in his sleigh. And on the Pack's Inner, a woman sends off her Christmas mail at a post box in town.

Retail Stamp Book: 12 x 2nd Class Special Stamps, Retail Stamp Book: 12 x 1st Class Special Stamps



Christmas 2018 – Prices	
8 Special Stamps	£9.55
Miniature Sheet replicating stamps	£9.55
Presentation Pack	£10.25
Special Stamps First Day Cover	£12.00
Stamp Souvenir	£12.00
Miniature Sheet First Day Cover	£12.00
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£12.00
Postcards	£4.05
Retail Stamp Book 2nd Class	£6.96
Retail Stamp Book 1st Class	£8.04
Generic Sheet	£17.50



Opposite: First Day Cover with alternative handstamp

Left: First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp

Over the box runs the following anonymous poem found in a Christmas card dating from around 1860 to 1890: 'How doth the little Pillar-Box / At every corner stand, / And gathers letters all the day / From every sort of hand.'

The Miniature Sheet, which features the Special Stamps, has a background image of a lamp box by the side of a snowy track on the edges of a town. The Generic Sheet underscores the issue's theme of an idyllic Christmas. Here the stamps are set against the backdrop of a village swathed in snow on a clear, starry night. In the hills above, two children play on sledges; a farmer brings fodder out to his sheep. Below them, villagers attend a Christmas service at the church, skate on the local pond, and buy their final gifts for loved ones. Yet on the Generic Sheet (and elsewhere in the issue), behind the scenes of this festive idyll, a Royal Mail delivery team quietly works away to make the magic happen: a postal worker prepares to empty a post box in the village, and a Royal Mail van works its way up a hill to deliver packages to outlying farms. On the First Class value, letters are collected from a post box in a town square. On the First Day Cover and Presentation Pack Inner, Royal Mail staff deliver letters to people's homes.



First Day Cover Insert Card

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (ie stamped and postmarked) must reach Royal Mail by 1 November. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue addressed to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Drive, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, for the Tallents House postmark (please quote the *Bulletin* media code, 19BUL9).

The postmark features an illustration of that classic festive bird, the robin, carrying a Christmas letter in its beak. Two alternative postmarks bear the now customary location of Bethlehem, Llandeilo for its obvious Christmas connotations. The pictorial version shows a pen nib shaped like a Christmas tree, neatly symbolising the joy of sending and receiving compliments of the festive season ●

The Generic Sheet





The postcard (left): 'A Post Card for Daddy', was published by B.B. London (Birn Brothers) in the first decade of the 1900's. Although a major publishing house based in London, Birn Brothers often employed printers in Germany, this item having been printed in Saxony. Their cards featured an extensive variety of subjects which extended to propaganda, military and naval themes with the advent of the First World War.
Right: A postcard designed and published by Rosalind Wicks, with text: THE FIRST PILLAR BOX 'A Pillar for the Post, how curious' thought Alice.
Below: A postcard from the 1910's Claremont Series expresses a little Yorkshire wit





Stamp Books, British Pillar Boxes Series – designs by Ronald Maddox. The captions below are the text from the inside front covers



No1 The cover drawing shows the earliest type of pillar box to appear on the streets of London - sometime in 1855. This one, the first in use, was sited in Fleet Street. The boxes, dark green in colour and about five feet high, were not popular among Londoners who disliked them on both practical and aesthetic grounds. They were replaced within two years by highly ornamental cylindrical boxes



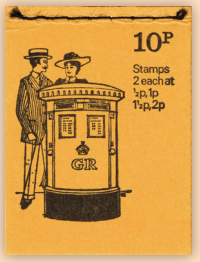
No 2 The cover drawing shows one of three "giant" pillar boxes made in error by a Birmingham firm in 1856. The original specification was for a box about five feet six inches high with apparently, a slightly rounded top; this was misunderstood and the makers gave the box a high dome embellished with a large crown. Only three boxes were made before the mistake was noticed and the fancy top was omitted from later models



No 3 The cover drawing shows one of three surviving pillar boxes built in the period 1857-1859. Designed by the Department of Science and Art for use in London and other principal cities its ornamentation included a rose, a daffodil, a thistle and a shamrock - the emblems of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. A compass tile was let into the dome of the roof



No 4 The cover drawing shows the elegant 'Penfold' design of pillar box of the period 1866-1879. These hexagonal pillar boxes bore representations of the Royal Arms and were surmounted by a decorative roof with a leaf design. Examples of this and other boxes of similar design can still be seen in Britain and as far distant as the West Indies, Pakistan and New Zealand



No 5 The cover drawing shows a large capacity pillar box, first introduced in the City of London in 1899 and extended to provincial cities in 1905. These oval boxes were designed for use in busy commercial districts of large cities. Separate posting apertures for "Town" and "Country" letters speeded the sorting process. Most of the prototypes of 1889 can still be seen in the City

Post Box Postcards and Stamp Books





Postcard from 1985 depicting a London District Letter Carrier, in the background is one of London's first pillar boxes circa 1855. Designed by Richard Blake and issued by the National Postal Museum



This postcard features a Post Office Bellman, a 'walking letter box' collecting mail in his locked satchel circa 1820. Also designed by Richard Blake and issued by the National Postal Museum in 1985

The postcard (left) from 1981 was designed by Ronald Maddox, and issued by the National Postal Museum to commemorate the presentation of a replica Air Mail Letter Box to the Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome , Biggleswade on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the First Aerial Post in the United Kingdom. The card shows an Air Mail Letter Box outside the London EC District Office, King Edward Street, London EC1 with a special air mail collection vehicle in the background. This box was one of the first to be installed in June 1930

Examples of the QEII Decimal 10p Machin Booklets date from 1971-74



No 6 The cover drawing shows the latest type of pillar box. Designed by David Mellor the first went into service near St Paul's Cathedral in 1968.The red box is rectangular in shape and bears the Royal Cypher and Crown. Unlike its predecessors it is made up of replaceable panels, but the greatest improvement on other boxes is its internal clearance mechanism



No 7 The cover drawing shows a pillar box made in 1936 during the brief reign of Edward VIII which still bears his cypher. 161 pillar boxes were cast with the Edward VIII cypher but later to avoid embarrassment upon the accession of George VI, the doors of many were replaced by those bearing the cypher of the new monarch



No 8 The cover drawing depicts a pillar box of the present reign, bearing the royal cypher of Queen Elizabeth II. In Scotland letter boxes bear a representation of the Scottish Crown instead of the usual cypher of Elizabeth II and the Crown of St Edward. The first pillar box of the present reign was erected in November 1952 in Whitehall



No 9 The cover drawing shows a double aperture pillar box presently in use in London and in some other large cities. It is rectangular in shape and is made up of steel panels mounted on a cast iron frame. The main advantage of this type of box is that it is quicker and easier for the postman to empty. External features of the box were designed by David Mellor



No 10 The cover drawing shows a philatelic posting box which was introduced in some post offices in February 1974. It is meant to provide facilities for posting mail which has a philatelic significance. Designed by Douglas Scott Associates, it is manufactured in two parts from polyester resin/glass fibre and is coloured throughout, the upper in red, the lower in white

Stamp Errors





Olive-yellow (Tower) omitted 1965 3d Post Office Tower. A superb example of this classic missing colour variety accompanied by a normal for comparison

From design and engraving, to colouring, printing and perforation; stamp errors can occur at every stage of production. Every part of the printing and production process is strictly controlled by the postal authorities in order to spot and address any issues before stamps go on public sale. Nevertheless, oversights happen. But because of these stringent quality controls, the number of stamp errors which are issued is extremely limited. It is for this reason that errors, freaks or oddities that have been obtained dishonestly by employees of the printers are not recognised as legitimate by philatelists. Instead, they are referred to as printer's waste, which can be confiscated from collectors by the authorities – although this is extremely rare. Consequently most enthusiasts in the field only view error stamps as being valid if the item was legitimately sold to a customer by the postal authorities.

Terminology explained

Design error A postage stamp design error occurs when a mistake has been made during the design phase of production. This can range from a minor mistake such as a missing letter in the name of a subject to more serious errors such as the wrong picture of a subject, out of date maps, misspelled text or an inscription that is factually incorrect.

Denomination error Sometimes known as a substituted subject, a denomination error is a stamp which has the wrong denomination on it. This could mean a high-value denomination has been printed on a design which is meant to be of a lower value or vice versa.

Omission error When part of a stamp's design is missing, this is referred to as an omission error stamp – and usually happens because of a fault in the design stage of production.

Overprint error Applying an extra layer of text or design to a stamp's surface after printing is known as an overprint. Used mainly for administrative reasons, commemorative inscriptions are sometimes added to make a stamp more appealing. Added by postal offices, which have far lower levels of quality control compared to a printing house, overprint errors can significantly raise the value of a stamp.

Inverted overprint This is the name given to a stamp where the overprint is upside down in relation to the design of the stamp.

Missing overprint Some stamps are only valid for postage when overprinted, and occasionally stamps without the overprint are issued in error.

Wrong overprint An overprint intended for another stamp is used incorrectly.

Double impression Sometimes known as a double transfer, this happens when a stamp or overprint of the same design is printed twice, with one impression slightly offset from the other. Depending how the sheet of stamps has passed through the printing machine on the second occasion, it can result in a partial or full impression of the original design which could be straight, mirrored or reversed.

Invert error Inverts occur when one or more elements of a postage stamp's design are printed upside down. They are caused when a stamp sheet that requires a multi-coloured impression is inserted into a printing press the wrong way round. There are two basic variations which collectors need to know about this error: An inverted frame error is much less distinctive and only affects the frame orientation. An inverted centre is a type of invert error where only the central piece of the design is inverted. Invert error stamps are viewed by philatelists as the most spectacular type of error because of their noticeable appearance and their rarity. Because of this, these stamps usually attract much higher values.

Colour error A colour error occurs when a stamp has been printed in the wrong colour or with one or more of the intended colours missing. For designs where more than one colour ink is required, occasionally the wrong ink is used in the printing machine at one stage of a multi-run printing process.

Colour shift error A colour shift stamp error occurs when one or more of the printing cylinders are out of register, causing overlapping colours to create an interesting effect. One of the most common stamp errors, it happens when a stamp is meant to pass through multiple presses for each different colour but one is applied in an offset fashion. The value of a colour shift error depends on how dramatic the resulting appearance is.

Missing colour error When one or more colours are missing, it is usually because part of a multi-run printing process is missed. This can lead to major design features being omitted and often creates colour-omitted error stamps which are striking in appearance. Because older stamp designs featured fewer colours, which meant colour omissions were easier to notice, this type of error is more common in modern stamps. ►



Error of value 1998 30p Comedians. Never issued due to a rate rise being approved. Offered with normal for comparison. Pierron records only 30 mint examples



Vermilion omitted 1968 4d Christmas. Rocking horse and faces appear orange instead of red. With a normal for comparison



Green and embossing omitted 1970 1s General Anniversaries. Very fine example with green (table cloth) and embossing omitted, offered with a normal for comparison



Red-orange omitted 1971 3p British Anniversaries. Example of red-orange omitted on nurse's cloak. Offered with normal for comparison



Black printed double 1991 22p World Congress of Roses. Excellent example of black printed double affecting the value, inscription and rose

Watermark error Used to prevent counterfeiting and to give stamps a distinctive appearance, the watermark process can often result in errors. Inverted, sideways or missing watermarks all occur and are of considerable interest to collectors.

Inverted watermark These are produced when a sheet of watermarked paper is fed into the printing press upside down and are generally of considerable interest. However, on some stamps of the Victorian era watermark sheets would be fed into the presses without regard to the orientation of the watermark. The experts at Warwick and Warwick know which stamp with inverted watermarks are rare.

Paper error This occurs when a stamp is printed on the wrong type of paper. For example, the paper used may have a different watermark, colour or thickness than was originally intended.

Imperforate errors Sometimes referred to as a perforation error, this occurs when perforations are missing from one or several sides of a stamp. Perforations are a series of small holes or apertures which are designed to enable easier separation of the stamps in a sheet. Because perforations can be removed by trimming, philatelists only collect imperforate errors in pairs, blocks or sheets. Imperforate errors occur more frequently in coil stamps, where printing tends to be automated and there is little opportunity to check for faults. They are much less common in sheets of stamps – where more stringent quality control standards apply. There are three main variations of perforation errors found in sheets of stamps:

Imperforate between The external sides of a pair of stamps are perforated correctly, but perforations which should exist between the pair are missing.

Horizontally imperforate A stamp sheet which doesn't have any horizontal perforations, but does display its vertical ones.

Vertically imperforate A stamp sheet which has no vertical perforations, but does have its horizontal ones as normal.

Philatelists use the number of perforations to distinguish between different printings or issues of stamps with the same design. Because of their rarity and popularity with collectors, sheets of stamps with misperforations are worth considerably more in value.

Misperforation Often known as a perforation shift, a misperf relates to any inappropriate puncturing of a stamp sheet. Caused because the sheet is not properly aligned with the perforating equipment, it can result in the perforation holes disfiguring the design of a stamp. The impact on value depends on the severity of the shift, and as a general rule, the more dramatic the error, the more it will be worth. A stamp sheet may also be accidentally folded over before it's passed through the perforating machine. The folded part will become



Imperforate pair 1979 11p Wild flowers. Left hand marginal horizontal strip of four, the left hand pair completely imperforate the right hand pair partially perforated. A wonderful progressional piece, Pierron records only ten imperforate pairs

inappropriately punctured which can affect one or more of the stamps in a sheet and causes the design to be either partially printed or leave a blank space.

Tête-bêche error Occasionally one cliché (engraved die) on a plate is entered upside down in relation to the other clichés and philatelists collect such items in pairs or blocks. They are sometimes referred to as 'head to tail errors' and are quite rare.

Blind perforation error Blind perforations are caused when a hole is not completely punched out.

Offset error Considered to be a minor mistake, offset errors can be identified because they have a normal impression on the stamp's front and an offset reversed impression on the reverse of the stamp.

Over-inking Applying an excessive amount of ink to a printing plate causes an overly heavy impression which may make the stamp's design unrecognizable.

Under-inking Applying too little ink to a plate, usually at the end of a printing run, which can result in a very faint design which lacks colour and distinction.

Ink smears A rarer occurrence than under-inking or over-inking, this is caused by applying an uneven distribution of ink to a plate which then smears to affect part of the stamp's design.

Albino errors When the inking stage is completely missed, it can leave a blank impression or engraved image of the design with no colour which is known to philatelists as an albino printing.

Phosphor band error Although these are usually barely visible, missing phosphor bands or coatings result in some highly collectable stamps, particularly for British philatelists.

Gum error Stamps may be gummed on both sides, on the wrong side, or with the wrong gum. In the early years of stamp production, gum was manually applied between the printing and perforating process. Nowadays the application of gum is fully automated, with pregummed paper used for the majority of stamps.

Miscuts Miscut errors happen when a stamp sheet is misaligned with the guillotine blades, creating a shift across the entire sheet and causing the perforations not to coincide with the stamps' borders. Miscuts can result in just a few millimetres being clipped off a stamp design or a complete shift of the central image that results in a portion of an adjacent stamp coming into view. This is most common in coil stamps, which are produced in rolls, and stamp booklets where panes can be incorrectly guillotined.

Unprinted areas Caused by foreign objects becoming embedded on the stamp ●

This article is with thanks to the insight provided at warwickandwarwick.com. All images are from the excellent QEII Errors & Varieties section at stanleygibbons.com



Imperforate cylinder block 1977 8½p Chemistry. Corner marginal block of six showing cylinders. The lower pair are completely imperforate and the top two pairs are partially perforated. Pierron records only 4 imperforate pairs, this being the unique cylinder block



Imperforate to sheet margin 1976 8½p Telephone Centenary. Cylinder block of six, the lower pair showing variety, imperforate between stamp and lower sheet margin. A rare positional piece, only one sheet discovered yielding ten examples











Lunar New Year

The Year of the Pig

The Lunar New Year 2019 is the 'Year of the Pig' and it's believed that those born under this sign are blessed with compassionate, and generous personas. On 15 November, Royal Mail celebrate the new year with the eighth, in a series of Generic Sheets. The labels feature paper cut-outs representing the five elements of Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth and are the creation of artist Rebecca Sutherland. These five labels are duplicated on the Sheet and are accompanied by the Fireworks stamp from the Smilers® range. The Sheet also features a variety of ten different pictorial labels that depict UK festivities and generic images related to the Lunar New Year. These labels are likewise complimented with the same Fireworks stamp.

Superstitions abound on the eve of the new year with many Chinese families preparing dishes symbolising luck and prosperity. A traditional dinner includes fish, as the word pronounced fish sounds like another Chinese character meaning 'be blessed every year'. This symbolises that the family will have money and possessions to take them into the new year. Many other dishes are also subsequently prepared that relate to good fortune and success.



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

The Year of the Pig Generic Sheet: featuring Rebecca Sutherland's cut-outs on a vibrant red backgound







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



New Issues and Withdrawals

1 November

Issue Christmas – 2018: 8 Stamps (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £2.25), Miniature Sheet (replicating stamps), Presentation Pack (containing 8 stamps), Postcards (9 in set), Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class Stamps), Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class Stamps), Smilers sheet (8 x 2nd Class, 8 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £2.25).









7 November

Withdrawal Christmas – 2017: Stamps (8 Madonna & Child, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large (76p), 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large (98p), 1 x £1.17, 1 x £1.40, 1 x £1.57, 1 x £2.27) plus 4 Children's Competition, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large (76p), 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large (98p). Madonna and Child Miniature sheet (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large (76p), 1 x 1st Class, 1st Class Large (98p), 1 x £1.17, 1 x £1.40, 1 x £1.57, 1 x £2.27). Presentation Pack containing both the Madonna and Child and 4 x Children's competition stamps, Postcards (13 in set),









Stamp Book -12 x 2nd Class Stamps (6 x 2nd Class Madonna and Child, 6 x 2nd Class Children's competition). Stamp Book -12 x 1st Class Stamps (6 x 1st Class Madonna and Child, 6 x 1st Class Children's Competition), Smilers® (Madonna and Child, 8 x 2nd Class, 8 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.17, 1 x £1.40, 1 x £1.57, 1 x £2.27). Smilers® (Children's competition, 10 x 2nd Class, 10 x 1st Class).

8 November

Issue Winter Greenery: Post & Go Stamps (re-introduction).

14 November

Issue 2018 Annual Collections: Yearbook, Leatherbound Yearbook, Yearpack, Year of Miniature Sheets, Year of Presentation Packs.

14 November

Issue Prince Charles's 70th Birthday: Miniature Sheet (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.55), Presentation Pack, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards (7 in set), BU Coin Cover, Silver Coin Cover, Gold Coin Cover.

15 November

Issue Lunar New Year: Year of the Pig Generic Sheet (20 x 1st Class stamps).

20 November

Withdrawal Royal Wedding: Platinum Anniversary: Miniature Sheet (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.57), Presentation Pack, First Day Envelope, Postcards (7 in set), Souvenir Pack, Press Sheet, Bundle, BU Coin Cover, Silver Coin Cover, Gold Coin Cover, Platinum 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: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote **19BUL9**, the *Bulletin* media code.

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