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INTRODUCING ROYAL MAIL STAMPS

A fascinating way to explore Britain and Britishness.

Welcome. As a new customer of Royal Mail stamps, you probably want to know a little more about what we do. Many people think stamps are just about collecting, but if you read on you'll soon discover other interesting aspects of our work. Royal Mail stamps are miniature works of art created by some of the finest artists and designers. They help



you explore our nation's present and past, celebrate its beauty and heroic individuals, and commemorate great events and achievements. Very simply, they are a unique way of looking at Britain.

The continuing story of Britain, with a new chapter each month.

Nearly every month, Royal Mail issues a new set of themed stamps, called Special Stamps. Each of the sets is

available in a variety of attractive displays, ranging from First Day Covers to Yearpacks. By taking out subscriptions to any or all of these presentations, you will be able to build a continuous

chronicle of British life. For a list of the Special Stamps available for 2002, and their issue dates, please refer to First Day Covers on page 4.

Royal Mail stamps make beautiful gifts for all sorts of occasions.

Do you need a gift idea? Perhaps for someone who's never collected stamps? A subscription to our Presentation Packs will give pleasure throughout the year, with a beautiful display each month of a new set of Special Stamps plus the stories behind them. In the following pages you'll find all sorts of inspiring ideas.

Ordering is easy.

To order any of the items described on the following pages, simply fill in your order

form enclosed in this pack and return it to us. Alternatively you can call your Customer Order and Enquiry Line on **08457 641 641**, Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm (or **Type-talk** on **0800 515 152**), or visit our website at **www.royalmail.com/shop** If you're calling from overseas please dial **+ 44 131 316 7483**.

FIRST DAY COVERS

A personalised record of stamps on their day of issue.

First Day Covers are specially designed envelopes, personalised with your name and address, bearing a full set of new

issue stamps. These stamps carry a postmark from a location that's relevant to the theme of the stamps being issued.

All new sets of stamps are available as First Day Covers. In 2002 there will be at least 12 Special Stamp sets based on the following themes:

15/01/02 Rudyard Kipling's **Just So**

Stories, illustrated by Izhar Cohen.

06/02/02 HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee, with photographs by Dorothy Wilding, Cecil Beaton, Lord Snowdon, Karsh of Ottawa and Tim Graham.

05/03/02 Occasions – following 2001's Occasions set, new designs continue the themes of Love & Romance, New Baby, New Home, Celebrations and Thank You.

19/03/02 Coastlines – dramatic aerial photographs by Richard Cooke, showing details of Britain's varied coastlines.

09/04/02 The Circus – a theme agreed by European postal administrations, with inventor/artist Ron Fuller's colourful studies for toy circuses.

02/05/02 Aircraft – a series that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the first commercial jet airliner flying

from London Heathrow to Johannesburg.

21/05/02 World Cup – celebrating the England football team's participation in the 2002 World Cup.

16/07/02 The Commonwealth Games in Manchester, which will be opened by HM The Queen on 25th July.

10/09/02 London Bridges – a series designed with an historical approach by designers Robert Maude and Sarah Davies.

24/09/02 Astronomy, which reflects the scale of the universe through startlingly beautiful photography of planets, stars and galaxies.

08/10/02 Pillar Boxes – a series commemorating the 150th anniversary of their introduction to Britain.

05/11/02 Christmas, for which Royal Mail always issues a special festive set.



Collector's Box
Code: PB356 Price: £20.00
Size: 240x110x135mm (approx)

Avoid disappointment. Order early.

You can order an entire year's First Day Covers, personalised with your name and address, or that of a friend or relative, for only £29.95 (for Jan-Dec 2002). As they are not available for purchase after their

release date, please ensure you place your order early.

Annual subscription orders which are made midway through the year will start from the next issue and last for a full 12 months. Please ring your Customer Order

and Enquiry Line to confirm prices.

You can store up to three years' worth of First Day Covers in the elegantly crafted



Mr J Brown
10 White Street
Mitcombe
Surrey
CR1 7AR

Kipling's **Just So Stories**, issued January 2002
First Day Covers Code: AF0301 Price: £29.95 for a year's issues

Alder wood Collector's Box (page 4), or display them in the First Day Cover Album shown on page 16.

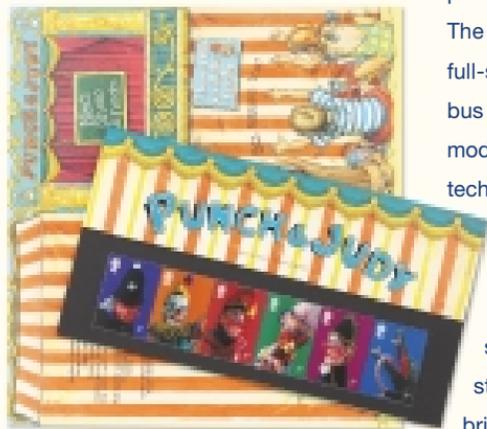
TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

Stamps with the stories behind them.

The Special Stamp issues for each year are also available in a series of elegant Presentation Packs. In contrast to First

wealth of information that really brings each stamp to life. For example, the colourful Punch and Judy pack shown



Punch & Judy, issued September 2001

Day Covers, these allow you to display stamps in mint condition (uncancelled stamps, without postmarks).

Each pack contains a full set of the new mint stamps, protected between a backing card and an archive-quality clear sleeve. The card itself comes in a beautifully illustrated folder, which is packed with a

here features a miniature puppet stage and, in addition to giving you stamp specifications and design credits, also includes an interview with a London Punchman (puppeteer) of 1851.

Or there's our Buses pack, containing the Buses series arranged in a single strip, with the images extending across perforations from one stamp to the next. The folder takes you back in time with full-size colour images of decades-old bus tickets, fascinating stories of bus models, a potted history of buses and the technical specifications of the vehicles.

One other example is the Nobel Prizes Pack, which is shown on page 7. It includes a full set of specially commissioned interactive stamps and is complemented by a brief history of the Nobel Prize, a list of UK winners plus facts about the stamp specifications and the innovative printing processes used in their production.

In 2002 there will be at least 12 Special Stamp issues. All of these will be available as Presentation Packs.

The subjects of the 2002 stamp sets include Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*, HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee, Occasions, Coastlines, The Circus, Aircraft, England in the World Cup, The Commonwealth Games in Manchester, London Bridges,

Astronomy, Pillar Boxes and Christmas.

You can read detailed descriptions of all these Special Stamp issues in the First Day Covers section on pages 4 and 5.

You can order a full year's subscription of Presentation Packs for just £27.95.



Nobel Prizes, issued October 2001

Presentation Packs Code: AP0000 Price: £27.95 for a year's issues

Each Nobel Prize stamp uses an innovative printing process relevant to its prize, e.g. a hologram for Physics; a medicinally scented scratch and sniff coating for Medicine; an almost microscopic print of all 447 words of a T.S. Eliot poem, 'The Ad-Dressing of Cats', for Literature.

**TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE**

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

All of 2001's stamps together with in-depth commentary.

Perhaps the most impressive way to see a year's stamps is within the pages of this beautifully designed and produced hard-



2001 Yearbook slip-cover

appropriate pages in the book. The text is accompanied by superb photographs and illustrations that bring the stamps to life. The 2001 Yearbook reflects diverse aspects of British life including all of the following:

- **Hopes for The Future** – a positive view of the future, as represented by our children.
- **Cats and Dogs**, which affirms the

British love for their furry friends.

- **Weather**, which reflects Britain's preoccupation with its climate.
- **Submarines and Flags & Ensigns** – two fascinating articles which together pay tribute to the Royal Navy Submarine Service on its centenary.
- **Buses** – featuring our world famous double deckers and their part in Britain's social history.
- **Fabulous Hats**, which looks at the exquisite and elaborate creations designed by some of Britain's top contemporary milliners.
- **Pond Life** – the often overlooked beauty found in Britain's ponds.
- **Punch & Judy** – originally from Italy, now a colourful British tradition.
- **Nobel Prizes** – the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize, an award that's honoured many of Britain's greatest

achievers. These stamps feature innovative printing processes.

- **Christmas** – a traditional celebration with our national bird, the robin.
- **Occasions**, which celebrate weddings, birthdays, moving house, the arrival of a new baby and other popular celebrations.

Each issue also includes profiles of the stamp designers themselves. From 2001, illustrator Tony Meeuwissen, designer Dick Davis, photographer Sandro Sodano and artist Michael English are just some of the creative people interviewed.



2001 Yearbook Code: AY0000 Price: £27.95 Size: 258x245mm

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

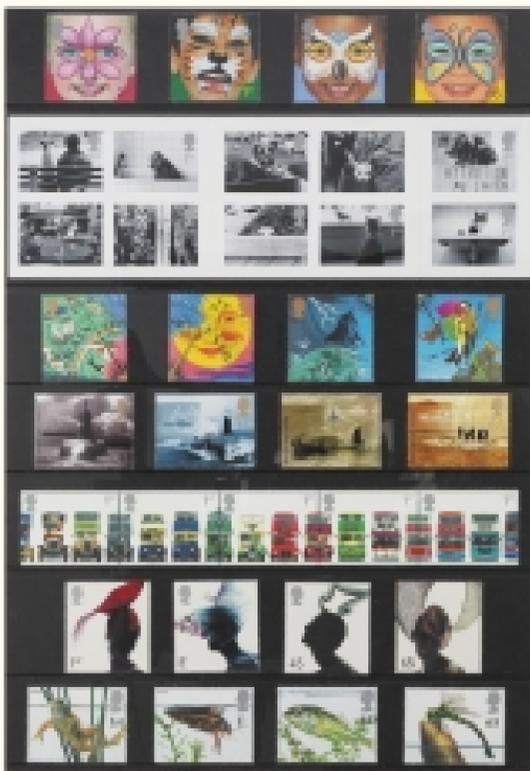
08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

YEARPACKS

A compact collection of the entire year's stamps.

A Yearpack is a handy way to store a whole year's Special Stamp issues for years to come. The stamps are



2001 Yearpacks Code: AR0000 Price: £20.90 Size: 300x220mm

brilliantly displayed in a presentation folder that gives you the fascinating stories behind them.

The Yearpack for 2001 contains 12 Special Stamp sets, each dealing with a very different aspect of British life, including a positive view of the future as represented by our children; the British

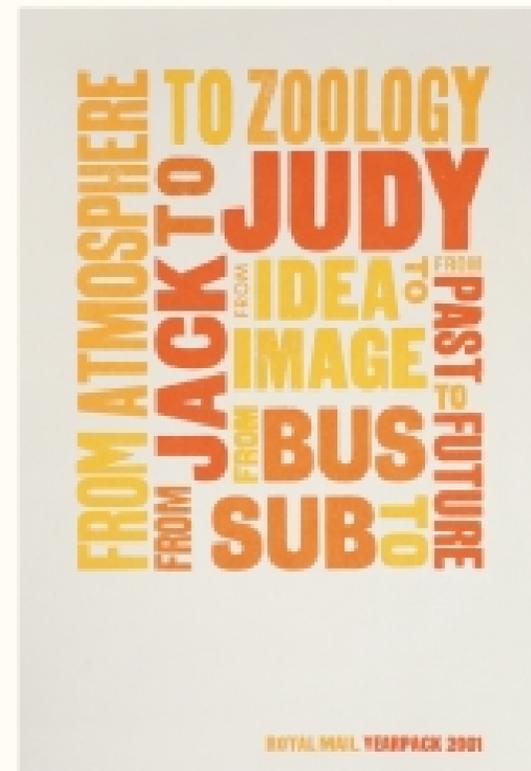
love of cats and dogs; our national obsession with the weather; the Royal Navy Submarine Service, whose centenary we've just commemorated plus the Flags and Ensigns connected with them; the history of our internationally famous buses; the exquisite and elaborate hats designed by contemporary milliners; the extraordinary beauty of our pond life; the colourful tradition of Punch and Judy; the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prizes, which have honoured so many of Britain's greatest achievers; and finally, a traditional celebration of Christmas with our national

bird, the robin. For more details about all these stamps please turn to pages 8 and 9.

There are some particularly interesting features of 2001's stamps. In the first class Weather stamp, for example, the lower cloud is printed with heat-sensitive ink that changes colour upon being touched.

Also, the Nobel Prizes set (see page 7) incorporates some of the most innovative printing techniques ever used in stamps.

The Flags and Ensigns series commemorates the bicentenary of an important date: the 1801 Act of Union between Great Britain and



2001 Yearpack slip-cover

Ireland, when the Union Flag was amended to its present design. A miniature sheet features the Union Jack, the White Ensign,

Jolly Roger and Chief of Defence Staff Flag plus historical information on each flag.

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

Pure beauty.

All the Special issues for 2002 are also available as Mint Stamps – uncanceled stamps without postmarks. Mint Stamps

are for those who appreciate them as miniature works of art. And considering the careful planning and original designs that go into our products, the special papers and printing processes that are used, one can easily understand why Royal Mail stamps are treasured around the world.

Limited edition prints by well-known artists from as little as 19p.

Over the years, famous artists such as David Hockney, Gerald Scarfe and Andy Goldsworthy have created stamps for Royal Mail. The dog stamp shown here features work by top photographer Elliott Erwitt, and the Buses series was designed by the renowned illustrator,



Michael English. In 2002, stamps will include work by the illustrator Izhar Cohen, photographs by Lord Snowdon and Karsh of Ottawa and illustrations by



artist/inventor Ron Fuller.

All Royal Mail stamps are created with the same meticulous care. And when it comes to the paper used in the stamps, not just any old wood pulp will do. We normally use a mixture of eucalyptus, Scandinavian pine and birch pulp. Some Special Stamps (the Nobel Prize for Economics, for instance) are printed using a highly skilled engraving technique, called intaglio or recess printing, that leaves the ink slightly raised, giving a feel similar to that of banknotes.

There's a good reason for every stamp.

Since 1964 certain criteria have formed the basis for Special Stamp issues. The purpose of a new set is to:

1. Celebrate events of national and international importance – for example, the first flight of Concorde in 1969 and



International Year of the Child in 1979.

2. Commemorate important anniversaries (usually in multiples of 50 years), such as the centenaries of the birth of Winston Churchill in 1974, the RSPCA in 1990 and cinema in 1996.

**Mint Stamps**

Code: AS0011

Price: £22 for a full year's issue of 2002 stamps

3. Reflect the British contribution to world affairs including the arts and sciences. For instance, the 300th anniversary of the Principia Mathematica by Sir Isaac Newton in 1987.
4. Reflect aspects of Britain and the British way of life, such as the Summertime issue in 1994 or, as shown on page 12, the British love of cats and dogs.
5. Extend public patronage of the arts by encouraging the development of

minuscule art.

There will be at least 12 sets of Special Stamps over the course of 2002, available

as Mint Stamps. Please see the list on pages 4-5 for details.

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

DEFINITIVE STAMPS

The original postage stamps.

In 1840 Britain produced the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, with Queen Victoria's head as the

main image. Since then, each of our monarchs has been featured in this way on the everyday stamps called Definitives. Interestingly, our nation's stamps are the only ones in the world not to feature their country's name, our monarch's head being a sufficient indication of the country of origin.

There are three kinds of Definitive Stamps available:

- Low Value Definitives – £1 and under.
- High Value Definitives – those over £1.
- Country Definitives.

Low and High Value Definitives have a different colour for each different stamp



Country Definitive Stamps Subscription
Code: CS0011*



High Value Definitive Stamps Subscription
Code: FS0011*

value. These stamps normally remain on sale until there is a change in postal rates.

As well as showing the Queen's head, Definitives also celebrate the individual nations of the United Kingdom. Country Definitive Stamps carry national emblems or images which reflect the traditions and

history of each country. Definitives are available for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (please see the framed postcard images on page 21).

The English Country Definitives celebrate English national heritage with heraldic symbols which have represented the nation



Low Value Definitive Stamps Subscription
Code: DS0011*

throughout history. While for Northern Ireland Country Definitives, Royal Mail has used certain aspects of Northern Ireland's geography and culture that are rich in elaborate visual patterns.

Definitive Stamps, generally considered the 'classics' of world stamps, are an excellent starting point for any collector.

**Please do not send any money for these subscriptions.
You will be advised of the cost as and when stamps are issued.*

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

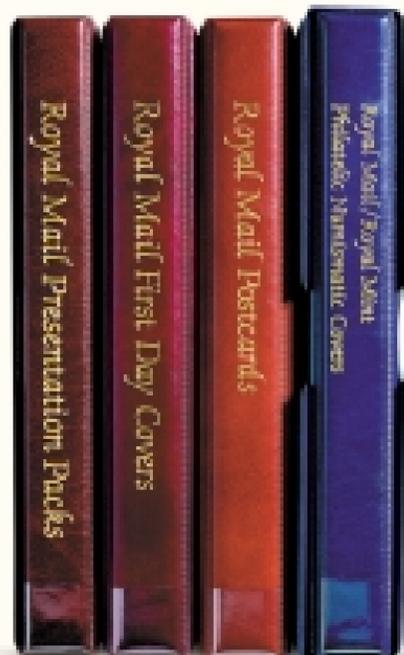
STAMP ALBUMS

For all types of collections.

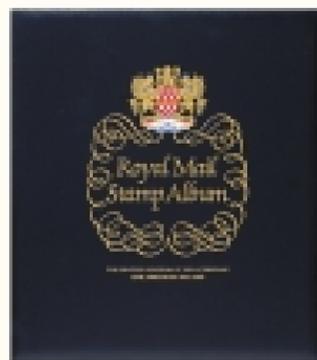
Royal Mail has the perfect album to keep your collection in, whether you collect Mint Stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs, Postcards or Coin Covers. Our albums will display your collection beautifully and preserve it in immaculate condition.

Presentation Packs, Postcards or Coin Covers. Our albums will display your collection beautifully and preserve it in immaculate condition.

For new collectors, there's our Stamp Album, containing 25 quadrille pages. Or, for more serious collectors, we recommend our Deluxe Album, available in three



volumes, which together will hold 50 years' worth of Special Stamps, Definitives and Country Stamps (from 1952-1999).



Deluxe Album

Stamp Album

Code: PA188 Price: £16.50 Size: 276x321mm

Coin Cover Album

Code: PA589 Price: £16.50 Size: 276x321mm

Postcard Album

Code: PA005 Price: £16.50 Size: 276x321mm

First Day Cover Album

Code: PA001 Price: £16.50 Size: 276x321mm

Presentation Pack Album

Code: PA008 Price: £16.50 Size: 276x321mm

Deluxe Albums

Album size: 285x315mm Sleeve Size: 290x325mm

Vol. 1 1952-1970. Code: PA634 Price: £79.95

Vol. 2 1971-1989. Code: PA635 Price: £99.95

Vol. 3 1990-1999. Code: PA636 Price: £109.95

POSTCARDS

A bigger view of your favourite stamps.



Each new issue of Special Stamps is accompanied by the release of a set of postcards reproducing the stamps in a larger format. On such a big scale, it's even easier to appreciate the detail that goes into the stamps themselves, which explains why they are so popular. The original stamp artwork is used to create the postcards, so the quality is much finer than that of a simple blow-up of the image.

To help you collect and display these postcards, Royal Mail has a special

Postcard Album, shown on Page 16.

You can also choose to order framed postcard sets like those shown on page 21.



Postcard Subscription Code AQ0000
Price for a year's issues: £16.25 Size: 148x104mm

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOKS

Rare publications on special subjects.

Prestige Stamp Books are usually issued only once or twice a year. They attract a lot of attention because they make highly



Prestige Stamp Book 'Unseen and Unheard,' issued October 2001
Code: YB0000 Price: £15.00 for a year's issues Size: 96x163mm (approx)

Service on its centenary. It was written by Commander JJ Tall OBE, RN (Rtd), Director of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport.

For 2002, there will be two Prestige Stamp Books issued:

The first, published on **6/2/02**, will honour **HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee**. This booklet contains the new Special Stamps and a re-issue of Her Majesty's first ever Definitive Stamps. It takes you through the Accession and first year

of Her Majesty's reign using stunning photographs and evocative text.

Then, on **24/9/02**, we will be bringing out a book based on the new **Astronomy** Special Stamps. It will feature four stamp panes and startlingly beautiful photos of planets, stars and galaxies that help you appreciate the scale of our universe.

To make sure you never miss a single edition of future Prestige Stamp Books, simply take out a subscription for just £15.00 a year.

decorative additions to any stamp collection. Each booklet, beautifully illustrated throughout, celebrates an individual topic and, in addition to containing the stamps themselves, is packed with background information.

'Unseen & Unheard' (shown here), pays tribute to the Royal Navy Submarine

COIN COVERS

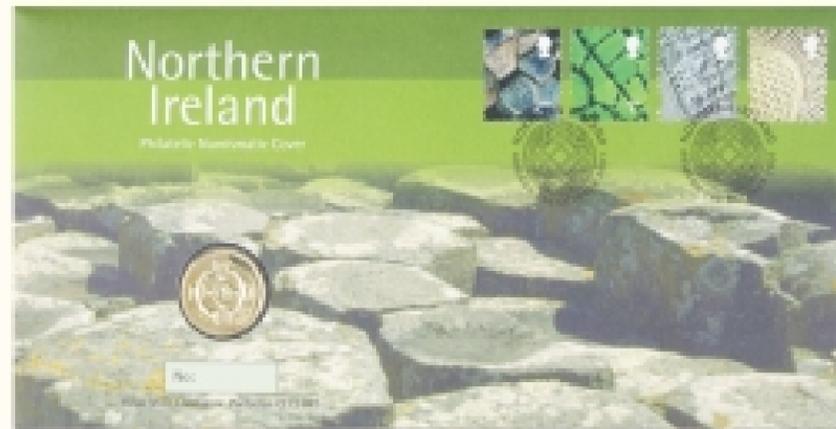
Two beautiful mementoes in one.

Coin Covers are the delightful hybrids of the collecting world (technically referred to as Philatelic Numismatic Covers). A Coin Cover usually combines a First Day Cover with a coin specially minted by The Royal Mint. The coins are legal tender in their own right and appear on the envelope alongside the stamps.

Each envelope is die-cut to display the coin and carries its own limited edition number. The coin is sealed inside a protective cover between card to keep it in 'brilliant-uncirculated' condition.

As with all Covers, they come complete with fascinating information on the subject they are commemorating. Coin Covers

are released infrequently and could sell out within days. As a subscriber though, you are guaranteed to receive a copy of



Celtic Cross Coin Cover, issued October 2001
Coin Covers Code: AN0000 Price: £50.00 for a year's issues

each issue and exclusive prior notice of their issue date.

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

A charming new collection of gifts and decorations.

To celebrate its 350-year history, Royal Mail has introduced a selection of quality gifts, toys, art works and personal

accessories – all reflecting memorable moments in British social history.

For example, the replica Pillar Box Piggy Bank shown on the right makes a delightful gift for children aged 10 and over. It's made from tough, durable plastic. Our Corgi Classics Royal Mail delivery van models shown below, made of die-cast metal, are charming reminders of how the mail used to be delivered. And the postcards in the gold-finished frames shown on page 21 (see also the Country



Corgi Morris J Van

(suitable for children aged 10 and over)

Code: PY469 Price: £9.95

Size: 90x33x37mm Scale: 1:43



Corgi Morris Minor Van

(suitable for children aged 10 and over)

Code: PY468 Price: £9.95

Size: 85x35x32mm Scale: 1:43



Pillar Box Piggy Bank

Code: PY451 Price: £5.95 Height: 20cm

The 'Pillar box' is a registered trademark of Consignia plc.



Framed Scottish Postcards



Framed Welsh Postcards



Framed Tree and Leaf Postcards

Definitives on pages 14-15) make attractive wall-hangings. But there's much more to the Originals collection than we can possibly show you here. To see the full range, order our Originals Catalogue by calling **0808 1000 555**, or go to www.royalmail.com/shop where you'll find other items displayed.

Framed Scottish Postcards

Code: PY424

Framed Welsh Postcards

Code: PY425

Framed English Postcards

Code: PY497

Framed Northern Ireland Postcards

Code: PY496

Framed Tree and Leaf Postcards

Code: PY426

Price: £14.95 each Size: 574x220mm

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
ORDER AND ENQUIRY LINE

08457 641 641

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM

POSTBAGS

Bags of fun for kids.

Now here's a brilliant gift idea for 7 to 12-year-olds: Royal Mail Postbags. Crammed full with all sorts of colourful



and Buses. The Nobel Prizes Postbag shown here

includes a hidden haiku (Japanese poem) that's revealed by an accompanying red filter, a test involving sweet and sour tastes, and a molecular model to make.

stamp-related bits and pieces – funky postcards, games, stickers, tattoos, plus a set of real Mint Stamps – they're an invitation to explore and play with some of the subjects of the stamps.

There are four Postbags in the 2001 collection, each dealing with a different theme: Nobel Prizes, Pond Life, Weather

Postbags (for all 4 bags) Code: PY623 Price: £19.95

Weather Code: AK001 Price: £5.99

Buses Code: AK002 Price: £5.99

Pond Life Code: AK003 Price: £5.99

Nobel Prizes (Discovery) Code: AK004 Price: £5.99

Keeping in touch.

You can view all the stamps issued so far this year plus many other stamp-related products and collectibles at www.royalmail.com/shop

To ensure you don't miss out on the latest news about British Stamps, associated items and authentic articles on past stamp issues, Royal Mail publishes *The Philatelic Bulletin*, a monthly magazine for stamp collectors.

For subscription details, please call **08457 641 641** (from overseas: **+44 131 316 7483**).

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT STAMPS!

In 1840 Britain produced the world's first self-adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black. As the inventor of the postage stamp, Britain is the only nation which doesn't need to



- include its name on its stamps; instead, it simply uses the monarch's head.
- The most popular Special Stamps issued were the set produced to commemorate the life of Diana, Princess of Wales – more than 30 million of these were printed.
- By convention, Royal Mail Stamps should not feature any living person other than members of the Royal Family.
- Every year, Royal Mail receives over 2000 nominations for stamp subjects from the British public. Final stamp

designs have to be approved by HM The Queen before they are issued.

The busiest time of the year for mail is Christmas. Royal Mail prints more than 408 million Christmas stamps each year. The second class stamp is the most popular stamp at this time, with over 165 million produced.

Royal Mail first issued Special Christmas Stamps in 1966. The pair of stamps (one of them shown below) were designed by two children who won a national competition that was featured on BBC's

Blue Peter.

The gum on the Definitive Stamp contains just 5.9 calories, while a Special Stamp has 14.5 calories.



THE DEEPER YOU
GO INTO
STAMPS THE MORE
FASCINATING
THEY BECOME

TO ORDER, CALL YOUR CUSTOMER
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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30AM-5.00PM