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# first

**Charles Dickens**  
Issue date: Tuesday 19 June 2012

We are proud to present this Special issue to celebrate the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth.



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**Mint stamps**

Charles Dickens

**Design**

Howard Brown

**Stamp format/size**Portrait  
27mm x 37mm**Printer**

Cartor Security Printing

**Print process**

Lithography

**Perforation**

14 x 14

**Phosphor**

All over

**Gum**

PVA

**Number per sheet**

25/50

**Acknowledgements**

Mr Bumble, Mr Pickwick, The Marchioness, Mrs Gamp, Captain Cuttle and Mr Micawber illustrations from Character Sketches from Charles Dickens, c.1890 (colour litho), Joseph Clayton Clarke (Kyd) (fl. 1883-94)/Private Collection/© Look and Learn/The Bridgeman Art Library.

white  
mixed  
source  
fsc logo

# Celebrating a writer who always gave more

Born into near destitution in 1812, Charles Dickens' life could hardly have had a less auspicious start. Yet perhaps because of these early difficulties, Dickens went on to become not just one of the greatest novelists in history, but also a philanthropist and tireless campaigner for the poor.

Along the way he wrote some of the finest works in English literature, including *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*; peopling them with fantastic creations such as the bitter Miss Havisham and the impecunious Mr Micawber, who was based largely on Dickens' father. Originally published in monthly instalments, his novels were the soap operas of their day.

So it is with great pleasure that we are celebrating the bicentenary of the great man's birth with a Special issue featuring some of Dickens' best-known characters. This comprises six Special Stamps bearing sketches by the artist Kyd from around 1890 and four Miniature Sheet stamps featuring illustrations by Phiz, taken from the original novels.

As befits such an important issue, in addition to looking at Dickens' most beloved characters we have explored his life and works through a range of superb commemorative products. These include a fascinating Presentation Pack written by his great-great-great-granddaughter, Lucinda Dickens Hawksley.



## Mint Stamps

**Price** £5.92  
**Code** AS819

### Mutual friends

The Mint Stamps feature Mr Bumble, Mr Pickwick, The Marchioness, Mrs Gamp, Captain Cuttle and Mr Micawber; drawn in around 1890 by the artist Joseph Clayton Clark, also known as Kyd.



## Miniature Sheet

**Price** £2.40  
**Code** MZ085

### In his own words

The striking Miniature Sheet comprises four First Class stamps bearing illustrations by Hablot Knight Brown, aka Phiz, taken from the original publications. It also has a quote from Dickens in its border, together with his key dates and a facsimile of his signature.

## Stamp Cards

**Price** £4.95  
**Code** AQ185

### Great Expectations

All ten Special Stamps plus the Miniature Sheet itself have been reproduced at postcard size, enabling these characterful illustrations to be enjoyed in full.

**Miniature Sheet**

Charles Dickens

**Design**

Howard Brown

**Size of sheet**

190mm x 67mm

**Stamp format/size**Landscape  
37mm x 35mm**Printer**

Cartor Security Printing

**Print process**

Lithography

**Perforation**

14 x 14.5

**Phosphor**

All over

**Gum**

PVA

**Number of stamps**

4

**Acknowledgements**

Illustrations from *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens (1812-70) published 1839 (litho), Hablot Knight Browne (Phiz) (1815-82)/Private Collection/Ken Welsh/The Bridgeman Art Library; illustrations by Hablot Knight Browne (Phiz) of scenes from *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit* and *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens © www.CartoonStock.com; Charles Dickens quotation from *Our Mutual Friend*.

## First Day Cover Stamps

**Price Inland** £7.58  
**Price Overseas** £6.32  
**Code** AF360

This evocative First Day Cover has the Special Stamps affixed and contains a filler card written by Lucinda Dickens Hawley. It can be cancelled with your choice of a Tallents House or Portsmouth postmark, the latter chosen as it was Dickens' birthplace.



## First Day Cover Miniature Sheet

**Price Inland** £3.36  
**Price Overseas** £2.80  
**Code** MF086

With the Miniature Sheet affixed and containing a fascinating filler card, this distinctive cover will be cancelled with your choice of pictorial Tallents House or Portsmouth postmarks.



## Buy now!

First Day Covers  
 only available until

**19 June**

Don't miss out. This date cannot be extended.

Standard Royal Mail postmark



Alternative postmark



## Presentation Pack

**Price** £8.85  
**Code** AP363

**The complete works**  
 Complete with all of the Special Stamps, the highly Dickensian Presentation Pack has been written by Lucinda Dickens Hawksley, who looks at her great-great-grandfather's life and works in detail.

