

The Entertainers' Tale

The sixth of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued this year is on the theme of entertainers

Entertainers' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 1 June

The design of the **19p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) features Freddie Mercury (1946-91), lead singer of the pop group Queen. Mercury, real name Farookh Bulsara, was also a stamp collector and his collection was acquired by the National Postal Museum in 1993. It contains stamps from around the world but there is a particularly interesting section from Zanzibar, Mercury's birthplace, where his father served as a diplomat. The arrangement of the stamps on the album pages are in Mercury's distinct artistic style. Some of the pages were reproduced on four NPM postcards issued in 1995. The collection has been displayed at a number of exhibitions, most recently at Australia 99 in March. The stamp is by Peter Blake.

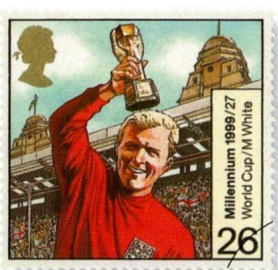
The **26p** value (basic 1st class inland letter rate), designed by Mike White, features Bobby Moore (1941-93) holding the World Cup after England's success in the final at Wembley Stadium on 30 July 1966. This was a day of national celebration and the finest day in English football history. An England Winners stamp was issued two weeks after the victory, and Moore, as team captain, was awarded the OBE. He has featured on a Football Legends stamp of 1996, and on issues from several countries.

F.&J. SMITH'S CIGARETTES



CHARLES CHAPLIN.





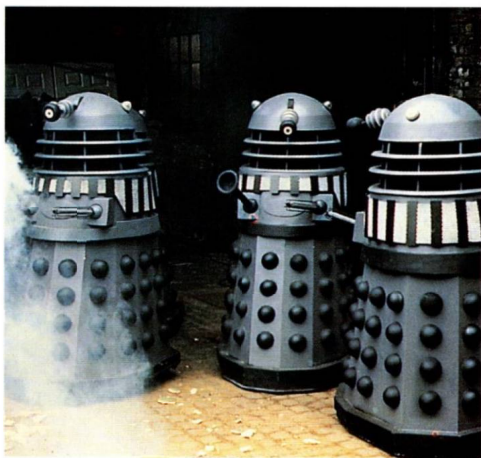
Peter Blake's 19p stamp, *Mercury's Magic*, features Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the pop group Queen. Mercury was also a stamp collector, and his collection was acquired by the National Postal Museum in 1993.

The 44p stamp, *Dr Who*, features a photograph by Snowdon, of a Dalek from the television series. *Dr Who*, first broadcast in November 1963, ran until 1989, becoming the longest-running science fiction series in the world.

The 26p stamp, designed by Mike White, shows Bobby Moore holding the World Cup following England's success in the 1966 final at Wembley. Moore also appeared on one of the Football Legends stamps in 1996.

The 64p stamp, *Chaplin's Genius*, features Ralph Steadman's portrait of Charlie Chaplin as the 'little tramp'. Chaplin also featured, as an old man, on a British Film Year stamp in 1985 and, again as the tramp, on stamps from India, the USA and elsewhere.

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM STAMPS 6661



Presentation pack This well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) will be available from philatelic outlets and main post offices.

One of Britain's best-loved television programmes is recalled by the design of the **44p** value (basic airmail letter rate). *Dr Who* was built around the character of a 'Time Lord' referred to simply as 'The Doctor'. The public imagination was captured by the Daleks – a race of mutant killers whose hideously deformed bodies lived inside protective metal shells. Their war cry 'Exterminate' is still remembered by many thousands of avid *Dr Who* watchers. The stamp features a photograph, by Snowdon, of a full-size replica Dalek, now owned by Royal Mail. Lord Snowdon's photographs of members of the Royal Family were used on Royal issues in 1981, 1986, 1997 and 1998; his portrait of Charlie Chaplin, as an old man, was used on a British Film Year stamp in 1985.

The **64p** stamp (second step airmail letter rate) features Ralph Steadman's interpretation of the 'little tramp' – the Charlie Chaplin character that delighted millions of filmgoers in the age of the silent screen. Charles Spencer Chaplin (1889-1977) was born in London and went to Hollywood with Fred Karno, in 1914. His film career was long and varied, including a music only film *City Lights* and a speech and mime performance in *Modern Times*. Chaplin was knighted in 1975. Ralph Steadman, designer of the new stamp, is known to collectors as designer of the 1986 Halley Comet and 1998 Comedians stamps.



The big and small screens have even perhaps the dominant cultural forces of the century. Television succeeded radio as a key factor in the leisure time of millions: John Logie Baird's invention became a source of conversation and controversy in playground and workplace, an occasion of family cohesion or dispute, a part of the household. The BBC began services in 1936, commercial television following in 1955. As a force for change, a significant contributor in the making of the consumer society and as a window on the world, TV has also become a reflector of popular taste. Just as radio helped to provide common experiences (the war speeches of Churchill), so television provided us with common visual ideas like the Daleks, the villains in *Dr Who*. From their first appearance in 1963 they gripped the imaginations of their audience, young and old: they show how TV can

give of British youth culture to the uninitiated, position it still holds today. Fashions and lifestyles evolved with the music and the stars; song lyrics furthered the use of English as a 'universal language'. Music and TV married together in a potent combination. The pop video was invented in 1975 when the group Queen made a TV film to promote a record; since then the video has become a global currency. Music can also be a unifying and activating force. On 13 July 1985 the live aid pop concerts raised money and awareness to help famine victims in Africa. The concerns of a generation were expressed. Queen's performance on the day was regarded by many as a highlight, with lead singer Freddie Mercury giving a 'rhapsodic' performance, engaging the thousands present and the millions viewing around the world.



Charlie Chaplin cigarette card p274, courtesy Imperial Tobacco Limited; 1966 World Cup p274, Hulton Getty; Freddie Mercury p275, © Redferns/Suzi Gibbons; Daleks above, © BBC





FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 1 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Wembley must reach the Bureau by 1 June. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (Wembley postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9911' (Bureau), or 'FD9912' (Wembley). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Wembley postmark. A non-pictorial Wembley postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the London Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9912 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Wembley pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9912 Bil (pictorial) and FD9912 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 19p Entertainers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 1 June.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium presentation packs or first day covers.

Orders and enquiries to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT •



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé
Stamps

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p ●
two bands others

Gum PVA

