

Greetings (Gift Giving)

2 February 1993



The fifth issue of colourful Royal Mail Greetings Stamps will be released on 2 February 1993 comprising 10 first class NVI stamps each with a different design. The stamps will be sold in a book, including 20 free Greetings labels, available from post offices, selected shops, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters, price £2.40.

The theme of the designs is "Gift Giving" the stamps feature characters from children's books and magazines – Long John Silver and Parrot; Tweedledum and Tweedledee; Just William; Toad and Mole from *The Wind in the Willows*; characters from The Bash Street Kids cartoon strip; Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit and Mrs Rabbit; Father Christmas and the Snowman; The BFG (Big Friendly Giant); Rupert Bear and Bill Badger; and Aladdin and the Genie.

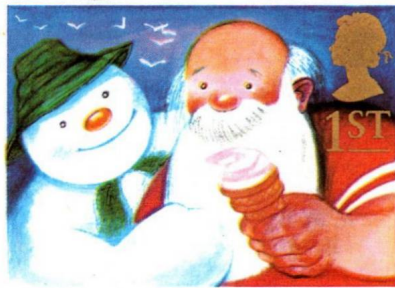
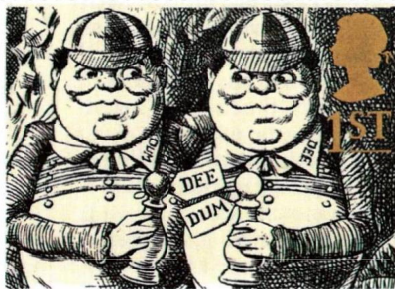
The book will also contain 20 colourful labels bearing greetings messages and illustrations.

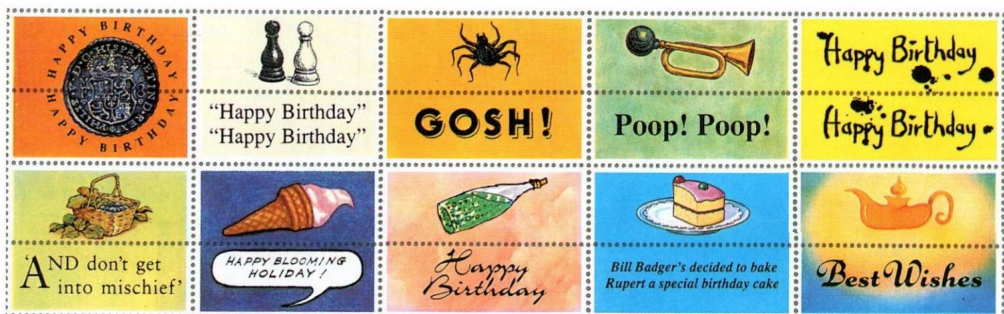
The stamps were designed by Newell and Sorrell; details of the origination of each of the designs are printed on the inside back cover of

the book. For the first time, stamp cards will be issued, reproducing the designs of each of these greetings stamps.

Technical Details

<i>Printer:</i>	Harrison and Sons Ltd
<i>Process:</i>	Photogravure
<i>Size:</i>	41 × 30mm, horizontal
<i>Perforation:</i>	15 × 14, with elliptical perforation on vertical edges of each stamp
<i>Phosphor:</i>	2 bands per stamp
<i>Gum:</i>	PVA Dextrin
<i>Presentation Pack:</i>	No. G2, price £2.70
<i>Stamp Cards:</i>	Nos GSIA-J, price 21p each
<i>Pane:</i>	The pane consists of 10 stamps in two rows of five horizontally. The labels are printed five across and four deep, affixed in the book separately from the stamps. The overall size of the finished book is 95 × 60mm.





First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes and stamp cards will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters approximately two weeks before 2 February 1993, price 21p each.

Collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the 10 stamps cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Greetland, price £3.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £2.71 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 2 February.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers or stamp cards, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Greetland cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail House, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

NE1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Bureau (or Greetland) First Day of Issue postmark".

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

There will be no souvenir covers; these have now been discontinued.

Earlier Greetings Books

Both the "Smiles" and "Memories" books





...best present anybody is
 ever giving me in my whole life!"
 cried the Big Friendly Giant, the BFG.
 "A splendid cake," gasped Rupert.
 "For good..."



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
GREETINGS STAMPS
 ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
 200 Manorbier Road
 ILKESTON
 Derbyshire
 DE7 4AB

(issued 26 March 1991 and 28 January 1992) will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 1 February 1993, being replaced the following day by the new "Gift Giving" greetings book. Both Smiles and Memories will continue to be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters until further notice.

Greetings Stamps at Bookshops

The Waterstones bookstore chain are very much in favour of the Greetings Stamps which are being issued on 2 February, featuring well loved characters from the works of Beatrix Potter, Roald Dahl, Richmal Crompton, and others. Waterstones will be selling the Greetings Stamp

Book, related stamp products and a wide range of the authors' books during their promotion which will run in all of their 90 stores for up to one month from the first day of issue of the Greetings Stamps.

It is expected that Waterstones will be producing their own Commemorative Cover for the Greetings Issue, with a special cancellation, and that these will only be available from the bookshops. We are hoping to provide special cancelling facilities at stores which are located close to our Special Handstamp Centres. Details of this promotion had not been finalised at the time of going to press. Please enquire at your local Waterstones bookstore nearer the time of issue for further details.