

Occasions

The latest issue in the Occasions series will offer stamp users a multiple choice



A THIRD series of Occasions stamps will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House from 4 February. The six 1st class stamps feature multiple choice messages: Gold star/See me/Playtime (yellow background stamp); I (heart shape) U/XXXX/S.W.A.L.K. (red); Angel/Poppet/Little terror (purple); Yes/No/Maybe (green); Oops!/Sorry/Will try harder (violet); and I did it!/You did it!/We did it! (blue). Senders can place a tick in the box alongside the appropriate message. The Queen's head and 1st indicator are printed in the top right corner. The stamps were designed by UNA, with wording by Sara Wiegand and Mike Exon. The six stamps are printed in se-tenant blocks of six, 10 blocks per sheet of 60.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 February, price 25p. Serviced covers can be ordered with pictorial Tallents House or Merry Hill, Wolverhampton postmarks, price £2.32 UK (including VAT) or £1.98 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA marking the outer envelope 'FD0303' (Tallents House), or 'FD0304' (Merry Hill). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Merry Hill postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

Technical details

Printer The House of Questa

Process Lithography

Size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 60

Perforation 14.5 × 14

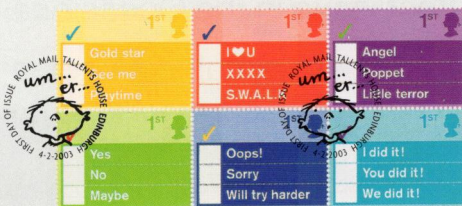
Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Plate numbers and colours

Q1 new blue ● Q1 deep ultra-marine ● Q1 purple ● Q1 bright yellow-green ● Q1 red ● Q1 lemon ● Q1 phosphor



A presentation pack (below, £2) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and Tallents House. The pack, designed by Howard Brown, was written and illustrated by Stephen Appley, noted for his cartoons in *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

What sort of PERSON ARE YOU?

A POSTCARD PERSON, PERHAPS, OR A WRITER OF LONG, CHATTY LETTERS. CONSULT THE ALL-KNOWING MAGIC HEAD!

- SIMPLY PUT A TICK IN THE BOX NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE. YOU CAN TICK MORE THAN ONE BOX IF YOU LIKE.
- NEXT, ADD UP YOUR SCORE AND CONSULT THE MAGIC HEAD'S ANSWER BELOW...

WHICH DOG WOULD YOU RESCUE FROM A RAGING RIVER?

1 2 3

WHICH PACKAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE?

1 2 3

WHO DO YOU LIKE THE BEST?

1 DAD 2 MUM 3 YOUR PARTNER 4 BEST FRIEND 5 YOURSELF

WHICH ITEM OF FURNITURE IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

1 COAT STAND 2 CHEST OF DRAWERS 3 COFFIN

DOES THIS PICTURE CAUSE...

1 ANGER? 2 JEALOUSY? 3 DRIBBLING?

I WOULD LOVE TO MEET...

1 KYLIE 2 ALIENS 3 SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX 4 ANYONE AT ALL

THE WINDOW OF THE SOUL

THE SCALES OF COMPASSION

STICK YOUR PHOTO HERE!

THE BOUNCING BALL OF DECISION-MAKING

YES NO UMM... MAYBE

ESCAPE HATCH

Answers:

- FIFTY ONE:** An impossible problem with messy letters are fantastic - but I bet your score is over a THOUSAND!
- THREE & FIFTY:** A pragmatic, saucy score! Keep copies of your letters to have your letters to have published one day.
- TWO:** Better stick to postcards or letters of one side only.
- ONE & ZERO:** Rather dull YAWN... did you? You didn't bother to do the test.



SMILERS SHEETS Also available from 4 February will be a generic sheet containing 20 of the new Occasions stamps with adjoining labels bearing messages. The Smilers sheets are printed in litho by Questa. Price £5.95 from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. Sheets of 20 with personalised image rather than pre-printed labels will be available to order from Tallents House. For order form and details phone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas) •