

Christmas

This year's festive stamps offer a



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 20 × 24mm and 30 × 24mm ('Large')

Sheets 50

Perforation 15 × 14 die-cut

Phosphor 2nd class standard size: one band. Others: two bands

Gum Self-adhesive

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 × 102mm

Miniature sheet perforation To be advised

ROYAL MAIL has issued Christmas stamps annually since 1966. This year's Christmas stamps – the 41st issue – go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 7 November. As for the past five years, they are printed on self-adhesive paper, the stamps have die-cut perforations and can be removed from sheets by rouletting which surrounds the 'perforations'. There will also be a miniature sheet containing the same stamps but in a conventional gummed format. They were designed by CDT Design using illustrations by Tatsuro Kiuchi featuring: 2nd class (standard & Large) snowman, 1st class (standard and Large) Father Christmas, 72p reindeer, and £1.19 Christmas tree. Four of the stamps will be the standard definitive size; the other two will be bigger and inscribed 'Large' for larger-size UK letters as part of the new 'Pricing in Proportion' letter pricing structure. The standard 1st and 2nd class stamps will cost 32p and 23p, the Large versions 44p and 37p. The year of issue (2006) is included on each stamp, reversed out of the phosphor bands.

Cylinders and colours

Definitive-size stamps D1 pearlescence ● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan ● D1 black

Large stamps As above plus D1 blue (2nd) and D1 gold (1st) Phosphor D1 all values.

MINIATURE SHEET For the third year, Christmas stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet containing one of each stamp. The stamps are traditionally gummed, not self-adhesive.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES The FDC envelope, designed by Tatsuro Kiuchi, features a robin perched on the antlers of a deer, set in mountain scenery. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Bethlehem postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0639' (Tallents House), or 'FD0640' (Bethlehem). For details of other special postmarks see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

STAMP BOOKS Two Christmas self-adhesive stamp books will be available from 7 November – 12 × 1st class stamps (£3.84) and 12 × 2nd class stamps (£2.76). The books, which contain the standard (definitive) size stamps, are printed in gravure by De La Rue ●

new look at some favourite Christmas images



Set of stamps or miniature sheet	£3.27
Presentation Pack	£3.80
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK) stamps/MS	£4.32
Serviced FDC (overseas) stamps/MS	£3.68
Set of 7 stamp cards (6 stamps + MS)	£2.10



Christmas 2006 Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
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Left: the first day cover. The presentation pack (below left), written by Leah Moore, was designed by Godfrey Design using illustrations by Tatsuro Kiuchi of Father Christmas, robins, Christmas trees and snow scenes.



Above: 12 x 1st and 12 x 2nd class stamp books.