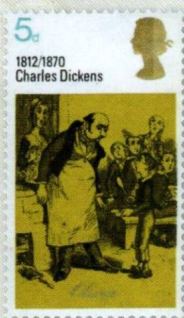


A tasty collection

Come and join us on a delicious gourmet tour of food-themed UK stamps through the years



CHRISTMAS IS COMING and the goose, turkey or your nut roast is plumping up nicely. As the season of family feasting approaches so we celebrate with a tour of tasty food-themed stamps past and present.

1970 Food with a Twist Not the fantasy Dickensian Christmas many of us dream of. In the 1970 Literary Anniversaries set, poor little Oliver Twist asks for more gruel in the original George Cruikshank illustration (1).

1973 A right royal Christmas From the Christmas set by David Gentleman, Good King Wenceslas and his page stride out into the snow to feed the poor with some festive goodies (2).

1981 What a catch Cockle dredging, lobster potting and two different kinds of fish nets, trawl and seine, are depicted in the Fishing Industry set (3).

1982 Textiles with taste The British Textiles issue features two classic British fruits. William Morris's Strawberry Thief shows a bird stealing a strawberry. Cherry Orchard by Paul Nash has a highly stylised cherry design (4).

1982 In the can The Information Technology series shows, for the first time, food as it looks when we buy it in modern supermarkets – complete with barcode (5).

1983 Farming it out Proving that the farmers' market movement is not an invention of the Noughties, the 1983 British Fairs issue features an early produce fair with chickens, geese, apples and a plethora of greens (6).

1986 Growth industry Agriculture was chosen as one of the activities to feature on the Industry Year stamp set of 1986. Stamps showed the creation of an item in the vignette, with the product depicted on the right-hand side. And



Above: Oliver asks for more; Wenceslas helps the poor; a produce fair with plenty to sell. Right: treasure from the deep; fruit motifs in textile design; food in the age of technology





in the case of the 34p, this was a loaf of bread alongside a wheat field (7).

1986 A peasant meal Food partly explains the social hierarchy in Norman Britain with the 900th Anniversary of The Domesday Book issue. Peasants toil in the fields and a lord enjoys a banquet. Some peasants cut wheat while others plough, and at the lord's feast a fish can be seen. In two other stamps not shown here, freemen work at their trades and a knight rides out with his retinue (8).

1987 Experimental food Probably one of the most famous apples in history, apart from Eve's, is the one said to have fallen on Newton's head and given him a eureka moment about gravity. Amusingly, the stamp from the set marking the 300th Anniversary of Newton's masterpiece, *Principia Mathematica*, shows an accelerating apple (9).

1987 Cooking classic The first modern cookbook, *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management*, makes an appearance on the issue commemorating the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession – reflecting the bestseller's impact and lasting importance (10).

1988 Chef's favourite Starring on the 34p from the Linnean Society set of 1988, is the morel mushroom, beloved of fashionable chefs everywhere (11).

1988 Pure poetry In the set that commemorates the centenary of Edward Lear's death, the 19p illustrates famous lines from his 'Owl and the Pussycat', who... 'took some honey and plenty of money'. (12)

1989 Salute the fruit Greetings stamps from 1989 include a still life of a fruit bowl, painted by Philip Sutton, who created the entire set of charming images that included teddy bears and roses (13).

1989 Year of plenty The Food and Farming Year set is bursting with goodness. Against a backdrop of tiles, foods are divided into four groups: fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, dairy and cereals (14).

Each group has a themed tile: for fruit and vegetables the tile features a tree, and the counter in front of it is piled with leeks, onions, apples, peppers and more. For the meat, a rooster tile sets the scene for the produce, which includes pies, a ham and fish. The dairy tile (with a cow, naturally) appears with various cheeses as well as milk and cream. On the cereals stamp, denoted by a barley sheaf tile, there are several types of bread, porridge and even a slice of Victoria sponge ● *Hungry? More next month – A Tasty Collection Part II*

Above: our daily bread; 11th century farming and feasting; Newton's apple; Mrs Beeton's book; moreish mushrooms; food as poetry; colourful fruit



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