

Stamp Programme Balance

For Royal Mail's *Stamps and Collecting* Website

Britain has a long and proud history that is celebrated on our modern stamps by issues that often look back on those past glories, but is this at the expense of present day achievements?

Presenting a balanced special stamps programme that reflects past and current achievements is an annual challenge. If there are too many historical issues, some will complain that we are not contemporary enough, but it these very issues that always score highly in the annual Royal Mail Stamp Poll. The Tastes of Britain and Sounds of Britain issues that both reflected our modern diversity scored dreadfully in the Polls, but is that a sufficient reason not to produce such issues?

Political correctness and the ethnic diversity of modern British society mean that it is all too easy to offend a whole group of the public. It would probably be safer, therefore, to just stick to historical subjects and to issue sets on themes that do not include people, but would that be acceptable? Britain today is home to some of the greatest minds and achievers in many diverse fields of endeavour. To exclude these current successes from the stamp programme because they might not score highly in a popularity Poll would surely also be wrong.

Stamps stimulate and so we will continue at all times to engage every sector of society and portray its many achievements, old and new, without intentionally alienating anyone through choice of subject, while recognising that every issue cannot be your favourite set!

Do you believe that we present a balanced stamp programme? Perhaps you think that we try too hard to please everyone and need to be more daring? Are we carrying political and ethnic correctness too far in our issues? Is it your belief that themes chosen are often too backward-looking?

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