

2006 ROYAL MAIL STAMP POLL
COMMENTS

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The following pages record all comments, favourable or otherwise, that were received as part of the 2006 Stamp Poll survey broken down by issue and followed by general comments about the Special Stamps programme. All remarks are from collector's resident in Britain unless marked otherwise at the end of the individual's comments.

ANIMAL TALES

...the best series for me. Bright, colourful. Best stamp the "holey" caterpillar.

...worst designs by far.

...unimaginative, overly simplistic and uninspiring.

BRITISH JOURNEYS: ENGLAND

...at last some "normal" pictures, less of the drab and dreary stamps from previous series.

...a shame that this series was concluded in a rush without the originally proposed further regions just when they finally got the colours right! The first series was awful but this was excellent- far more natural than its predecessors.

...much better on the cards.

...attractive and an improvement on the rather dull designs of many of the earlier designs in this series.

...like them very much.

...best of a bad lot, however gaudy and messy in design.

...the design of Beachy Head is out of date – the stack fell into the sea some years ago.

...England was stunning.

BRUNEL

...everything a special issue should be – good to look at and commemorated an anniversary of a great Briton.

...very interesting and so historic.

...liked format and choice of subject matter (A CANADIAN)

...depressingly dull and dark.

...suffered from small format. Look fine on PHQ cards.

ICE AGE ANIMALS

- ...disappointing, drab and dreary.
- ...too many issues with no real reason for issuing them, i.e. Ice Age Animals.
- ...dreadful in both design and character.
- ...unattractive, in fact could have been omitted altogether! There seemed little purpose in it. Other than as a filler and boost profits.
- ...not very fond of this set.
- ...just another revenue earner.

THE QUEEN'S 80th BIRTHDAY

- ...disappointing, drab and dreary.
- ...did Her Majesty spend her life laughing?
- ...informal photographs a delight, in keeping with the modern concept of monarchy. Sympathetically cropped.
- ...why was black and white chosen? Was it considered an occasion for mourning rather than celebration?
- ...good to have second class.
- ...that smile on the 1st class stamp. Wow!!
- ...a poor way to celebrate such a joyous occasion, which should have been colourful and fun!
- ...like with William, you've cut top of heads off!! Why?? Why??

WORLD CUP WINNERS

- ...worst sports stamps. Other countries have done the same poor design.
- ...a disappointment. Too much white space. National flags could have been larger.
- ...quite happy with this set.
- ...did nothing for the English team.
- ...nice idea, however the results did not bear fruition. Poor!

MODERN ARCHITECTURE

- ...I think you had to be an architect or builder to even know what these stamps were. Was stamp 48 a lavatory in a field?
- ...awful, truly awful. The attempt to show just angles of buildings is rubbish.
- ...bold in concept.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

- ...simply and obviously (and rightly) dictated by the theme.
- ...a mishmash of designs that jars.
- ...very representative of great Britons.
- ...made me sit up and go “wow”!! Literally works of art.
- ...suffered from being in a smaller size than normal.

VICTORIA CROSS

- ...a very historical set and I liked it very much.
- ...stood head and shoulders above other issues. Perfect balance between photograph and text (A CANADIAN)
- ...we’ve already had a stamp celebrating this, so a bad repetitive idea from the start. A poorly designed set.

SOUNDS OF BRITAIN

- ...ugliest set.
- ...jolly and conveyed some thing of the vibrancy of the music being played by the musicians they depicted.
- ...worst designs by far.
- ...Sounds of Britain? These sounds may be heard in Britain but none is of British origin and certainly do not merit a special issue.
- ...worst set of the year. I though they were ghastly. FDC very gaudy.
- ...another dreadfully dull set.
- ...unrepresentative of its title. Can only be described as PC gone completely mad.

CHRISTMAS

- ...nice, except two PiP stamps. A shame not to have 6 different designs as normal.
- ...the 1st and 2nd class definitives and Christmas are ugly because of the large 1 and 2 on them.
- ...good, but too small.
- ...the small (definitive size) stamps for Christmas look mean and feeble – what a missed opportunity! Father Christmas on a (chimney) pot just about sums it up.
- ...loved the smaller size.
- ...pleasing to the eye, but did not commemorate the true meaning of Christmas. Was this a politically correct decision, in order not to offend foreigners, like the Hindu who complained last year?
- ...should be a Christian theme every year.

...please rethink the Christmas issue in the light of PiP. Feeble in size and subject matter.

..very low key.

...look like cheap labels you would stick on the back of an envelope or a present. RM doesn't deserve this revenue.

...prefer Christian values.

...absolutely hate them. Look like USA stamps – cheap and nasty.

...did Christmas have to be commemorated by such a piddling little set?

...my two year old could design a better set. Poor!

LEST WE FORGET (MS)

...nicest stamp by far. Shame only available in MS.

...should have been an issue on its own (counters sheets). Excellent, simple design a great reminder of the reason for Remembrance day.

...simple, evocative. Why not available as single stamps and given wide publicity?

...what a pity it was not produced as a single stamp.

...a real shame that this was only available as a MS. It deserved a much wider general use.

...didn't like the MS from which the excellent stamp came.

...so good it deserved to be seen by the general public, which it won't be.

...very historical. ***Loved*** the Poppy stamp.

...wonderful idea. Shame you cannot buy it singly.

...probably the most evocative stamp ever produced by Royal Mail, not only a masterpiece in its beauty and simplicity of design but for the scope of the emotions that it provokes. On one small piece of paper you have captured more than a thousand words can say of WWI and WWII, the heroism, the pain, the loss of two generations of young men and women and the futility of war. This stamp far and away outclasses the other stamps issued in 2006. Thank you for reminding us, "We shall not forget". (AN AMERICAN – I THINK HE LIKED IT!!!)

...it seems a shame that it will not be seen by more people.

...at last! A thoughtful and provoking stamp. The best of the year.

Excellent!

...no sign that Royal Mail intends making a donation to the Royal British Legion from its profits on this issue.

CELEBRATING SCOTLAND (MS)

...quite liked it.

...another set of well designed stamps. I like them.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- POSITIVE

...2006 was the best set of stamps for years. I hope the quality continues.

...a mixed year as usual but pretty good overall.

...not a bad year.

...generally a much better year.

...a fine year for British stamps.

...standard generally higher this year.

...I have guarded hope for the future.

...keep up the good work – you are heading in the right direction.

...the stamp scene in Britain has definitely improved (A CANADIAN)

...there is marked turning point in the level of quality and the use of colour.

...having been somewhat less than gracious in some of my comments last year, I would like to compliment Royal Mail on a superb year of stamps in 2006.

- TOO MANY STAMPS

...too many MS.

...too many Smilers.

...oh so many.

...sets should be no more than 4 stamps.

...another year with too many issues. 2007 looks to have even more.

Please slim the programme down.

...As usual I am using the Bulletin Poll to protest at the number of issues. How can you expect young people to take an interest while it is expensive and while they have so little chance to obtain used copies? Emails and mobiles are probably even more influential, I admit.

...too many issues, too high face values. Please concentrate on quality rather than quantity.

...the proliferation of MS is to be deplored. Giving up FDCs of these.

...too many issues this year.

...far too many in number.

...still too many issues, so that really good designs disappear from use too soon after being placed on sale. I suggest four issues per year only.

...once more there are too many issues with increasingly higher outlays if one wishes to keep up to date.

...once again far too many stamps in far too many formats. (AN IRISHMAN)

...far too many stamps.

- DESIGN ASPECTS

...there seems to be a penchant among the selection committee to select stamps showing only parts of stamps, i.e. Modern Architecture and Ice Age Animals.

...most of the stamps are plain. Common photographs – 41 of them! Of course, it's cheaper, but there is nothing imaginative. Where are the British designers and painters?

...MS stamps should always be available as single stamps (counter sheets).

...in general hideous, especially Animal Tales.

...some very poor designs in 2006. With a few exceptions, most were not worth buying.

...I thought 2005 was bad, however 2006's offering is even worse. What a dreadful uninspiring collection of depressingly dull topics and images.

...all in all a dreadful year for British stamp design.

...another awful year, the only consistency is that it gets worse every year.

...another not very inspiring year, and to cap it all you'll probably issue twice as many next year.

- TOO MANY / UNNECESSARY ISSUES

...far too many stamps, MS and Smilers. Lots of them unnecessary.

...too many issues with no real reason for issuing them, i.e. Ice Age Animals.

...far too many. Produced just to milk collectors and add to Royal Mail profits. Few used as postage.

...a plethora of MS.

- FACE VALUES

...too few second class. Why not basic 1st and 2nd class stamps?

...please can we have more 2nd class stamps?

- PROGRAMME TOO EXPENSIVE

...philately is becoming too expensive.

...did you notice that collecting British stamps is getting very expensive?

Anyway, I now give-up my British stamp collection, which I started in 1952. (A FRENCHMAN)

Ending this review on a positive note.....

2007 PROGRAMME

...looking promising already with some excellent sets on the way. Should be a good year.