GBPS

2020
Xmas Quiz

Its Christmas Eve in GBPS land as we all settle down for an evening of relaxation, mild mental stimulation and, in some cases, gradual intoxication:

Close the Curtains
Stoke the Fire
Charge your Glass
(Or Cocoa mug)
And settle back in your favourite armchair

Question 1

In what year were the first GB Christmas stamps issued?

Question 2

Who designed them?

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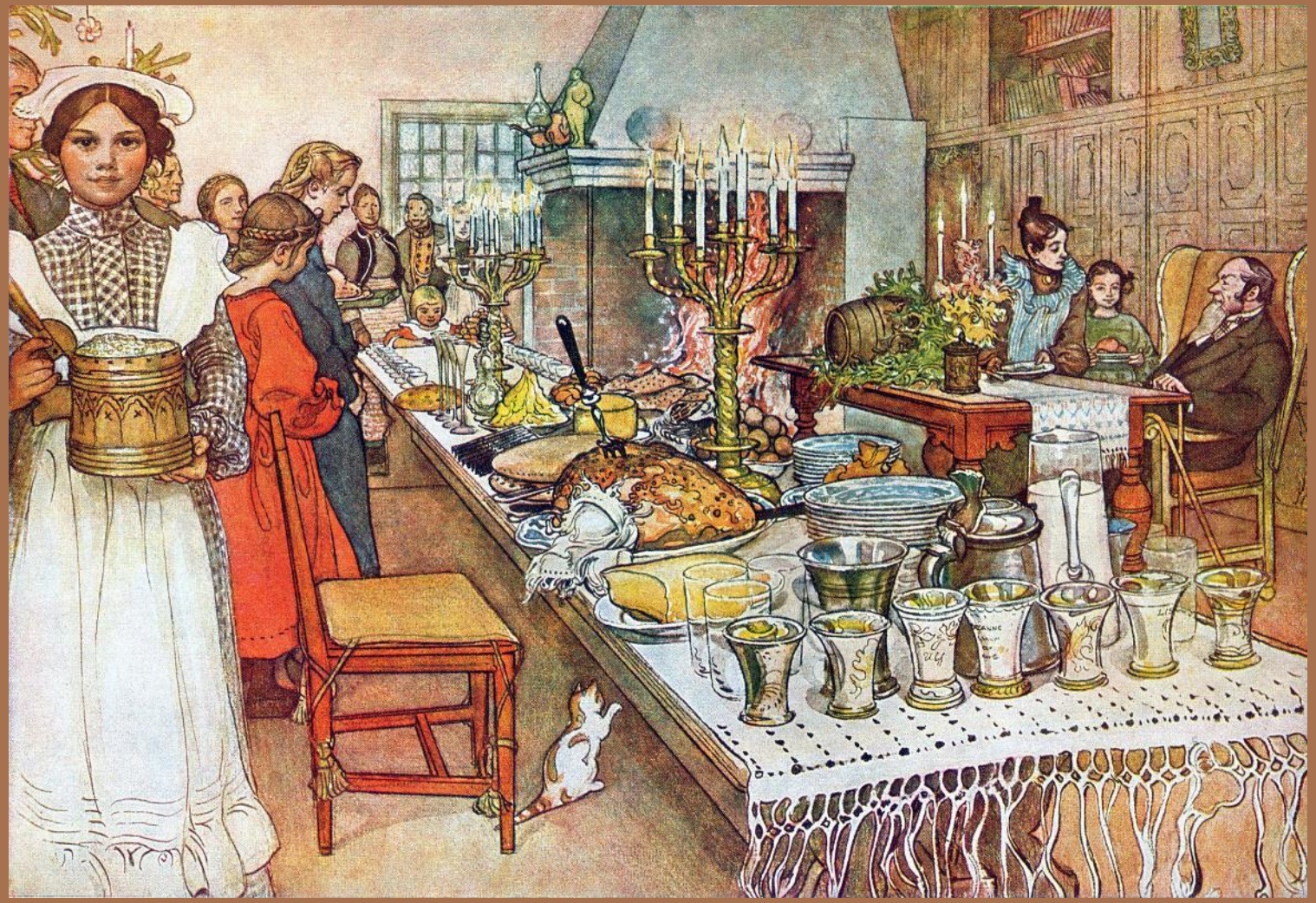
Question 3

Up to and including the year 1990, which designer designed the most issues of GB Christmas stamps?

How many issues did this person design?

Question 4

How many designers designed more than one issue during the same period?



GBPS

Question 5

Which of the following towns DID NOT HAVE a ‘Posted in Advance for Christmas Day’ or equivalent Postmark?

1. Carlisle
2. Leicester
3. Preston
4. Stalybridge
5. Dukinfield
6. Southport
7. Blackpool

Question 6

What was the cheapest normal rate of postage for a letter posted on Xmas Eve from London to Burnley for each of the following years?

1. 1657 (2d, 3d or 4d)
2. 1797 (6d, 7d or 8d)
3. 1811 (10d, 11d or 1/-)
4. 1839 (1d, 2d or 4d)
5. 1918 (1d, 1½d or 2d)
6. 1968 (3d, 4d or 5d)

Question 7

In what year did Father Christmas make his first appearance on a GB postage stamp?

Question 8

I want to send a ‘small parcel’ Christmas present by airmail to a friend on Christmas Island. How much will it cost me?

Time to Rest the Brain Cells for a Minute

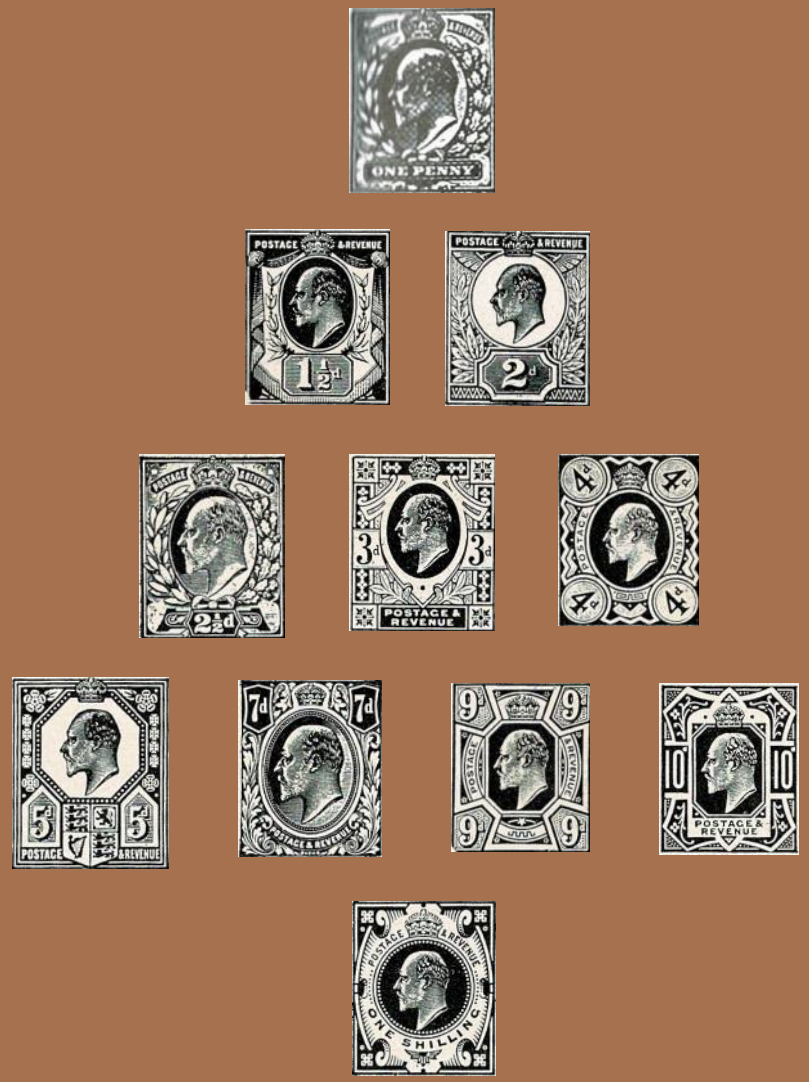
Put another log on the fire. Replenish the glass. Check that the stocking is still hanging at that jaunty angle on the mantlepiece.

Wait a minute, whose that knocking on the door at this time of the evening?

It’s the Postman just calling round for his usual glass of Christmas cheer.

‘Sorry I’m later than usual, you won’t believe the rubbish that people are putting in postboxes these days’ he says. ‘What a lovely Christmas Tree you have this year, what a pity I’m colour blind’.

‘Mmmm’ Thinks your host ‘The mystery of the municipal dome-topped litter bins being emptied at 5:45 p.m. each day may have been solved’ But we digress …

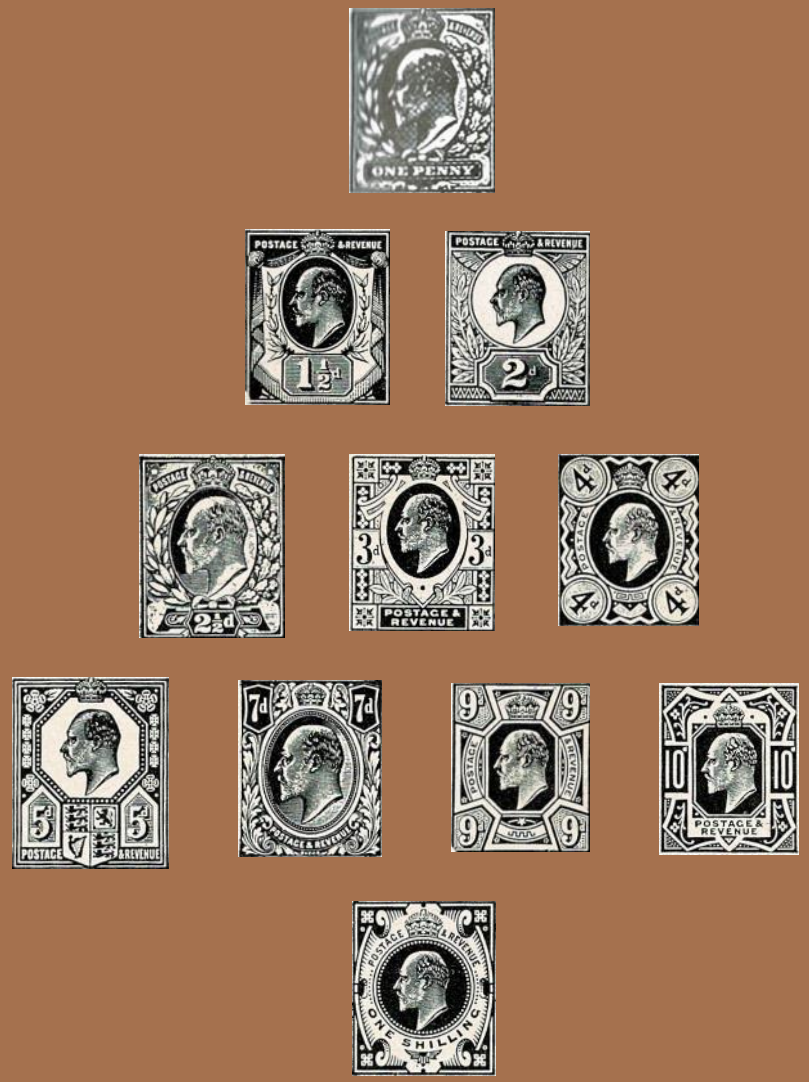


Question 9

Can you help by naming the basic colours on this King Edward VII Christmas Tree?

Question 10

Which of the low values is, or are, missing?



Question 11

Can you match the following GBPS Presidents to the Christmas Day they were in Office?

R.A.G. Lee
P.L. High
L. Wilkinson
R.M. Willcocks

Possible answers are:
1962, 1972, 1978, 1976, 1981, 1983, 1987 and 1989.

GBPS

Question 12

In what year was this Post Office Notice displayed?

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

FOR THE

TRANSMISSION AND DELIVERY OF LETTERS, &c.

DURING the coming Christmas season the regular transmission and prompt delivery of Letters and Christmas and New Year's Cards will be facilitated if the public will post their Letters, &c., as early in the day as possible on the 23rd, 24th, and 31st instant, **but especially on Monday and Tuesday the 23rd and 24th.**

It will be necessary very generally to close the Letter Boxes at Provincial Post Offices earlier than usual on the 24th and 31st instant, and where this is done, the hour of closing will be announced by a notice exhibited in the Post Office Window, or in some other conspicuous position, for the information of the Public.

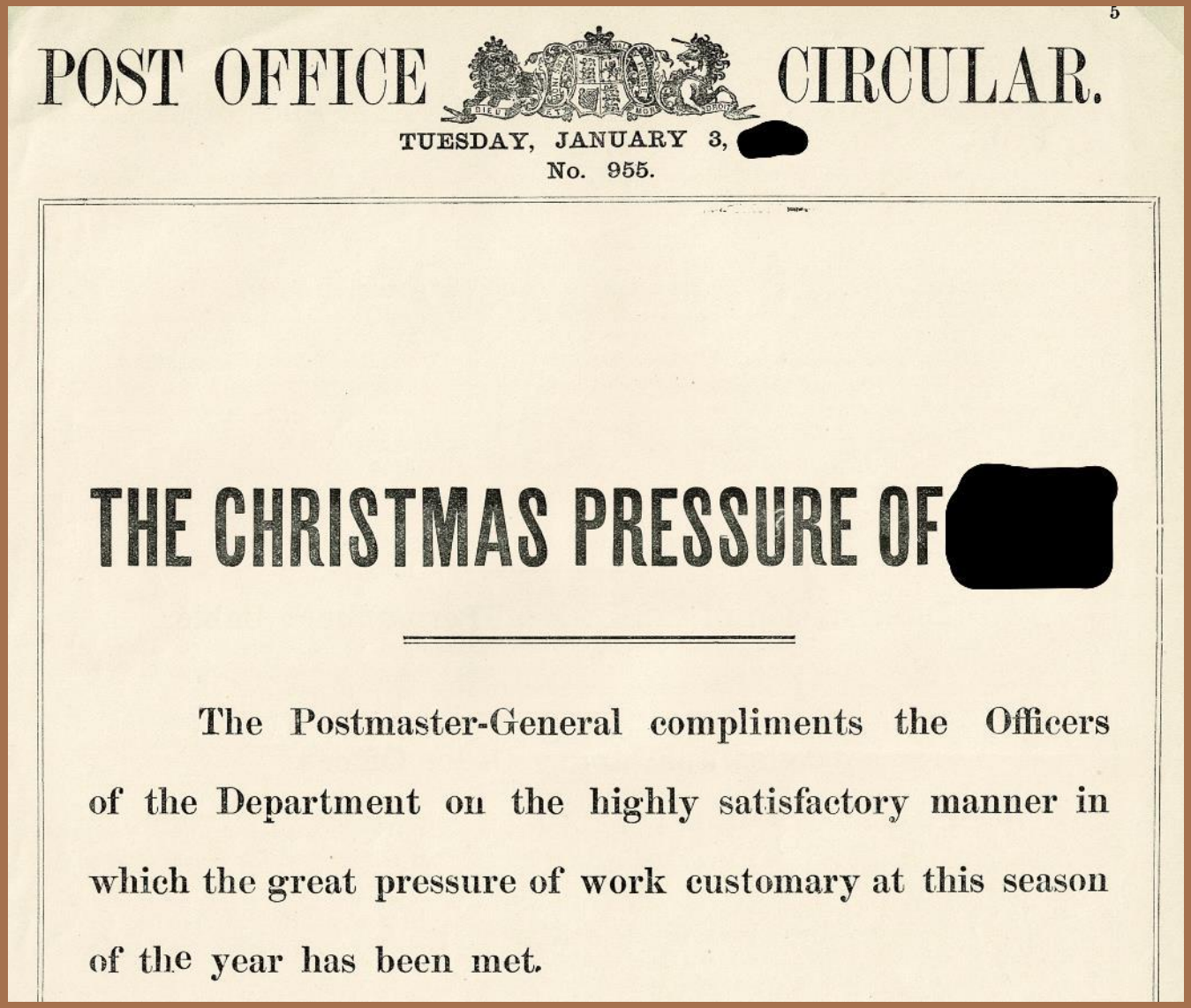
It is desirable that business letters, especially those to the delivery of which in the ordinary course of Post importance is attached, should be posted early so that they may be forwarded by the special Mails which from the Chief Towns will be sent off in advance of the usual Mails on the days named.

The arrangements of the Department for meeting the additional work which Christmastide imposes on it, will be materially assisted if the Public will purchase beforehand such supplies of postage stamps as they may require for the prepayment of Christmas correspondence.

Question 13

And to which Christmas did this allude?

Clue: *It's three years later than the one in the previous question*



5

POST OFFICE CIRCULAR.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, [redacted]

No. 955.

THE CHRISTMAS PRESSURE OF [redacted]

The Postmaster-General compliments the Officers of the Department on the highly satisfactory manner in which the great pressure of work customary at this season of the year has been met.

Question 14

These Notices are from the years 1911, 1915 and 1916. Can you say which is which?

LONDON POSTAL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS SEASON

To ensure the due delivery of Letters and Parcels the Public are requested to

POST EARLY

ON THE

21st, 22nd & 23rd DECEMBER.

LETTERS.

As far as possible Letters should be posted before **2.0 p.m.**

MAILS FOR INDIA, CHINA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, &c.—Letters, &c., intended for the Mails for India, China, Australia and New Zealand, &c., due to be despatched on Friday the 22nd December should, if possible, be posted before the 22nd December, and, at any rate, by mid-day on that date.

MAILS FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND FOR THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, &c.—Letters, &c., intended for the Mails for South Africa, the United States, Canada, &c., due to be despatched on the afternoon of Saturday the 23rd December should be posted in good time the previous day.

PARCELS.

The posting should take place, wherever practicable, not later than Frid ie 22nd December.

Care should be taken to **PACK SECURELY** and to tie address labels on firmly, as well as rite the addresses on the covers.

EXPRESS DELIVERY.

In order to prevent as far as possible any risk of delay to Letters and Parcels, &c., the prompt deliv which is of importance, through their getting mixed with Christmas Cards and Parcels, the public vised to mark and prepay such Letters, &c., for "Express Delivery," and hand them over the counte Post Office to be forwarded and delivered as Express Mail Letters and Parcels. In addition to the dinary postage, the fee for the Express Delivery of a Letter or Parcel is 3d. for every mile or part of a n om the office of delivery, which must be prepaid in Postage Stamps on the Letter or Parcel.

POST EARLY.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND PARCELS

should be posted not later than

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

22nd DECEMBER.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

CHRISTMAS POSTS.

About 70,000 Post Office servants are now serving with the Colours, and the usual temporary staff is not available.

Please help by :—

1. Posting for Christmas as early as you can each day, and not later than December 22.
2. Not posting until after Christmas anything which can wait.

JOSEPH A. PEASE,
Postmaster General.

Goodness! Is that the time already?

A chill has crept in to the room as the fire begins to run low and the snowflakes tickle the window panes.

Rudolph will soon be airborne and those who have been good will soon need to be in bed.

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Just time for one more round before we retire?

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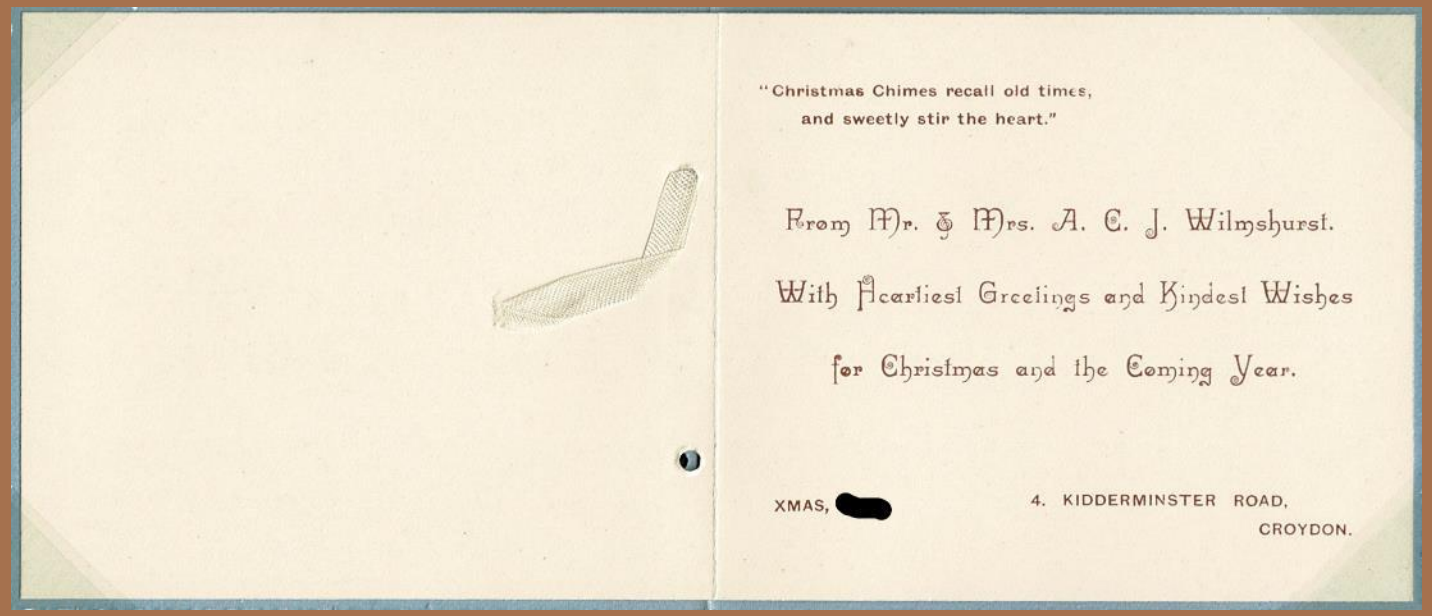
GBPS

Question 15

A nice privately produced Christmas card but from which year?



GBPS

Question 16

And what year is this from?

We have finished just in time. Is that sleigh bells we can hear?

A glass of sherry and a mince pie for the main man and a carrot for Rudolph left by the fireplace, then its off to bed.

What's that? You've drunk the sherry? Never mind, liquid stamp remover has a bit of a kick to it, he won't notice the difference!

GBPS

2020 Xmas Quiz

ANSWERS

Question 1
In what year were the first GB Christmas stamps issued?

1966

Question 2
Who designed them?

Tasveer Shemza (3d) and James Berry (1/6). The winners of a children's design competition.

Question 3

Up to and including the year 1990, which designer designed the most issues of GB Christmas stamps?

David Gentleman

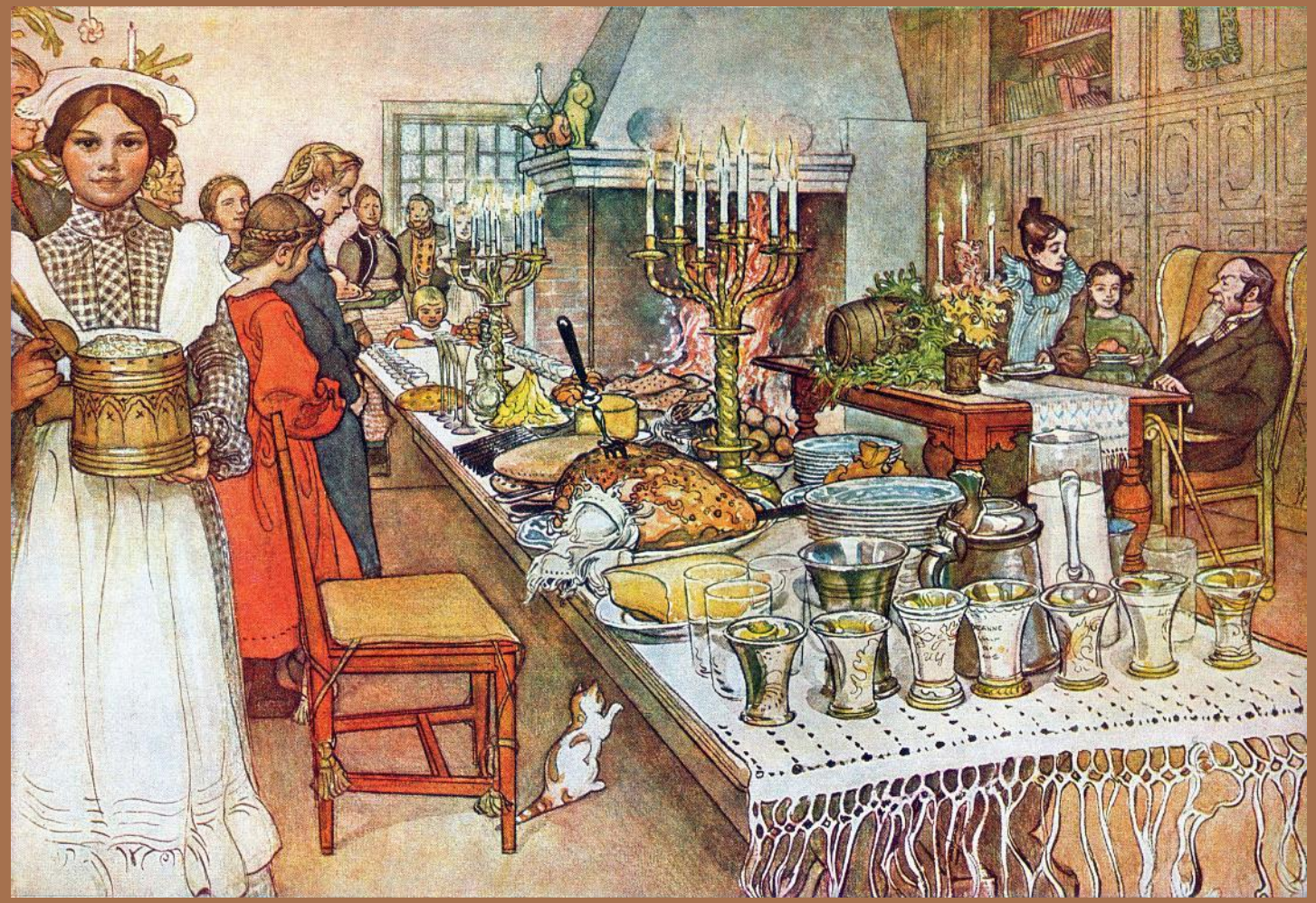
How many issues did this person design?

Three

Question 4

How many other designers designed more than one issue

Two, Sally Stiff and Fritz Wegner designed two each



Question 5

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6. Southport
7. **Blackpool**

Question 6

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1. 1657 (2d, 3d or 4d) **3d**
2. 1797 (6d, 7d or 8d) **8d**
3. 1811 (10d, 11d or 1s) **11d**
4. 1839 (1d, 2d or 4d) **4d**
5. 1918 (1d, 1½d or 2d) **1½d**
6. 1968 (3d, 4d or 5d) **4d**

Question 7
In what year did Father Christmas make his first appearance on a GB Christmas stamp?

1981. Children's Pictures

Question 8
I want to send a 'small parcel' Christmas present by airmail to a friend on Christmas Island. How much will it cost me?

£7.30. Zone 2

Question 9

Can you help by naming the basic colours on this King Edward VII Christmas Tree?

Red

Purple and Green

Green and Red

Blue

Green & Brown or Orange

Purple or Grey

Purple and Blue

Purple and Red

Grey or Black

Purple and Blue

Green and Red

Question 10

Which values are missing?

½d and 6d

Question 10

Can you match the following GBPS Presidents to the Christmas Day they were in Office?

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P.L. High 1983
L. Wilkinson 1987
R.M. Willcocks 1981

Possible answers are:
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Question 12

In what year was this Post Office Notice displayed?

1889

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The arrangements of the Department for meeting the additional work which Christmastide imposes on it, will be materially assisted if the Public will purchase beforehand such supplies of postage stamps as they may require for the prepayment of Christmas correspondence.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
December, 1889.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

[3108] [M 8] Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by W. P. Griffith & Sons, Ld., Prujean Square, Old Bailey, London, E.C.

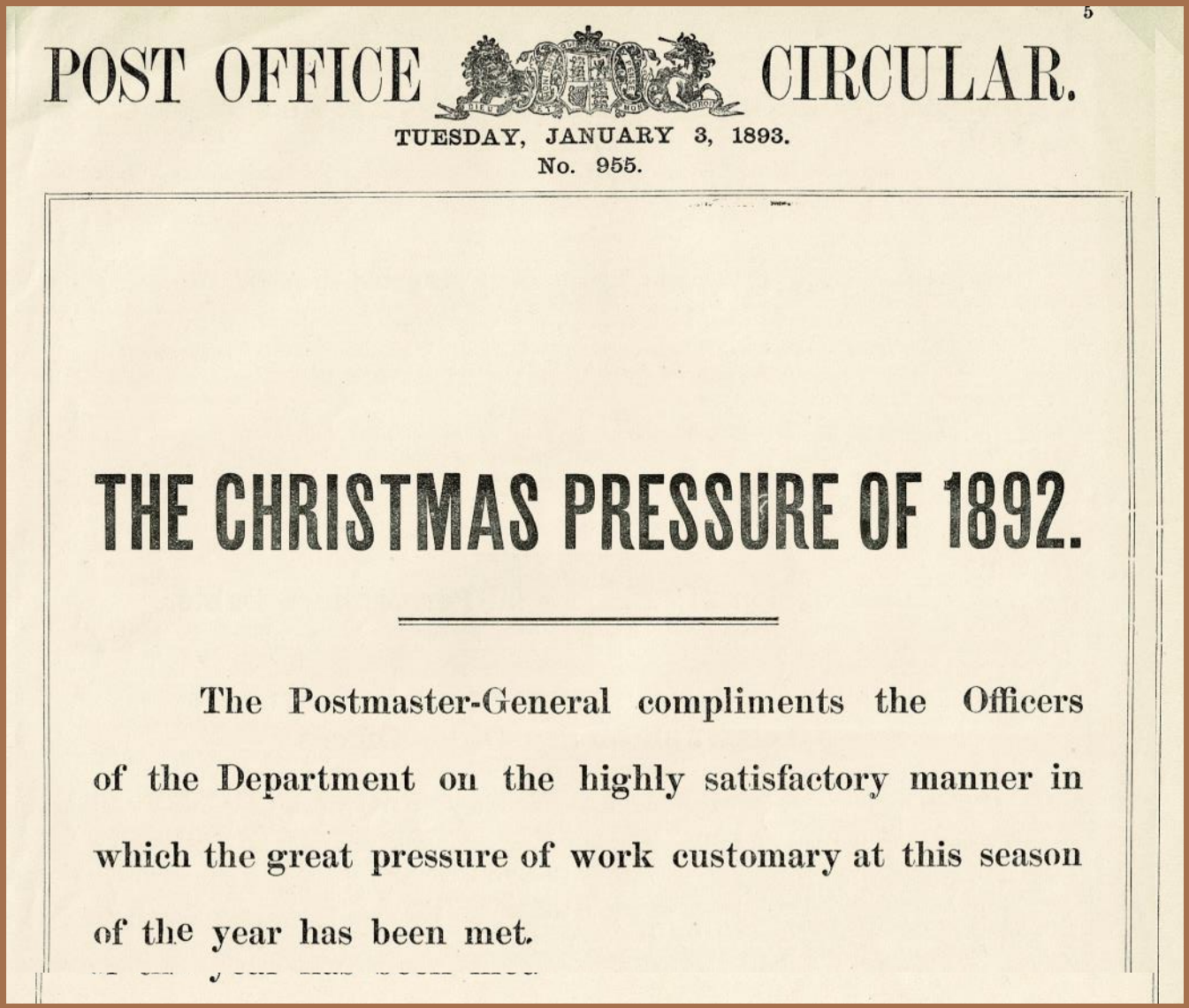
GBPS

Question 13

And to which Christmas did this allude?

Clue: It's three years later than the last one

1892. The 'Tuesday' should have helped!



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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1893.

No. 955.

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The Postmaster-General compliments the Officers of the Department on the highly satisfactory manner in which the great pressure of work customary at this season of the year has been met.

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1911 at top, 1915 bottom left and 1916 bottom right

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NERAL POST OFFICE,
December, 1911.

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by W. P. Griffith & Sons Ltd., Finsbury Square, Old Street, London, E.C.

POST EARLY.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND PARCELS

should be posted not later than

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

22nd DECEMBER.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
1915.

CHRISTMAS POSTS.

About 70,000 Post Office servants are now serving with the Colours, and the usual temporary staff is not available.

Please help by :—

1. Posting for Christmas as early as you can each day, and not later than December 22.
2. Not posting until after Christmas anything which can wait.

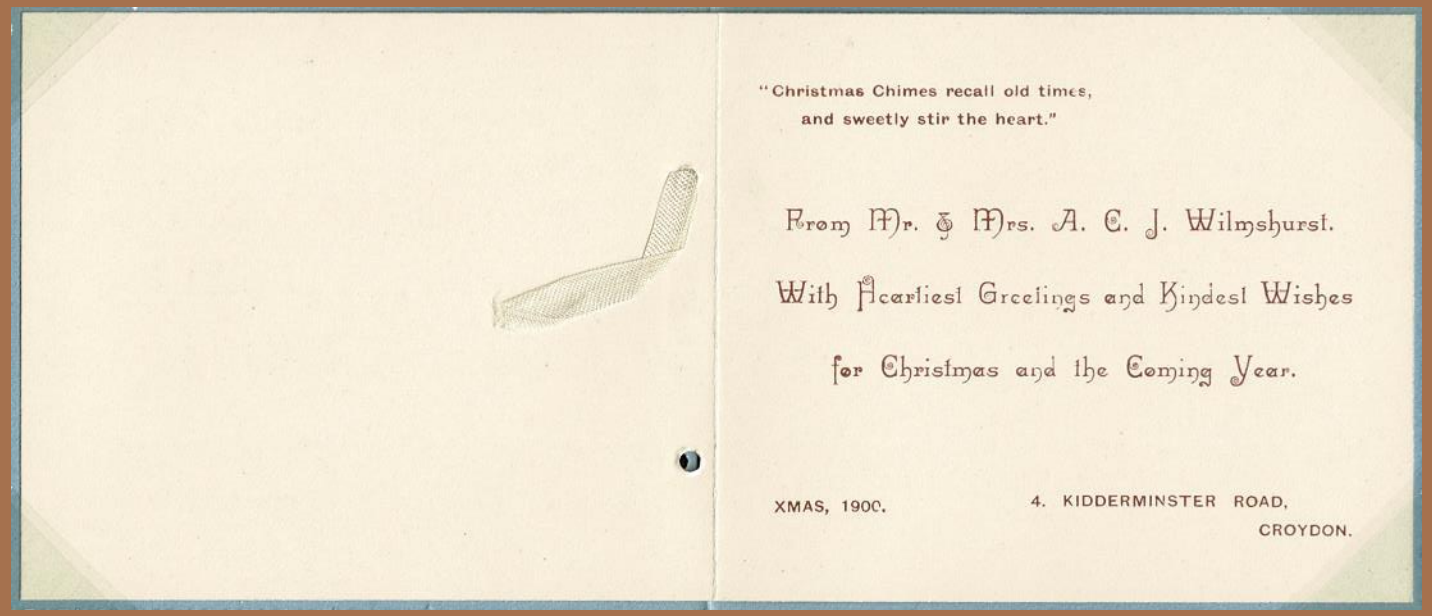
JOSEPH A. PEASE,
Postmaster General.

GBPS

Question 15

A nice privately produced Christmas card but from which year?

1900



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Question 16

And what year is this from?

1905

Scoring Chart – See opposite for points available for each question

How did you rate?

Over 40 … Superb but you need to get out more
35-40 … Excellent
30-34 … Good. Perhaps spend a little more time on the GBPS website
25-29 … Average. Invest in a GB Concise catalogue this Christmas
14-24 … Should have left the Sherry until later
Below 14 … Should have left the stamp removing liquid until later

Question	Answer Summary and Points	Total Points
1	1966 (1)	1
2	T. Shemza (1), J. Berry (1) I bonus point if you got both	3
3	David Gentleman (1) Three (1)	2
4	Two (1)	1
5	Blackpool	1
6	3d, 8d, 11d, 4d, 1½d and 4d (1 for each plus 3 bonus points if you got them all)	9
7	1981 (2 if exact, 1 for 1980 or 1982)	2
8	£7.30 (2 if exact +/- 30p = 1 point)	2
9	1 point for each correct stamp – shades are acceptable (e.g. scarlet instead of red) but if you thought the answer was incorrect because it was not shade-specific please deduct 3 points, basic colours were asked for. Take 2 bonus points if your remembered that the 4d was printed in both Orange and Green + Brown	13
10	½d and 6d	2
11	R.A.G. Lee 1978, P.L. High 1983, L. Wilkinson 1987, R.M. Willcocks 1981 (1 point for each)	4
12	1889	1
13	1892	1
14	1911 at top, 1915 bottom right and 1916 bottom left	1
15	1900	1
16	1905	1
Total		**45**

GBPS

Keep Well Everyone
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
Hope to See You in Person During 2021