



Pacific Year Of The Coral Reef

The year 1997 has been designated as the Year of Coral Reef. To commemorate this year Fiji released stamps. The Coral reefs with their immense diversity and myriad of colours are among the most productive and important ecosystems in the world today. They provide refuge from predators and protection from the power of the waves. There are over 148 species of hard coral and soft coral within the waters of the Fiji Islands.



First Christmas Stamp

Stamps on Christmas have been popular among philatelists for a long time. Issuing of Christmas stamps has become a tradition; they have now been released every year. The first was of value two cents and came from Canada on which was printed 'XMAS 1898'.



In 1898, Canada became the first country in the world who issued a CHRISTMAS stamp when 'XMAS 1898' was added to a stamp design depicting a map of the world. This stamp is famous among collectors as the 'Map on Stamp'. However, Canada did not begin issuing Christmas stamps on an annual basis until 1964.

WEBSITE TO WATCH

Readers may visit the following flash website on World Cup Football Stamps

[Roy's Homepage on Worldcup Football Stamps](#)

PHILATELIC QUIZ

1. Who invented postage stamp?
2. Not a country but released stamps - Who?
3. Name the country who is pioneer in releasing coil stamps.
4. Name the philatelic speciality found in the stamps of Israel.
5. The word "Nippon" is found on which country's stamps?

Answers of PHILATELIC QUIZ

1. Rowland Hill 2. United Nations
3. Sweden 4. Tab 5. Japan

ALDERNEY CRICKET STAMPS



Alderney is one of the Channel Islands, in the English Channel, with an area of 3 square miles (8 square km). On 21st August, 1997 Alderney released a set of five stamps honouring five great Cricketers who were associated with the island to a great extent. Cricket was first played in the island in 1847. Over the years many famous cricketers have played in the island. The stamps are a tribute to some of the great players of the game. The 18p stamp honoured Harold Larwood, the famous Bodyliner. John Arlott, the much loved cricket commentator honoured on 25p stamp. He lived in Alderney for many years. In 1922 Sir Pelham Warner, an England captain took a cricket team to Alderney. He was depicted on the 37p stamp. W.G. Grace, the legendary batsman who dominated the game in his era was honoured on 43p stamp. The 63p stamp shows John Wisden, whose annual reference book on cricket is still produced today.

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PERSONALITY STAMP

Charles Babbage

The stamp shown here shows the portrait of Charles Babbage (1792-1871), the father of modern computer. He was a British mathematician and designed mechanical machines. born in Devon, and the University of Cambridge. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1816 and was active in the founding of the Analytical, the Royal Astronomical, and the Statistical Societies. He was Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge from 1828 to 1839.



In the 1820s Babbage began developing his Difference Engine, a mechanical device that could perform simple mathematical calculations.

Although Babbage started to build his machine, and almost finished its construction, he was unable to complete it because of a lack of funding. In 1991 British scientists, following Babbage's detailed drawings and specifications, constructed the Difference Engine: the machine works flawlessly, calculating up to a precision of 31 digits, proving that Babbage's design was sound.