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Bulletin

50th Anniversary Year 2013

Great Brits • Cool *Britannia*
• *Doctor Who*: the inside story



50 years of a superstar!
Doctor Who celebrated in a
stellar new stamp issue

WIN DOCTOR WHO STAMPS • J HOLMAN UK STAMP SCENE • D MYALL MACHIN STATIONERY

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: Rex Features.
Stamp: the special issue released this month celebrates the 50 years of *Doctor Who* on television. Stamp details were featured in the Preview on page 167 of February *Bulletin*. Read about the background to this stellar issue on page 206.

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21 March	Withdrawal Lunar Year of the Dragon: Generic Sheet
26 March	Withdrawal Comics: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
26 March	Issue <i>Doctor Who</i> : Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet, Stamp Book 6 x 1st, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Pin Badges
27 March	Issue Country Definitives: 88p Stamps for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales; Presentation Pack with 4 overseas stamps.
	Issue Definitives: 78p, 88p, £1.88, Recorded Signed For First Class £1.55 and Recorded Signed For Large First Class £1.85; Presentation Pack includes all new Definitives
10 April	Withdrawal UK A-Z Part 1: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
16 April	Issue Great Britons: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
20 April	Issue Royal Yacht <i>Britannia</i> Commemorative Sheet

Please note: The *British Philatelic Bulletin* aims to give readers full philatelic details of all new stamps at least three weeks before they are issued. We will print all information available at Royal Mail at the time of going to press and, if necessary, add more information in the following edition to coincide with the stamp release.



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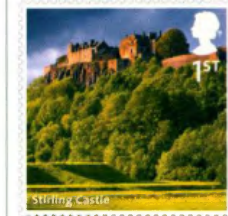
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Contents

Who's Who of *Doctor Who* Take a journey back in time to explore the TV history of this month's cosmic new stamp issue **206**



Issues and withdrawals
New stamps out this month and next, plus the farewell dates for some classic issues **194**



Correspondence
A selection of your letters and emails. Don't say we don't listen when you let off steam! **196**

Royal Mail news
Details of stamps with new tariffs next month, and a sheet that marks the 50th anniversary of the magnificent Royal Yacht *Britannia* **197**

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Who's your favourite enemy? Power-hungry monsters thwarted by *Doctor Who* **208**

Classic stationery
Read Douglas Myall's expert introduction to collecting prepaid Machin stationery **213**



Where we are now
John Baron's view from the Chair **216**

Island news
Latest stamps from UK islands **218**

From the archive
A global issue of 50 years ago **219**

You tell us! Favourite Stamp Poll results **220**

Puzzles Stamp stars of the small screen **221**

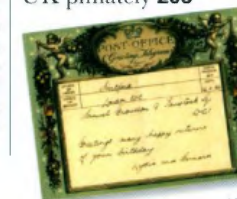
Three finds A selection of covers and sheets **223**

Stunning PSB Meet the *Doctor Who* Prestige Stamp Book **224**



April preview Discover the greatness of the Britons celebrated in next month's special stamp issue **200**

Stamp Scene John Holman delivers the latest news and events in the wider world of UK philately **203**





1

Who's Who

As the much-awaited *Doctor Who* special issue is launched this month, Simon Ball reveals the inside story of science fiction's favourite space (and time) hero

WITH THOUSANDS of fans in over 50 countries eagerly anticipating his next adventure in time and space, a merchandising portfolio worth millions and a cupboardful of awards, *Doctor Who* is one of TV's hottest properties. State-of-the-art computer graphics, make-up, prosthetics, costume and set design have melded with action-packed storylines and brilliant characterisation to propel the world's longest-running science fiction drama forward into the 21st century. This is a far cry from the show's beginning in 1963. It started with the best of

intentions: BBC programmers wanted a children's educational drama to slot into the Saturday teatime gap between *Grandstand* and *Juke Box Jury*.

No monsters allowed As it happened, the BBC's head of drama Sydney Newman was a science fiction fan. So, together with script department head Donald Wilson and staff writer Cecil Edwin Webber, he came up with the idea of a character who travels in time and space to bring history and science to life for young viewers.

Initially, evil aliens and ugly monsters were not part of the plot – on the orders of Donald Wilson. The result was *An Unearthly Child*, broadcast on 23 November 1963. In it curious teachers Barbara Wright (Jacqueline Hill) and Ian Chesterton (William Russell) follow their mysterious pupil Susan Foreman (Carol Ann Ford) to the junkyard that is apparently her home. There they hear Susan's voice coming from a police callbox, only to discover that the box is much bigger on the inside. Here lurks Susan's alien grandfather known only as the Doctor. They travel back through time in the TARDIS to the Stone Age, where they are captured by cavemen seeking the secret of fire.

Like much in the early days of *Doctor Who*, the choice of a police box for the Doctor's TARDIS ship was driven by a pragmatic yet imaginative approach to the show's tiny production budget. Obviously the interior had to be larger than the police box exterior to enable filming within, so the solution was to place the interior in another spatial dimension and to devise a malfunction that results in the exterior appearance of a police box – so saving money by not building a large ship. But why a police box in particular? Well, the producers originally intended the TARDIS to have a 'chameleon circuit'

that enabled it to take on the appearance of an object local to wherever it materialised, so blending in with the surroundings. In this case, a police box would not, of course, have been an uncommon sight in 1960s London. Then they had the circuit break down in the script, so the police box remained a police box and any expensive prop change to different-looking space ships – could cleverly be avoided.

Galactic hard man The police box became such an iconic element of the show's legend that when the Metropolitan Police challenged the BBC's application to trademark the image, the Patent Office ruled in the Corporation's favour.

The Doctor proved to be a knowledgeable but frequently bad-tempered Edwardian dandy, which was a bit of a departure for the actor chosen to play him. William Hartnell (1) had made a name for himself doing hard man characters, particularly tough soldiers like Sergeant Major Bullimore in *The Army Game*. Interestingly, his appearance as the first Doctor in the new stamp set released on 26 March will be Hartnell's second in the Royal Mail stamp programme. He featured on a 2008 stamp marking the 50th anniversary of Carry On Sergeant in the role of 'Sergeant Grimshawe'.

Viewing figures of around four million for the Stone Age adventure in the first four shows were disappointing. But that changed with the second series. Suddenly children all over Britain were taking cover behind the sofa in eager anticipation of the thrilling show. The Daleks had arrived.

Exterminate!!! Things would have been very different had producer Verity Lambert complied with Donald Wilson's prohibition on bug-eyed monsters. *Doctor Who* operated on a very tight production schedule so 'instantly' available scripts were at a premium. And that meant monsters were in: a script about aliens driving metal war machines was the only one ready to shoot at that time, so the Daleks made their debut.

The response was phenomenal: the Daleks drew in 12 million viewers and every school playground resounded to cries of 'Ex-term-in-ate!!!' As Wilson's bug-eyed monster ban bit the dust, the educational purpose of the show diminished. Viewers wanted alien monsters and that is what they got. Intent on galactic domination, the Daleks kept coming back. And in 1966 they were joined by the Cybermen to make their first attempt to destroy Earth in *The Tenth Planet*.

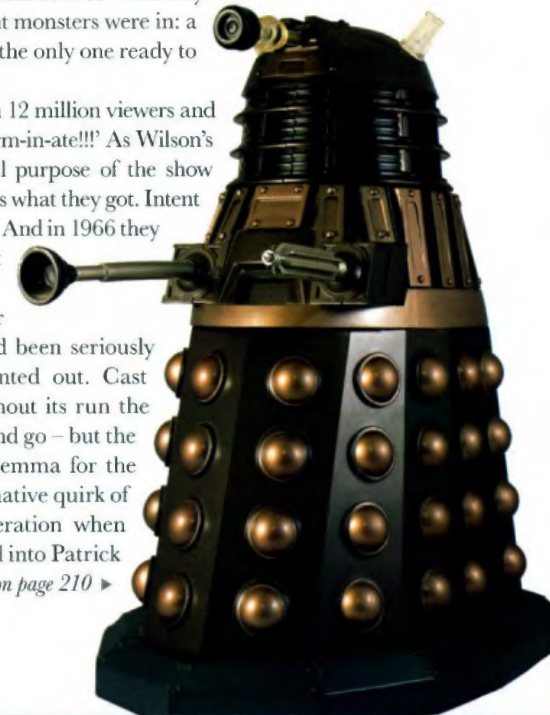
The Tenth Planet was also a landmark event for the lead character. William Hartnell's health had been seriously deteriorating from arteriosclerosis and he wanted out. Cast changes were nothing new to the show – throughout its run the programme would see several companions come and go – but the loss of the main actor was a far more serious dilemma for the producers. The problem was solved with an imaginative quirk of Time Lord physiology, allowing physical regeneration when bodily death threatens and so Hartnell regenerated into Patrick Troughton (2) for the 1967 season. *Continued on page 210* ▶



3

Above: enter Jon Pertwee as the third Doctor in 1969

Below: the Dalek, now a world-famous celebrity



2

MARVELLOUS MONSTERS

Your inside guide to some of *Doctor Who*'s most fiendish and famous villains

Dalek

The Daleks, bent on dominating the universe, were created on the planet Skaro by Kaled scientist Davros when he implanted mutant Kaled bodies into robotic shells during the thousand-year war between his race and the Thals.

He had realised that years of radiation and chemical poisoning from the war would lead the Kaleds to mutate into immobile organisms. Their metal shells would allow them to survive.

Daleks have had every emotion purged from their being except hate. Now they have only the desire to rid the universe of all non-Dalek life. First appearing in 1963, they are famous, of course, for their catchphrase 'Exterminate!'.



Weeping Angel

First appearing in *Blink* in 2007, the Weeping Angels are an ancient race of aliens who have the ability to send other beings into the past. This allows the Angels to feed on the potential time energy of what would have been the rest of their victims' lives.

When they are not being observed they can move very quickly and silently, but when being watched, they become quantum-locked, occupying a single position in space and becoming stone.

If two Angels look at each other at the same time, they are trapped in stone form until an outside force moves them apart, so they cover their eyes while moving – giving the impression they are weeping.



The Ood

Just about humanoid in appearance and with tentacles on the lower portions of their faces, the Ood speak through a translator device – a sphere connected to their mouths by a tube. The tube originally connected their bodies to a hive brain, but humans from the far future isolate them from the brain and use them as a slave race.

Ood are not monsters. They are a peaceful race, sophisticated and wise, and loyal friends of the Doctor. However, when they are taken over and controlled by evil entities they become monstrous creatures, acting against their instinct with lethal intent. The Ood first appeared in *The Impossible Planet* in 2006.

Cyberman

The Cybermen were originally humanoids and came from Earth's twin planet Mondas. They implanted more and more artificial parts, made of metal and plastic, into their bodies so they became coldly logical and calculating cyborgs, who had every emotion deleted from their minds.

The Cybermen made their debut appearance in *The Tenth Planet* in 1966, for the farewell adventure of the First Doctor William Hartnell. They returned in the 2006 two-part story, *Rise of the Cybermen* and *The Age of Steel*, and have been recurring villains in the revived series ever since.



Continued from page 207

Who's a naughty boy Where Hartnell had been aloof and irascible, there was something of the naughty child about Troughton's more playful take on the Doctor's personality. In his trademark baggy suit and penchant for playing the recorder, he was described as a cosmic hobo. Troughton's tenure in the role lasted for three years and along the way he battled Daleks and Cybermen, as well as new adversaries like the Macra, Ice Warriors and the Yeti.

While taking on the Yeti the Doctor first encountered Colonel (later Brigadier) Alistair Lethbridge-Stewart, played by Nicholas Courtney. He became a regular sidekick to the third and fourth Doctors as head of the United Nations Intelligence Taskforce (UNIT) dealing with extraterrestrial threats against Earth. By 1969 Troughton had tired of the role. To facilitate his exit the Doctor was put on trial by the Time Lords for interfering in the destiny of other races. His sentence was to regenerate as comic actor Jon Pertwee (3, page 207) and be banished to Earth, which saved on the costume, props and effects budgets for the first *Doctor Who* episodes shot in colour.

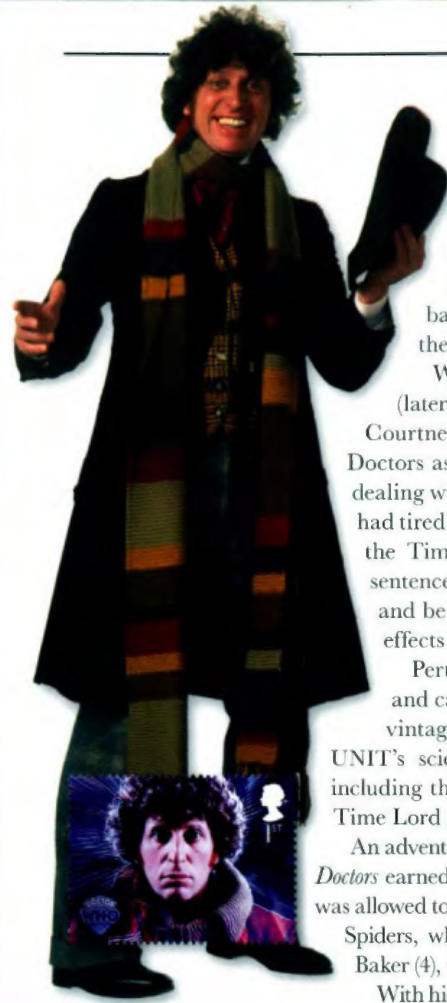
Pertwee's Doctor was a Seventies peacock in a crushed velvet suit and cape. He was also a bit of an action man, driving a souped-up vintage car and practising Venusian martial arts. While serving as UNIT's scientific advisor Pertwee's Doctor took on some new foes including the Autons, Silurians, Sontarians, Sea Devils and a renegade Time Lord known as the Master.

An adventure teaming Pertwee with Hartnell and Troughton as *The Three Doctors* earned the Doctor a reprieve from his Earth-bound punishment – he was allowed to travel with new assistant Sarah Jane Smith to The Planet of the Spiders, where radiation poisoning caused him to regenerate into Tom Baker (4), the fourth Doctor.

With his unruly mop of hair, popping eyes and absurdly long scarf, Baker was the longest-serving pilot of the TARDIS from 1974 to 1981. Where Pertwee had played the role as a kind of intergalactic James Bond, Baker, like Troughton, brought a degree of eccentric anti-authoritarianism back into the role, only with his frock coat pockets filled with bags of jelly babies instead of a recorder.

Horror story The show also took a darker aspect as new producer Philip Hinchcliffe and script editor Robert Holmes were clearly more influenced by the then popular Hammer Horror films rather than the jollier James Bond and *The Avengers* of the 1960s. As viewing figures climbed, the number of complaints the BBC received from Mary Whitehouse's National Viewers' and Listeners' Association mounted. Although this led to more viewers tuning in to see what all the fuss was about, the BBC eventually moved Hinchcliffe onto the tough cop show *Target* and Holmes was ordered to tone down the horror.

Baker was delighted with this new direction and was soon off adventuring with a new companion, the suede bikini-clad savage Leela (Louise Jameson, a firm favourite with dads) and robot dog K-9.



4



5



6



7



In 1979 Douglas Adams, whose *Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was already a cult favourite on Radio 4, was hired as script editor. This boosted the humorous content of the scripts and saw the show's viewing figures peak at 17 million.

Buck rogers beats the doc Ratings were to take a serious dip in 1980 when ITV pitched the big-budget American sci-fi show *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* against *Doctor Who*'s Saturday tea-time slot. Worse still for the BBC was Baker's decision to quit the TARDIS the following year, and the job was given to *All Creatures Great and Small* star Peter Davison (5). Despite his outlandish Edwardian cricketer's outfit, Davison's Doctor was much more introverted character acting in consensus with his burgeoning crew of companions, which included an air hostess, alien assassin and a robot. On the advice of Patrick Troughton, Davison only stuck with the role for three years, regenerating into Colin Baker (6) for the 1984 season. Baker's Doctor was rather pompous and overbearing and his tenure on the show was beset with scheduling problems.

Moving the production budget from one financial year to another led to an 18-month gap between the series end in 1985 and 1986's season. By then *Doctor Who* found itself up against *The A Team* on ITV, which had already gained a massive following in the battle for ratings.

With the viewing figures in tatters, Baker was replaced by comic actor Sylvester McCoy (7) for the 1987 season. Despite an outwardly comedic exterior, McCoy's Doctor had a much darker, more manipulative personality than his predecessors'. The new Doctor was well received by fans, but the show was rescheduled on weekdays against ITV's flagship soap *Coronation Street*. This led to disappointing viewing figures and in 1989 production was suspended.

But that was not the end of the time-travelling adventurer. New fans joined the ranks of the hardcore *Whovians* as reruns of classic episodes found their way onto cable and digital networks (particularly in the United States) and sales of videos, DVDs, new audio adventures, comics, action figures and novels fed their addiction. After a false start with 1996's made-for-TV movie starring Paul McGann (8), *Doctor Who* was an instant hit when rebooted in 2005 with Christopher Eccleston (9).

Better than Hollywood No longer bedevilled by cardboard sets and wobbly special effects the new show was able to hold its own with any Hollywood sci-fi epic. Producer Russell T Davies applied lessons learnt from successful ▶



8

Photographs: Alamy, Rex, Getty Images

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9



10



11

American franchises like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, making each episode a self-contained adventure. They were also part of an overall story encompassing each season, with randomly distributed plot elements in each show that were 'tied up' in the series' final episodes. Tricks derived from popular soap operas were also applied to weave in the backgrounds of the companions and their families.

Eccleston was replaced by David Tennant (10) at the end of the 2005 season, just in time for a new innovation, the *Doctor Who Christmas Special* – which immediately became a traditional festive viewing fixture.

In 2010, after finally usurping Tom Baker as the most popular Doctor of all time (and space), Tennant conceded the role to Matt Smith (11), who at 26 is the youngest Doctor so far. The show continues to grow from strength to strength.

Old villains like the Daleks, Cybermen and the Master have returned and the show's legends are frequently recalled with references to UNIT and the odd guest from the past. Well-known actors, including Sir Micael Gambon, Kylie Minogue and Simon Pegg, vie for guest appearances, while new villains like the Weeping Angels and the Slitheen have joined *Doctor Who's* rogues gallery. The programme has also spawned spin-offs, including *Torchwood* and the *Sarah Jane Adventures*.

Given the show's longevity, it is hardly surprising that many of the present production team and writers grew up as fans of the original series. One such writer is the popular sci-fi author Neil Gaiman, who has contributed two episodes to the new series, including Hugo Award-winning *The Doctor's Wife*.

Asked to name his favourite Doctor, he says: 'That's a hard one. My Doctor was Patrick Troughton. He really was the Doctor, for me as a boy, and is the person I most wanted to explore the universe with, and the person I most wanted by my side when things got scary. Matt Smith is amazing, though. He plays the Doctor as a thousand-year-old alien with a young man's face and a child's sense of wonder, and writing dialogue for him is as much fun as hearing him speak it.'

Philatelic specifications of the 'Doctor Who' stamps are on page 167, Preview, February • Neil Gaiman's latest novel for adults '*The Ocean at the End of the Lane*' is published in the UK later this year.

It's Who you know...

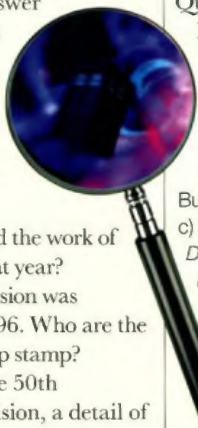
- Asteroid 3325, discovered in 1984 by Arizona's Lowell Observatory, is called Tardis after Doctor Who's famous ride.
- The noise made by the TARDIS when it 'takes off' was originally produced by running a bunch of keys along the strings of an old piano.
- 'Voice of the Daleks' Roy Skelton also acted the voices of Zippy and George in children's show Rainbow.
- The first Doctor Who episode was overshadowed by news of President Kennedy's assassination the previous day – so BBC ran it again before the second episode.
- In a new BBC drama about the creation of *Doctor Who*, William Hartnell is played by David Bradley – in a 2012 episode he was a killer who hijacked a spaceship for its cargo of dinosaurs.

Prize draws Pick up a pen – it's puzzling time



Stamp stars of the small screen The Royal Mail has a long tradition of celebrating television classics. The five questions below relate to the stamps labelled a) to e) above. Answer them correctly and you could win the complete Doctor Who issue.

- a)** On 30 March Part 2 of the current series of BBC's *Doctor Who* returns to our screens. Who plays the eleventh Doctor and features in this month's special stamp issue?
- b)** A popular stamp series celebrated the work of Gerry and Sylvia Anderson. In what year?
- c)** Half a century of children's television was marked by a five-stamp series in 1996. Who are the extra-terrestrial creatures on the 37p stamp?
- d)** In the 2005 issue celebrating the 50th anniversary of Independent Television, a detail of the Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michaelangelo represents which long-running ITV programme?
- e)** Name the Scottish engineer honoured in this stamp from the 2007 World of Invention issue.



Name that stamp Identify the stamp shown under the magnifier, with its name and year of issue.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'March Quiz' and/or 'March Name That Stamp' to:

Philatelic Bulletin Prize Draws, Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date: 12 April, 2013. First correct entries drawn win *Doctor Who* stamps ●

Recent winners: *November Name That Stamp* – 2006 Christmas; chimney. Winner: A Everall, Burntwood. Santa Quiz a)1966 b) Raymond Briggs, c) 31p, d) Gruffalo. Winner: J Jobbins, Solihull.

December Quiz Winner: A Everall, Burntwood. *January Name That Stamp* – 11p, Natural Gas, 1978 Energy Resources. Winner: A Downey, Dunfermline. Quiz winner: J Lucas, Grantham. Crossword – Across: 1 Scuffle. 5 Smog. 10 Ear. 11 Dark horse. 12 Total. 13 Common. 15 Classy. 17 Eskimo.

18 Relief. 20 Rites. 23 Outskirts. 24 Pal. 25 Mayo. 26 Low tide. Down: 2 Carat. 3 Fiddlesticks. 4 Lyric. 6 Marconi. 7 Grew. 8 Lettuce. 9 Chemistry set. 14 Console. 16 Adeptly. 19 Forgo. 21 Tepid. 22 Form. Solution: magnifier. Winner: R High, Wilmslow.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to William Doherty, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ. November and December puzzle solutions and prizewinners are not available at time of going to press and will be published in a future issue of *Bulletin*.

50 Years of *Doctor Who*



Released on 26 March 2013, the stunning and fact-packed **Doctor Who Prestige Stamp Book** (PSB) looks set to shoot to philatelic stardom with UK collectors and fans of the BBC television show. Find out more about *Doctor Who* stamps on pages 167, 206 and 208.

• To order, write to Tallents House at the address on page 194 or visit www.royalmail.com/doctorwho

Doctor Who Prestige Stamp Book

Design: GBH. Text: Gary Russell. Price: £13.77. Five unique stamp panes comprise:

Pane 1 Miniature Sheet comprising 4 x 1st Class *Doctor Who* aliens stamps, 1 x 1st Class TARDIS at centre (this pane not shown above). Litho printed by Cartor Security Print, self-adhesive.

Pane 2 1 each 1st Class of Matt Smith, David Tennant and Christopher Eccleston Doctors.

Pane 3 1 each 1st Class of Paul McGann, Sylvester McCoy, Colin Baker and Peter Davison Doctors.

Pane 4 1 each Tom Baker, Jon Pertwee, Patrick Troughton and William Hartnell Doctors.

Pane 5 4 x 1st Class TARDIS, 1 x 5p Machin, 1 x 10p Machin, 1 x 20p Machin and 1 x 87p Machin.

Panes 2, 3, 4 and 5 are gravure printed by Walsall Security Printers, gummed.



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