

1968 - Christmas Paintings

The Postmaster General greatly regrets the delay in despatching orders for the Christmas, 1968 Commemorative and New Definitive issues which were released in November, 1968. This was due to late receipt of stamps, a heavy demand for the; stamps, and to staffing difficulties in the Philatelic Bureau.

Arrangements have been made in the organisation to ensure that orders for the I.L.O and future issues are dealt with as promptly as possible, and it is sincerely hoped there will be no cause for complaint in the future regarding the late despatch of orders. *"Announcement in the Stamp News issued by the Philatelic Bureau."*

This great Christian festival has again been celebrated by a new issue of postage stamps. This four value issue of stamps featuring old masters depicts various scenes from the stable of Bethlehem. The 4d and 3/-d values, by Piero Francesco and Giovanni Pittoni are representations of the "Nativity". The 9d and 1/6d values are Bartholome Murillo and Guido Reni impressions of the "Adoration of the Shepherds."

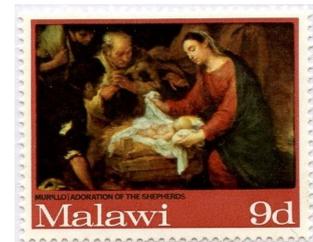


4d. "The Nativity"

Piero Della Francesco (Active 1439. died 1492). This artist was one of the Italian school of art who worked in Florence, Sansepolcro, Arezzo, Urbino and elsewhere. The "Nativity", which measures 49 x 48 1/4 inches is considered to be a late work by this artist. It remained in the possession of the artist's descendants until the late 19th century. It is now to be found in the National Gallery.

9d. "The Adoration of the Shepherds"

Bartholome Murillo (1618-1682 Seville). This artist was a famous 17th century painter from the Spanish School of Art. He painted almost entirely religious pictures. The "Adoration of the Shepherds" was bought in Genoa in 1846 and has been part of the Wallace Collection in London for many years.

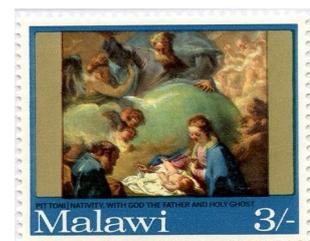


1/6d "Adoration of the Shepherds"

Guido Reni (1575-1642) was an Italian Painter of the Bolognese school of art. He worked mainly in Bologna, but also in Rome and Naples. "The Adoration of the Shepherds" in the National Gallery is a large picture, measuring 189 x 126 inches and was painted late in the artist's life.

3s . "Nativity with God the Father and the Holy Ghost"

Giovanni Battista Pittoni (1687-1767). Pittoni was an artist of the Italian school of art, who was born in Venice. The full title of the National Gallery picture is "The Nativity with God the Father and the Holy Ghost". The measurements of the picture are 87 1/2 x 60 1/2 inches. This picture combines the Trinity and the Nativity in a single representation. It was probably painted in the early 1730s.



Souvenir Sheets



Technical Details:

Date of Issue : 6th November, 1968

Withdrawn :

Designer : Harrison Staff Artists (In the Stamp Magazine article December 1969 Jennifer Toombs suggests that she designed this issue.)

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd.

Process: Photogravure

Perforation: 14 1/2 x 14

Set : 60

Size :

Format : Horizontal

Colours : 3d. , 9d. , 1s 6d., 3s .

Watermark : Malawi Cockerel

Souvenir Sheet Size : 115mm x 101mm.

Catalogue Listings : SG 305 - 309

FIRST DAY COVERS

