



The Joy of Christmas — Captured as Never Before!

The Twelve Days of Christmas

*For the Rochester Philatelic Association's
Zoom Meeting, December 10, 2020*

by Tom Fortunato

I'm sure you've heard the tune, but you may have never seen the music before! It was first published in 1909 by Novello & Company, attributed to Frederic William Austin of England based on an old folk melody.

1. On the First day of Christ - mas my true love sent to me a Par - tridge in a Pear Tree.

2. On the Se - cond day of Christ - mas my true love sent to me Two Tur - tle Doves and a Par - tridge in a Pear Tree.


3. On the Third day of Christmas my true love sent to me Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

4. Fourth Four Callingbirds,

5. On the Fifth day of Christ - mas my true love sent to me, Five Gold Rings, Four Call - ing birds, Three French Hens, Two Tur - tle Doves and a Par - tridge in a Pear Tree.

6. On the Sixth day of Christ - mas my true love sent to me	Six Geese a - lay - ing,	Five Gold
7. Seventh	Seven Swans a - swim - ming,	
8. Eighth	Eight Maids a - milk - ing,	
9. Ninth	Nine La - dies danc - ing,	
10. Tenth	Ten Lords a - leap - ing,	
11. E - le - venth	E - le - ven Pi - pers pi - ping,	
12. Twelfth	Twelve Drum - mers drum - ming,	

Rings, Four Call - ing birds, Three French Hens, Two Tur - tle Doves and a Par - tridge in a Pear Tree.



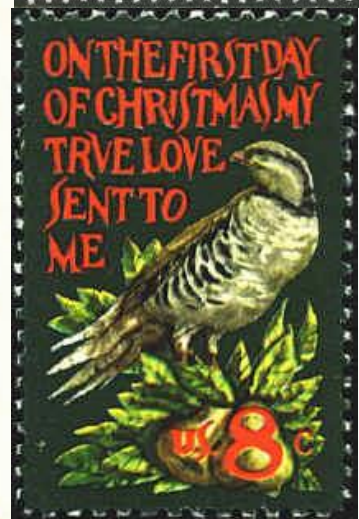
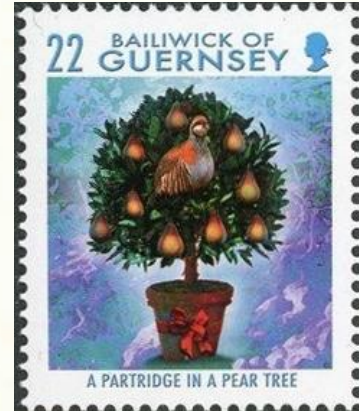
Here are the supposed meanings behind each verse:

- A Partridge in a Pear Tree - Jesus Christ
- Two Turtle Doves - The Old and New Testament
- Three French Hens - The virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity
- Four Calling Birds - The four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Five Golden Rings - The first five books of the Old Testament (The Tanach)
- Six Geese-a-Laying - The six days of creation before God's rest on the seventh day
- Seven Swans-a-Swimming - The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord
- Eight Maids-a-Milking - The eight Beatitudes
- Nine Ladies Dancing - The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and temperance.
- Ten Lords-a-Leaping - The Ten Commandments
- Eleven Pipers Piping - The Eleven Faithful Disciples (minus Judas, who betrayed Jesus)
- Twelve Drummers Drumming - The Twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed

The first day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.



The First Day of Christmas



The second day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Two turtle doves . . .



2

The Second Day of Christmas



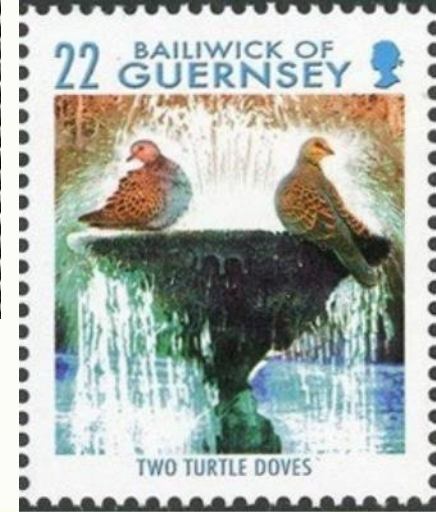
The Twelve Days of Christmas
40b Two Turtle Doves
THE GAMBIA



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



ISLE OF MAN



22 BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY

TWO TURTLE DOVES



CHRISTMAS ISLAND INDIAN OCEAN
Two turtle doves

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
27th DEC.
1977
INDIAN OCEAN

CHRISTMAS 1977 10c



The third day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Three French hens . . .



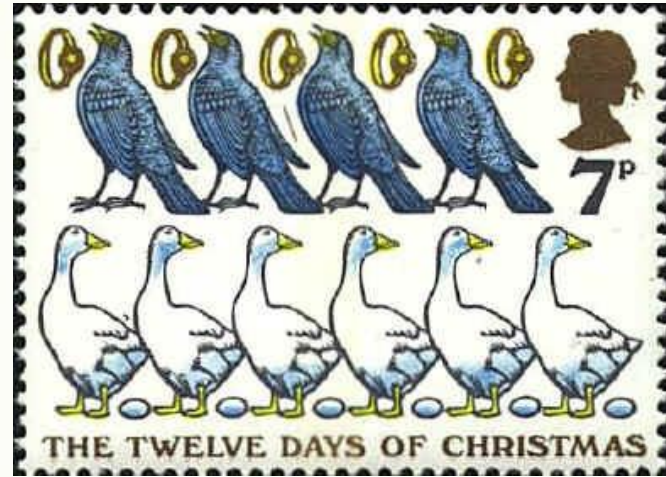
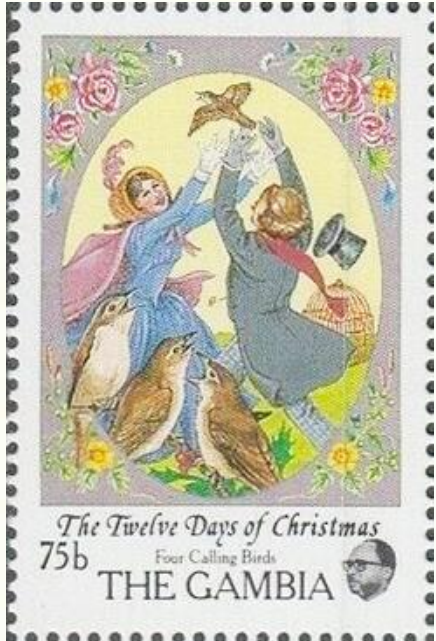
The Third Day of Christmas



The fourth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Four calling birds . . .



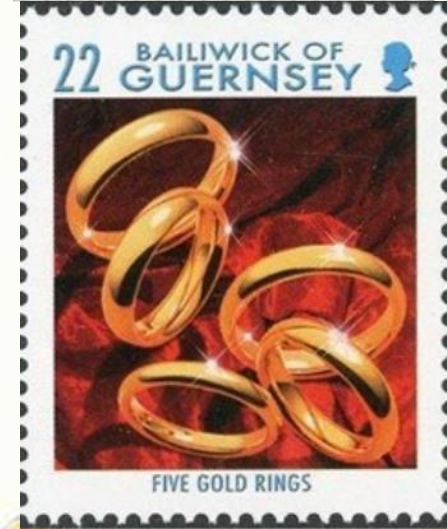
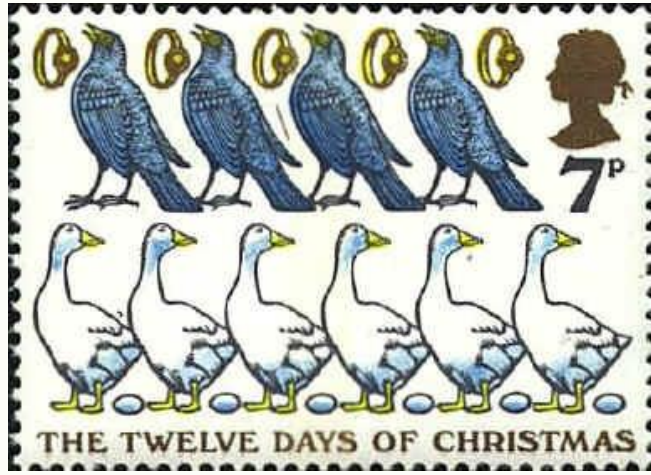
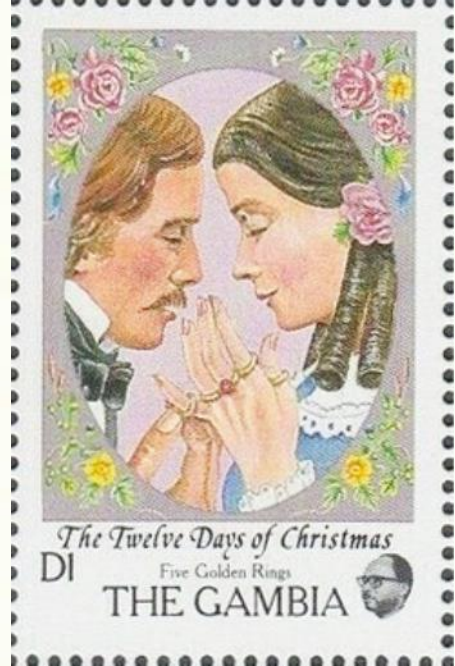
The Fourth Day of Christmas



The fifth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Five golden rings . . .



The Fifth Day of Christmas



The sixth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Six geese a-laying . . .



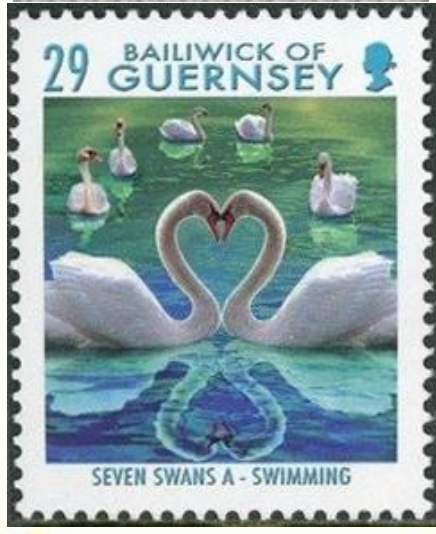
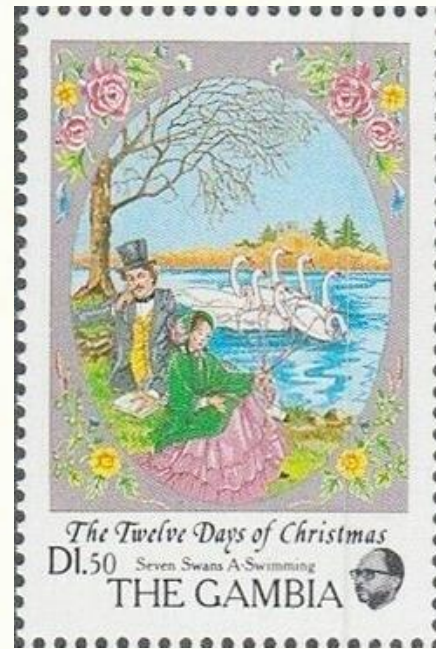
The Sixth Day of Christmas



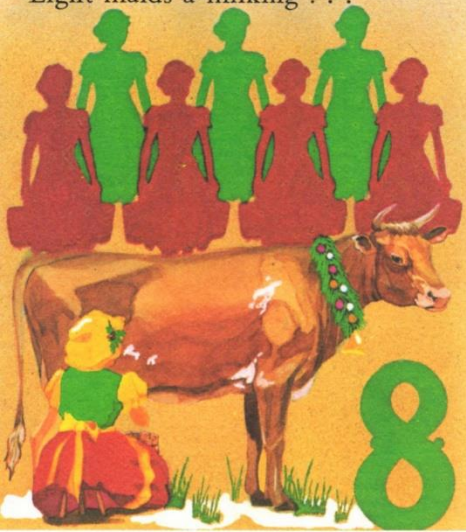
The seventh day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Seven swans a-swimming . . .



The Seventh Day of Christmas



The eighth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Eight maids a-milking . . .



The Eighth Day of Christmas



The Twelve Days of Christmas
D2
Eight Maids A-Milking
THE GAMBIA



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



ISLE OF MAN



34 BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY

EIGHT MAIDS A - MILKING

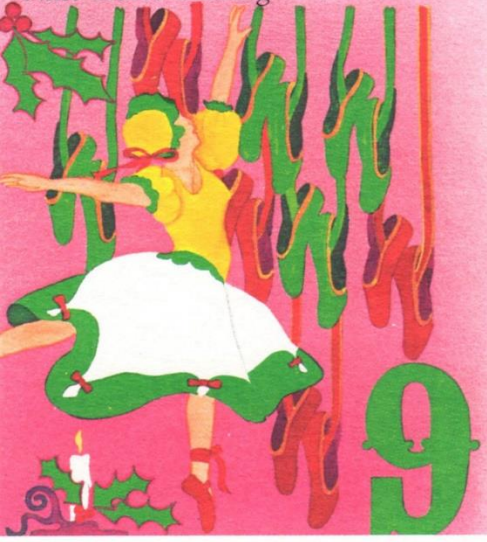


CHRISTMAS ISLAND INDIAN OCEAN
Eight maids a-milking

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
2nd JAN.
1978
INDIAN OCEAN

CHRISTMAS 1977 10c

The ninth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Nine ladies dancing . . .



The Ninth Day of Christmas



The Twelve Days of Christmas
D3
Nine Ladies Dancing
THE GAMBIA



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



NINE LADIES DANCING

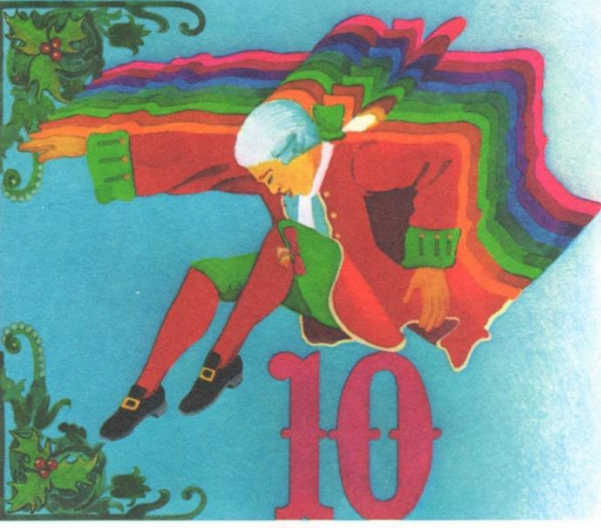


CHRISTMAS ISLAND INDIAN OCEAN
Nine ladies dancing

CHRISTMAS 1977 10c



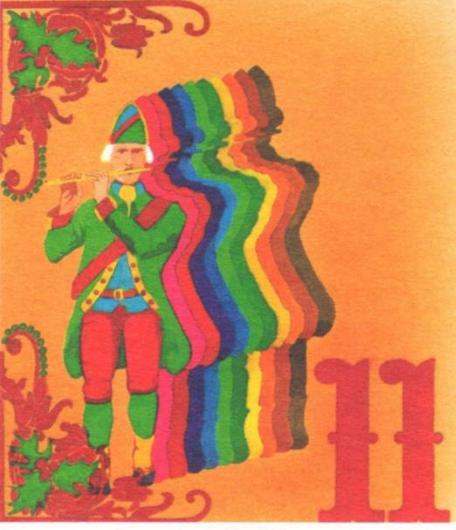
The tenth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Ten lords a-leaping . . .



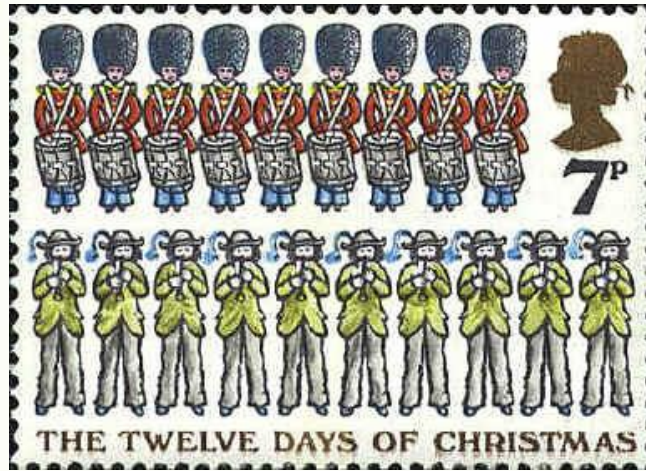
The Tenth Day of Christmas



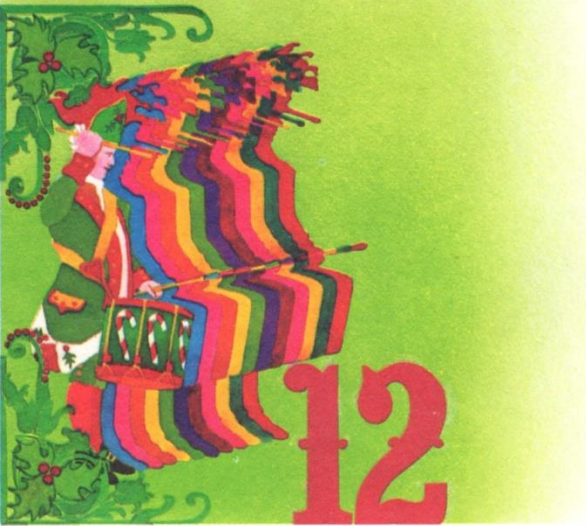
The eleventh day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Eleven pipers piping . . .



The Eleventh Day of Christmas

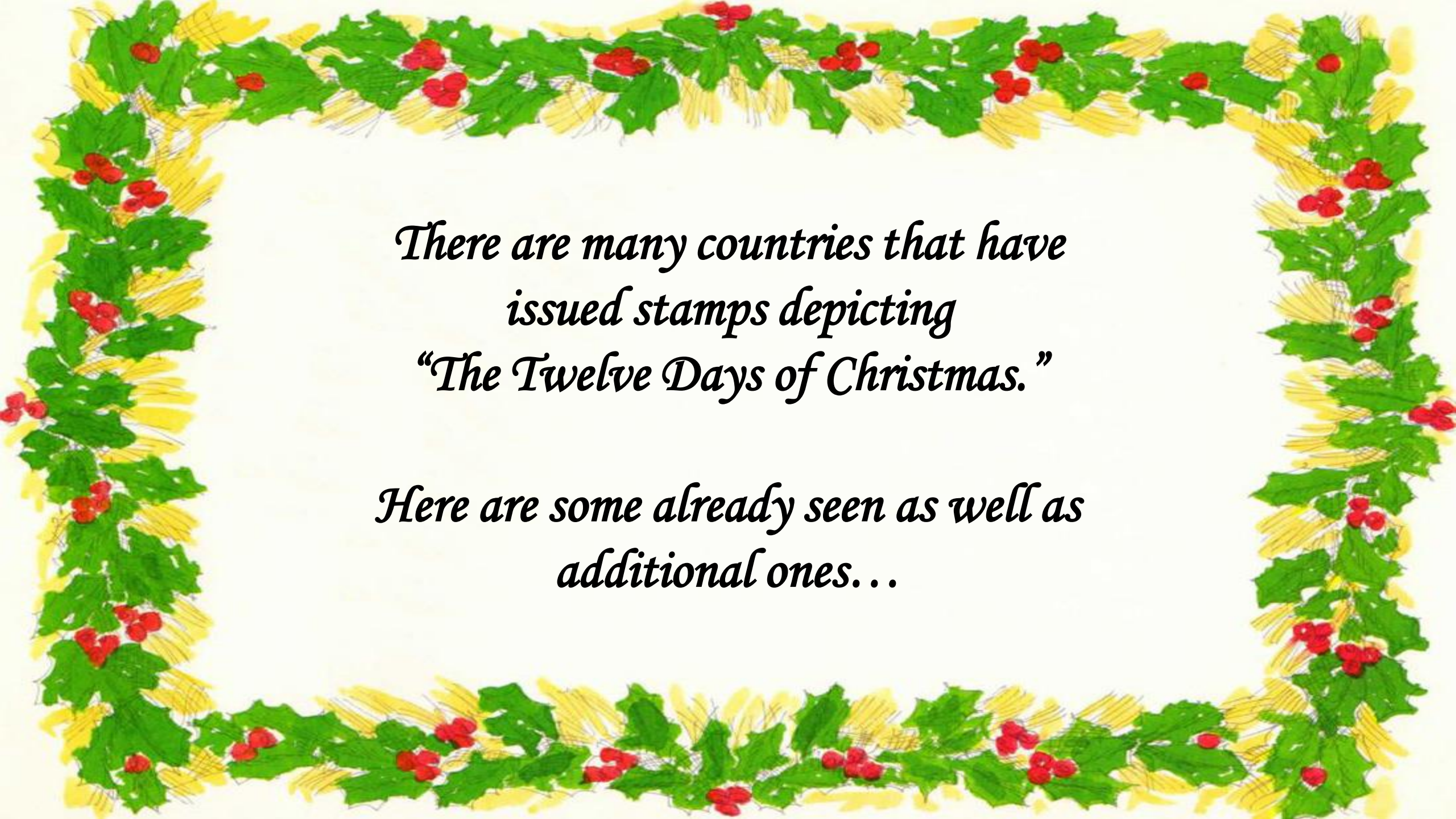


The twelfth day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
Twelve drummers drumming . . .



The Twelfth Day of Christmas





*There are many countries that have
issued stamps depicting
“The Twelve Days of Christmas.”*

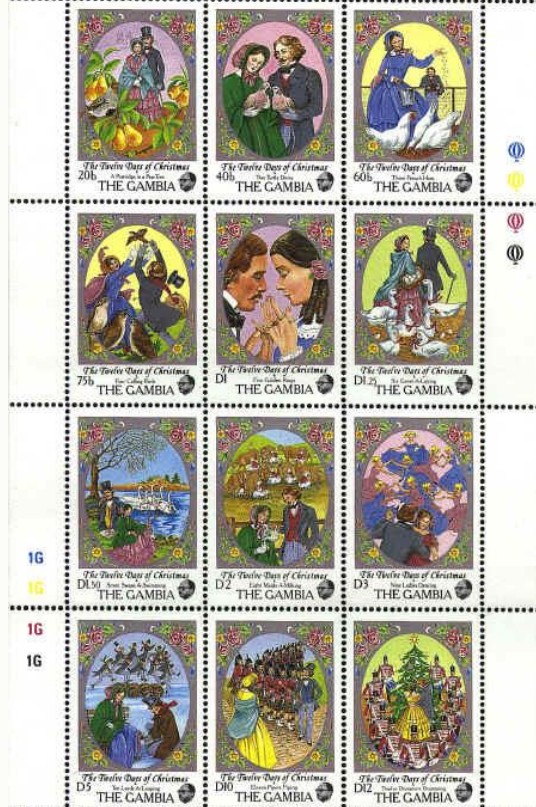
*Here are some already seen as well as
additional ones...*

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

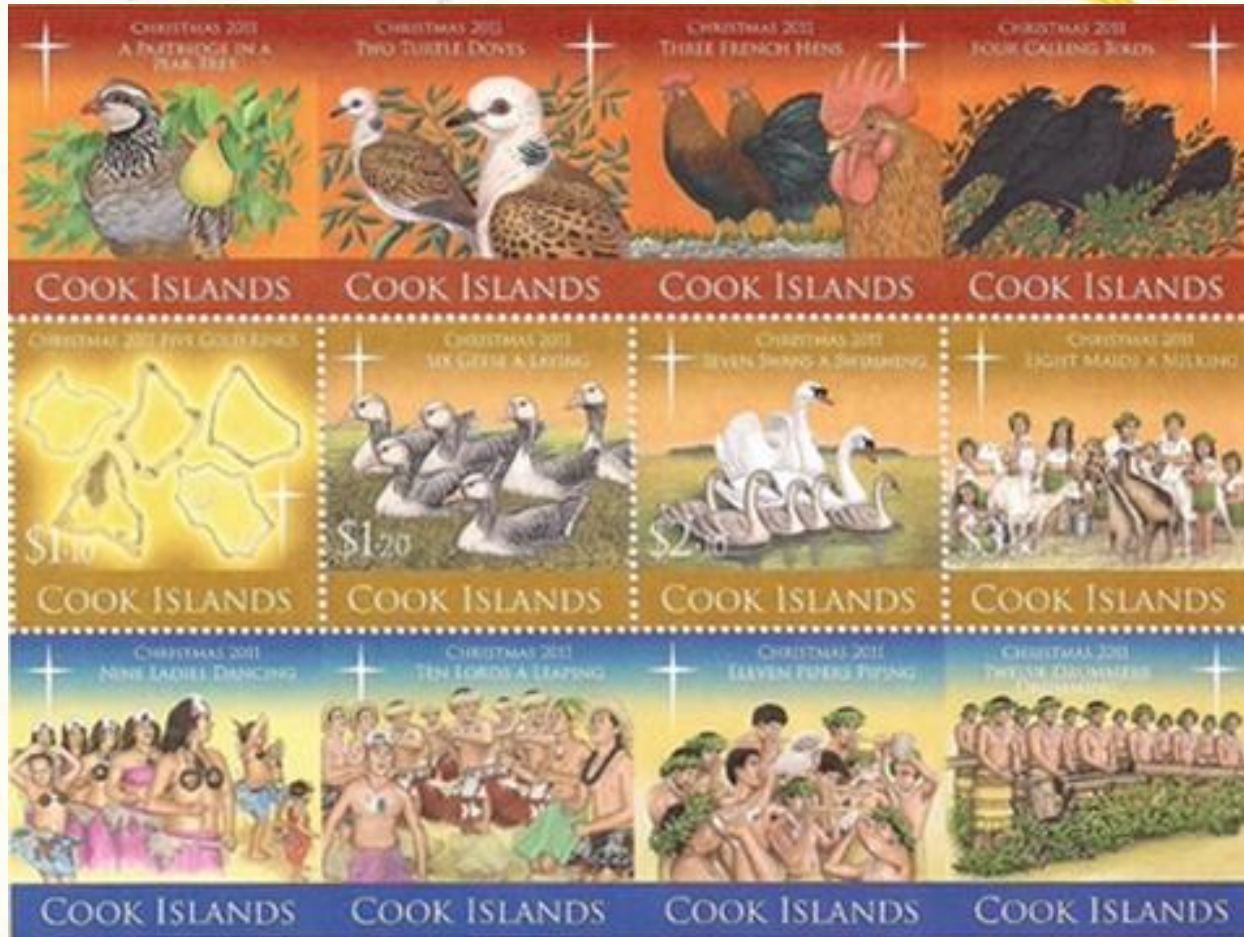


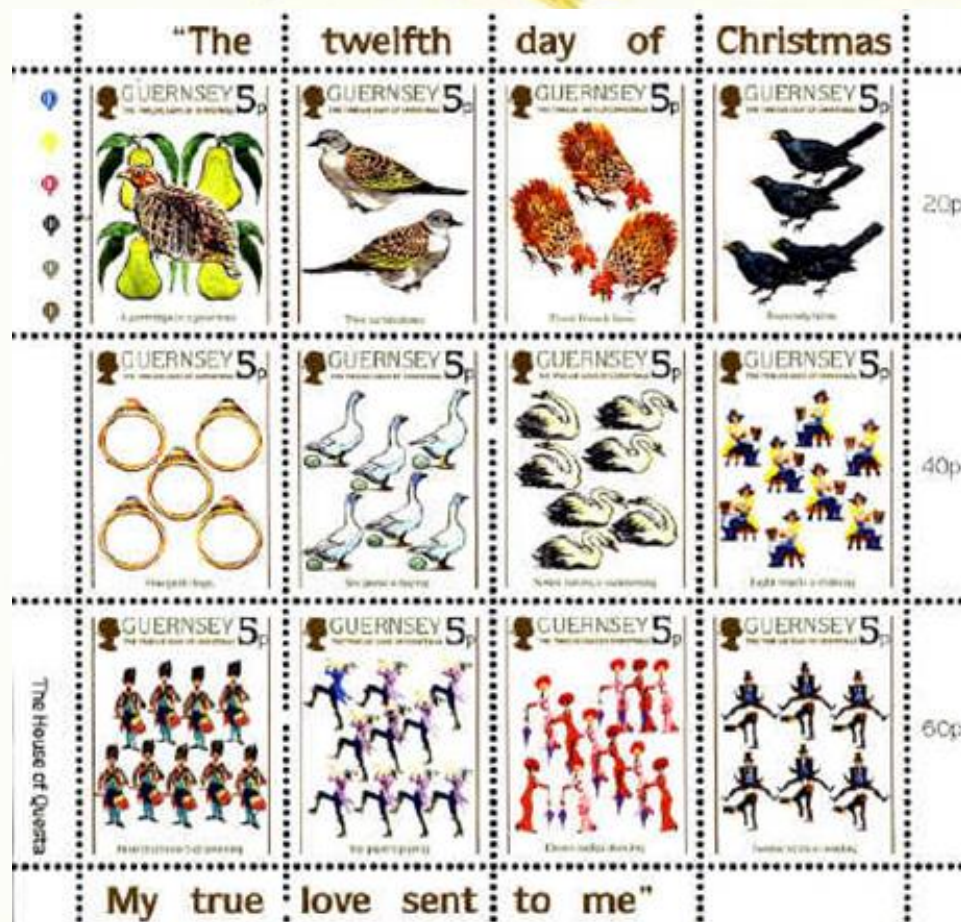
On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me A partridge in a pear tree...

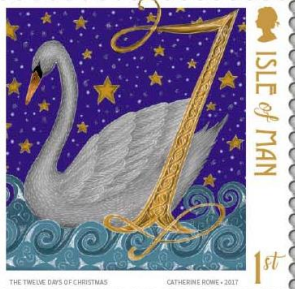
The Twelve Days of Christmas



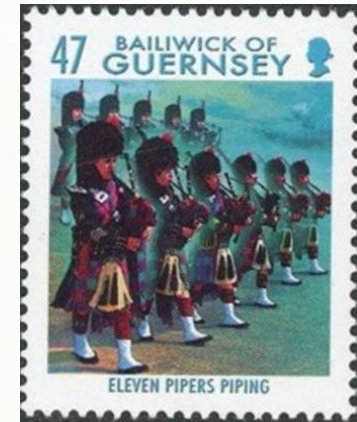
The House of Questa











*Happy Holidays
and
Happy New Year!*