

A "HUDDLE" OF FATHER CHRISTMASSES...

And Why They Wrote To The Boss (in Greenland) Today

It's twelve Santa Clauses to Christmas....

In other words, twelve red-robed, white-bearded, benevolent gentlemen presented themselves for special duty at a London function today (October 20) at the Waldorf Hotel -- to approve, endorse, and post letters to the chief Santa Claus of all, in Greenland.

All came from stores in the London area. It was their first job of the season.

Into a specially provided GPO pillar box they posted letters from spastic children written in support of the National Spastic Society's Christmas seals, millions of which are now being distributed throughout the country. Every letter was endorsed by a Father Christmas. They sat in business-like fashion round a seasonally decorated table, read all the letters with proper care, and duly countersigned them. After all, this correspondence was going to the Boss...

"Dear Santa Claus", said one of the letters, "We want everyone to stick a spastics seal on their Christmas parcels and letters and if you will tell all the other Father Christmases to do this we are sure that everyone else will know to do it too. Love, Mary".

The postman, specially appointed for this duty, shook hands with all the Santas, picked up his pillar box, and marched off to his awaiting GPO van. Do letters really go to Santa Claus in Greenland? Yes, provided they have a sixpenny stamp, says the GPO.

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Footnote: Lost for a recognized noun of assembly for a group of Father Christmases, none having ever been known to get together before, the Society finally decided upon a "huddle" of them. Said a spokesman: "Concourse and assembly sounded too solemn, a rally too sporty, a flock somehow faintly disrespectful, and a corps altogether too regimental for words. We decided on a huddle because it sounds rather nice, and harmlessly conspiratorial, too -- just what you expect Father Christmases to get up to."

E N D

with compliments from
THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

President:
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

NEW SPASTICS CHRISTMAS SEALS BRIGHTER THAN EVER

A letter really worth opening and reading -- it is signed by many famous people -- will fall through letter boxes all over England and Wales during October. In pictures, as well as words, it appeals for millions of pennies to help spastics.

The pictures, all with a Christmas design in colour, are for use on letters, parcels, Christmas cards, decorations and many other things. Each envelope will contain 120 seals in twelve different designs, half with a religious motif, the balance in the "snow and holly" tradition.

The National Spastics Society's Director, Dr C P Stevens, states: "Our annual Christmas seals appeal this year has a twofold object: to raise at least £100,000 to pay for our schools and centres and new projects, and indirectly to help our large number of local treatment centres by creating a very much wider public awareness of the spastic problem. If every one of the 40,000 spastic children and adults in this country could be helped with treatment, education and nursing care we should need a fantastic income of millions of pounds. That gives some idea of the formidable task which we are attempting, and through the generosity of the public can carry through".

The signatories to the letter of appeal are: the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Westminster, the Bishop of London, the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Mr Herbert Morrison, Sir Laurence Olivier, Sir Ralph Richardson, Vera Lynn, Wilfred Pickles, Jack Hawkins, Kenneth More and Cyril Stapleton.

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