

Queen Victoria's portrait on the first postage stamp was based on a sketch by the artist Henry Corbould (1787-1844), whose considerable body of work included an attractively designed pack of astronomical cards. These were issued in a case having a pictorial title-card with the imprint 'London / Published by F.G. Moon, 20, Threadneedle Street / 1829'. It contained an instruction booklet printed by G. Woodfall and fifty-two scarce educational cards about 65 x 95 mm., printed by Perkins & Bacon with plain backs. They depict the night sky as viewed between two pillars surmounted by drapery.



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The suits are the four seasons and are distinguished by hand-colour: blue = spring; red = summer; yellow = autumn; uncoloured = winter. Eleven cards in each suit feature planets and asteroids: *Jupiter*; *Saturn*; *Herschel* (Uranus); *Tellus* (Earth); *Venus*; *Mars*; *Mercury*; *Pallas*; *Juno*; *Ceres*; *Vesta*. However, the two highest cards in each suit vary, with one of them showing the signs of the zodiac in which the sun appears during that season: *Spring* (Aries, Taurus & Gemini); *Summer* (Cancer, Leo & Virgo); *Autumn* (Libra, Scorpio & Sagittarius); *Winter* (Capricorn, Aquarius & Pisces). For the other high card, each suit is different: *Luna* (spring), *The Sun* (summer), *Comet of 1680* (autumn) and *The Orbits* (winter). There may have been a reissue in 1831.

*Astronomia*. London, F.G. Moon, 1829.