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MAGAZINE



**The Empire's
finest tribute
to Nelson**



**Our verdict on
the latest issues
from Royal Mail**



Cancelled!

The Postal Museum's
unissued stamps



Scouts honour

Full story of the 1957
Jubilee Jamboree set

Ukraine

Philatelic proof that it is a real
country, whatever Putin says

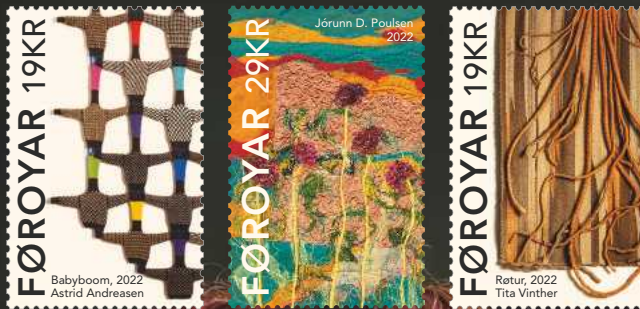


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Faroe Islands Stamps



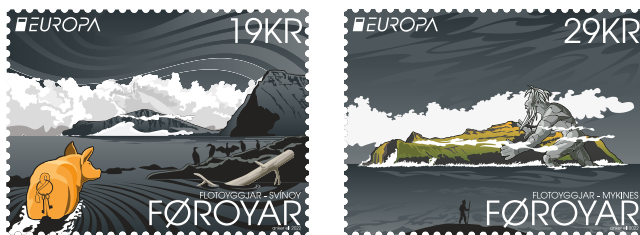
Organic art

Exciting new stamp issue featuring organic artworks by three female Faroese artists, each creating art with their own technique and material from the Faroese nature.

These works can give the viewer a special experience, e.g. smelling flowers, wool and seaweed.

Art by Astrid Andreasen, Jórunn D. Poulsen and Tita Vinther.

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EUROPA 2022

Myths and legends

Floating islands - In many island cultures we find legends of so-called floating islands - islands that have mysteriously drifted in from the sea, disappeared again. The island of Svínøy is said to have originally been a floating island. It often appeared in the north, but it was rarely seen because it was usually shrouded in fog.



Date of issue 16.05.2022

The first book in Faroese language

The first book in the Faroese language was printed in 1822. The text was a transcript of the ballad about Sigurd, the Slayer of the Dragon Fafnir, derived from the extensive Faroese oral tradition, where songs are performed while dancing Faroese chain dance.

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WELCOME

Vladimir Putin seems to believe Ukraine is not a real country, but a made-up construct which has no right to exist. It's breath-taking arrogance, but it's also palpably untrue.



That's clear from the current war, which has shown that Ukrainians are extremely patriotic and prepared to fight and die for their homeland. It's also clear from history, including postal history, as you can see from our feature in this month's issue (see page 40).

Ukrainians have been a distinct people for centuries, arguably for longer than Russians. In the medieval period they had a more powerful state than the Russians. At the dawn of the stamp age the region was divided between larger empires, but whenever Ukrainians saw the opportunity to assert their nationhood (notably in 1918, in 1920 and in 1990) they did so, and produced their own stamps as a symbol of their independent spirit. They are doing so again in 2022.

As is often the case with countries which have had to struggle for international recognition, Ukrainian philately is complex. It involves Austrian stamps, Russian stamps, British stamps, German stamps, Romanian stamps and Soviet stamps, and encompasses local issues, field post issues, overprints, currency tokens and unissued sets.

It has been under-appreciated and under-researched by western European collectors, until now. Search internet auction sites and scour our news coverage (see pages 8-9), and you'll find that Ukrainian stamps and Ukraine-themed stamps are in great demand. With delicious irony, it is Putin who has reminded the world that Ukraine does exist.

GUY THOMAS, Editor

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IN THIS ISSUE



40 The complex philatelic history of Ukraine, a nation striving for recognition

8 WORLD NEWS

Ukraine's stamps of defiance against Russia are in demand at home and abroad

10 NEW ISSUES

A Roy of the Rovers style for Jersey's FA Cup stamps

14 AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Gems under the hammer, from German states to New Zealand

20 GB NEW ISSUE

Our verdict on Royal Mail's set illustrating Migratory Birds

22 GB NEW ISSUE

Celebrating the contribution of women to the 1939-45 war effort

24 GB COLLECTOR

The first prestige stamp book with data matrix definitives

30 LETTERS

How well is the Swap Out scheme working, and is there any future for country definitives?



14 Gems from the German states



22 What did you do in the war, granny?



51 Barbados set honouring Admiral Nelson



54 Unissued stamps in The Postal Museum



63 For the remainder of the postage, please turn over



60 The scout camp that roused a stamp programme from slumber



35 How a rare pane turned into a nagging pain



20 British residents with second homes overseas

FEATURES

40 UKRAINE STAMPS & POSTAL HISTORY

Russian, Austrian, German and even British stamps have been used in what is now Ukraine, but a strong national identity has come shining through whenever history has given it the chance

54 STAMPS THAT NEVER CAME TO BE

An excerpt from a new book showcasing the philatelic collections of The Postal Museum focuses on famous and less famous stamps which were planned but never issued

'The King would be obliged if the idea would be dropped'

see page **54**

35 DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

It's not only fishermen who are haunted by thoughts of 'the one that got away'

51 COMMONWEALTH CLASSICS

One of the most memorable issues of Barbados was its tribute to Admiral Nelson in 1906

60 EARLY ELIZABETHANS

After four years without a special stamp issue, why did Britain opt to celebrate a scout camp in 1957?

63 VICTORIANA

An 1863 cover featuring 12 stamps, at least 22 cancellations and a hint of Shakespearean drama

66 WHAT'S ON

Exhibition, auction, fair and society dates for your diary

81 STRANGE BUT TRUE

The stamp-faking racket which might have got a Latin American dealer murdered

COMPETITIONS

Win an FA Cup presentation pack!
Or a copy of our GB price guide!
See page 37



'I let a piece of philatelic history slip through my fingers, and I can never forgive myself'

see page **35**

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See page 64



284-290 CORINPHILA

27 MAY-4 JUNE 2022

Great Britain 1840-1910 – The “BESANÇON” Collection (part IV)



Plate 5!



ex Jeffrey K. Weiss (1996)



Plate 3!
ex Col. Bates (1934)

ex Louis O. Trivett (1924)
ex Baron de Worms (1938)



ex Baron de Worms (1938)
ex Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)



Plate 3!
ex Dr & Mme 'S.' (1976)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY/JUNE 2022 SALE

GREAT BRITAIN – The ‘BESANÇON’ Collection (part IV)

BRITISH WEST INDIES – The ‘BESANÇON’ Collection (part III)

BRITISH WEST AFRICA – The ‘BESANÇON’ Collection (part I)

ITALY, FRANCE, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA – The Ing. Pietro Provera Collection (part IV)

SWITZERLAND – The ERIVAN Collection (4th Auction)

SWITZERLAND: Swiss Airmail – The ‘IKARUS’ Collection (part II),
Strubel 1854–1863 – Special Collection (part II)

ALL WORLD:

Aden – The ‘BESANÇON’ Collection

Kuwait – The ‘BESANÇON’ Collection

Ecuador 1865–1872 – The ‘GUAYAQUIL’ Collection (part II)

Peru – incl. The ‘ALPACA’ Collection (part II)

Ballon Monté – The Flight of the „Ville d’Orleans“ –
The Svein Arne Hansen Collection (part II)

Boy Scouts – The Alfred Scherb Collection (part II)

Literature – Special Collection

AUCTION

Special Viewing

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Ukraine's stamps of defiance in demand around the world

Ukraine's stamp issue of defiance against invasion by Russia, issued on April 12, has proved popular both within the war-torn country and around the world.

There were long queues (clearly including speculators) at post offices which were able to place the stamps on sale, and they were soon being offered at high prices on internet auction sites.

The postal authority, Ukrposhta, used the winning design in its online competition (May issue, page 8) for two non-value indicators, inscribed 'F' for the domestic letter rate and 'W' for the international letter rate. They were the first stamps it had issued in wartime conditions, following the invasion of February 24.

The design by Boris Groh, entitled 'Russian warship go f*** yourself', illustrates a Ukrainian soldier making a rude gesture to the Russian flagship *Moskva*.

The theme refers to the defiant response of a small Ukrainian garrison on Snake Island in the Black Sea, at the start of the war, to a Russian demand that they should surrender. Extra poignancy was added to the design when *Moskva* was sunk, apparently by a Ukrainian missile strike, two days after the stamp issue.

The stamps were printed in Ukraine in sheetlets of six. Bilingual inscriptions in the selvedge (in Ukrainian and English) include 'Glory to Ukraine!' or 'Glory to heroes!' and 'Russian warship go...'

On the day of issue, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posed with the stamps for a social media post, and images of long queues at post offices were circulated. Days later, Ukrposhta claimed it was targeted by a Russian cyber attack.

In late April, examples of single stamps were being offered on eBay for more than £70, and the sheetlets of six for up to £480, mostly by sellers in Ukraine. These prices were fuelled by the difficulty of obtaining the issue by direct order, but appear unsustainable given that a million stamps have been printed.

Ukrposhta was planning to release a follow-up issue in May entitled 'Russian Warship...Done', illustrating 'the current state of the ship' — in other words, with it removed from the scene!



SIGNING STAR

A set of stamps and covers signed by the Ukrainian marine who uttered the phrase which inspired the issue, Roman Hrybov, was auctioned by Ukrposhta for about £130,000.

Hrybov and his companions in the Snake Island garrison were originally reported as having been killed, but had in fact been captured. He was later released as part of a prisoner exchange.

There has been some criticism that the Ukrainian government allowed a false narrative to be developed about a heroic last stand on Snake Island, for propaganda purposes.



Europe shows more support for Ukraine...

Other European countries have continued to demonstrate their support for Ukraine by issuing postage stamps.

Following the lead of Latvia, with its charity issue of March 10 (May issue, page 8), stamps were produced by Estonia on March 24, Poland on March 25, Austria on March 31 and Croatia on April 12.

The Austrian stamp was a charity issue, with a €1 face value but sold at €2, the premium going to humanitarian relief.



...as cinderellas show distaste for Putin

An anonymous dealer in London has produced a striking cinderella comparing Vladimir Putin to Adolf Hitler.

Based on the famous 'Hitler death skull' propaganda stamp of 1944 (which was in turn based on a definitive design of Germany), it replaces the gruesome image of the Führer with that of Russia's President, and the inscription 'Futsches Reich' (originally 'Deutsches Reich') with 'Russisches Reich'.

A neat touch is the addition of a 'Ukraine' overprint, like that used by the Third Reich when it was occupying Ukrainian territory during World War II.

The 'Putler' cinderella was being offered on eBay in various values and colours in April, and the seller pledged that 20% of the proceeds would benefit the British Red Cross Society.



Obituary: Frank Walton

Frank Walton, the Chairman of the organising committee for the London 2022 international exhibition, has died at the age of 66, after a short illness.



Walton was a Past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and a former editor of its journal *The London Philatelist*. The current President described his contribution as 'one of the greatest in the history of our society'.

A specialist in classic Sierra Leone and the author of the six-volume research work *The De La Rue Collection*, Walton was also an international juror and a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Get jabbed, get plastered

The latest in a long line of stamp issues from Austria produced using unusual materials is a €2.75 value made from the same material (and in the same shape) as a sticking plaster.

Intended to encourage people to get vaccinated against Covid-19, its inscription 'Tut gar nicht weh' translates as 'It doesn't hurt at all'.



Welcome to Guernsey

Guernsey has reinstalled a Post & Go machine at the Tourist Information Centre in St Peter Port, where it will vend stamps with special overprints for tourists.

The standard overprint includes the message 'Bianvnu à Guernes' (welcome to Guernsey), but the inscription will be updated each time a cruise ship arrives in port, to include the name of the ship.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ As the initial offering of shares in the British Guiana 1856 1c black on magenta drew to a close, Stanley Gibbons said they had been purchased by more than 1,500 collectors from 50 countries, collectively spending more than £1m.

➤ The British Thematic Association's one-page online competition attracted 108 entries from collectors worldwide. You can see them at www.british-thematic.org.uk

➤ The National Postal Museum in Washington DC has a new thematic exhibition on baseball, on display until January 2025.

➤ Stanley Gibbons has published a 1st edition of its Italy & Colonies catalogue (also including Italian states, San Marino and Vatican City), priced £39.95.

➤ The Association of British Philatelic Societies has awarded its Congress Medal to Michael J Roberts, a stalwart of Huddersfield Philatelic Society, West Riding Stamp Club, Cockermouth Stamp Club, the Cumbria Postal History Society, the Sarawak Specialists' Society, the West Africa Study Circle, the Pakistan Study Circle and the Society for Postal Historians.

➤ A new postmaster is being sought for Port Lockroy in the British Antarctic Territory. There is no flushing toilet and no internet access, and the temperatures are nothing to write home about.

NEW ISSUE

FA Cup highlights, Roy of the Rovers style



Jersey has followed Great Britain by issuing stamps celebrating 150 Years of the FA Cup, England's most famous domestic football competition.

A set of eight designs highlight a selection of great moments in the history of the competition. They are accompanied by two miniature sheets in a similar style.

That style will be familiar to many a boyhood football fan, as the entire issue has been illustrated by comic artist David Sque, who drew the *Roy of the Rovers* comic strip from 1975-86.

Comic-style captions and speech bubbles help to tell the dramatic storylines. None of the players portrayed is named, although fans will know who many of them are!

The 56p value features the 1953 final, in which Blackpool beat Bolton Wanderers 4-3. It is still known as 'The Matthews Final' after Stanley Matthews of Blackpool.

The 82p shows the 1987 final (also featured in Royal Mail's set), in which Coventry City beat Tottenham Hotspur 3-2. The 'stupendous diving headed goal for the underdogs' was scored by Keith Houchen.

The 91p focuses on the 1973 final, when Sunderland beat Leeds United 1-0. The 'astonishing double save' was made by Jimmy Montgomery.

The £1.20 value recalls the 1988 final, in which Wimbledon beat Liverpool 1-0. 'The first ever penalty save in a final' was made by Dave Beasant.

The £1.37 stamp features the 1972 third round replay, when non-league Hereford United beat Newcastle United 2-1. The 'screamer' was scored by Ronnie Radford.

The £1.75 design shows the 1956 final, as Manchester City beat Birmingham City 3-1. City's goalkeeper, who 'breaks his neck but plays on', was Bert Trautmann.

The £2.10 stamp remembers the 2006 final, in which Liverpool and West Ham United drew 3-3, before Liverpool won a penalty shoot-out. The 'last-minute blockbuster' to equalise the scores was by Steven Gerrard.

On the £3.65 value is a famous moment from the 1981 final replay, as Tottenham Hotspur beat Manchester City 3-2. The 'amazing jinking run' that led to the winning goal was by Ricardo 'Ricky' Villa.

One of the miniature sheets has a scene from the first FA Cup Final, in 1872, when the Wanderers beat Royal Engineers 1-0.

Another gives the set a local angle, with the border illustrating the Jersey Bulls' debut cup run in 2021-22, when they became the most southerly club in the British Isles to play in the FA Cup, and beat Sutton Common Rovers 3-2 in a second qualifying round replay.



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1 JUNE 2022



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AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

SAXONY 1850 3pf marginal block

**SOLD FOR
£216,666**

Foremost among many stunning realisations at Heinrich Köhler's sale of the Erivan collection of German states (part 7) on March 26 was the best surviving marginal block of four from the first issue of Saxony.

The unused multiple of the 3pf brownish red was from the lower right corner of the sheet, therefore showing types 14, 15, 19 and 20 from plate 1.

It was in exceptionally fresh condition, with deep colour, wide margins and original gum; only the upper pair was hinged, and had a slight horizontal crease. Only one other such multiple is known, and it is considered of lower quality.

The stamp was in regular use for only a year before a new design was introduced in 1851.

SOLD BY HEINRICH KÖHLER £216,666



CHINA 1894 Unique invert block



A highlight of Stanley Gibbons' sale on March 29-30 was a spectacular exhibition piece from the Chinese Empire, with both printing and perforation errors.

The lower left marginal block of four of the 9ca dull green from the 1894 60th Birthday of the Dowager Empress series (first printing) featured an inverted cliché and was also imperforate vertically.

This combination, with its imperforate *tête-bêche* pair, is thought to be unique, and the block was in fine condition, with some minor creasing but a large part of its original gum intact.

The Dowager Empress series was China's third stamp issue, comprising nine values denominated in candarins, ranging from 1ca to 24ca. It was the last issue of the Imperial Maritime Customs Post, which would be replaced by the National Post Office of China in 1896; subsequent issues, including surcharges of these stamps, were denominated in dollars and cents.

SOLD BY STANLEY GIBBONS £12,000

BADEN 1851 Unique two-colour first day cover

Another highlight of Köhler's Erivan auction was the only known first day cover of the 'number one' stamp of Baden, which is also the only registered first day cover with a two-colour franking.

A 1kr black on buff and a 9kr black on pink, both with fresh colour and full to wide margins, are neatly tied to the entire by '87' numeral cancellations, accompanied by a two-line Mannheim datestamp of May 1, 1851.

Addressed to Schönwald, with a railway postmark on the reverse, this cover is considered one of the most important pieces in Baden philately, and comes with an up-to-date Stegmüller certificate of 2021.

The first issue of Baden also comprised values of 3kr and 6kr, on paper of various colours, and was in use for a period of nine years.

SOLD BY HEINRICH KÖHLER £174,982



INDIA 1911 First Aerial Post rarity

Argyll Etkin's sale in March featured an exceptional piece of mail from the first official airmail flight, which took place in India in 1911.

The picture postcard (type 3) depicting the pilot Henri Pequet in his Humber-Sommer biplane, and signed by him, was carried on the short flight from Allahabad to Naini on February 18, as part of the United Provinces Industrial & Agricultural Exhibition.

Addressed to England, it is one of few examples of this postcard featuring the special pictorial First Aerial Post handstamp in both ink colours. The King Edward VII 1a stamp is tied by the rare black cancellation, while there is a second strike below in the more common magenta colour. An Allahabad circular datestamp of February 18 completes the postal markings.

The Allahabad flight predated the UK's first aerial post by a little over six months.

SOLD BY ARGYLL ETKIN £8,500



NEW ZEALAND 1906 Christchurch Exhibition 1d claret

A very attractive example of one of New Zealand's greatest rarities made the highest realisation at Mowbrays' auction on March 19.

The 1d value in the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition set, illustrating Maori craftsmen carving a wooden canoe, was issued in vermilion, but some examples survive of the original printing, in claret, which had been rejected as unsatisfactory.

Thought to have come from a single sheet of 60, most are unused, including this one, in fine condition with minor creasing.

The Christchurch Exhibition set was New Zealand's first commemorative issue, on sale only from the post office on site and for the duration of the event, from November 1906 to April 1907.

SOLD BY MOWBRAY £6,510



NETHERLANDS 1936 error

Catching the eye at Corinthia Veilingen's auction on March 17-19 was an extremely rare perforation error from 1936.

The horizontal tête-bêche pair of the 6c in the Netherlands issue marking the Tercentenary of the University of Utrecht was imperforate between the stamps. Only four or five examples are recorded, and this one had some tiny imperfections but was otherwise mint.

The 6c, illustrating the ancient Greek goddess Pallas Athene, was the lower value in a set of two, the Netherlands' second triangular issue after a 1933 airmail stamp.

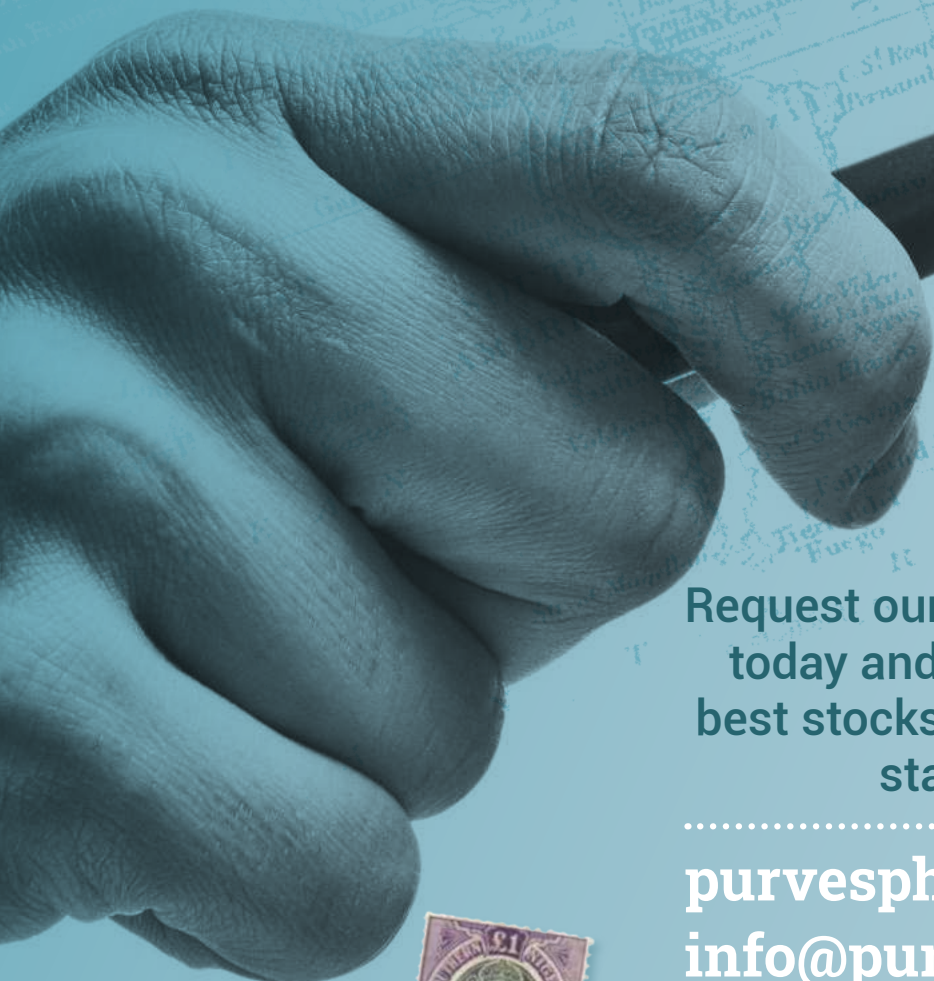
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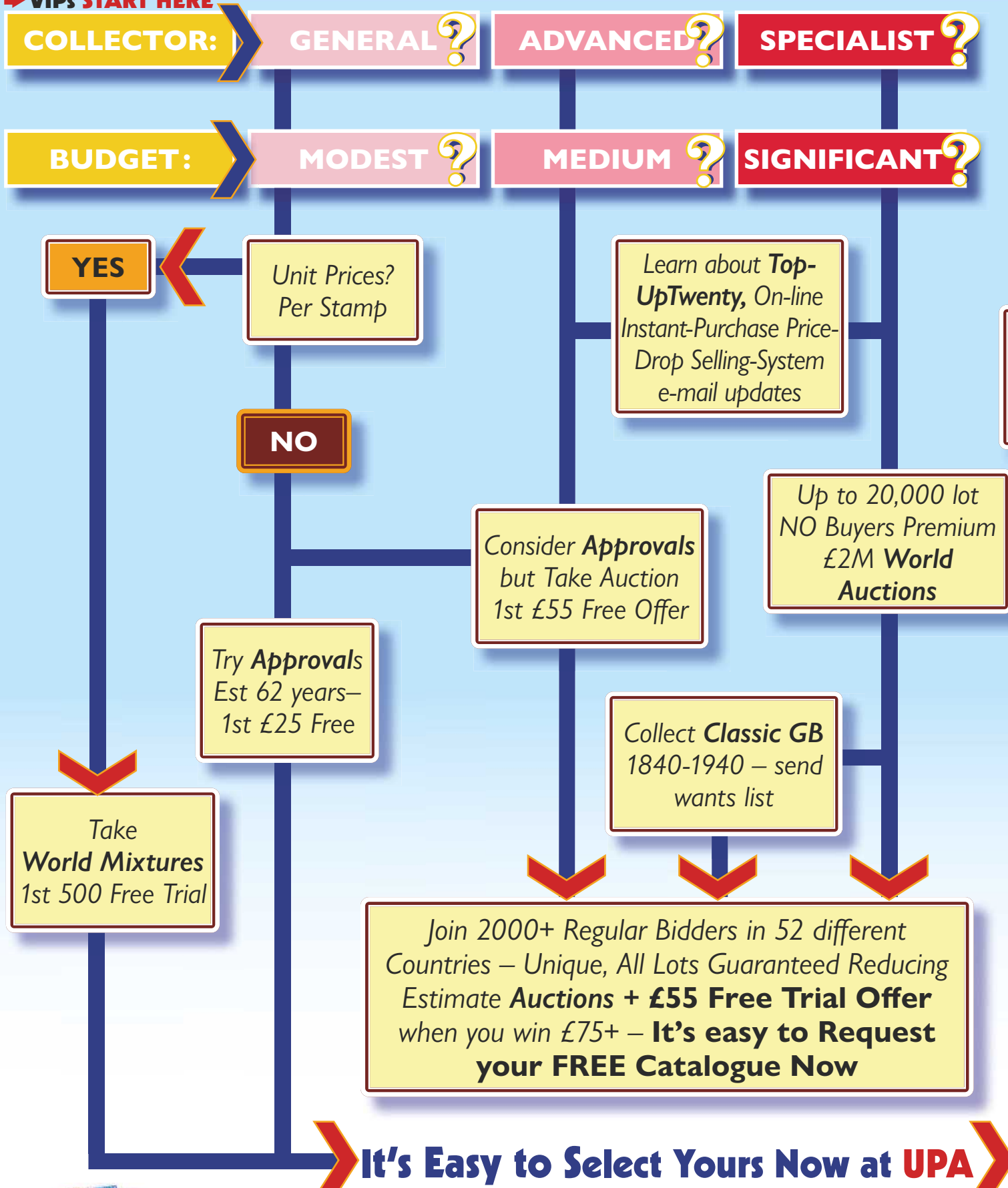
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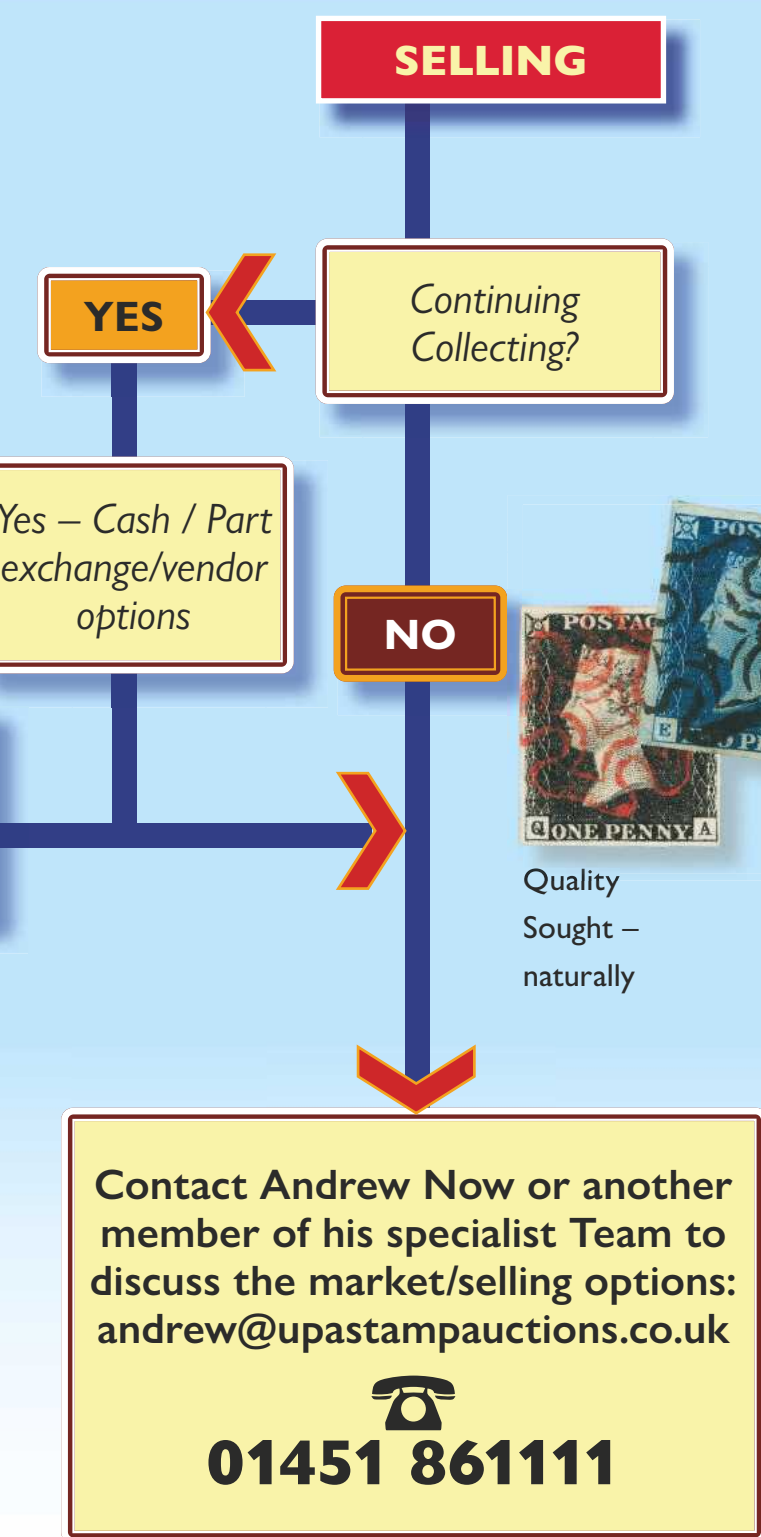
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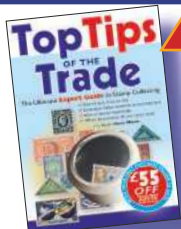
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British birds that come from far and wide



Royal Mail issued a set of 10 stamps on the theme of Migratory Birds on April 7, showcasing the diversity of spring and summer visitors to Britain.

About one in seven birds worldwide make annual, seasonal migrations along well-defined routes between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. Often this involves travelling remarkable distances over land and sea.

In the northern hemisphere, the direction of travel is generally from south to north to breed, then from north to south for the winter.

The seasonal availability of surplus food

at higher latitudes is a major incentive for migration, but it can be a perilous strategy due to the amount of energy required, difficult topography, long sea crossings and inclement weather.

Some birds learn migration routes by travelling with their parents and cohorts, but many others rely on instinct. Smaller birds tend to fly at night, to avoid predators and stay cool; larger birds are more likely to travel by day, assisted by thermals (rising currents of hot air) when flying over land.

Migration has fascinated and baffled naturalists for centuries. It was once widely believed that these birds hibernated

in winter rather than travelled. It is only now that we are beginning to understand their behaviour, largely thanks to electronic tagging.

The stamps were designed by Hat-Trick Design, using detailed illustrations by the Irish ornithologist Killian Mullarney, and printed in litho by International Security Printers (Cartor). They are available in se-tenant strips of five.

1st class NIGHTJAR

This owl-like bird of open woodland and heathland is active at dawn and dusk but seldom seen. It arrives in late April or May



and departs in July or August, migrating across the Sahara to winter in the tropical forests of central and southern Africa.

1st class PIED FLYCATCHER

This small bird can be found in mature deciduous woodland in western and northern Britain. It arrives from April to June and departs in August or September, crossing the Sahara to winter in the rainforests of western and central Africa.

1st class SWIFT

Widespread in Britain, usually found nesting in old buildings, this bird spends more time in flight than any other, and can even sleep on the wing. It arrives in April or May and departs in August for western, central or south-eastern Africa, or even the Indian Ocean.

1st class YELLOW WAGTAIL

Found in central and eastern England, this bird breeds in wet grasslands, in water meadows or among arable crops. It arrives from March to May and departs in August or September, migrating to sub-Saharan west Africa.

1st class ARCTIC SKUA

A pirate of the seas, eating fish that it steals from other birds, this species breeds in northern Scotland. It arrives in April and leaves in August or September, usually wintering in west or south Africa, although some birds cross the Atlantic Ocean.

1st class STONE-CURLEW

Found mainly in Norfolk and Suffolk, and most active at night, this bird breeds on stony ground with sparse vegetation. It arrives in March or April and departs in August or September, wintering in south-west France, Spain or north-west Africa.

1st class ARCTIC TERN

This dainty seabird migrates further than any other animal, with some individuals commuting between the Arctic and the Antarctic. It arrives in May or June and leaves from July to October, wintering in the Southern Ocean; one example which hatched in Britain reached Melbourne, Australia, in just three months.

1st class SWALLOW

Eagerly anticipated as a herald of spring, this bird of the countryside nests in sheds and farm buildings, feeding on insects caught on the wing. It arrives in April or May and departs in September or October, typically wintering in southern Africa.

1st class TURTLE DOVE

This bird of woodland, heathland and hedgerow can be found across the south of

England but its numbers are dwindling as its nesting habitats have declined and it is hunted on its migratory routes. It arrives in May and departs in July or September, heading towards tropical west Africa.

1st class MONTAGU'S HARRIER

This elegant, long-winged bird of prey, hunting low over fields and marshes and nesting among cereal crops, is now rare in Britain. It arrives in April or May and leaves in September, wintering in the desert and savannah of western and central Africa.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS

Written by Professor Richard Gregory, the presentation pack explores the rationale behind migration. First day covers and stamp cards are available as usual.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

These are remarkable birds, born in Britain even though they have a second home abroad

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

The illustrations are beautifully detailed, and well presented against plain backdrops

WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

The images will stand out strongly on a plain cover, so they deserve postal use

PRICES

Set of 10 stamps	£9.50
Presentation pack	£10.40
Stamp cards	£4.50
First day cover	£12.05

Working women who helped to win the war



Royal Mail released a special issue on May 5 entitled *Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II*.

Almost seven million women in Britain overcame prejudice about their gender to make a huge contribution to the war effort in 1939-45.

While much of their war work was considered temporary, for the duration of the conflict, it helped to drive post-war social changes that eventually led to equal opportunities and equal pay legislation.

The Auxiliary Territorial Service, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and the Women's Royal Naval Service were established at the outset of the war as branches of the military services. The women they recruited were barred from serving in battle, but their support roles expanded as the war went on.

Over one million women also volunteered with the Women's Voluntary Service. Its original aim was to train women to help with air-raid precautions, but it evolved into

running emergency centres for bombed-out civilians, distributing food and clothing, and assisting with the evacuation of children from city centres.

Unmarried women between the ages of 20 and 30 were subject to conscription from December 1941, working not only in the auxiliary services but also in industry, agriculture, medicine and transport.

Ten counter sheet stamps illustrate some of the jobs undertaken by women, while a miniature sheet of four stamps celebrates the so-called 'Spitfire Women', the female pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary who ferried aircraft between factories and airfields.

A total of 168 women volunteered for the ATA, a civilian organisation founded in 1939, and two of its 14 ferry pools had only female pilots.

Designed by Supple Studio, based on monochrome photographs given a uniform sepia tint, the issue was printed in litho by International Security Printers (Cartor). The

counter sheet stamps are available in se-tenant strips of five.

1st class PROTECTING CIVILIANS

Many women became Air Raid Precaution (ARP) wardens through the Women's Voluntary Service, and found themselves on the front line during the Blitz. The volunteer organisation was incorporated into the Civil Defence Service in 1941.

1st class NURSING ON THE FRONT LINE

Established in 1902, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) served in both world wars. In 1944 its personnel were the first women to arrive in Normandy after D-Day, to set up a hospital.

1st class REPAIRING ARMY VEHICLES

The Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) was the women's branch of the British Army, established in 1938. Servicewomen carried out many tasks, many training as mechanics to maintain military vehicles.



1st class ARMING THE FLEET

Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) was the women's branch of the Royal Navy, established in 1939. 'Wrens' served as weapons analysts and mechanics, as well as telegraphers and radar plotters.

1st class POWERING THE WAR EFFORT

With so many factory workers called up into the armed forces, millions of women took up jobs which had traditionally been a male preserve. Amongst other things, they manufactured military vehicles, weapons and ammunition.

1st class DECIPHERING ENEMY MESSAGES

Women made up the majority of the code-breaking workforce, and the top-secret work of cracking Germany's Enigma codes at Bletchley Park is claimed to have shortened the war by two years.

1st class SUPPLYING MILITARY PRODUCTION

Although it was founded in 1938 to provide air-raid wardens, the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) also assisted in collecting

materials required for the war effort, and educating people not to waste valuable resources such as scrap metal.

1st class LIGHTING THE WAY TO VICTORY

From 1941, ATS members increasingly replaced male personnel in operating the searchlights which scanned the skies for enemy bombers. They also served in anti-aircraft gun crews.

1st class MAINTAINING RAF AIRCRAFT

The Women's Auxiliary Airforce (WAAF) was the women's branch of the Royal Air Force, established in 1939. Servicewomen were employed as aircraft mechanics, as well as radar operators, telegraphers, meteorologists and plotters in operations rooms.

1st class MEETING BRITAIN'S DEMAND

Like factories, farms lost much of their workforce to the armed services. The Women's Land Army (WLA) was created in 1939 to fill these roles with women, commonly known as 'Land Girls'. A forestry branch set up in 1942 was officially known as the Women's Timber Corps, and colloquially as 'Lumber Jills'.

MINIATURE SHEET

1st class

Female pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) meet in their ferry pool's briefing room.

1st class

A female pilot climbing into the cockpit of a Supermarine Spitfire fighter plane, to deliver it from the factory to the airfield where it was needed.

£1.85

A pilot completing her post-flight paperwork in the cockpit of a Lockheed Hudson, an American-built light bomber and transport plane.

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Pilots of No5 Ferry Pool, which included the first women recruited for the job in January 1940, disembarking from an Avro Anson training aircraft.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS

The presentation pack was written by Professor Lucy Noakes of the University of Essex, and studies the evolution of the jobs women did in wartime. The miniature sheet comes in its own carrier, with information about the female ATA ferry pilots.

Stamp cards and first day covers are available, as is a press sheet of 14 unguillotined miniature sheets, in a limited edition of 200.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

The vital role women played in the war effort is often underrated, and this issue seeks to put that right

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

A good selection of period photographs illustrates the range of jobs involved very well

WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

Stamps from this set are unlikely to stand out and make a splash if used in the post

PRICES

Set of 10 stamps	£9.50
Miniature sheet	£5.60
Press sheet	£78.40
Presentation pack	£16.00
Stamp cards	£6.75
First day cover (stamps)	£12.05
First day cover (mini sheet)	£7.40

First prestige booklet with data matrix definitives

The prestige stamp book accompanying the Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II stamp issue has four panes of stamps, including the first to include definitives with data matrix codes.

Although the rest of the booklet is printed in litho with conventional gum, the definitives pane is printed in gravure and the stamps are self-adhesive.

It establishes what may be a new template for these products, by including five definitives (three of £1 and two of 50p) arranged around a non-postal label of the same format (with a photograph of women on air-raid watch).

To accommodate this pane, the format of the entire booklet has been changed; it is 4mm taller, at 100mm rather than 96mm. Royal Mail says it will make a larger leaf available for its PSB album to accommodate the new format.

The other three panes contain all 10 counter-sheet stamps and all four miniature sheet stamps, in set-tenant arrangements not available elsewhere.

Written by historian Professor Lucy Noakes, the 24-page booklet explores specific themes such as women in the military, in industry and in special operations.



COVER OF THE MONTH



Adrian Bradbury has produced an attractive double-dated cover to accompany the Unsung Heroes issue, linking the contributions of women in both world wars.

A 2016 cover with a 1st class stamp from the First World War series, portraying munitions worker Lottie Meade (with a first-day postmark of Leeds), has been updated by means of the new 1st class design featuring an unnamed factory worker (with a first-day postmark of London).

The two-tone background image of workers in a munitions factory is the perfect complement to the stamps, and this limited-edition cover was advertised at a pre-order price of £20. Visit www.bfdc.co.uk

Machin merchandise for Platinum Jubilee

A range of official Platinum Jubilee souvenirs has been inspired by the Machin stamp portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Royal Collection range of homeware and accessories features the familiar profile in a variety of shades of red, white and blue.

They include a set of fridge magnets priced £5.95, a luggage tag at £7.95, a tea towel at £9.95, a cosmetics bag at £9.95, a jigsaw puzzle at £14.95, a tea tray at £19.95, an apron at £19.95, a coffee mug at £20, a cushion at £45 and a silk scarf at £150.

The products are available from Royal Collection Trust shops, or online. Visit www.rct.uk/shop



Swap Out scheme gets mixed reviews

Early feedback on the efficiency of Royal Mail's Swap Out scheme, for trading-in definitive stamps which will be invalidated next year, has been mixed.

Quibbles from dealers and collectors have included disputed total values in complex swaps, unusual values being ignored altogether, and postage costs not being reimbursed.

The folding of replacement counter sheets to fit them into small envelopes has also made them less collectable, although the stamps themselves are still perfectly good for postage.

On the other hand, replacement stamps are generally reported to have been received relatively quickly, and most complaints dealt with relatively efficiently. Turnaround times appear to have improved after the first two weeks, when some customers reported the organisation of the scheme to be 'chaotic'.

It is strongly recommended that collectors keep a detailed record of what they have submitted, including scans or photographs, in case of disputes.

The scheme was launched on March 31. Definitives without data matrix codes will be invalid for postage after January 2023.

Longer run for humanitarian appeal slogan

Royal Mail kept its Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal slogan postmark, which was introduced in March, in use during April.

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine continuing, and the flood of refugees increasing, it continued to promote Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal fund, inviting postal users to donate at www.dec.org.uk

Its retention was apparently to the exclusion of other planned slogans.



NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ The Federation of Small Businesses has complained to the postal regulator Ofcom that thousands of firms have wrongly been charged penalty fees by Royal Mail, due to problems with its sorting technology.

➤ A new series of books showcases early British colourised picture postcards, although not their address sides. *Photochrom Photography 1890-1910: The British Isles In Colour* will extend to seven volumes priced £16.99 each. Visit www.lonefoxpublishing.com

➤ A postman who was sacked for gross misconduct after being caught on CCTV disposing of a piece of chewing gum on a homeowner's gate in Prestonpans was awarded £17,000 compensation for unfair dismissal.

➤ Royal Mail staff in Norwich have raised more than £10,000 for Guide Dogs UK, and sponsored a puppy named Stamp.

➤ Guided walks through the Mail Rail tunnels at The Post Museum can be booked for May 24 or 31, and June 7, 21 or 28.

➤ The postmistress at Rosebush in Pembrokeshire has been given a long-service award by the Post Office after operating for 30 years, out of a farm cheese shop.

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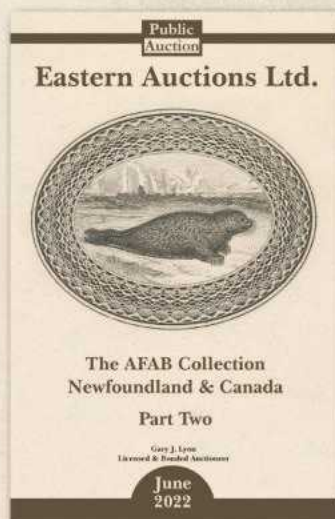


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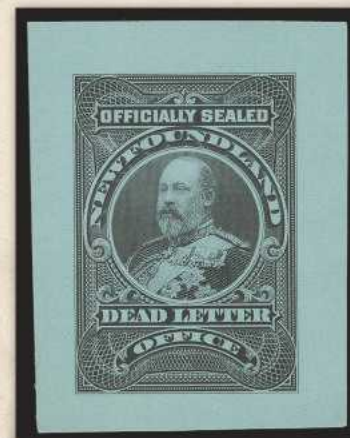
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Letters

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The Editor reads all letters, but is unable to answer them all personally. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dodgy maths but a quick response from Royal Mail's Swap-Out scheme

I thought other readers might like to hear of my experiences with the Swap-Out scheme introduced by Royal Mail to allow customers to trade-in the stamps which will become invalid next year.

I submitted three separate batches of stamps and booklets early in April, and on all three occasions Royal Mail stated that my submission was not accurate. One claim was reduced from £94.61 to £68.25, which was a massive difference.

As a time-served post office counter clerk, I was flabbergasted that they said my addition was incorrect!

For each claim I sent an e-mail to the support centre, giving a full breakdown of

all the stamps submitted, and also mentioning that no consideration had been given to reimbursing my postage costs.

To be fair, the response in each case was quick (within 72 hours) and very positive. They agreed to send more stamps to cover the shortages and cover my postage.

So, despite the fact that staff at the sharp end don't seem to be able to add up, my claims are being met in full.

I would advise readers to keep a full breakdown of all items they send, and take photographs or scans of their claims. That way, if there is a discrepancy, it should be resolved.

Les Gandy, Preston

How much money will be lost on unused stamps?

I echo Dominic Lyle's (April issue, page 26) comment that Royal Mail has probably not thought through the ramifications of its decision to invalidate all non-coded Machins from January 2023.

The company's decision-making process sometimes leaves a lot to be desired. Remember 'Consignia'?

This bean-counting measure could earn it

a lot of money, however, because people will miss the Swap-Out deadline, or not bother to fill out the forms, or forget those old-style NVIs that are sitting in drawers.

How much money will have been wasted on a service which was paid for but never received? Thousands? Hundreds of thousands?

Ray Howes, Weymouth

Is this the end of the line for the under-appreciated country definitives?

I note that country definitives for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are on the list of stamps which can be 'swapped out' for new style definitives with data-matrix codes.

I also note that there were no country definitives issued for the new airmail rates

when postage rates were increased in April, as there normally would be.

So is this the end of the road for country definitives, I wonder?

I rather like them, especially those which have bold designs that reflect something distinctive about the nation's culture.

But I doubt there is much demand for them in England (although admittedly there may be more in other parts of the UK), and I rarely see them used in the mail.

Perhaps Royal Mail sees this a convenient opportunity to drop them?

Steve Moore, Bath



SOAPBOX

It has little tolerance, scant understanding of history and no sense of humour. That makes the 'woke' world view a threat to philately, claims Jack Hughes

I am sick to death of the 'woke' agenda, which started out as meaning a broad awareness of social inequalities but has been politicised and got out of hand.

It's a hypocritical, intolerant cult which has a poor understanding of history, confuses causally related facts with correlated facts, and uses lazy hindsight to try to obliterate the past.

Woke's future world is dystopian, redolent of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. And it's coming for your stamp collection.

You may soon have to remove some Royal Mail stamp issues from your albums, because they are no longer acceptable to those who are woke.

FECKLESS FICTION

You can start with the Harry Potter stamps of 2007 and 2018. They are great books and great films, but the author, J K Rowling, is on the woke blacklist because of comments she made about transgender people.

It should be her novels that matter, not her personal beliefs. Woke thinking, however, requires total obedience to its world view. So Harry Potter stamps indicate support for Rowling; don't let other people know you have them, or you might get death threats, which is what has happened to her.

The woke also believe that if you own the James Bond stamps of 2008 or 2020 you are fundamentally evil. Who could appreciate such a violent, sexist man?

They miss the point that Bond is not a role model but a bit of fantasy fun. The woke agenda has no sense of humour.

BLACKLISTED BRITS

But it's not just modern culture. Even William Shakespeare now comes with a woke warning!

Shakespearean drama is not inclusive, as it requires real skill to understand and appreciate it. A woke belief is that if something is not inclusive, it should be banned, so you'll need to wave goodbye to those Shakespeare sets of 1964, 1995 and 2011!

And then there is Winston Churchill. He may have saved Britain in World War II, but that is not good enough. His work in other areas, such as when he was Secretary of State for the Colonies, had some failures. The woke agenda



TOP: James Bond, too sexist? ABOVE: Shakespeare, non-inclusive? BELOW: Royalty, too elitist?

requires that we ignore his greatness and focus on the failures.

So it's time to hide your Churchill stamps of 1965, 1974, 2010 and 2014, and throw his statue into a river.

OFFENSIVE OTHERS

The 2017 Racehorse Legends set is obviously nasty, as horse racing is cruel. The 2016 Mr Men & Little Miss stamps are fundamentally evil, as everything has to be gender-neutral.

No Christmas stamps should exist, as they are offensive to atheists and followers of other religions. And all stamps commemorating war are wrong, because violence is evil and we should not celebrate any aspect of it, even if we were fighting for democracy and the rule of law.

Stamps honouring royalty must also disappear, obviously, as royalty is not inclusive. Machin collectors, you are elitist and insensitive.



DARK DYSTOPIA

The woke agenda is extreme and needs to be challenged. Otherwise we will soon have to register our collections at the police station, apply for a licence to own them, and store them in a locked room.

Jack Hughes

Machin definitives invalidated far too early...

We are all under the impression that Machin definitives without data matrix codes will remain valid until next year, but it seems postal workers have other ideas.

This letter was delivered to me in March only after I had paid a £2 fee, as I was told it had invalid stamps. Try as I might I cannot see any invalid stamps, although but maybe the use of four ½p values is a little suspect!

Peter Boardman, via e-mail

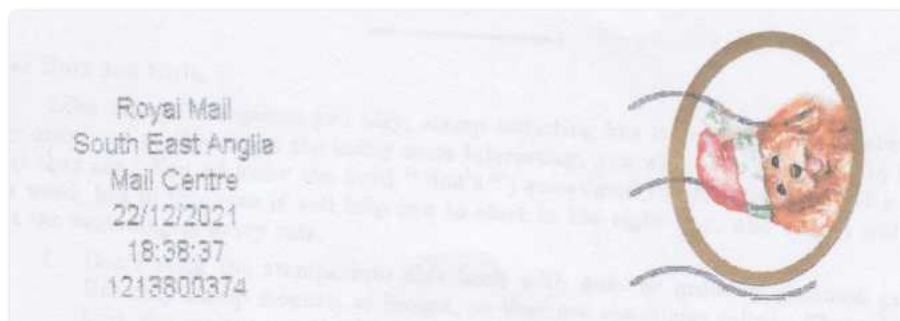


...and a Christmas present from Santa Claws

Around Christmas I received a letter franked not with a valid postage stamp but with a sticker depicting a dog wearing a Santa's hat.

It was cancelled at the South East Anglia Mail Centre, and to my astonishment it arrived without any request for payment of postage!

Cliff Jermyn-Francis, York



Solo usage of many Machins is hard to find

In your feature on the postal history of the early decimal Machin high values (April issue, page 46), Alastair Gunn mentioned that solo commercial usages of these stamps are difficult to find.

I agree, and would add that this problem also exists for huge numbers of other *Machins*.

In the past 50 years or so, Royal Mail has issued hundreds of definitives. Apart from make-up and high values, they were all produced to meet specific postage rates, so in theory they should all exist solo on commercial cover.

In practice, however, anyone embarking on a collection of solo Machin usages would be shocked by just how scarce they are.

Most solo usages for the higher weight-steps (for example, the 16½p brown and 33p grey) were on large covers, and few of these have survived and made it onto the philatelic market.

Beyond the basic airmail and postcard rates, many overseas rates (for example, the 49p brown and 81p deep green) are hard to find, although country definitives for these rates are even less common.

Higher-value Machines with the extra security features introduced in 2009 (for example, the £1.68 green) seem to have seen little use, not least because the postage rate to Europe has been raised every year since 2003.

Nigel Perrins, Great Missenden

Postal deliveries still slow to New Zealand

The stamp issues I ordered from Nampost, the Namibian postal authority, in November 2020 reached me in New Zealand on March 2, 2022.

This delivery time of more than 15 months comfortably beats the 14 weeks it took last year to get some stamps from Hong Kong, and nine weeks from Singapore.

Unfortunately there are no postal markings providing a record of its journey, so I have no idea how it got here. Perhaps a floating log from Capetown, or a flying ostrich service?

For comparison, anything I bought on eBay in the UK or from Royal Mail has taken three or four weeks to get here during the pandemic.

Nik Rakels. New Zealand

Auction houses thrived through the pandemic

International auction businesses seem to have thrived during the coronavirus pandemic, to judge from an interesting online symposium hosted recently by the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Olivier Stocker of Spink said 'Prices and and selling rates were up. It was eyes on screens, rather than bums on seats.'

Charles Shreve of Siegel said 'There was an influx of people returning to the market. Prices have been extraordinarily strong.'

Dieter Michelson of Heinrich Köhler said 'Buyers found it easier than they expected to bid online.'

All this positivity was despite Brexit and VAT making transactions more expensive between Britain and other European countries.

And there was me thinking the pandemic had sent the hobby plummeting towards disaster!

Michael Brady, Croydon

England 1, Scotland 1

David Lloyd, who asked for information about the forged 'England Winners' overprint on the 1966 World Cup 4d stamp [May issue, page 32], might like to seek out a 'matching pair' by obtaining another rarity from the same period.

Some Scottish wags bought up sheets of the lower-value Battle of Hastings commemorative stamps which were issued less than two months later, in October 1966, and overprinted them 'England Losers'.

Norman Watson, Perth

Queen Elizabeth II

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THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Should you count yourself lucky for the bargain buys you've seized upon, or castigate yourself forever about those you let slip through your fingers?

Long before any stamp dealer made serious use of the internet, the mid-1990s was a time when you could go to a stamp fair without much idea of what you were likely to find. At one such event in London I was nattering with one of my favourite dealers when he mentioned he had recently acquired two items that were outside his usual specialisms.

They were both King George V booklet panes from the 1920s, unmounted mint, in perfect condition with full perforations. One of them included a label advertising Gaze's all-weather tennis courts, the other a label advertising India rubber inlaid sponges, unusually printed in green.

At the time I had not seriously embarked on my specialist collection of booklet panes. I was merely picking up the odd one here and there. But these were things of beauty.

I ummed and ahed. The 'tennis courts' pane was affordable, while the 'sponge' pane was rather more expensive. Yet a voice inside my head was telling me that I ought to buy them both, putting the price on a credit card if necessary, and that I would regret it if I didn't.

I ignored that voice. I listened to the one that told me to be sensible and live within my means, to concentrate on finding the stamps that I needed

for my main collection. So I bought the cheaper pane only.

Big mistake. One that I've kicked myself for, ever since. I had assumed that because I had seen the green 'sponge' pane once, presented to me on a plate with a sticker saying 'buy me', I would have plenty of other opportunities to acquire it a later date. I had no idea just how rare it really was. And nor, I now suspect, did the dealer,

otherwise he would have priced it a great deal higher.

This fleeting incident became the major regret of my stamp collecting life.

If I was a more positive person, I would be celebrating the acquisition of the 'tennis courts' pane, because it too is as rare as hens' teeth. Hand on heart, I've never seen it offered in a complete pane since, by any dealer or auction house. So I



THE AUTHOR
John Crace is a GB collector specialising in early booklet panes, and a newspaper columnist

should count myself lucky.

Instead, time and again, I remember the one that got away, the green 'sponge' pane. I let a piece of philatelic history slip through my fingers, and I

can never forgive myself. Indeed I've come to wonder whether I chose to collect booklet panes in order to punish myself for not having snapped it up when I had the chance.

But then I'm not alone in this. Every stamp collector is tormented by the ones that got away. It's not necessarily the big-ticket items, but the ones we could have bought and for some reason didn't, and have never found again.

Perhaps it's the potential for misery that makes me a natural collector? It's much like supporting Spurs: there is always the

hope of glory, but the expectation of failure.

Which is why whoever selected the images for Royal Mail's issue celebrating the 150th anniversary of the FA Cup seems to have been having a laugh at my expense. They could have chosen to depict a glorious victory, but instead they went for the 1987 final, the only one Spurs have ever lost. The one that got away. ■



ABOVE: 1924 booklet with 1½d stamps and a label advertising all-weather tennis courts



ABOVE: 1924 booklet with 1½d stamps and a label advertising India rubber inlaid sponges

'A voice inside my head was telling me I ought to buy it, and that I would regret it if I didn't. I ignored that voice'

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you, like John Crace, dwell on 'the one that got away'?
How do you rationalise a missed opportunity, and move on?
E-mail your comments to guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com



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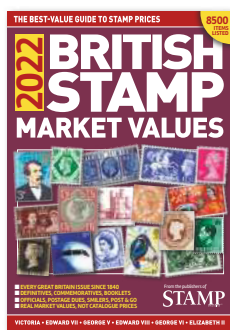
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QUESTION

Which team won the centenary FA Cup by beating Arsenal in the 1972 final?

COMPETITION WINNERS

Rolling Stones presentation pack

The answer to our competition question in the March issue was Charlie Watts, and the 12 lucky winners whose correct answers were drawn at random were Fiona Beck from Guisborough, Ed Davis from Portsmouth, Graeme Denman from Ivybridge, Jan Richards from Kingsteignton, Paul Green from Wisbech, Glenn Rodgers from Middlesbrough, Karl Foxley from Darley Abbey, Lewis Baines from Fleetwood, Ken Hunter from Poole, Allan Fullarton from Washington, Richard Harrison from Barnsley, and Paul Whiteley from Goole.

Spot The Stamp

The Spot The Stamp winner from the March issue is Vic Darlington from Alresford, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (right) as the 25p value from the 1995 Centenary of Rugby League set, illustrating Gus Risman.



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7054 : 1907 2a (SG 157) complete sheet of 3 panes each of six stamps, the bottom pane being tete-beche in relation to the others, and with " & Jones / DON" sheet wmk (18 stamps) ... £75

ALBANIA

6598 : 1963 good run of unmounted mint sets including Stalingrad, Industry, Cosmonauts perf and imperf, Olympics set imperf and min sheets perf and imperf. Cat about £500 (imperf based on Michel listing) (80 stamps) £75

ALBANIA

5585 : 1946 Balkan Games set mint light hinge (SG 458/64 cat £120) (7 stamps) ... £20

ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7927 : 1931-1994 almost complete mint mainly hinged collection (unmounted from mid-1960s) on large format Yvert printed leaves, with 1931 overprints to 2F (SG 1/9 cat £500), the long 1932 set (1F75 is used) (SG 24/81 cat £1080), 1936 Arms (SG 83/96 cat £100), 1944 long set (SG 105/42 cat £200), 1950 Chamois air (SG 143 cat £140), 1955 set (SG 144/62 cat £300) and airs (SG 163/65 cat £250), New Franc issues to 1994 virtually complete, and Dues complete to 1964 (these cat £1180). Total cat approx £4200 (weight 1 kilo) £750

ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7439 : 1931 3F Merson unmounted mint (SG 20, Mi 20 cat 325 Euros) (1 stamp) £75



ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7440 : 1931 5F Merson u/m (SG 21, Mi 21 cat 500 Euros) (illus) (1 stamp) £100

ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7620 : 1932-1975 mint (mainly hinged, some u/m) range with 1932 Views various to 20F with better values, middle period definitives and views, and a few in the New Franc period to 1975. All different. Cat c£450 (110 stamps) £100

ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7394 : 1955 range of mint (light hinge) on leaves, with various Views to 65F, plus Airs 100F to 500F (SG 163/65). Cat £340. (16 stamps) £80

AUSTRIA

7848 : 1850-1917 mainly used range in large red stockbook (peg fitting, black pages) from 1850, 1860 incl 2k, 3k, 1863 Arms perf 14 and with 3k perf 9½ incl 2k, 3k, 1864 Franz Joseph good range to 25k used, 50k mint, good range of later 19th century Arms (almost complete, usually several of each with shades, postmarks), 1908 Jubilee set, 1910 Birthday set fine used (SG 223/39 cat £1400) with the top value a superb used example used on piece with full SANDHUBEL cds (small mountain resort). Also some Newspaper, Dues, Armies, Bosnia, Levant. Slight duplication but plenty of perfs and postmarks of interest. About 1500 stamps (weight 3 kilos) £850

AUSTRIA

7975 : 1850-1970 all periods collection (English springback, plain pages), with good run of 19th century with 1858 Franz Joseph 2k yellow (SG 22a cat £90), 1860 FJ issues, 1863 Arms perf 14 (SG 40 cat £160), perf 9½ set, 1867 etc FJ various to 25k, 1883 Arms incl 50k (SG 75 cat £130), many later 19th century with cancel interest, 1908 Jubilee set used (SG 189/206 cat £150), interwar period most definitives and a few commems, postwar ranges of definitives and commems to c1970, Dues, Newspaper, Armies General 1915 to 4K used, 5K mint. Italy, Romania, Serbia, Levant. Also early extras in a booklet. Main strength in earlier period. (weight 2 kilos) £250

AUSTRIA

7864 : 1850-1996 used collection in three matching KaBe hingeless printed albums (dark green peg fitting, new style) from 1850 Arms set, range of subsequent classics, 1867 etc Franz Joseph, most

later 19th century, 1908 Jubilee set (SG 189/206 cat £150), Lombardy 1850 Arms set all with good margins (cat £400+), 1858 set less 3s green, Levant, Armies incl 1918 Serbia set with diagonal ovpt (SG22/42 cat £190), interwar period range of most definitives and a few commems, dues, newspaper, postwar 1945-1996 almost complete (but no Hitler Heads). Clean albums and pages as new (includes pages to 2000). Good base for continuation, for adding the prewar issues. (weight 7 kilos) £350



BAHAMAS

8019 : 1884 Q. Victoria £1 venetian red, mint light hinge, signed Georg Buhler (SG 57 cat £275) £125

BAHAMAS

8020 : 1863-1890 Q. Victoria issues mint (light hinge) range on Scott printed page, with 1863 1d (both perfs) and 1s wmk Crown CC, 1862 1s perf 12, 1s Crown CA (2 shades), 1884 1d to 6d. Cat c£450 (10 stamps) £100

BAHAMAS

8022 : 1911-1935 KGV mint (light hinge) collection on Scott printed leaves, with 1912 to 5s, 1911 etc Staircase various to 2s, 1920 Peace, 1921 Heads to 1s and Staircase to 3s, 1930 Tercentenary, 1931 2s and 3s Seal, 1935 Jubilee etc. Cat c£425 (42 stamps) £150

BAHAMAS

8023 : mint (mostly hinged) collection on Scott printed leaves, with 1938 Heads set (SG 149/57a cat £150), 1948 Landfall set, Tercentenary set (£1 is u/m), 148 Silver Wedding, to 1949. Basic issues complete. Cat c£370 (56 stamps) £135

BAHAMAS

8024 : 1953-1970 QEII issues complete for this period mint (mainly hinged) on Scott printed leaves, includes 1954 Views to £1 set plus some extra blocks of four, 1964 New Constitution, 1965 Views set to £1 u/m, 1966 decimal ovpts, 1967 Views etc. Cat £300+ (200 stamps) £100

BAHAMAS

8025 : 1971-1981 mint (mostly u/m) collection on Scott printed leaves, virtually complete except some wmk changes, but includes min sheets (needs couple stamps in last years) (185 stamps) (weight 1 kilo) £65

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Trident tested

Vladimir Putin claims Ukraine is not a real nation. The country's postal history and philately, reflecting its long struggle for independence, suggest otherwise

■ Report by John Winchester

In the early years of the 19th century, no Ukrainian state existed, and none seemed likely. The land we now know as Ukraine had been absorbed mostly into the Russian Empire and partly into the Austrian Empire.

It seemed the Ukrainian people might lose their identity, especially given attempts to suppress their language, which was denigrated by many as 'Little Russian'.

But a revival lay ahead, a flourishing sense of nationhood producing lively postal history and, eventually, independence.

Cultural revival

The cultural reawakening was led by the poet, writer, artist and folklorist Taras Shevchenko.

Tracing his ancestry from the Cossacks, the semi-nomadic and militarised inhabitants of the Ukrainian steppes, Shevchenko was born into poverty and serfdom but nonetheless won a place at the Russian Academy of Arts in St Petersburg, and came to be regarded as the father of his nation's literature.

When his writings about the wretched circumstances of his homeland offended Tsar Nicholas I, he was imprisoned and exiled, but his nationalism never waned and he is revered by his compatriots to this day.

Imperial stamps

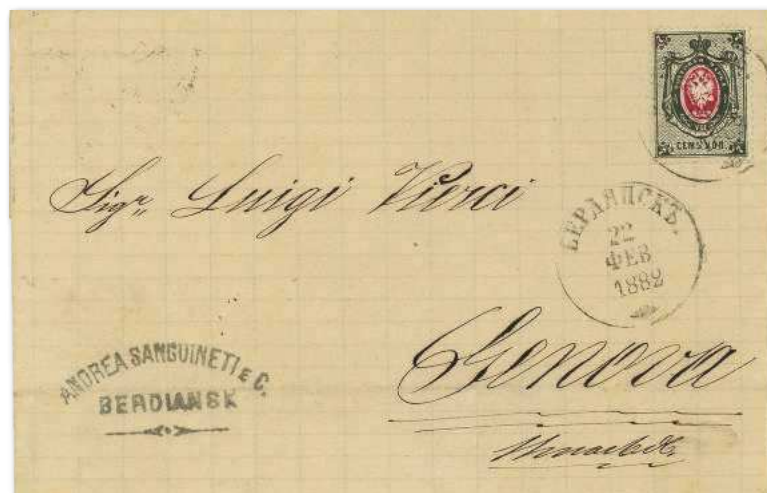
It was towards the end of Shevchenko's lifetime that the first postage stamps came into use in the region. Of course, they were not Ukrainian but Austrian in the west, from 1850, and Russian in the east, from 1857.

Before Russian stamps were introduced, there were even British stamps on mail from territory which would later be Ukrainian, as soldiers fighting in the Crimean War against Russia from 1853-56 sent letters home from the



ABOVE: The 10s brown from the imperforate Shahiv series of 1918, the first set of dedicated postage stamps issued by an independent Ukraine

RIGHT: 1882 cover from Berdyansk, the Ukrainian port city on the Sea of Azov, to Genoa in Italy, franked with a Russia 7k carmine and grey



ORIGINS OF A NATION

KIEVAN RUS

The cultural identity of modern Ukraine can be traced back to the great eastern Slavic federation of Kievan Rus, which flourished between the 9th and 13th centuries.

It stretched from the shores of the Black Sea to the fringes of the Arctic Circle, and the modern nations of Russia and Belarus also claim it as their cultural ancestor, an emotion which underlies their reluctance to see modern Ukraine fall out of their orbit.

The capital was Kyiv, with its strategic location on the Dnieper River. Vladimir the Great, who ruled from 980-1015, introduced both Orthodox Christianity and the *tryzub*, his armorial trident, later adopted as the emblem of Ukraine.

FOREIGN DOMINATION

Kievan Rus was already in decline when invasion by the Mongols in 1239-41 prompted its disintegration.

In the later medieval period, successor states with a stake in what is now Ukraine included the Kingdom of Ruthenia, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Kingdom of Poland and, from 1569, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

One consequence of Polish domination was the suppression of Orthodox religion in favour of Catholicism.

COSSACK STATE

It was a Cossack uprising against Polish rule in 1648 which laid the foundations of a distinctly Ukrainian state.

Led by Bohdan Khmelnytsky, it established the Cossack Hetmanate, an independent entity which included Kyiv



ABOVE: Ukraine stamp of 1998 portraying Bohdan Khmelnytsky, marking the 350th anniversary of the Cossack uprising

BELOW: Russia stamp of 2015 honouring Vladimir the Great, the ruler of Kievan Rus, and alluding to his promotion of Christianity



and the lower Dnieper.

However, its treatment of Jews and Catholics amounted to a pogrom, and its internal divisions meant it became a vassal state of the increasingly powerful Tsardom of Russia.

RUSSIAN EXPANSION

Russia was in control of much of the east bank of the Dnieper by 1667, and the city of Kyiv by 1686. With its pre-eminence came a return to Orthodox religion.

Cossack leaders who stood up for regional rights, such as Ivan Mazepa and Pavlo Polubotok in the 18th century, were treated as criminals by the Tsars but are now revered by many as early Ukrainian nationalists.

The three-stage partition of Poland in 1772-95 left much of central and eastern Ukraine in the Russian Empire, and western Ukraine, including Lviv, in the Austrian Empire.

Separately, Russia also annexed the peninsula of Crimea, which had been part of the Ottoman Empire, in 1783.



ABOVE: 1902 Austrian 5h postal stationery card from Lviv to Tarnopol, with a bilingual (German and Polish) 'Lemberg/Lwow' postmark and a trilingual (German, Polish and Ukrainian) inscription

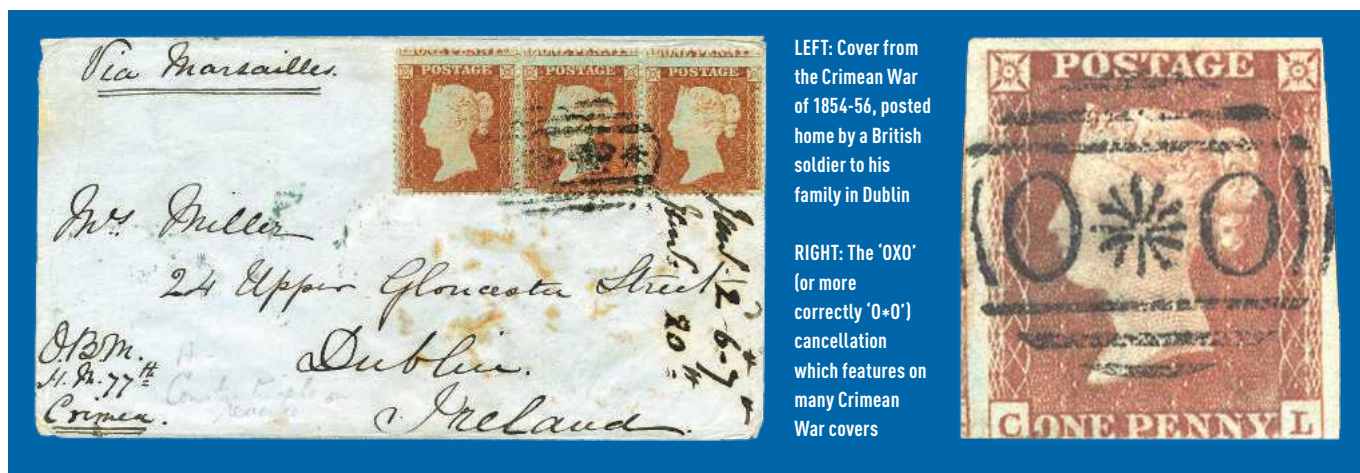
peninsula. These were usually franked with Penny Reds, in some cases cancelled with the distinctive 'OXO' (more accurately 'O*O') barred-oval field cancellation.

Another philatelic development, initiated by Tsar Alexander II in 1864, was allowing Russia's *zemstvos* (rural councils) to produce their own stamps. In the Ukraine region alone, they generated around 800 different issues by 1917.

War and revolution

When World War I started in July 1914, Ukraine was on the front line.

More than three million Ukrainians, fighting for Russia, found themselves up against



LEFT: Cover from the Crimean War of 1854-56, posted home by a British soldier to his family in Dublin

RIGHT: The 'OXO' (or more correctly 'O+O') cancellation which features on many Crimean War covers

250,000 of their own countrymen, enlisted by Austro-Hungary.

There were early Russian advances in Galicia (a region now divided between Ukraine and Poland). Lviv was captured in 1914, but regained by the Austrians in 1915. Many towns and villages were destroyed.

Yet the turn of events also offered an opportunity. After the Russian Revolution in February 1917, eastern Ukrainians sensed an opportunity for independence, and established a National Council in Kyiv to represent their interests.

Led by the historian Mykhaylo Hrushevsky, it declared autonomy within the Russian Republic in June 1917, with Volodymyr Vynnychenko as Prime Minister.

After the October revolution brought the Bolsheviks to power in St Petersburg, it took the even bolder step of rejecting communist rule and proclaiming independence as the Ukrainian National Republic in November.

The life of this Ukrainian state would be short and chaotic, but would spawn some interesting philately.

Skoropadsky regime

In February 1918 the Bolsheviks' Red Army seized Kyiv, and the state was forced to seek military aid from Germany. A German offensive drove the Red Army from Ukraine in April, but the price to be paid was the disbanding of the socialist council and the installation of a conservative German puppet regime under Pavlo Skoropadsky.

An aristocrat with Cossack heritage, who had served in the Russian army before the Revolution, Skoropadsky was

RIGHT: Zemstvo local stamps issued by two Ukrainian districts in the Russian Empire, Melitopol in 1878 (left) and Konstantinograd (now Krasnohrad) in 1913 (right)



EARLY AIRMAIL

Towards the end of World War I, in March 1918, the world's first regular airmail service was established within the sprawling Austro-Hungarian Empire, with the Ukrainian city of Lviv (then known as Lemberg) on its itinerary.

Most of the post carried on the Vienna-Krakov-Lemberg route was military or official, but civilian mail was permitted on some flights.

To pay for the service, three Austrian stamps were issued in new colours, two of them surcharged and all overprinted 'Flugpost'.

The service was soon extended to include Kyiv in the fledgling Ukrainian National Republic, but was terminated with the collapse of Austria-Hungary in October 1918.



ABOVE: Postal stationery card sent from Vienna to Lemberg (Lviv) on May 31, 1918, bearing the three overprinted 'Flugpost' (airmail) stamps



ABOVE & RIGHT: The 50s red from Ukraine's perforated currency issue of 1918, and postal use of the 20s brown and 40s green on cover in September 1918



ABOVE & RIGHT: The 30s blue from the imperforate postage issue, and postal use of the 10s brown on cover with various Russian stamps, most with trident overprints, in May 1919



proclaimed Hetman of Ukraine, reviving a historic title used by the Cossack state in the 17th century.

Currency stamps

It was under his regime that Ukraine produced its first stamps, known as the Shahiv issue after the currency in use at the time.

Indeed, they began life as currency, introduced as paper money tokens in April 1918 because there was a shortage of metal for minting coins. Denominations of 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s were printed on thick paper with stamp-like designs, and perforated. The 10s and 40s depicted a

trident, the 20s a peasant and the 30s Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, while the 50s had a decorative numeral design.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, some of these saw postal use as stamps, which no doubt encouraged the reissue of the same five designs in July as postage stamps.

Ironically, whilst the currency tokens had been perforated, the stamps were issued imperforate, although some were privately perforated.

Trident overprints

Besides the Shahiv issue, Russian stamps were still in widespread

use, but from October 1918 the Skoropadsky regime announced that these should be overprinted with a *tryzub*, the trident of Vladimir the Great, which had been adopted as an emblem of the new Ukrainian state.

Instructions as to how this was to be done were never clarified, and no uniform design, size or colour was specified, so the postal districts of Kyiv, Katerynoslav, Kharkiv, Odesa, Podillia and Poltava set about the task in their own ways. By so doing, they created hundreds of varieties, and established what is a specialist collecting area in its own right. ▷



ABOVE: Russia 1k, imperforate, with a Ukraine 1918 Kyiv type 3 trident overprint in black



ABOVE: Russia 2k, perforated, with a Ukraine 1918 Odessa type 4 trident overprint in black



RIGHT: Registered postcard of November 16, 1918, posted in Kyiv, with a selection of Russian stamps overprinted with different trident types



ABOVE: The only stamp released under the Directorate government set up after the end of World War I was the 20h red on greenish paper, issued as a provisional high-value in January 1919

Eastern republic

As the trident overprints were coming into use, the Great War was coming to an end, causing further upheavals across Europe.

German's defeat in November 1918 ensured that Skoropadsky's regime was brief, and he was removed from power.

The republic returned, ruled by a five-man Directorate initially led by Vynnychenko but increasingly dominated by Symon Petliura, an anti-Russian journalist who was now the supreme commander of the Ukrainian Army.

Petliura resumed the struggle to preserve Ukrainian independence against Bolshevik forces, but it was an unequal contest. Kiev fell to the Red Army once again in February 1919, later forcing Petliura's government into exile.

Before fleeing, it had time to release only one stamp, in the form of an imperforate 20h high value (1 hryvna, or grivna, was equivalent to 100 shahiv), lithographed in red on greenish paper, with an inscription proclaiming the Ukrainian State within foliate swirls.

This was intended to be the top value in a definitive set of five, but it was issued as a provisional measure only in certain areas in January 1919, and used largely for postal money transfers.

Western republic

In western Ukraine, too, a wave of nationalism tried to take advantage of the collapse of empires. Again, it was in vain.

In November 1918, as Austria-Hungary disintegrated, Ukrainians

in the regions of Eastern Galicia and Bukovina proclaimed their independence as the West Ukrainian People's Republic, with its capital in Lviv.

It overprinted regular Austrian stamps, and those of the military post, in Lviv, Kolomyia and Stanyslaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk), but it was soon overrun by Polish forces intent on re-establishing their own independent state.

Romanian troops also made incursions, occupying Kolomyia and other towns and leaving their mark by overprinting Austrian stamps 'CMT' (Comandamentul Militar Territorial).

Ultimately the allocation of Galicia to Poland and Bukovina to Romania by the post-war treaties in 1919 left western Ukrainians' dreams of statehood in tatters.

Vienna issue

The eastern Ukrainians' government in exile allied with Poland in the Polish-Soviet War in 1920, and an offensive briefly retook Kiev in May that year, only to be beaten back.

While some hope of preserving a Ukrainian state remained, the UNR commissioned a new set of pictorial definitive stamps which it hoped would reflect the character, confidence and ambition of an emerging nation.

Prominent artist Mykola Ivasyuk was commissioned to create 14 designs, ranging from 1h to 200h, to be lithographed by the Military Geography Institute in Austria, the top four values in two colours.

The designs included portraits of national heroes Khmelnytsky,



ABOVE: Austria-Hungary 40h military field post stamp overprinted for the Western Ukrainian Republic in 1919



ABOVE: Austria-Hungary 25h definitive overprinted for the Western Ukrainian Republic in 1919



ABOVE: Austria-Hungary 25h definitive overprinted for the Romanian army in Ukraine in 1919



ABOVE: 10h, 20h and 40h designs from the unissued Vienna set of 1920, respectively portraying the 17th-century Cossack leader Bodhan Khmelnytsky, the 19th-century nationalist poet Taras Shevchenko, and the President of the 20th-century Ukrainian National Republic Symon Petliura



LEFT: The 10k+10k and 150k+50k designs from the 1923 Famine Relief set issued by the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, with a stark image symbolising death and an allegorical figure of Ukraine distributing bread

RARE FIELD POST

In 1920, with forces representing the Ukrainian National Republic government-in-exile allied with Poland in the Polish-Soviet War, the Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs was authorised to issue field post stamps.

Remaining stocks of all five low values in the Shahiv issue of 1918 were overprinted 'Kuriersko Polova Posta' (Courier Field Post) in Cyrillic and surcharged with values between 10h and 40h.

In addition, 15 examples of the 1919 20h were surcharged 40h. Only two have survived, making them Ukraine's greatest rarities.



ABOVE: 1920 Ukrainian Army field post 10h overprints on a pair of the 1918 10s

Mazepa, Polubotok, Shevchenko and Petliura, as well as an image of a statue of Vladimir the Great.

Ukrainian culture was depicted in the form of a Cossack boat and a traditional musical instrument, along with the trident symbol and an allegorical figure wielding the national flag. There was also a view of the parliament building in Kiev, and rural scenes featuring a peasant's cottage, a windmill amid grain fields, and a salt trader with a yoke of oxen.

Sadly, the 'Vienna issue' never saw postal use. The collapse of the UNR saw the stamps diverted straight to the philatelic market, where they remain common.

Post-war settlement

It was the unfavourable settlement of the Polish-Soviet War that was the final nail in the coffin of the UNR. It left one third of Ukraine in Polish control and two-thirds in Soviet control, with Petliura's government-in-exile forced to flee to Paris, where it was little more than a protest group.

Petliura is still revered as a national hero for continuing the struggle for independence, but he was also blamed by many for permitting the pogroms in which 30,000 Ukrainian Jews were killed. His past eventually caught up with him, as he was assassinated by a Jewish anarchist in 1926.

Soviet republic

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was declared in December 1922, as a constituent part of the USSR. Its capital was initially Kharkiv, although it



ABOVE: Among the Soviet Union stamps with a Ukrainian theme was a 1939 set marking the 125th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, honoured as a poet despite his nationalist views. They show two portraits and his statue in Kharkiv

later reverted to Kyiv.

Ukraine would generate just one more set of stamps before assuming the issues of the Soviet Union. This was a set of four semi-postals, lithographed at the State Printing Works in Berlin and issued in June 1923 for the Famine Relief Fund.

Since the autumn of 1921, more than a million Ukrainians (and many Russians too) had died from starvation or poverty-related epidemics, following two bad harvests whose effects were compounded by onerous requisitions of grain by Moscow and by government incompetence.

Two of the stamps featured stark designs symbolising death and famine, the others a benevolent Schevchenko and an allegory of Ukraine distributing bread. All can be found watermarked or unwatermarked, perforated or imperforate.

Even worse was to come. In 1932 the Holodomor (Terror Famine)

created by the collectivisation policy of Joseph Stalin was little short of genocide, causing the death by starvation of nearly four million Ukrainians.

Although no further postage stamps were issued for Ukraine under Soviet rule, there were USSR issues with Ukrainian themes, and a steady flow of cinderellas such as local stamps, scout post stamps and propaganda labels.

Nazi occupation

As part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine benefited in the Nazi-Soviet pact which partitioned Poland at the outbreak of World War II in September 1939. The annexation of Eastern Galicia and Volhynia meant that all territories with a significant Ukrainian population were under Ukrainian rule for the first time.

Two years later, however, war returned to Ukraine itself as a result of Operation Barbarossa, Germany's attack on the USSR.

Rapid advances were made by German forces, with 500,000 Red Army soldiers captured in the siege of Kyiv, and by November 1941 most of Ukraine was under Nazi occupation.

During the occupation, 20 denominations of Germany stamps portraying Adolf Hitler were overprinted 'Ukraine' and later 'Ostland' (Eastland).

Some Ukrainians who felt no allegiance to the Soviet Union hoped that the war might be a step towards independence, but the Nazis had drawn up plans for colonising the region with Germans. In any case Soviet control was restored in 1943-44.

More than five million Ukrainians died in the fighting, and more than a million Ukrainian Jews in the Holocaust.

Territorial expansion

Ukraine emerged from the war still as part of the Soviet Union, although it had a separate seat at the United Nations as one of the 51 founding members.

It retained the territory taken from Poland in 1939, and Romanian territory annexed in 1940 and was also awarded Transcarpathia, previously part of Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

In 1954 it experienced further territorial expansion, when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev unexpectedly transferred the Crimea into its territory. Crimea's population had a Russian majority, and this administrative decision would later be regretted by Russian nationalists.

Ukraine grabbed the attention of

CARPATHO-UKRAINE

An ethnically diverse region in the Carpathian mountains, previously part of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, issued stamps as Carpatho-Ukraine at the start and end of World War II.

Czechoslovakian stamps were overprinted in 1939, as Carpatho-Ukraine made a bid for independence, rapidly crushed by Hungary.

Hungarian stamps were overprinted in 1945, and were followed by four purpose-designed issues, known as the Uzhhorod definitives and amounting to 11 stamps, before the region was absorbed by the Soviet Union as part of Ukraine.



ABOVE: The wartime occupation of 1941-43 brought Germany stamps overprinted 'Ukraine'. This is the recess-printed 50pf green



ABOVE: Carpatho-Ukraine 1945 100f



ABOVE: When Ukraine resumed issuing stamps as an independent state in 1992, the first was a belated commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Ukraine Cossacks

ABOVE: Later in 1992 came a stamp celebrating the first anniversary of independence, featuring the national flag and trident symbol

the world in April 1986, when an explosion at the nuclear power station at Chernobyl, north of Kyiv, sent a radioactive plume across Europe, in what is considered the world's worst nuclear disaster.

An exclusion zone of 30km (19 miles) radius from the plant was declared, and 50,000 people were evacuated. Some estimates suggest that radiation poisoning later killed 15,000 people across Europe.

End of the union

In retrospect, Chernobyl seems symbolic of the collapse of the Soviet Union, which began with eastern European countries overthrowing their communist regimes in 1989, encouraging nationalist movements elsewhere.

The Supreme Soviet of Ukraine declared independence on August 24, 1991, and in a referendum in December more than 90% of the electorate backed that decision.

The new country surrendered its nuclear arsenal, which was about one-third of the entire Soviet stock, on the understanding that its territorial integrity was guaranteed by Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Full independence

The first stamp of the new independent republic, issued in March 1992, was a homage to 500 years of Ukrainian Cossacks.

Three further commemoratives followed, before a first definitive issue of eight stamps, denominated in kopeks and roubles, which depicted Ceres, in a reworking of

the 30s design of 1918.

On the first anniversary of independence came a stamp proudly displaying the national flag and trident symbol. Subsequent issues celebrated Ukrainian heritage and culture, for example honouring the Hetmans of the historic Cossack state.

Simmering problems

Ukraine trod a delicate balance between maintaining good relations with Russia and making overtures to the west. In 2002 a formal bid to join NATO, the transatlantic military alliance,

'Under Soviet rule, no postage stamps were issued for Ukraine from 1923 to 1991, although there were USSR issues with Ukrainian themes'

ruffled feathers in Moscow.

In the presidential election of 2004 there were allegations of vote-rigging, corruption and even poisoning. The Orange Revolution, named after its orange-clad pro-western protesters, succeeded in getting the result overturned.

Ten years later, another power struggle resulted in the Revolution of Dignity, when a coup ousted a pro-Russian government in favour of one which wanted closer relations with the European Union.

The coup prompted the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, and encouraged two regions of Ukraine with significant ethnically Russia populations to declare independence as the people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Ukraine sees the breakaway enclaves as terrorist organisations, while Russia sees them as oppressed minorities worthy of military support. The unresolved problem became a trigger for the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February this year. ■



ABOVE: Ukraine miniature sheet of 2018 featuring the statesmen of the 1917-19 period, including Mykhaylo Hrushevsky and the seal of the Central Council (top left), Volodymyr Vynnychenko and the seal of the People's Republic (top right), Pavlo Skoropadsky and the seal of the State Secretariat (bottom left), and Symon Petliura and the seal of the Directorate (bottom right)



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Q: What made me collect stamps that way? – A: Catalogue Values!

Yes, catalogue values... That's not to say that there's anything wrong with catalogue values per se. However, there is a simple answer, true even decades later, and even today. It was/ is the philatelic industry norm. **This is how 'philatelic' things are done ... aren't they?**

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Hindsight is a wonderful thing isn't it?, but...

with the benefit of hindsight, I suppose the problem was that I hadn't set my collecting boundaries to my budget, but it's so easy to say that now. Even so, why does everything you collect have to be related to catalogue value?

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Admirable Nelson?

Barbados erected a monument to Horatio Nelson long before London did, and it was the central motif for a popular stamp issue in 1906

■ Report by John Winchester

The death of Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar on October 21, 1805, prompted an outpouring of grief throughout Britain and its Empire. Monuments began to appear within a year.

The crown colony of Barbados had its own reasons to venerate Nelson, who was credited with having kept the French at bay in his Caribbean skirmishes. In 1813, it erected a statue in Trafalgar Square in Bridgetown, some 27 years before London did likewise.

In 1905, to mark the centenary of the great man's death, Barbados decided to issue a set of stamps which would showcase its Nelson Monument to the world.

A number of artists were asked to submit designs, and the selected image was by Gertrude Goodman, who was the wife of the colony's Solicitor General and the daughter of the English landscape painter Edward Cobbett.

Her watercolour, depicting the monument not in bustling Bridgetown but in a more serene coastal environment, flanked by sugarcane and palm trees, was submitted to De La Rue for engraving and printing.

Balancing the short word 'Nelson' in the left margin with the

ABOVE: Barbados 1906 Nelson Centenary ½d black and green, depicting the Nelson Monument in Bridgetown



longer 'Trafalgar' in the right margin presented a difficulty. De La Rue's solution was to exaggerate the former using swash characters, which attracted some criticism.

Even less conventional was the corner ornamentation. While stars filled the upper corners, the lower ones featured logotypes of the artist's initials, 'GWG'.

Seven values ranging from ¼d to 1s were recess-printed in a two-stage operation, with a coloured frame and a black central vignette.

Sheets of 60 were printed on paper with a Crown CC watermark, perforated 14. Inverted and reversed watermarks exist, although not for all values.

Two types of paper were used: one thick and creamy, the other

thin and bluish. Collectors tend to want duplicate sets.

The stamps were put on sale on March 1, 1906, rather later than intended and missing the anniversary by almost five months.

In July the ¼d, 2d and 2½d values were reprinted on paper with the Multiple Crown CA watermark. This printing created the most sought-after variety, as the 2½d can be found with an indigo rather than bright blue frame.

The emergence of Barbados as the world's newest republic in 2021 was preceded by the removal of Nelson's statue in 2020.

No longer judged to be appropriate for the renamed National Heroes Square, it was moved to the Barbados Museum. ■

'Two types of paper were used, so collectors tend to want duplicate sets'

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The first printing is reasonably affordable, catalogued at £75 for the set, mint or used. Watermark varieties add a premium.

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British stamps that never were

A new book explores highlights of The Postal Museum's philatelic collections. This excerpt is from the chapter covering stamps which were planned but never issued

■ Book extract by Douglas Muir, Senior Curator of Philately at The Postal Museum

It could be said that all unadopted stamp designs are 'stamps that never were', but here the phrase refers to issues which were designed, essayed and in some cases printed, but which were never issued, for one reason or another.

Those reasons varied, from the event not taking place to a realisation that it was not a good idea after all.

A few of the more interesting examples are well known, even famous; others are still obscure.

2d 'Tyrian plum'

One of the most famous 'stamps that never were' came towards the end of the reign of King Edward VII, when there was a move to produce stamps in single colours.

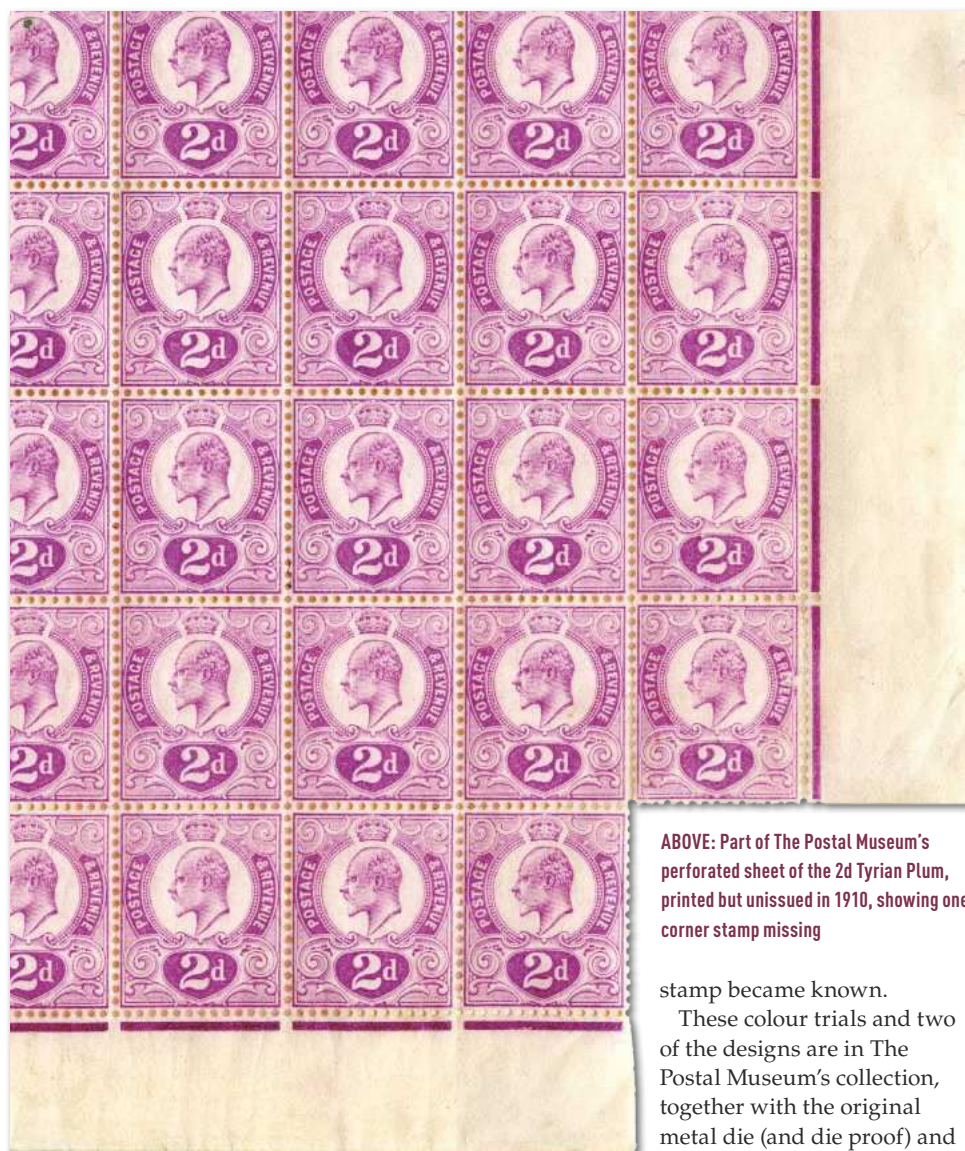
Doubly fugitive ink was no longer considered necessary for most values, and bi-coloured designs cost more. To produce a die and plate for a single-coloured stamp cost £135; for a bi-coloured stamp £185. As a result, it was proposed to change the colours of the 1½d, 2d and 4d stamps, but not their design. A new denomination of 7d was also required.

All were to be in single colours in singly-fugitive ink. In all, a saving was later estimated at £3,825 a year.

The 4d and 7d values were issued in orange and grey respectively; the 1½d was deferred for a choice of colour, and never appeared.

As far as the 2d denomination is concerned, De La Rue suggested that a new version be adopted as 'the design of the existing 2d stamp is hardly suitable for reproduction in one colour only'. It is not entirely clear why.

Three designs were submitted by



ABOVE: Part of The Postal Museum's perforated sheet of the 2d Tyrian Plum, printed but unissued in 1910, showing one corner stamp missing

them on August 19, 1909, of which the Postmaster General, Sydney Buxton, chose No3. A series of 17 colour trials were then produced of the new 2d.

That preferred by De La Rue, 'Tyrian plum', was approved and so this is the name by which the

stamp became known.

These colour trials and two of the designs are in The Postal Museum's collection, together with the original metal die (and die proof) and its own metal box.

Five plates were prepared and some 197,035 sheets of 240 stamps (that is, 47,288,400 stamps in all) were then printed by De La Rue and delivered in the last week in April, 1910, at the same time as the new 7d. The latter was announced as being ready for issue

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ABOVE: Die proof of an unaccepted design for the 2d stamp, dated August 19, 1909



ABOVE: Die proof of the accepted design for the 2d, dated November 29, 1909

THE FORGOTTEN 2½d

Much less well known than the story of the 2d Tyrian plum is that another stamp from the beginning of the reign of King Edward VII, also printed but not issued: the 2½d value printed in doubly fugitive purple ink on blue paper.

Eventually it was decided that doubly fugitive ink was not required, and so the issued stamp was printed in singly fugitive blue ink on white paper in 1902. But printing of the stamp on blue paper had already commenced when the decision was taken.

The Controller of Stamps, Ernest Cleave, wanted to know what to do with the print-run. 'The quantity which we have in hand is 17,611 sheets = 4,226,640 stamps. Their cost, including paper, was about £110. The usual registration sheet was taken and the Board's imprimatur written upon it.

'If they are issued you will have collectors all over the world keen upon getting them but probably you would prefer to have them destroyed. 'The stocks of unprinted red and blue paper have already been repulped.'

The stamps were duly destroyed, and only the registration sheet remains in The Postal Museum's collection.



ABOVE: Part of the registration sheet of the unissued King Edward VII 2½d purple on blue paper, printed in 1902

'In official records are the imperforate registration sheet of the 2d Tyrian plum, and one perforated sheet'

to the public in a Post Office circular of May 3.

However, the Assistant Controller of Stamps, H Birtles, had written 'as there still remains a sufficient stock of the old [2d] bi-colour stamps to provide for the demands of the next four or five weeks, it is not proposed to commence the issue of the new stamps until after the expiration of that time'.

On May 18, De La Rue received a letter from the Inland Revenue: 'I have to inform you that the Postmaster General has decided that, in view of the decease of His late Majesty, King Edward VII [on May 6], the proposed new 1½d and 2d single colour postage stamps, bearing the portrait of King Edward, shall not be issued, and that the introduction of the new stamps is to be deferred until the new series of stamps, bearing the portrait of King George, can be got ready.

'The 2d stamps, which have already been printed, will therefore be destroyed, and no further steps should be taken in the



preparation of the die and plate of the new 1½d stamps.'

The cost of this destruction has been estimated at £650. Nevertheless, some few survived, and later 'escaped', and are now highly sought after. In official records are the imperforate registration sheet and one perforated sheet, with one stamp removed from the bottom right-hand corner.

Only one example was ever used (but not from that bottom right-hand corner). It was addressed to the Prince of Wales but arrived the day he became King George V.

Cancelled on May 5, with an East Strand London WC branch office postmark (the office nearest to Somerset House), the address is clearly in the handwriting of Frederick Atterbury, Secretary & Controller of Stamps at the Inland Revenue.

That cover is in the Royal Philatelic Collection.

The King's first grandchild

The criteria for special stamp issues in the 1940s included important royal and national occasions as well as postal anniversaries. However, the Post Office failed to issue stamps for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in November 1947, and this caused an outcry.

With this in mind, thoughts turned to the King and Queen's Silver Wedding anniversary in 1948 and the birth of their first grandchild, as and when.

The Royal Silver Wedding stamps came to fruition; those for the birth of their grandchild did not.

Already agreed for issue in 1948 were stamps marking the third anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands and the Olympic Games in London. The Royal Silver Wedding issue was added to these, partly because the Treasury wanted to earn valuable dollars from sale of the stamps (and the various overprints).

The Treasury also wanted the dollars which would accrue from stamps for the birth of an 'Heir to the Throne', as the issue was then described.

The Director of Postal Services, J E Yates, was strongly against this. He pointed out that: 'If the sovereign's or heir-presumptive's

wedding and silver wedding are to be commemorated in addition to his coronation, silver, golden and diamond jubilees, certainly also his birth should not be neglected (provided we have due notice), and possibly also the wedding of all his children and his heir's children.

'There is, therefore, much to be said for confining the issue of special stamps to the historic events or anniversaries of his reign...'

He followed this up a few days later with a putative list of future 'Notable Dates connected with Royal Family', as far ahead as 1986. To make his point, this included such extreme instances as the 50th birthday of the Duke of Gloucester (1950) and the 90th birthday of Queen Mary (1957), apart from

ABOVE: Original master die for the unissued 2d Tyrian plum



ABOVE: A selection of colour trials for the 2d stamp, and the approved Tyrian plum colour signed off, from a sheet dated January 12, 1910



LEFT: Proposed design by Percy Metcalfe for a 2½d commemorative celebrating King George VI's first grandchild, prepared in June 1948, with annotated comments

various anniversaries of the coronation or accession to the throne.

Provocatively, it also deliberately listed the 60th birthday of the Duke of Windsor (1954), and even the 25th anniversary of his wedding to Wallis Simpson (1963). At the end were three other events 'dates unknown': the birth of Princess Elizabeth's first child, Princess Margaret's wedding and Queen

Mary's death.

Yates was overruled, and the proposal was put to the King. On March 17 he welcomed the idea in principle, but thought it too early to consider specific designs. Nevertheless, suitable photographs of the Princess were obtained from Dorothy Wilding, and on March 30 the press reported that Princess Elizabeth was pregnant.

Two artists were approached,

Percy Metcalfe and Reynolds Stone, both being sworn to secrecy. There were to be two stamps, at 2½d and 1s, and four designs were submitted.

That by Metcalfe, featuring the Princess, the Duke of Edinburgh and an image of a baby, was recommended for the 2½d value. Those by Stone attracted a series of comments.

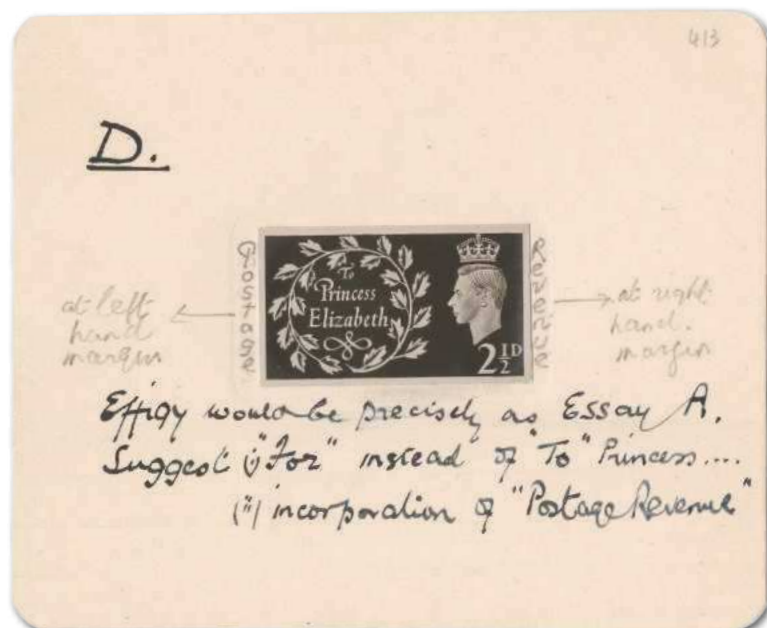
Bromides of all the designs were submitted to the King on June 17, but then nothing happened for almost a month.

On July 9, Yates was summoned to the Palace, where Sir Alan Lascelles, the King's Private Secretary, told him that 'for personal and private reasons' the King would be obliged if the idea would be dropped.

The Postmaster General had to agree, and Lascelles wrote back immediately to inform him that 'The King is glad to hear that you have agreed that, for the reasons which I explained to Mr Yates the other day, the project of having a special issue of postage stamps on the occasion of the birth of a grandchild to Their Majesties, should be abandoned.'

No reasons are recorded in the files, but it seems likely that the King was conscious of the implications for future issues and did not want to extend the reasons for stamp issues too far, and certainly not for the Duke of Windsor. ■

'The Director of Postal Services was told that the King would be obliged if the idea of stamps celebrating the birth of his first grandchild were dropped'



ABOVE: Proposed design by Reynolds Stone for a 2½d commemorative celebrating the King's first grandchild, prepared in June 1948, with annotated comments

FIND OUT MORE

This feature is an extract from *Just Large Enough*, a lavishly illustrated 300-page book exploring the many highlights of the philatelic collections held by The Postal Museum, by Senior Curator Douglas Muir.

It covers the history of the collections, the design and printing of stamps and postal stationery, and innovations in postal services from the Penny Black to Post & Go, including new research and images published for the first time.

The book can be purchased in the Museum's gift shop, priced £25, or ordered online for £25 plus postage. Visit www.postalmuseum.org



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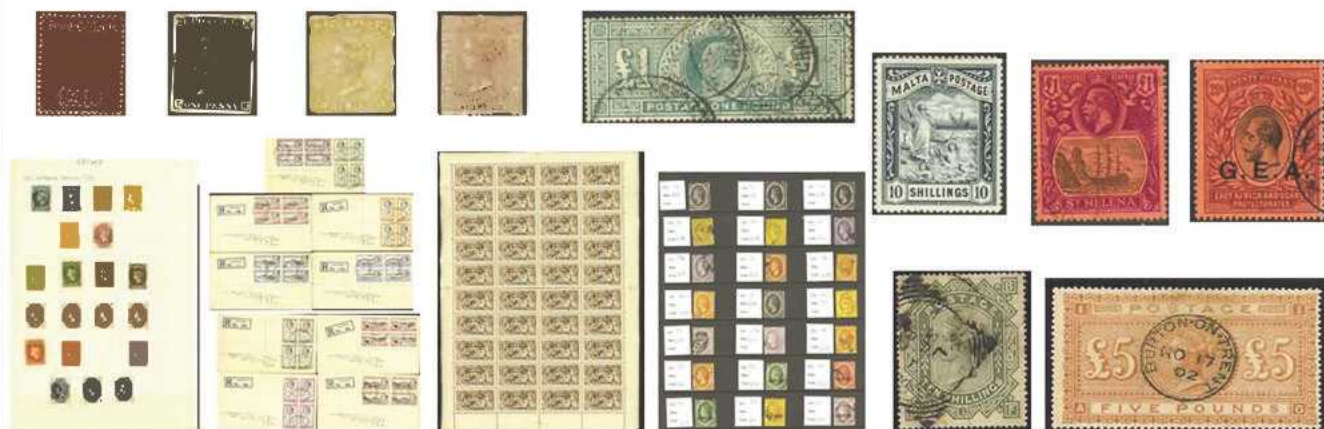


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In-tents pressure

In 1957, what would it take to end Britain's four-year lull in issuing commemorative stamps? The answer was a host of youngsters camping in a field near Birmingham!

■ Report by Peter Marren

Four whole years passing without a commemorative issue is impossible to imagine today. Between June 1953 and August 1957, however, that was the way it was in Great Britain.

The Post Office was sticking to a policy of 'strictly limiting' commemorative issues. When asked why, it invariably took the line that commemoration was a Trojan horse: let one event in, and all the others would be clamouring for a stamp too. It was simpler to refuse all requests.

The World Scout Jubilee Jamboree, marking the 50th anniversary of the boy scout movement, would have been ignored too, were it not for strong lobbying by the Boy Scouts Association, backed by influential politicians, and also by stamp collectors.

Scouts would be arriving from all over the world to participate in the event, at Sutton Park in Birmingham in August 1957. After some pressure, the Postmaster General agreed to bend the rules slightly to allow an occasional issue to mark 'a current event of outstanding national importance'.

It probably helped that many boy scouts were keen stamp collectors, so brisk sales of the stamps and a healthy profit could reasonably be expected.



ABOVE: 1957 Jubilee Jamboree 2½d red, for the basic letter rate, designed by Mary Adshead

Six artists were invited to submit designs, along with the printers Harrisons, De La Rue, Waterlow and Bradbury Wilkinson.

Their brief was to find some way of representing the event symbolically, while incorporating the inscription 'Jubilee Jamboree' and the obligatory Wilding portrait of the Queen.

Only royal personages could appear on stamps, so they were not permitted to portray actual scouts, nor an image of the movement's founder Robert Baden-Powell, as some had suggested.

A total of 26 designs were

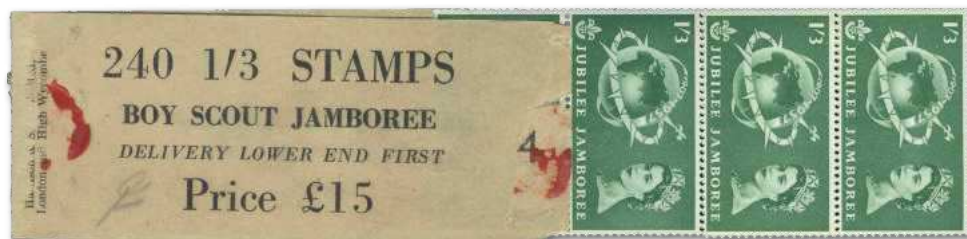
submitted for inspection by an *ad hoc* committee (only later to be formalised as the Stamp Advisory Committee) headed by Sir Kenneth Clark, the Chairman of the Arts Council.

As usual they cherry-picked the three best individual designs, all by different artists, with nothing in common apart from their theme. In fact, it would be hard to find another set with less to unite it.

The 2½d letter-rate stamp by Mary Adshead was, by common consent, the best of the three, framing the Queen's head and the scouting



ABOVE: The Jubilee Jamboree 4d blue for the overseas letter rate, designed by Pat Keely, and 1s 3d green for the airmail rate, designed by William Brown



'Unusually, these stamps were available not only in sheets but also, from certain post offices in London and Birmingham, in rolls'

emblem within the coils of a rope, itself attached to a stylised frame by a 'rolling hitch'.

It was a clever and well-balanced design that clearly alluded to boy scouts' famous expertise with knots (Adshead had previously used ropework in the 2s 6d and 5s designs for the 1951 high values set, in that case alluding to Britain's maritime prowess).

Poster artist Pat Keely's 4d design for the overseas rate placed the Queen's head, enclosed in a locket, at the centre of the stamp, with the scouts represented by migratory swallows converging from all parts of the world.

As well as standing in for Britain, the Queen also symbolised the mother country of the scouting movement. The sky-blue background for the swallows was a lucky accident, as the stamps were printed in colours matching those of the definitive stamps of the day.

For the 1s 3d airmail rate, William Brown of Harrisons depicted the globe encircled by a compass rose, alluding to navigation, another skill learned by scouts. Inspired by an emblem on show at the Jamboree itself, this

had the dates '1907-1957' set onto a ribbon angled at 90°.

To the right, the Queen's head on a plain background appears as an impassive but benign observer.

A greater cohesion might have been achieved by using an agreed version of the Scout badge for all three stamps, and the same font for inscriptions and figures of value. But it would seem that the artists themselves were given no idea of the other designers' work before the selection was made.

The stamps were printed in photogravure by Harrisons, on paper with the St Edward's Crown watermark, and issued on August 1, 1957, the opening day of the Jamboree.

Unusually, they were available not only in sheets but also, from certain post offices in London and Birmingham, in rolls or coils. It was mainly these stamps that were used on first day covers, as part of an trial to see whether they could be affixed using automated equipment.

A special slogan postmark, applied at the Jamboree Camp Post Office in Sutton Coldfield, was

ABOVE: Coil leader for the 1s 3d top value, which was dispensed from rolls at post offices in London and Birmingham

LEFT: Official first day cover for the set of three, with the Jubilee Jamboree special slogan postmark of Sutton Coldfield, dated August 1, 1957

BELOW: The 4d design with a 25np surcharge for use by the British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia



used for souvenir covers.

Exceptionally, collectors could choose from up to a dozen different cover designs produced by the philatelic trade.

The stamps were surcharged by Harrisons for use by the British postal agencies in Eastern Arabia, and overprinted for use specifically in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

Not all of these were put on sale, however, as Kuwait decided to boycott the Jubilee Jamboree following the Suez crisis of 1956, in which a British military operation had briefly occupied the Suez Canal and provoked international condemnation.

Shortly afterwards, Britain agreed that these agencies would in future use local issues rather than British stamps, so no further commemoratives would be overprinted in this way.

As only the second commemorative set of the reign, the Jubilee Jamboree issue was guaranteed to be a philatelic event. Covers were also a key souvenir of the event itself, and the 2 1/2d stamp was bought and posted in large numbers.

The take-up of the 4d and 1s 3d stamps, which were on general sale for only a little over a month, was more disappointing. Sales of the latter were less than half those of the same value in the 1953 Coronation set, so there was little here to encourage the Post Office to produce special stamps more often.

Nevertheless, the Jubilee Jamboree trio were a welcome reminder that Britain did still issue commemorative stamps once in a while, and collectors of a certain age will remember them with a tinge of nostalgia.

In theme, style and tone, they are a testament to the enormous gulf between then and now. ■



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Commemorative and Christmas Stamps 50p to 97p	58%	Sorted by value.	Second Class NVI Stamps (ALL GUMS) DEFINITIVE (Machin QUEEN'S HEAD) STAMPS ONLY	60%	Sorted by value. Current face value 66p
Commemorative and Christmas Stamps £1 to £10	60%	Sorted by value.	1st Class & 2nd Class LARGE NVI Stamps	65%	Face value 1st Large (£1.29) Face value 2nd Large (96p)
£50 and £100 bags of mixed values of Commemorative and Christmas Stamps	50%	MUST BE A GOOD RANGE OF VALUES	1st Class Signed For Stamps (Standard & large)	58%	Standard FV (£2.25) and Large FV (£2.69)
Definitive and Regional Stamps 1p to 49p (from 1971 to date)	50%	Sorted by value and segregated No Commemoratives or Christmas Stamps	Special Delivery Stamps	55%	Up to 100g FV (£6.85) Up to 500g FV (£7.65)
Definitive, Regional and High Value Stamps 50p to £10 (from 1971 to date)	55%	Sorted by value and segregated No Commemoratives or Christmas Stamps	All Post & Go, Europe, Worldwide NVI Stamps	50%	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams and W/W up to 10g (£1.70)
First Class NVI Stamps (ALL GUMS) COMMEMORATIVE & CHRISTMAS STAMPS	58%	Commemorative & Christmas stamps.	All Year Books, Presentation Packs and all Booklets	50%	from 1971 to 2022

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As you like it?

This 1863 cover has 12 stamps, at least 22 cancellations and a transatlantic route. Moreover, closer inspection reveals there is something Shakespearean about it

■ Report by Norman Watson

It is a postal historian's dream to find mail of great age, awash with adhesives, handstamps, routes and rates.

A long journey across the Atlantic Ocean is a bonus, as are a traceable sender and receiver, so this cover is something special.

When the envelope was sent from London to a publisher on Broadway in New York, on November 6, 1863, the transatlantic postage rate was one shilling.

Most post office clerks would have reached for the surface-printed 1s green, or perhaps a pair of the 6d lilac, to pay the required postage. Both values had been reissued in December 1862 for just such a purpose.

But some businesses and families had their own supplies of stamps, and, just as today, there was a temptation to use up older issues before new ones. So the sender reached for a 1d postal stationery envelope, and uprated it with 11 line-engraved Penny Reds.

A wing-margined 'penny star' (with 'stars' in the upper corners and letters in the lower corners) was affixed alongside the imprinted stamp. A further ten were placed on the reverse.

This encouraged a postal official to go to town with a London SW16 barred duplex cancellation. In truth he went to town and back, because there appear to be at least 20 strikes: two per stamp!

After arrival in the United States, the cover also acquired a New York '5c Paid' receipt handstamp in red.

It is not entirely unusual to see Penny Reds on the back of envelopes. In the early days of registered mail, prior to the introduction of higher values, there was sometimes little space left on address panels for the number of stamps required to pay the fee.

It is unusual, however, to see the

RIGHT: 1d postal stationery envelope sent from London to New York on November 6, 1863, uprated with 11 Penny Red adhesives, 10 of them affixed on the reverse



'It's unusual to see Penny Reds affixed to the back of envelopes, except from the early days of registered mail, prior to the introduction of higher values'

practice adopted for a non-registered mailing.

The sender was apparently aware that sorters were in the habit of cancelling mail by rapidly handstamping each item as they leafed their way through a bundle of mail, and guided the clerk with the inked endorsement 'Paid. Ten stamps other side. Two this.'

Although the letter has not survived, we can guess its theme.

The sender was James Halliwell, an English Shakespearean scholar, antiquarian and collector of

nursery rhymes and fairy tales. He published his *Life Of Shakespeare* in 1848, and in the year of this letter a *Calendar Of Ancient Manuscripts & Records* for Stratford-upon-Avon.

The addressee was James Hackett, an American actor who had a reputation for playing Shakespearean characters, particularly Falstaff. In 1863, he published *Notes & Comments On Shakespeare*.

The letter may perhaps have referred to either man's new book, so this is probably a case of much ado about something. ■

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MAY 6-10

TAIWAN

Taipei 2022 International Stamp Exhibition

Venue: Hall 1, Taipei World Trade Center, Hsin-Yi Road, Xinyi, Taipei City, Taiwan.

Contact: Richard Tan, FIAP Co-ordinator
www.asiaphilately.com

MAY 18-22

SWITZERLAND

Helvetia 2022 World Stamp Exhibition

Venue: Padiglione Conza Convention Centre, Piazza Indipendenza 4, CH-6900 Lugano, Switzerland.

Contact: Chris King, UK Commissioner
Tel: 020 8346 1366
chris.king@postalhistory.net
info@helvetia2022.ch
www.helvetia2022.ch

MAY 27-29

AUSTRALIA

Newcastle 2021 Stamp & Coin Expo

Venue: Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.
Contact: John Moore, Commissioner
moore.john@optusnet.com.au
www.newcastlephilatelicociety.org.au

MAY 27-29

ITALY

Veronafil

Venue: Verona Exhibition Centre,

Viale del Lavoro 8, 37135 Verona, Italy

Contact: Associazione Filatelica Numismatica Scaligera, Corso Cavour 2, 37121 Verona, Italy
Tel: +39 458 007 714
veronafil@veronafil.it
www.veronafil.it

JUNE 9-12

CANADA

Capex 2022

Venue: Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Contact: Simon Moorcroft, UK Commissioner
simon.moorcroft6@btinternet.com
www.capex22.org

JUNE 10-12

BELGIUM

Antverpia 2022

Venue: Hall 1, Antwerp Expo, Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 191, 2020 Antwerpen, Belgium.
Contact: Antverpia 2022 exhibition@antverpiade2020.be
www.antverpiade2020.be

AUGUST 4-9

INDONESIA

Indonesia 2022

Venue: Indonesian Parliament Complex, Jalan Jenderal Gatot Subroto No1, Jakarta 10270, Indonesia.
Contact: John Jackson, UK Commissioner
john.w.jackson@care4free.net
www.indonesia2020.com

SEPTEMBER 8-11

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne 2022

Venue: Caulfield Racecourse, Station Street, Caulfield East, Melbourne, Victoria 3145, Australia.

Contact: John Moore, President
moore.john@optusnet.com.au
www.melbourne2022.com.au

SEPTEMBER 28-

OCTOBER 1

UK

Autumn Stampex

Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.
Contact: Philatelic Traders Society, PO Box 290, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 9AX
Tel: 01342 830225
Fax: 01342 837888
info@thepts.net
www.thepts.net

OCTOBER 13-16

CZECH REPUBLIC

Liberec 2022

Venue: Wellness Hotel Babylon, Nitranská 1, 460 07 Liberec, Czech Republic.
Contact: Steve Harrison, UK Commissioner
Tel: 0121 313 0671
sharrison500@btinternet.com
www.liberec2022.eu

OCTOBER 14-16

IRELAND

Stampa 2022

Venue: Griffith College Conference

Centre, South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

Contact: Stampa 2022
www.stampa.ie

OCTOBER 21-23

DENMARK

Nordia 2022

Venue: Birkerød Idrættscenter, Bistrupsvej 1, Birkerød 3460, Denmark.
Contact: Danish Philatelic Association
www.danfil.dk

NOVEMBER 8-13

SOUTH AFRICA

IPEX 2021 International Exhibition

Venue: International Convention Centre, Convention Square, 1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town 8001, South Africa.
Contact: Jon Aitchison, UK Commissioner
Tel: 01279 870488
britishlocals@aol.com
www.capetown2022.org

NOVEMBER 18-20

USA

Chicagopex 2022

Venue: Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Boulevard, Itasca, Illinois 60143, USA.
Contact: Kathy Johnson
kjj5217@gmail.com
chicagopex.org

NOVEMBER 24-26

MONACO

MonacoPhil 2022

Venue: Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, Terrasses de Fontvieille, 98000 Monaco.

Contact: Patrick Maselis, General Commissioner
Tel: +32 474 84 84 39
patrick@maselis.be
www.monacophil.eu

DECEMBER 2-4

USA

Flores

Venue: Hall B, Events Center, Osceola Heritage Park, 1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee, Florida 34744, USA.
Contact: Flores Stamp Show
show@floresstampshow.com
www.floresstampshow.com

MAY 19-21

AUSTRALIA

Hobart Stamp Show

Venue: Hobart Town Hall, Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000, Australia.
Contact: Peter Allan, Exhibition Secretary
hesperus@netspace.net.au
www.hobartstampshow2023.com

MAY 25-28

GERMANY

IBRA 2023

Venue: Halls 1 & 2, Messe Essen, Alfredstrasse, 45131 Essen, Germany.
Contact: IBRA 2023
www.ibra2023.de



ABOVE: Visit Lugano, on beautiful Lake Lugano near Switzerland's border with Italy, for the Helvetia 2022 World Stamp Exhibition in May

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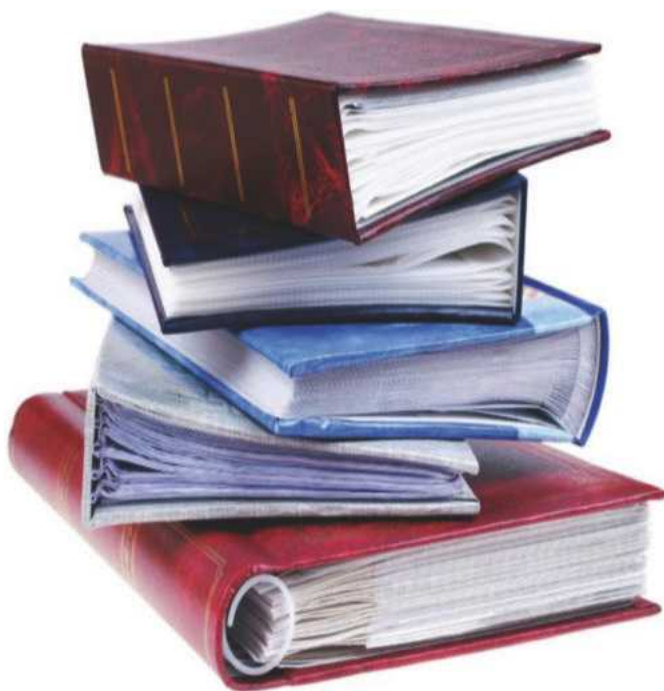
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WHAT'S ON: AUCTIONS

UK & WORLDWIDE AUCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 9-12

SPARKS

Burnside House collection of
Falkland Islands
Waterford collection of
New Zealand

Venue: Suite 101, 1770 Woodward
Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 0P8,
Canada.

Contact: Sparks Auctions
Tel: +1 613 567 3336
www.sparks-auctions.com

MAY 10-12

DUTCH COUNTRY AUCTIONS

Venue: Auction Gallery,
4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington,
Delaware 19803, USA.

Contact: Russell Eggert
Tel: +1 302 478 8740
auctions@dutchcountryauctions.com
www.dutchcountryauctions.com

MAY 10-13

KELLEHER

US & Worldwide Stamps and
Postal History

Venue: Unit 53, 22 Shelter Rock Lane,
Danbury, Connecticut 06810, USA.
Contact: Daniel F Kelleher Auctions
Tel: +1 203 297 6056
info@kelleherauctions.com
www.kelleherauctions.com

MAY 11

AJH STAMPS

Venue: The Dunkenhagh Hotel &
Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire
BB5 5JP.

Contact: AJH Stamps
Tel: 01254 393740
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

MAY 12

SPINK

Important Stamps and Covers of
the World

Venue: Royal Philatelic Society London,
15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.

Contact: Spink UK
Tel: 020 7563 4005
auctionteam@spink.com
www.spink.com

MAY 17-18

TONY LESTER

Venue: online only.

Contact: Tony Lester, Unit 2, The
Sidings, Birdingbury Road, Marton,
Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9RX
Tel: 01926 634809
tonylester@btconnect.com
www.tonylester.co.uk

MAY 18

CAVENDISH

Philatelic Literature & Collections

Venue: Cavendish House, 153-157
London Road, Derby DE1 2SY.

Contact: Cavendish
Tel: 01332 250970
stamps@cavendish-auctions.com
www.cavendish-auctions.com

MAY 18

VANCE

Venue: online only.

Contact: Vance Auctions
Tel: +1 905 957 3364
mail@vanceauctions.com
www.vanceauctions.com

MAY 22

SWPA

Venue: Harewood House, Ridgeway,
Plymouth, Devon PL7 2AS.

Contact: South West Philatelic
Auctions.
Tel: 01752 698089
richardswpa@outlook.com
www.swpa-stamp-auctions.com

MAY 25

TOOVEY'S

Venue: Spring Gardens, Washington,
West Sussex RH20 3BS.

Contact: Toovey's
Tel: 01903 891955
auctions@tooveys.com
www.tooveys.com

MAY 28

SPINK

Philatelic Collector's Series

Venue: 4/F and 5/F, Hua Fu
Commercial Building, 111 Queen's
Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong.

Contact: Spink China
Tel: +852 3952 3000
china@spink.com
www.spink.com

MAY 30

NORDPHILA

Venue: online only.

Contact: Nordphila

Tel: +49 4346 366 900
info@nordphila.de
www.nordphila.de

MAY 30-JUNE 4

CORINPHILA

Besaçon collection of GB

Erivan collection of Switzerland

Venue: Wiesenstrasse 8, 8032 Zurich,
Switzerland.

Contact: Corinphila
Tel: +41 44 389 9191
info@corinphila.ch
www.corinphila.ch

JUNE 1

SPINK

Venue: online only.

Contact: Spink UK.
Tel: 020 7563 4005
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www.spink.com

JUNE 8

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Venue: The Dunkenhagh Hotel &
Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire
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Contact: AJH Stamps
Tel: 01254 393740
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

JUNE 8

WARWICK & WARWICK

Venue: The Court House, Jury Street,
Warwick CV34 4EW.

Contact: Warwick & Warwick
Tel: 01926 499031
info@warwickandwarwick.com

www.warwickandwarwick.com

JUNE 10

MARESCH

Fawn collection of Large Queens

Venue: Capex 2022 Exhibition, Metro
Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front
Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Contact: R Maresch & Son
Tel: +1 905 726 2197
peter@maresch.com
www.maresch.com

JUNE 11

BIL & CO

Venue: Washingborough Community
Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough,
Lincolnshire LN4 1AB.

Contact: Bil Tilbury
Tel: 01400 230769
auctionsbil@btinternet.com
www.bilandco.co.uk

JUNE 11

CHESHIRE STAMP AUCTIONS

Venue: Sandafayre, Egerton Court,
Haig Road, Knutsford, Cheshire
WA16 8DX.

Contact: Sandafayre
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stamp@sandafayre.com
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JUNE 11

SELLSCHOPP

Venue: online only.

Contact: Wilhelm Sellschopp
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LOT TO BE DESIRED

Spink's auction on May 12 will offer an extraordinary example of the pioneering Scinde Dawk stamps of 1852-54, issued for use in Sind Province in British India.

The ½a scarlet, essentially a sealing wax wafer, is 'apparently unused' (as described by its BPA certificate) and free from the usual cracking associated with this fragile issue, with only tiny omissions in the wax impression and surface abrasions.

A small paper adhesion on the reverse suggests that it was applied to a document as the seal, though never cancelled. It is now lightly mounted on presentation card.

With as few as three unused examples known, the ½a scarlet is unpriced by Stanley Gibbons in this condition. The auctioneer's estimate is £40,000-£50,000.



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Counter intuitively one would think that low value stamps produced in larger printings would be easy to find, but sometimes such stamps may be much more difficult to source than high/higher value stamps ... and the reason why is often, but not always, because ...

few dealers can afford to cost-effectively handle stamps which are theoretically worth pence ...

However, even in the harsh reality

of today's cold 'covid' commercial climate, when you handle stamps cost-effectively, in 'on approval' stamp supply selling-systems, with the added benefit of 'scale', supplying stamps to be selected by hundreds of collector clients ... it is possible, even today, to effectively sell inexpensive stamps and crucially make sufficient profit to stay in business.

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UK STAMP FAIR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 14

DERBY

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

NORTON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Graham Whitewick
Tel: 07849 904353

MAY 15

DRONFIELD

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, Coal Aston, S18 3AY.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

MAY 18

EAST GRINSTEAD

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Chequer Mead Arts Centre, De La Warr Road, RH19 3BS.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: John Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

MAY 21

HULL

(stamps, postal history)

Venue: St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, HU13 9EY.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

MAY 22

HARROGATE

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Masonic Hall, Station Avenue, HG1 5NE.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: Graham Whitewick
Tel: 07849 904353

MAY 28

LIVERPOOL

(stamps, postal history)

Venue: St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, L25 0NR.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Terry Barnett
Tel: 0151 486 2610
terryhunts@yahoo.com

MORLEY

(stamps, postal history)

Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Commercial Street, LS27 8HZ.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

PLYMOUTH

(stamps, postal history, postcards)



Venue: Plymstock Community Centre, The Broadway, PL9 7AW
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: Barry Mudie
Tel: 07931 508886

MAY 29

PETERBOROUGH

(stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, PE3 6SG.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Richard Lewis
Tel: 01945 700594

JUNE 3

FELBRIDGE

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, RH19 2NT.
Time: 9.30am-3.00pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

JUNE 4

BECKENHAM

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Azelia Halls, Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.
Time: 9am-3pm
Contact: Ray McQuade
Tel: 020 8395 9285

LEICESTER

(stamps, postal history)

Venue: Derby Room, The Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, LE1 5LX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: John Suschitzky
Tel: 0116 235 0441

RAWRETH - TBC

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, SS11 8SH.
Time: 9am-3pm
Contact: Barry Mead
Tel: 07786 302722

RINGWOOD

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Greyfriars Community Centre, 44 Christchurch Road, BH24 1DW.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Gordon Masson
Tel: 01425 470710

SWINDON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Lawns Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Lawns, SN3 1LA.
Time: 9.30am-2.30pm
Contact: John Puttock
Tel: 01793 542767

JUNE 11

DERBY

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

NORTON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Graham Whitewick
Tel: 07849 904353

SWINDON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, SN3 3LR.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Gibbon, Swinpex
gibbon35@gmail.com



Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

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SELECTED UK PHILATELIC SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 12

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS 12 Sheets From My Collection

Venue: Mote Park Indoor Bowls Club, Willow Way, ME15 7RN.
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784
b.stonestreet@btinternet.com

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PS Members' Afternoon

Venue: The Salisbury Room, St Boniface Church Centre, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2FT.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Mike Vokes
Tel: 023 8026 2551

TORQUAY & TEIGNBRIDGE SC Dealer Night

Venue: St Michael's Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton TQ12 3JU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Dave Cleaver
Tel: 01803 297212

MAY 13 HAYLING ISLAND SC Auction

Venue: The Small Hall, United Reformed Church, Hollow Lane, Mengham, PO11 9EY.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: David Carter
Tel: 023 9248 6534

KING'S LYNN PS Scottish 1/2 Tax by Mike Kentzer

Venue: The Scout Building, Beulah Street, Gaywood, PE30 4DN.
Time: 7.15pm
Contact: Dahlia Harrison
Tel: 01775 423087

MAY 16 PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT PS Visit from Petersfield PS

Venue: Portchester Parish Hall, Assheton Court, Portchester, PO16 9PY.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Paul Davidson
Tel: 023 9259 3987

SOUTH MIDLANDS SC Letters G and H

Venue: Barford Memorial Hall, Church Street, Barford, CV35 8EN.
Time: 1.30pm
Contact: John Gledhill
Tel: 01789 842112

MAY 17 SOUTHAMPTON &

DISTRICT PS 90 Years Celebration & Single-Sheet Competition

Venue: St Joseph's Church Hall, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Eddie Mays
Tel: 023 8040 2194

MAY 18 FARNBOROUGH S&PC AGM, Buy & Sell

Venue: Royal British Legion, 51 Cambridge Road East, GU14 6QB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Norman Kelsey
Tel: 01252 514002

WAKEFIELD PS President's Evening: David Hemmingsway

Venue: Thornes Junior Football Club House, Queens Drive, WF5 9BE.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Philip Reynolds
Tel: 07805 509469

MAY 19 BRISTOL PS AGM & 16-Page Competition

Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Mike Breward
Tel: 01179 567853

BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS AGM & Members' Display

Venue: The Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Barry Ribbywood
Tel: 01282 616156

MAY 21 GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Paper Money Histories of England, Scotland & Ireland by Jonathan Callaway
Time: 11am

Private Posts: Carriers, College Stamps & Circular Delivery Companies
by Chris Harman
Time: 2.15pm

Venue: Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.
Contact: John Davies
Tel: 01295 255831

MAY 24 NORTH WEST KENT PS Canada

Venue: Hurst Community

Centre: Hurst Place, Hurst Road, Bexley, DA5 3HL.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Clifford Ayers
Tel: 07551 993819

SPALDING & DISTRICT SC AGM & Competition

Venue: The Frasier Room, Gosberton Road, Surfleet, PE11 4AB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Derek Pollard
Tel: 01778 426904

MAY 25 BARNSELY PS Haiti by Roman Rimini

Venue: Friends (Quakers) Meeting House, corner of Western Street and Huddersfield Road, S70 2BP.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Philip Reynolds
Tel: 07805 509469

BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS AGM & President's Competition

Venue: Middle Hall, Melvin Halls Community Centre, Melvin Road, SE20 8EU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: David Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

LYTHAM ST ANNE'S PS To & From India by Airmail

Venue: The Drive Methodist Church, Eastbank Road, St Anne's, FY8 1LH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Tim Giddings
Tel: 07703 183655

MAY 26 TORQUAY & TEIGNBRIDGE SC Leipziger Messe by Gary Green

Venue: St Michael's Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton, TQ12 3JU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Dave Cleaver
Tel: 01803 297212

JUNE 1 FARNBOROUGH S&PC Five Sheets, Five Minutes

Venue: Royal British Legion, 51 Cambridge Road East, GU14 6QB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Norman Kelsey
Tel: 01252 514002

SPALDING & DISTRICT SC Competition: Flora & Fauna

Venue: The Frasier Room, Gosberton Road, Surfleet, PE11 4AB.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Derek Pollard
Tel: 01778 426904

JUNE 7 SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PS Visit from Vectis PS

Venue: St Joseph's Church Hall, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Eddie Mays
Tel: 023 8040 2194

WEST LONDON PS Members' New Acquisitions

Venue: The Church Hall, Woodlands Avenue, Acton, W3 9BU.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Christopher E Oliver
Tel: 020 8940 9833

JUNE 8 BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS Postcards

Venue: Middle Hall, Melvin Halls Community Centre, Melvin Road, SE20 8EU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: David Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

JUNE 9 BRISTOL PS The Bechuanalands by Tony Stanford

Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Mike Breward
Tel: 01179 567853

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS Ashes Cricket & Our Kingfisher by Greg Newey

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784
b.stonestreet@btinternet.com

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PS Members' Afternoon

Venue: The Salisbury Room, St Boniface Church Centre, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2FT.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Mike Vokes
Tel: 023 8026 2551

JUNE 10 HAYLING ISLAND SC Envelopes, Covers & Postal Stationery

Venue: The Small Hall, United Reformed Church, Hollow Lane, Mengham, PO11 9EY.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: David Carter
Tel: 023 9248 6534

To include an event in this listing, we need at least two months' notice. Send details to What's On, Stamp Magazine, MyTimeMedia Ltd, Suite 6G, Eden House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HF. E-mail: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

KINGSTON & DISTRICT PS

Kingston & District Philatelic Society established itself at a new venue for the 2021-22 season, at the Day Centre at Claygate, Surrey.

Still within easy reach of Kingston upon Thames, it has excellent facilities, a congenial atmosphere and parking.

The society is hoping to attract new members, perhaps those who find Claygate more convenient for an evening meeting than the previous venue in Surbiton.

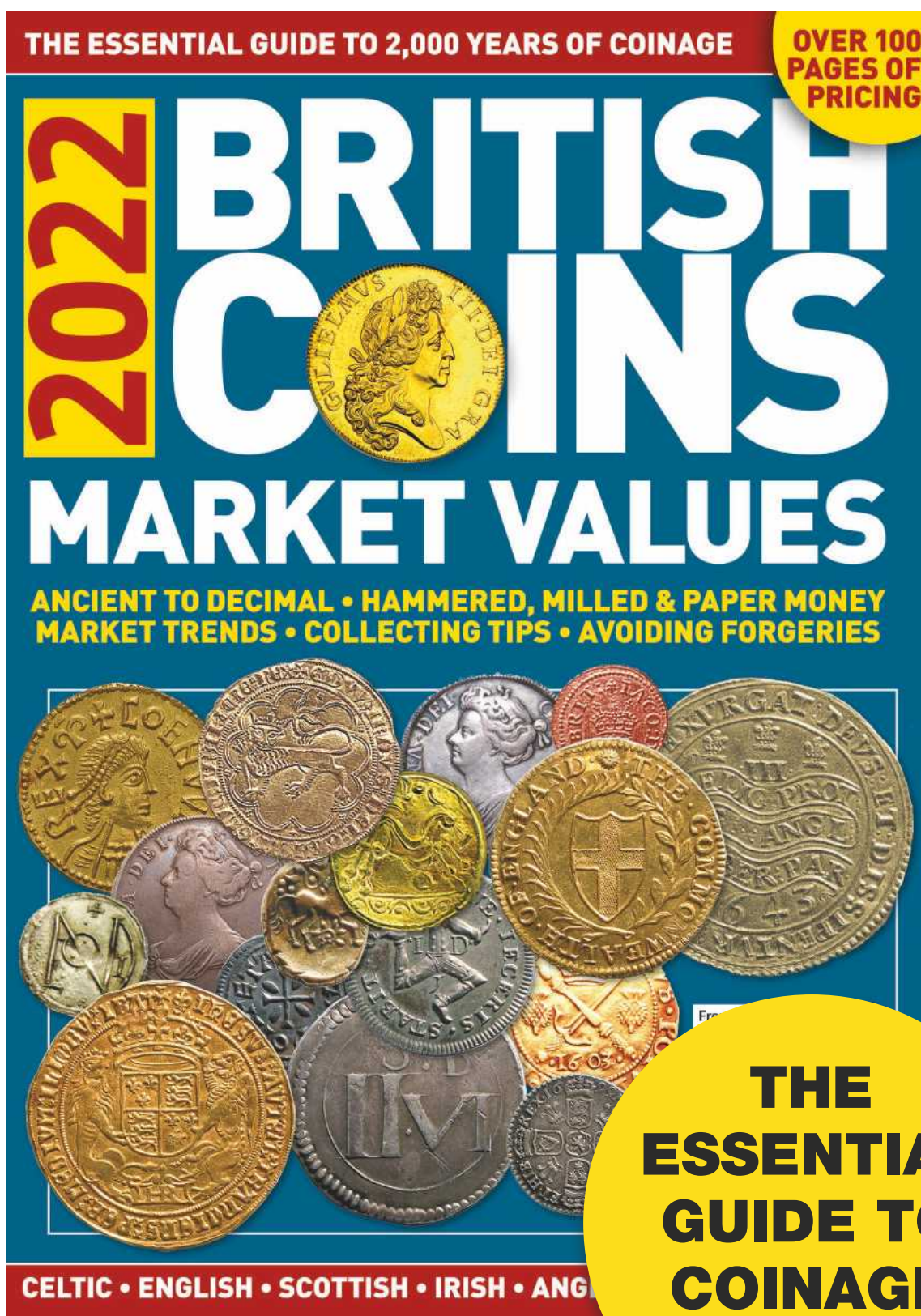
There are regular meetings on the first Thursday and third Friday of each month, often with specialist displays.

For further details contact the Honorary Secretary, Brian Sole. Tel: 01932 220677. E-mail: brian.sole@btinternet.com

There is also lots of information on the society's busy website. Visit www.kingstonphilatelicociety.com



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 <p>REF T500 FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE GREAT BRITAIN INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER INC KGV & WILKINGS IDEAL FOR WTM ETC PLUS ALBUM PAGES MOST REIGNS, MINT & USED AND FDCs, ITEMS OF NOTE ARE 1841 1d & 2d IMPERF PLUS QV TO 1/- GREEN. KEVII WITH VALUES TO 1/-, KGV WITH VALUES TO 2/6 SEAHORSE, KEVII SET, PLUS KGV WITH VALUES TO £1 AND QEII TO £5 MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH MANY BETTER VALUES WITH A CAT PRICE OF £1,000+ FOR JUST £149.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>	 <p>CAT £95 REF T501 FREE C. O. G. H. TRIANGULAR CAT £95 WITH EVERY COMMONWEALTH BOX FILE COMMONWEALTH MIX INC 1,000 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER USED STC £150+ ALSO ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD RANGE OF COUNTRIES PLUS STAMPS LOOSE ON AND OFF PAPER TO SORT, WITH GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £25+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST £99.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p>REF T502 FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE FOREIGN COUNTRY MIX OF ON & OFF PAPER EARLY TO MODERN 1,000+ & MIXED ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES & £50+ OF BAGGED & PRICED ALBUM PAGES AND AUCTION LEFT OVERS WITH STAMPS CAT £20+ £89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR</p>	 <p>REF T503 FREE GENUINE 1840 2d BLUE WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE INCLUDING ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER 6 REIGNS, A BAG CONTAINING 500 DIFFERENT GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER AND FDCs. ALSO SINGLE ITEMS 1855 1d & 2d QV TO 1/- 1887 GREEN AND RED KEVII TO 10d, KGV TO 5/- SEAHORSE, KGV TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1,500+ £179.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>
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<p>REF T504 GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILES BUY REF T500 & T503 AND RECEIVE BOTH FREE GIFTS, 1840 1d BLACK & 2d BLUE, AND WE WILL REPLACE 500 DIFFERENT WITH 1,000 DIFFERENT TO MAKE THIS PAIR OF BOX FILES A SUPERB SORT & VALUE FOR MONEY CAT AT £3,500+ AT JUST £310.00 PLUS £12.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T603 FOREIGN SHOE BOX CRAMMED WITH ON AND OFF PAPER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ALL WORLD MIXTURE STATED TO BE A MINIMUM OF 1000+ DIFFERENT. ALSO ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £5+ THIS IS A VERY GOOD CHEAP SORT (NO GREAT BRITAIN) OVER 4000 SOLD THE LAST 50 YEARS FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T604 COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX CONTAINING ON AND OFF PAPER, UNCHECKED A TO Z EARLY TO MODERN, LOOSE AND ON LEAVES, A GOOD MAINLY MODERN MIX, BUT SOME EARLY MIXED IN, BETTER SINGLES, CHEAP LOT, 1,000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T605 CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS & IOM SHOE BOX CONTAINS STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, DEFINITIVES & COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS ALBUM PAGES FDCs ETC, ALSO SOME SETS & SINGLES, MINT & USED, A GOOD SORT FOR THESE POPULAR COUNTRIES, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T606 GREAT BRITAIN SHOE BOX, FREE 1841 IMPERF 1d RED & 2d BLUE CAT £130 CONTAINING A GOOD MIX OF ALL 6 REIGNS FROM 1d REDS TO MODERN INC STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, INC SOME EARLY, IDEAL FOR WATERMARKS, ALSO ALBUM PAGES, FDCs, MINT & USED SETS & SINGLES ETC £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>
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 <p>REF T602 WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX BOX OF ALL WORLD COLLECTIONS COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN (NO GREAT BRITAIN) AND NO STAMPS ON PAPER A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES AND SINGLE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS IN STOCKBOOKS AND ALBUMS AS RECEIVED COULD BE ANYTHING 1,000s OF STAMPS (EVERY BOX DIFFERENT) £299.50 PLUS £15.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.</p>	 <p>REF T510 THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS REF T510 THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS YES, THE ULTIMATE SORT WITH OVER 1,000 OF THESE SOLD IN THE LAST 40 YEARS, A MUST FOR COLLECTOR/DEALER OR ANYONE WHO LIKES A GOOD SORT, INC COLLECTIONS, PACKETS, LOOSE STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, ALSO MIXED COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS BOXES & STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC A GOOD MIX INC GB, C/W & FOREIGN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ 1,000s OF STAMPS A LOT UNCHECKED ETC WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF £1,300 AND WEIGHING APPROX 30 KILO SUPERB LOT HAVE YOU TRIED ONE YET FOR £999.00 PLUS £29.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
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<p>REF T623 GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES STOCKCARDS, BOXES OF ON & OFF PAPER & LOOSE STAMPS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC 1840 1d BLACK, 1d REDS AND A GOOD SELECTION OF MINT & USED, ALL REIGNS, PLUS FDCs ETC, A GOOD LOT, VERY HIGH CAT, WITH TOP VALUES AND AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T624 COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULAR, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, LOOSE STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, COVERS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, SETS & SINGLES, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T626 FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON & OFF PAPER, & SINGLE STAMPS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
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<p>REF T627 THE WHOLE WORLD IN SUITCASE INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM & GREAT BRITAIN INC STOCKBOOKS, COLLECTIONS, ALBUM PAGES, FIRST DAY COVERS STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER BOXES AND PACKETS OF UNSORTED MATERIAL. AUCTION LEFT-OVERS A GOOD SORT FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £100+ STATED TO RETAIL £450 £349.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p>REF T607 ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/2 BOX INCLUDING LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER PLUS CHILDREN COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC PLUS OTHER BITS, ALBUM PAGES, THE ODD COVER, EVERY BOX IS DIFFERENT (VIRTUALLY NO GB) 1,000s TO SORT £99.50 PLUS £12.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p>REF T622 WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON & OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER £24.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>
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Murder mystery

Collectors were intrigued by overprint varieties emerging from Guatemala in the early 1900s, but did one dealer pay the ultimate price for putting them on the market?

■ Report by John Winchester

In March 1904, worldwide collectors heard news of a shocking crime carried out in central America. A dealer with links to the British stamp trade had been gunned down in public, and the motive appeared to be philatelic.

Frederico Saureck, a German by birth but now a citizen of Argentina, had built up a flourishing business in Guatemala, and become a regular supplier of material to the Ipswich-based dealers Whitfield King & Co.

But when he met another dealer in a *cantina* in Guatemala to discuss a business transaction, a violent argument broke out. It ended in his colleague emptying the contents of a revolver into him, before making his escape.

Saureck died instantly, and police enquiries later revealed that £1,700-worth of stamps (equivalent to nearly a quarter of a million pounds today) had vanished.

But was he an innocent victim? When his premises were



ABOVE: Guatemala 10c with 'via Puerto Barrios' overprint

searched, a number of items came to light that did his reputation little credit.

Besides forged obliterating stamps of various kinds, these included dies for overprinting 'Oficial' on Uruguay stamps, apparently to create faked official stamps from ordinary definitives.

There was also a typeset forme for overprinting 'Via Puerto Barrios' (a routing indication identifying mail which passed through the eponymous port, in the Gulf of Honduras) on stamps of Guatemala.

It was known that Saureck had already supplied overseas dealers with examples of this unusual overprint, on both postal and fiscal stamps, including doubled and inverted impressions and varieties applied in the wrong colour, or to the wrong stamp.

Did this nefarious trade bring about his demise? Certainly the back story should add a frisson of excitement should one of these varieties turn up in your collection. ■

NEXT MONTH

Cover stories

Scarce British first day covers from obscure or unusual producers



PLUS

■ British Guiana's 1898 pictorial issue

■ Thematic guide to venomous snakes

■ Are country definitives still worth producing?

■ How to find philatelic bargains on eBay

JULY ISSUE

IN SHOPS FROM THURSDAY JUNE 9

Pulling the Plug – End of an Era ? – Making an Informed Decision ...

Dear Very Important Philatelist,

Is this the end of postage? About, two weeks ago as I type, Royal Mail (The British Post Office) issued an unanticipated major announcement. I don't wish to be alarmist, but this affects many, even most of us – therefore being informed **NOW** may be important to you so that you can take appropriate action ...

Royal Mail (RM) Announcement: "Non-barcoded stamps can be used as postage up until 31 January 2023. If you are able to use them within this time — that's great. If you aren't going to be able to use them up — that's fine too — you can send them in to us and we'll swap them out for barcoded stamps. Our 'Swap Out' scheme will open on 31 March 2022" ...

Here's the unwritten agenda:

... but how long will RM 'swap-shop' operate, when will it close, just how will it operate, and will there be 'minumum' sending requirements that render existing definitives and commemoratives effectively useless in terms of under-pinning usability value ... It is a significant consideration in collecting modern for collectors to know that they can get something back ?

On the face of it - apparently, all very practical – but how does invalidation of your existing mint decimal stamps impact our hobby? I estimate that this anti-fraud high tech innovation, (or invalidation) may save Royal Mail more than **One Hundred Million Pounds liability** to offer their service to the public (including collectors) against pre-paid unused (non-barcoded) decimal postage currently outstanding in the public domain. £100Million sounds like a huge figure – but consider UPA has not bought a single postage stamp from the Post Office in the past 10 years, we buy them in collections bought from collectors ... and we use more than £30,000= postage face value **per annum**. Roll this out against a 60 million population and millions of businesses.

Presently, it appears that 'Special Issues', or Commemoratives as we know them are excluded, and New Issues of such will continue *without barcoding* ... But, does this mean that if you continue to collect non-barcoded special issues, that ultimately their face value may become useless ? Good question.

Ethically there may be issues too, because collectors (and the General Public) have purchased postage stamps based upon validity, closing the RM 'swap-shop' early or making it 'inoperable' (a potentially likely scenario) to collectors and small-holders of stamps/singles of multiple denominations by having minimum denomination submissions ... OR, highly likely - 6 month delays to service swapping ... You can just envisage it, can't you? I can.

Over the years hundreds of collectors have told me that they intend to continue collecting New Issues for as long as our Queen is on the throne. How do you feel about this now ?

Will prices of decimal issues go up, or down? My view is 'down'. I also believe that as in year 2000 many collectors will draw the line on New Issues NOW.

Will this affect the market overall? ... Yes, potentially I can envisage **more** collector budget being directed into older/classic stamps – rather than stamps that RM can print for **one penny** that have a face-value of **ONE Pound++!!**

Finally, I strongly suspect that UPA will have to suspend '**Loyalty Post-Free Shipping**' and make a subsidised charge for postage. Don't worry – no change imminent. This subject will run and run ... there will be developments ... more will follow ...

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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

AJH STAMPS.....75	M.L.CLIFFORD34
CDD.....38	MICHAEL G. READ36
CORINPHILA.....6, 7	MILLSTAMPS48
COURT PHILATELICS38	NORTH STAFFS STAMPS50
EASTERN AUCTIONS26	PHILATELINK.....62
FAROE ISLANDS POST OFFICE.....IFC	PHIL INDEX.....62
GUERNSEY POST OFFICE.....34	PURVES PHILATELICS.....16, 17
H.W.WOOD.....67	ROBSTINE.....53
IAN OLIVER58	ROWLAND HILL.....36, 67
J.R.MOWBRAY36	SOUTH - WEST
JERSEY POST OFFICE11	PHILATELIC AUCTIONS59
JERWOOD PHILATELICS26	STAFFORD STAMP SHOW36
JOHN BAREFOOT39	STANLEY GIBBONS.....33
JOHN CURTIN12	SWINPEX67
JOHN LAMONBY58	TONY LESTER27
JOHN WELLS12	UPA13, 18-19, 49, 69, 82,
LATIN AMERICAN PHILATELICS.....38IBC, OBC
	WARWICK and WARWICK3, 58
	WILLARD ALLMAN12

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

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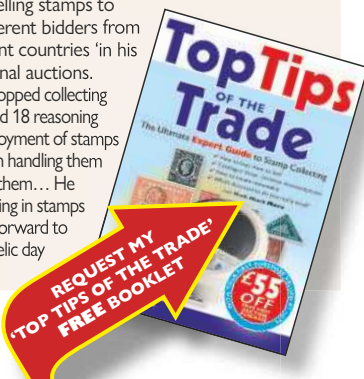
1▶ If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 51 years later !...

Wrong Offer ✗ **Wrong Price** ✗ **Wrong Place** ✗
(naïve seller) ✓ = ☹️ me but I was only 15 at the time!



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

About The Author ▶ Andrew found his Father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He 'specialised' (!) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year, he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp 'Tips' articles, appearing on Local Radio and National TV promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual – in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 51 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) – the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries 'in his international auctions. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them... He loves working in stamps and looks forward to each philatelic day



2▶ Three years later, attending my first public stamp auctions I wondered how some bidders seemed to buy everything, paying the highest price? It didn't occur to me that they were probably Auction Bidding Agents, paid by absent (dealer) bidders to represent them. I wondered why two collectors sitting side by side muttered to each other "he's a dealer" as if that justified him paying the highest price...

...but did it really? What was the real reason? How could a Dealer pay a higher price than a Collector? It doesn't make sense, does it? Collectors are customers. Customers usually pay the highest price, unless... for a Collector, this was...

Wrong Presentation ✗ **Wrong Place** ✗
therefore **Wrong Price** ✗

3▶ Fast-forward 48 years later to a British Empire collection, lot #1 in an International Stamp Auction – Estimated at £3,000, but we were the highest bidder at £21,000 – **YES** – some 7x higher. Including Buyer's Premium in the extraordinary sum of £4,788 we actually paid GBP£25,788= upon a £3,000 estimate... **however,** we broke it down into sets, singles, mini-collections etc. We made a profit. Some might say it found its price. Others may say:

Wrong Estimate ✗ **Wrong Presentation** ✗
Wrong Structure ✗ **Wrong Protection of Price** ✗

– **Lucky for the seller that 2 well-heeled bidders saw the potential value that day** or it could have been given away... the seller could easily have lost out couldn't he? or she?

So, by un-peeling the layers of obfuscation, hopefully we can all agree:

The Secret is Simple – it's ALL ABOUT : TIMING

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation ✓ **Place** ✓ and **Price** ✓

4▶ Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' – *Glass's Guide*. I've no idea, I've not even looked – in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there was an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called "The Stamp Wholesaler". There was nothing that special about it – and you would not have learnt much or found massively reduced prices by subscribing then – BUT – it was a forum, a paper focal point, a last 'bastion' in this on-line transparent world that we inhabit... whereby dealers (and auctioneers) can try and communicate with each other. I published my own articles there...

More recently in print, I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers "what is your biggest problem?"

To a man, (why are we almost all men), they replied – "my biggest problem is stock, if I can get more of the right stock I can sell it easily"

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same

question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – **I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction**

This is the reason why my company has such massive advertising. This is the reason why we spend up to 8% of turnover – up to £200,000 per annum in marketing costs. (Most dealers don't even sell £200K per annum).

5▶ Why is that? Because, as the world revolved the Stamp Market, imperceptibly Changed, and incrementally – Massively

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock – but **absent collectors in the place they choose to sell their stamps in**. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that a former competitor had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 18,933 lot UPA 80th Auction we had 1,893 different bidders from 51 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

6▶ Now, let's examine the cost implications – **Example:** Your stamp collection sells in public auction for £800. Upon a 25% buyer's premium, the dealer pays £1,000 and it could be more. He breaks it into £2,000+ selling price (much lower and he'll go out of business). The auction charges you a seller's commission of up to 18% (VAT included) upon the £800 sale price. This is GBP£144. Therefore you receive approaching £656 – which is approximately 33% of the dealer's £2,000+/- retail selling price – **BUT... now that we have identified the problem...**

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right in The Face ?

7▶ Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers: Sell to Collectors instead? In our example with buyer's premium, sellers commission, lotting fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance - you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, **to the wrong person.**

Why not direct that 40% cost you're paying to sell to Collectors instead? Sounds good, so why hasn't this been done before ?

8▶ Truth is, it Has been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the obvious so that money may be taken, almost surreptitiously, in numerous different ways, (without us apparently noticing until we see the cheque in our pocket) – the transparent 'seller pays' has been deliberately 'obscured' – so much so that, **amazingly**, the latest 2017 European Auction Selling Legislation just introduced – now requires auctions that charge 'buyer's premiums' **to warn the buyer in advance**. Just imagine going into the petrol station, and being warned that the price you're paying to put fuel in your tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

9▶ How can you cut out the middleman and sell to Collectors instead? Well, I can think of two ways. 1). **DIY** - Do It Yourself selling on eBay. That may be fine for lower grade material – but, would you risk auctioning relatively unprotected rare material on eBay? We don't and we're professionals, so we should know what we're doing. Or 2). Cut out the extra middle-man. **Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead.** Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous **Example**:

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for £1,000 – but You received circa £656

UPA sells them to collectors for you for up to £2,000 – even after 40% commission you receive up to £1,200. Up to £544 more. Now that's amazing, isn't it?

10▶ Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example £2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less – especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate £2,000 = £1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either – he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock **OR**, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices... So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 36% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon**: Universal Philatelic Auctions, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

11▶ Q.) What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

A.) It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System...

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 20 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold – **but what didn't sell...** So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU – 'US'** = once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we **reduce by a further 12%** and **WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away...

12▶ Any Scientist will tell you that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, PLUS each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee – this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold.



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37 + years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with more than 2,250 different regular bidders.

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 20 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 20 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue – using the contact details further below)

13▶ OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend.

14▶ AND the SMALL PRINT? Some lots are too small in value for us to offer this system. Other lots may not be suited to selling in this manner (e.g. surplus mint British decimal stamps best used for postage) – especially if the market is heavily compromised by stock overhang

in specific areas. Some Collectors will not wish to use time and systems to leverage price, others will want to agree a specific price and know that they are paid precisely this amount. No client is treated like a number and no client is forced like a square peg into a round hole.

15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?

- You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements
- If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...
- Finally you ask U P A to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value...

16▶ What Happens then? A member of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy

17▶ How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market? Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-Independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium. Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.

18▶ What Should I Do Next?

Discuss your collection with U P A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now...



19▶ Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps

20▶ My Double Cast Iron Guarantee: We can do a better job valuing your stamps in our office than in your home. If you don't agree I'll pay you an extra £50 for you to pay somebody trusted to open the boxes and put your albums back, in the same place, on the shelf they came from.

21▶ Act NOW: Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team using the on-line selling form at our website, by fax, telephone or by mail. We'll work harder for you not to regret the decision to sell all or part of your collection...

Andrew

Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Expert,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA

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