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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING**?

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

Philatelic Expert Lets You into his Selling Secrets so you can benefit from a totally different (and New) Selling Experience

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 evolved 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 you 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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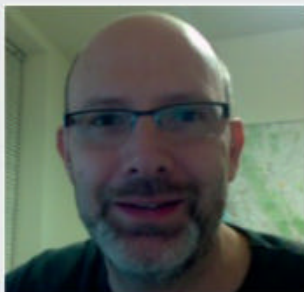
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Welcome

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF CZESŁAW ŚLANIA



We hope you love the understated front cover of this issue as much as we do! Sometimes pictures speak louder than words, and surely the beautifully engraved portrait of Czesław Ślania would have impressed the Master Engraver himself.

The engraving was done by the talented Martin Mörck, considered by many to be the heir to

Ślania's throne, having produced an impressive number of engraved stamp designs himself, and it was created to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Ślania. It's a milestone that we collectors should celebrate, since the Polish-born artist's prolific output added a significant chapter to the ongoing history of the hobby.

This month's in-depth article on Ślania's life and work (page 37) reveals how he overcame adversity, worked incredibly hard, and eventually gained the recognition he deserved, creating thousands of stamp designs that are still eagerly collected today. The artistic flair and talent of stamp artists such as Ślania are yet more aspects of our hobby that make it so rewarding.

One wonders if the very first stamp collectors, back in the late 1800s, could have envisioned a time when stamps would be a showcase for such art. What would they have thought of Ślania's work or indeed the colourful designs of Japan's 1990s set detailed on page 54. We turn the clock back to the 1880s on page 46, revealing how collecting stamps became increasingly popular during the decade. Over 140 years later, we're still marvelling at the designs, still discussing the varieties and values, and still celebrating the artists that create these miniature masterpieces.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Hill'.

Matt Hill, Editor

Keep in touch. Share your views, stamps and thoughts with us: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk



Armagan Ozdinc is a philatelist specialized in illustrations and engravings of Martin Mörck and Czesław Ślania. His other philatelic interests include the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Turkey. He is a member of American Philatelic Society, Royal Philatelic Society London, Collectors Club of New York and Scandinavian Collectors Club. Armagan writes about the life and achievements of master engraver Czesław Ślania on page 37.



Devlan Kruck is a professional philatelist and philatelic journalist, currently working for the Swiss-based International Auctioneers David Feldman SA. Along with Marcus Orsi, Devlan presents the 'Adventures in Philately' webinar series (find out more and book your place for our next talk, on 22 November, at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk).



Author Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and *Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album*, and writes our Stamp Story on page 51.

PLANS FOR ONE CENT MAGENTA 'FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP' REVEALED

A new website, entitled 'Showpiece', has been launched, giving stamp collectors the chance to own a piece of the world's most valuable stamp, the One Cent Magenta, which was acquired earlier this year by Stanley Gibbons.

Showpiece is the newest entrant to the fast-growing fractional ownership market and is 'focused on giving individuals ownership of the world's most rare and remarkable items'. The first item Showpiece is offering ownership of is the world's most valuable stamp, the One Cent Magenta, acquired earlier this year by stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons. Showpiece is partnering with leading experts such as Stanley Gibbons when an item is listed on its platform so they can provide detailed knowledge and expertise.

According to the team behind the new website, over 5,000 enthusiastic participants ranging from philatelists to individuals, have applied for more information about owning part of the world's most famous stamp.

The offer is being made available in stages, with the first phase spanning a limited time period when each piece of the One Cent Magenta will be on sale for an exclusive early adopter's price of under £100. This will occur when the Showpiece platform goes live in November.

The remarkable 165-year history of the One Cent Magenta is perhaps the greatest story in all philately, a tale involving the foremost collectors, dealers, and experts dating back to the very beginning of the hobby.

The stamp was issued in limited numbers in British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1856, and only one specimen is now known to exist. It is the only major postage stamp ever issued that is not represented in the British Royal Philatelic Collection and it is believed the Queen's



great grandfather, George V, tried to buy the stamp twice.

Graham Shircore, Co-Founder of Showpiece, said: 'Showpiece makes the rarefied world of collecting these types of treasures an affordable pleasure open to anyone not just the wealthy. The way people collect is changing and there is an increasing appreciation of the flexibility and enjoyment which the digital world can offer collectors.'

'We provide a truly unique experience by giving everyone the chance to share in the ownership of some of the most captivating and iconic cultural treasures. The One Cent Magenta is only the first amazingly rare item that Showpiece intends to offer ownership of – there will be more to come and we look forward to making these available.'

Find out more at: <https://preview.showpiece.com>

POLAND WINS EUROPA 2021 COMPETITION

The results of the 2021 Europa Stamp Competition, to find the most beautiful stamp issued on this year's theme of 'National Endangered Wildlife' have been revealed by PostEurop, with Poczta Polska being awarded the gold medal.

Poland's winning stamp featured the Lynx, while Åland Post's stamp, showing two moor frogs, came second. Ukrposhta's stamp, featuring the Carpathian mountain forests and how that affects its wildlife, was awarded the bronze medal.

Agnieszka Trzaskowska, Chair of the PostEurop Stamps and Philately working group from Poczta Polska S.A. said: 'This year's competition dedicated to "Endangered national wildlife" was very exciting as new rules were implemented. With a great support from PostEurop, our Members



actively engaged in 2021 EUROPA stamp communication campaign, which contributed to growing awareness of animals threatened to go extinct in Europe. All EUROPA stamps presented the rich diversity of European wildlife including little beetles, nocturnal reptiles, wondrous birds and big mammals. We found creative stamp designs combining subtle artistic sensibility and deep reflection on the value of the respective natural heritage which reminds us of our responsibility to ecological sustainability.'

In total, 53 countries issued stamps on the 2021 theme, and PostEurop partnered with the International Union for Conservation of

Nature (IUCN), to help raise awareness on the sensitive topic. Next year the theme is 'Stories and Myths'.

Find out more about Europa stamps at: www.posteurop.org/europa



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 <p>REF T500 FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE A SUPERB MIX INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER INC KGV I & WILDINGS 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, KEVIII 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 £90 OF COUNTRIES, PLUS STAMPS LOOSE ON AND OFF PAPER TO SORT, WITH COUNTRIES A TO Z, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £20+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST £89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p>REF T502 FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE SUPERB 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 DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</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 FDC's. 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>	
<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 £12.00 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 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, 1000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4 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 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 POSTAGE</p>
 <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 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 £28.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>		
<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 £20 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 £20 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 £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
<p>REF T627 ALL WORLD WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM & GREAT BRITAIN WITH 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 £50+ STATED TO RETAIL £400+ £299.50 PLUS £20.00 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 £89.50 PLUS £12.00 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 POSTAGE</p>

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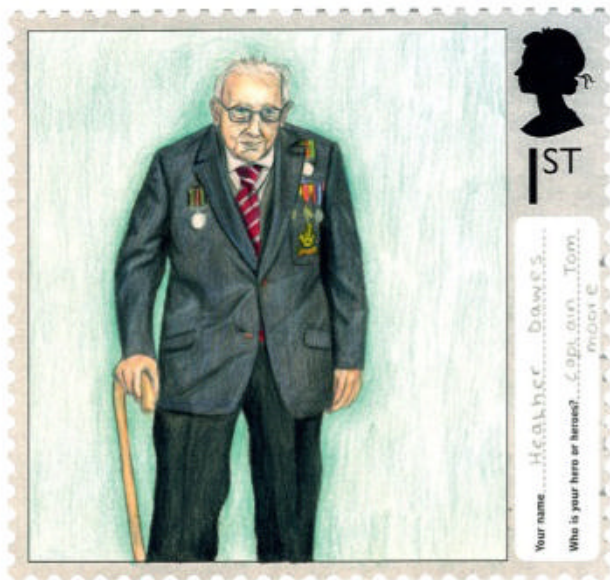
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'HEROES STAMP' COMPETITION FINALISTS REVEALED

Royal Mail has announced details of the 120 regional finalists in its Heroes of the Pandemic stamp design competition, after receiving a remarkable, record-breaking 606,049 entries

Royal Mail recently challenged young people to design a stamp highlighting the amazing work played by key workers and others in keeping the UK connected during these unprecedented times, and the 120 regional finalists, who will each receive £100 in gift vouchers and £100 for their school, have now been revealed.

A staggering 606,049 entries were submitted from 7,479 schools, helping Royal Mail to secure the Guinness World Records title for Largest postage stamp design competition. The previous highest number of entries received for a stamp design competition was 239,374, achieved for Royal Mail's Christmas Stamp Design Competition held in 2013.

Eight designs will be chosen as part of a special set of stamps due to be released next year. The set will mark only the sixth time in Royal Mail's 500-year history that designs created by children been used on stamps (previously in 1966; 1981; 1992; 2013; and 2017).

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: 'It is of great credit to the children of this country that in world record breaking numbers they picked up their paintbrushes, pens and paints and paid artistic tribute to the heroes of our coronavirus response.'

'Their brilliant efforts represent the collective gratitude of the nation to everyone who went above and beyond during the pandemic. Congratulations to all those who have made it to the next round and thank you to everyone who has taken part and to the teams at Royal Mail for managing this record number of entries.'

Simon Thompson, Royal Mail CEO, said: 'We would like to thank all of the 606,049 children who submitted such brilliant designs to

the competition. We have been amazed and impressed by the sheer volume of entries. And to have achieved a Guinness World Records title in the process shows how much the UK's children value those heroes who have kept the nation moving during such a difficult period. To the 120 regional finalists – Well Done! We are really looking forward to seeing the winning eight designs!'

How the stamps will be chosen

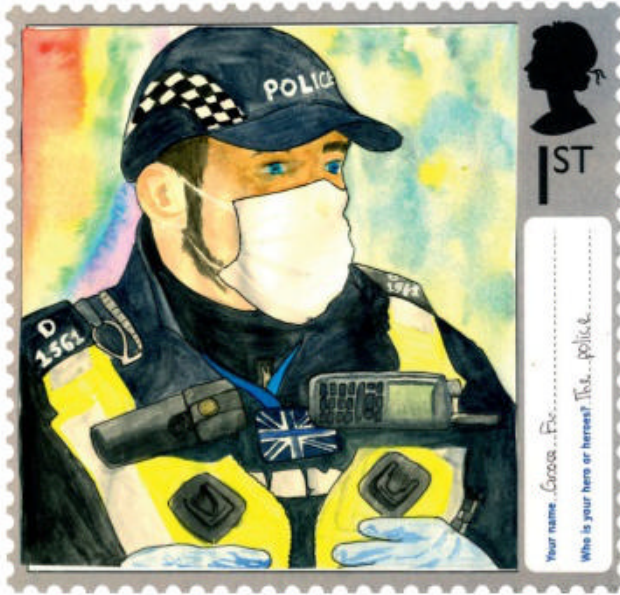
To arrive at the 120 regional finalists, a network of judges, consisting of current and retired art teachers, evaluated each of the 606,049 entries. Over a three-month period, the best entries from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England were chosen from each age group.

From the 120 regional finalists, a special panel of judges will now determine the winning 24 regional designs in November.

From these 24 entries, eight winning images will be chosen as official Royal Mail stamps. They will then appear on millions of items of mail across the UK when they are issued in the Spring of 2022.

The designs received celebrate a wide range of heroes, including: NHS workers, mums, dads, carers, refuse collectors, cleaning staff, teachers, supermarket workers, public transport staff, delivery drivers, postmen, and postwomen. Also depicted on the designs were many volunteers who have helped in their local communities or raised money for charity, such as Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Full details can be found at www.royalmail.com/stampcompetition. A small selection of the many entries are shown here.



With 120 pieces of art to consider, the judges will have a difficult task deciding on the winners, with just eight designs set to be used for an official British stamp set, due for release in Spring 2022. The team behind the allaboutstamps website and *Stamp Collector* magazine launched a campaign to have a charity stamp issued to celebrate the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who sadly passed away in February. With more than one of the entries depicting the late charity hero, could this be the moment our call for a Captain Tom stamp is answered?

EBAY SET TO SHOW PTS SHIELD ON STAMP LOTS

The Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) is partnering with eBay UK to help highlight trustworthy sellers in the 'Stamps' category of the online auction site.

The initiative means collectors will be able to clearly see the PTS Shield against listings from PTS members, allowing them to quickly identify lots being sold by PTS members. A spokesperson for the PTS explained: 'prior to purchasing, shoppers can buy with the knowledge that the seller has been vetted thoroughly by the leading trade society.' It is also possible for collectors to only see items listed by PTS members by visiting the specially created eBay portal found at: www.ebay.co.uk/e/special-events/pts

PTS Chairman, Suzanne Rae said: 'We are delighted to partner with eBay UK and are excited that we can help the hobby present a trustworthy shopping experience. eBay is one of the biggest online and innovative

marketplaces for stamp dealers and helping to support this is very important for the PTS.'

The PTS was established in 1929 and is the only trade society that extensively vets, references and actively monitors members. We have some of the world's leading brands as members including top eBay sellers NobleSpirit, 1st4stamps1840, Ross Shiells Ltd and Jerwood Philatelics.

David Jaffe of eBay added: 'Collectables is currently one of the fastest growing sectors on eBay. We want to ensure that this category can be shopped and enjoyed with integrity and respect. Partnering with relevant societies like the PTS ensures we can maintain this trustworthy space within our online platform.'



IN BRIEF

Four philatelists recently signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists during the Congress of the Association of British Philatelic Societies in Harrogate, Yorkshire. They signatories were Henrik Mouritsen RDP (Denmark), James Grimwood-Taylor RDP (UK), Seija-Riitta Laakso RDP (Finland), José Ramón Moreno RDP (Spain). Dénes Czirik (Hungary) and Randy Neil (USA), were unable to attend Harrogate due to current restrictions on international travel and will sign the Roll on a later occasion. In addition Alfred Moschkau (1848-1912) and Victor Suppansschitsch (1838-1919) have been added to the Roll as a permanent record of their great contribution to building the foundations of modern philately.

The organising committee of the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition are looking for volunteers to help with running the exhibition. 150 people are needed to cover a wide range of activities essential to the running of the show. Good knowledge of London and IT skills would be especially helpful. For more information visit: www.london2022.co

Stamp Active is in urgent need of volunteers to help promote stamp collecting to young people. The roles available are: Fund raiser, Press coverage, Publicity Officer, Data Base Management Officer, Anne Dummer Award, RPSL Liaison Officer, Facebook & Twitter administrator, Postal Museum Liaison Officer, Stamps in Schools Liaison Officer. A spokesperson said: 'In order to continue our activities encouraging the next generation of stamp collectors, it would be appreciated if, as a volunteer, you might have a couple of hours to spare now and again to help.' Contact secretary Peter Barham on email stampactive@btinternet.com for further details.

HOLMAN COLLECTION DONATED TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY

The British Library Philatelic Collections has recently received the collection formed by John Holman (1950-2017).

The collection has been donated by his brother Richard Holman, so that it may be appreciated by a wider audience and available for research.

John will be well-known to many collectors as he joined Stanley Gibbons in 1980 as assistant Catalogue Editor to Jim Negus. After he left Stanley Gibbons he took up a post at Royal Mail as editor of the British Philatelic Bulletin from 1988 until 2010, and as editor of the *Postmark Bulletin*.

John's collecting started at the age of seven in 1957, and he began writing about philately in 1977. He was a member of a number of philatelic organisations including the Royal Philatelic Society London (of which he was a fellow), and the Cinderella Stamp Club, and he was a signatory of the Maurice Williams Roll of Notable Cinderella Philatelists. He wrote over 3,500 articles and book reviews, and edited numerous books for Stanley Gibbons.

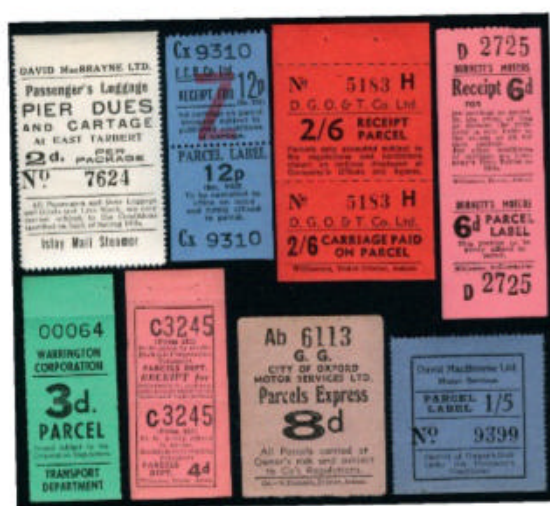
With such a repertoire, it is not surprising that John's collecting tastes were diverse, and his interest concentrated on the more unusual aspects of the modern Great Britain postal service, including studies of recorded delivery mail and other premium postal services. 'Cinderella' material

includes an important collection of Omnibus Parcel stamps, Scout Posts, and modern Railway letter stamps. There are collections of Great Britain and Scottish islands postmarks and stamps, collections of the postmarks of mainland Scotland, Queen Elizabeth II postal stationery, official mail including Royal Household mail, OHMS stationery and handstamps including Parliamentary items,

and an extensive range of envelopes and related material used by Royal Mail.

The holding is extensive with over 100 volumes, and is the product of a true collector who had an eye for the unusual and the interesting.

The Philatelic Collections at the British Library are the national philatelic collections of the United Kingdom, and comprise materials from most countries and periods. Find out more at: www.bl.uk/collection-guides/philatelic-collections





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LUXEMBOURG

A resourceful stamp 'ribbon'

The first universal exhibition in an Arab country is taking place in Dubai until 31 March on the theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', and Luxembourg Post are celebrating their involvement with a 'world first in the field of philately'.

The theme of the Luxembourg pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai is 'Resourceful Luxembourg'. The design of the building is based on the idea of the Möbius strip, an infinite form, like the circular economy, but also a symbol of Luxembourg's openness and dynamism. The same shape has been replicated in the design of the innovative stamps.

The half-contorted strip of special Expo 2020 Dubai stamps has been secured at each end, although not visible at first sight, in order to create an endless ribbon. A spokesperson for Post Luxembourg said: 'In order to achieve a sense of continuity, one side of the strip features the stamp vignettes depicting an image of the pavilion without the face value or any mention of Luxembourg, with five "real" stamps printed on the other. In this way, an optical effect of endlessly repeated images is produced.'

The stamp strips are numbered and printing has been limited to 2,500



copies. The unique strips can be purchased at the Luxembourg Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai or from the www.postphilately.lu online shop.

Issue date: 1 October 2021, www.postphilately.lu

AUSTRALIA

Prize-winning portraits



Australia Post is commemorating the centenary of the Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW in Sydney, with the release of three stamps featuring prize-winning portraits from William Dobell, William Dargie and Del Kathryn Barton.

First awarded in 1921, the Archibald Prize was established following a bequest from former Art Gallery of NSW trustee and founder of *The Bulletin* magazine, JF Archibald (1856-1919), whose aim was to foster portraiture and support artists.

The first of the three \$1.10 stamps features Margaret Olley 1948 by William Dobell, which depicts a beloved figure and important benefactor to the arts. The second portrait is by William Dargie from 1956, and shows the Western Arrernte artist Albert Namatjira (1902-1959). The artwork is said to be one of the most recognisable and universally respected of all Archibald winners.

Finally we see 'hugo' by Del Kathryn Barton (2013) which features acclaimed actor Hugo Weaving.

Issue date: 28 September 2021, auspost.com.au/stamps

GUERNSEY

A modern twist on a well told tale

Guernsey Post will issue two sets of Christmas stamps this year, reflecting the story of the nativity, also known as the Christmas story, which recounts the birth of Jesus.

For the Guernsey set, the philatelic bureau commissioned local artist Frances Lemmon to create a modern interpretation of the nativity story, as described in the Biblical gospels of Matthew and Luke. Lemmon's bold and contemporary images depict some well-known scenes, including Mary giving birth to Jesus in a stable, surrounded by animals,



and the Wise Men – or Magi – following a star in the night sky which leads them to Jesus's birthplace.

For the Alderney set, Guernsey artist Joe Smith has produced some vibrant stained-glass window designs and depicted recognisable Biblical passages associated with the nativity story, which appear in the gospels of Luke and Matthew and are taken from the King James version of the Bible.

Bridget Yabsley, head of Guernsey Post's philatelic bureau, said: 'We are delighted with this year's Christmas stamps for Guernsey and Alderney, which bring to life the centuries old story of the nativity with their contemporary feel.'

Issue date: 3 November 2021, www.guernseystamps.com



Franking labels 2021: Storytellers

The franking labels highlight some of our most important storytellers. Artist: Bárður Dal Christiansen.



Faroe Islands Stamps

Franking Labels, Yearbook, Year Pack and Christmas Seals



Yearbook 2021

The Yearbook is our most exclusive product. Together with the stamps and mini-sheets it recounts the fascinating stories behind every stamp issue in text and images. Some of the themes are: 150 years of Faroese postal history, an underwater roundabout, Slania's 100th birth Anniversary, Covid-19.

A free blackprint of Cz. Slania is included in the yearbook.



Year Pack 2021

This is our flagship product issued at the end of the year. The Year Pack is a superb way of collecting all the stamps of the year. Year Packs are sold at face value prices.

Christmas Seals 2021

This year's Christmas stamps depict portrait photos of sheep with flower wreaths on their heads. Harriet Olafsdóttir is a photographer, farmer and entrepreneur, and she is known for her beautiful posters of the animals on her farm, especially sheep.

Posta Faroe Islands - one of the smallest Postal Services in the world, yet known for its unique, beautiful and creative stamps, which have gained worldwide recognition since 1976.

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IN BRIEF

It's no surprise that hiking is Switzerland's most popular leisure activity, and Swiss Post recently invited members of the public to enter a design competition, to create a unique stamp design on the topic of hiking. As well as a range of mountain-related goodies, the winner will see their design on a stamp, set to be issued in September 2022. www.swisspost.ch/hiking

The US Post recently issued four stamps to celebrate the 'Day of the Dead', also known as 'Día de los Muertos' which has become a beloved tradition, particularly in US cities with large Mexican and Central American communities. At the centre of the celebrations is the ofrenda, or offering, honouring not only departed family members but also heroes and celebrities. Each of the pane's five identical rows includes four colourful stamps featuring several iconic elements of a traditional Day of the Dead ofrenda. www.usps.com

Canada Post recently unveiled five stamps that celebrate five of Canada's greatest editorial cartoonists, whose thought-provoking and seminal work has helped shape the national fabric over the last half-century. The stamps recreate cartoons by Serge Chapleau of *La Presse*, Brian Gable of *The Globe and Mail*, Terry Mosher of the *Montreal Gazette*, Duncan Macpherson (1924-93) of the *Toronto Star*, and Bruce MacKinnon of *The Chronicle Herald*. www.canadapost-postescanada.ca

JERSEY

Bergerac is back!

Jersey Post has issued a set of eight stamps on to commemorate *Bergerac*, the popular BBC crime drama set in Jersey during the 1980s. The stamps are also available as part of a Stamps Prestige Booklet incorporating two sets of stamps and additional information about the series.

Chris Elligott, Philatelic Design & Production Manager said: 'Bergerac is a classic TV series that brought the Island of Jersey to the attention of the rest of the world, enjoyed today for its nostalgic glimpse of the 1980s. The stamps show a selection of scenes and characters from various episodes, each featuring sections of the Island's coastline in a style reminiscent of a TV show opening title sequence. For many, Detective Jim Bergerac and the plots of villains, shifty business and glamorous love-interest often played second fiddle to views of the beautiful Island, and the series is still remembered fondly; as much a part of the Island as Jersey Cows and Jersey Royal Potatoes.'

Produced by the BBC in association with the Australian Seven Network, *Bergerac* originally ran from 18 October 1981 to 26 December 1991. The series was created by Robert Banks Stewart, starred John Nettles, OBE, and centres around the titular detective, Jim Bergerac, who starts out as detective sergeant in Le Bureau des Étrangers, a fictional department in the States of Jersey Police dealing with non-Jersey residents and later becomes a private investigator. Episodes follow Bergerac as he tackles cases ranging from catching jewel thieves to thwarting smugglers and even solving murders.

Bergerac showcased Jersey's beautiful scenery so much so that the first series resulted in an increase in visitors to the Island, as people came to see the show's main filming locations. Many of these locations can still be found today, including Jim Bergerac's flat, which was located just a few doors down from the Sommerville Hotel above St Aubin, in the West of the Island and perhaps most famously, the Old Court House pub in St Aubin itself, which featured as 'The Royal Barge'.

Issue date: 18 October 2021, www.jerseystamps.co



FAROE ISLANDS

Artistic franking

A new set of franking labels from the Faroe Islands highlights some of the region's important storytellers, presenting some the main figures that have contributed in making Faroese folklore and stories extensive, rich and still relevant today.

The labels illustrate: *Barbara* by Jørgen-Frantz Jacobsen, *Poor Man's Honour* by Heðin Brú, *Faroese Folktales and Fairy Tales* by Dr. Jacob Jacobsen, and *Mother Seven Stars* by William Heinesen. A spokesperson said: 'For a tiny country, our heritage is very strong and diverse and we can thank these people for their work and effort and remind ourselves how important it is to always believe in our work and ourselves and be proud of our history.'

Issue date: 1 October 2021, en.stamps.fo



GUERNSEY STAMPS AND COLLECTABLES

New Issues: November 2021

GUERNSEY POST



Guernsey Nativty Story
Set of 7 stamps: Issue date 03.11.21

Alderney Nativty Story
Set of 7 stamps:
Issue date 03.11.21



Guernsey & Alderney 2021 Year-set Folders



Centenary of the Royal British Legion Part 4:
Single stamp: Issue date 11.11.21



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21st - 22nd January

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Royal National Hotel, London
York Race Course, York



Five Nations Championship, 1984. Scrum-half Roy Laidlaw (pictured, with ball) scored two tries as Scotland became outright winners of the Five Nations Championship for the first time since 1938



Women's Six Nations Championship, 2015. Needing to win to secure the title, a rampant Ireland – with lock Sophie Spence (pictured) to the fore – ran in eleven tries to become champions



Five Nations Championship, 1970. A victory marking the start of a glorious era in Welsh rugby for a side featuring greats like JPR Williams (pictured), Gareth Edwards and Mervyn Davies

GB STAMPS

150 years of rugby

Eight new stamps from Royal Mail celebrate Rugby Union, a sport that combines the strength, aggression and endurance of defence with the elegance and creativity of an attacking phase, and has long been a part of the British sporting calendar

A brief history of the game

The popularity of the 'rugby' style of football and corresponding need for universal laws saw 21 English clubs meet in London on 26 January 1871 to form the Rugby Football Union. The first set of laws was approved later that year, not long after England met Scotland's challenge in the first rugby international. England have won what is now the Six Nations Championship

29 times outright, with ten shared victories, and the Grand Slam (beating every other nation in the competition) thirteen times. England are the only northern hemisphere team to have won the World Cup, beating Australia in 2003.

While England and Scotland had already unofficially met playing 'football' rules, most 'football' clubs north of the border played a game

Women's Home Nations Championship, 1998. Led by Kim Littlejohn (pictured, far left), Scotland complete a five-year journey from novices to best team in Europe with a win that boosted the sport's status in the country



Rugby World Cup Final, 2003. Jason Robinson's try and five successful kicks from Jonny Wilkinson (pictured) see England become the first northern hemisphere country to win the World Cup



Women's Six Nations Championship, 2009. Non Evans kicks the winning penalty in the final minute as Wales, captained by Melissa Berry (pictured), beat England for the first time and win the Triple Crown

far more similar to modern rugby and were determined to test national sporting strengths along these lines. On 27 March 1871, the countries met at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh, and after an epic contest, Scotland prevailed by one goal to nil. Angus Buchanan scored the crucial 'try' (grounding the ball over the opponents' goal line), which afforded William Cross the chance to kick the ball over the crossbar and between the posts – at the time, the only way to score a point.

No area of rugby union has seen greater growth in recent years than the women's version of the game, so much so that few clubs in countries where the sport is long established do not now



Women's Rugby World Cup Final, 2014. After defeat in three successive finals, England win the World Cup. Tries from Emily Scarratt (pictured, with ball) and Danielle Waterman secure victory

Five Nations Championship, 1994. Ireland upset the odds to win at Twickenham for the first time in twelve years – a brilliant try by Simon Geoghegan (pictured) inspiring a generation of outstanding players

have strong women's sections, while the proportion of women playing is noticeably high in countries in which the sport is becoming established. The first Women's Home Nations Championship was staged in 1996 and the first official Women's Rugby World Cup in 1998: New Zealand, due to host the next World Cup in 2022, have been world champions five times, England twice and the United States once. There are now approaching three million female players across the world.

Rugby across the UK

Founded in 1873 and based since 1925

STAMP DETAILS

Rugby Union

- Issue date: 19 October 2021
- Design: True North
- Stamp Format: Landscape
- Stamp Size: 37mm x 35mm
- Printer: International Security Printers
- Print Process: Lithography
- Perforations: 14 x 14.5
- Phosphor Bars: as appropriate
- Gum: PVA
- 2nd - Women's Rugby World Cup Final, 2014
- 2nd - Five Nations Championship, 1970
- 1st - Women's Six Nations Championship, 2015
- 1st - Five Nations Championship, 1984
- £1.70 - Women's Home Nations Championship, 1998
- £1.70 - Five Nations Championship, 1994
- £2.55 - Women's Six Nations Championship, 2009
- £2.55 - Rugby World Cup Final, 2003

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Who was the captain of the 2003 England team that lifted the World Cup, as seen in the background of the new stamp?

Closing date: 10 December 2021. Winners will be picked at random from all correct entries. Editor's decision is final.

at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh, the SRU played a leading role in the development of the modern game and is responsible for all Scotland's national sides, as well as the country's domestic leagues and competitions. Having beaten England in the first international played, Scotland have gone on to win what is now the Six Nations Championship fifteen times outright and have shared the title nine times. They have won the Grand Slam three times, most recently in 1990, and competed in every World Cup, with a best-placed finish of fourth.

Since the formation of the Welsh Rugby Union in 1881, the nation has produced some of the world's finest players. The national side was arguably the best in the world in the years running up to the First World War, and again in the 1970s. Wales have won what is now the Six Nations Championship 28 times outright, with twelve shared

victories, and the Grand Slam (beating every other country) on twelve occasions, most recently in 2019. They have competed in every World Cup, reaching the semi-finals three times.

Ireland played their first international against England in 1875, four years before the founding of the Irish Rugby Football Union, which manages the sport across the entire island. Ireland, along with Scotland and Wales, were founding members of the Home Nations Championship, the predecessor of the Six Nations Championship, which they have won fourteen times outright, with nine shared titles. They have also won three Grand Slams and in recent years have become one of the strongest teams in world rugby, combining vigour and verve with physicality and commitment. Ireland have competed in all nine World Cup tournaments and missed out on the quarter finals on two occasions.



MARKET INSIGHT

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



WORLD FAMOUS BRITISH GUIANA COVER

The world famous 'Burru's' cover, as featured in the January 2021 issue of *Stamp Collector*, was one of many rare British Guiana items offered at **David Feldman** recently, as the 'Imperium' Collection was sold. Described as 'one of the world's greatest and outstanding philatelic icons and one of the most famous of British Empire errors,' the 1850 entire features a 12 cents black on pale, showing the famous setting error '1' of '12' omitted, with initials of the postal clerk Wight 'EDW'. Sent from the Vicar at Leguan to 'The Right Reverend, The Lord Bishop of Guiana', the stamps are tied by a 'DEMERRARA/7.MR.1851' datestamp. The rarity is said to be 'the only example recorded of this famous variety, which together with the 1865 1c Magenta, is regarded as one of the two most important rarities of British Guiana'.

SOLD FOR £360,000

ONLY KNOWN UPDATED REGISTERED MULREADY

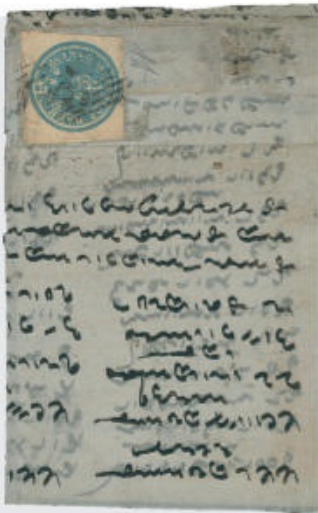
The Alan Holyoake Grand Prix Collection of British and International Registered Mail was sold by **Spink** in London recently, with this Mulready envelope, sent in June 1841, realising the top price in the sale. The 2d envelope, to Lancaster, had been updated with an 1840 2d blue, plate 1, QA with 'good to very large' margins all round, cancelled (not tied) by a black Maltese Cross. A second strike to the right of the stamp read 'Registered Letter 1/-' in red and in the lower corner a Carlisle despatch cds had been added. The reverse featured a red wax seal of the Carlisle and Cumberland Bank. The item was described as being 'a remarkable and highly important cover amongst other matters being the only known uprated registered Mulready cover.' The lot also featured a second Mulready from the same correspondence, twice marked 'Registered', with a light strike of Carlisle despatch cds in the corner, and the bank wax seal on the reverse.



TWO ITEMS SOLD FOR £10,000

SCINDE DAWK ON COVER

The October Sale Week at **Grosvenor** generated a total realisation of £1,862,942. According to the London-based auctioneers, 'the lockdown experience appears also to have encouraged many collectors previously unconvinced by online bidding to try out its many benefits. The overall impact on prices has been dramatic. Bidder numbers are now at an all time high and it seems likely that these levels will now become the standard benchmark. The upsurge in competition between prospective buyers has provided a boost to the market that was long overdue – and all the more pleasing as it reflects natural development, rather than a contrived investment boom as seen in the past.' Amongst the highlights of the British Empire & Foreign Countries auction was a 1852 'Scinde Dawk' ½a blue on a large part cover.



SOLD FOR £26,400



NOVIA SCOTIA TO LONDON

The Geoff Whitehead Collection of Classic Stamps went under the hammer at **Cavendish** recently. A cover sent from Nova Scotia to London featured a strip of three 3d, the last one of which has been bisected diagonally to make up the 7½d rate. Carried on the *Niagara* originating in Boston and to Liverpool, the cover was described as 'very fine and attractive'.

SOLD FOR £1,100

SCARCE SCOTTISH POSTMARK

Alan Holyoake's collection of Registered Mail offered by **Spink** also included a remarkable cover featuring fine strikes of the type III 'Ardnamurchan' postmark in blue-black, across the eight 1d Stars. The reverse featured Strontian, Glasgow and Edinburgh circular date stamps and the lot was said to be a 'fine example of this scarce postmark'.

SOLD FOR £1,700



GREAT BRITAIN DECIMAL ISSUES

DATE	SET	U/M	F/U	PACK	F.D.C.	DATE	SET	U/M	F/U	PACK	F.D.C.	DATE	SET	U/M	F/U	PACK	F.D.C.	DATE	SET	U/M	F/U	PACK	F.D.C.
1971	Ulster	0.20	0.25	2.00	0.30	1983	Christmas	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1993	COMPLETE YEAR	18.00	16.00	18.00	9.50	2002	Peter Pan	4.25	4.25	4.25	2.00
1971	Literary	0.20	0.25	2.00	0.30	1983	COMPLETE YEAR	6.00	4.75	6.00	3.00	1994	Railway	1.50	1.30	1.50	1.00	2002	London Bridges	4.25	4.25	4.25	2.50
1971	Gen. Annivs	0.25	0.25	2.00	0.30	1984	Heraldry	0.95	0.80	0.95	0.40	1994	Greetings	8.50	8.50	8.50	5.00	2002	Pillar Boxes	4.25	4.25	4.25	2.50
1971	Universities	0.30	0.35	2.50	0.40	1984	Cattle	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.60	1994	Paintings	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2002	Christmas	4.25	4.25	4.25	2.00
1971	Christmas	0.20	0.20	2.00	0.30	1984	Urban Renewal	0.95	0.85	0.95	0.40	1994	Postcards	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2002	COMPLETE YEAR	50.00	45.00	50.00	20.00
1971	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1.20	9.50	1.50	1984	Europa	0.75	0.60	0.75	0.50	1994	Tunnel	1.20	1.00	1.20	0.65	2003	Birds of Prey	8.50	8.50	8.50	3.00
1972	Explorers	0.30	0.40	2.00	0.40	1984	Summit	0.30	0.25	*	0.30	1994	D-Day	1.25	1.00	1.25	0.65	2003	Occasions	5.00	5.00	5.00	1.50
1972	Gen. Annivs	0.25	0.30	1.50	0.40	1984	Meridian	0.95	0.80	0.95	0.50	1994	Golf	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2003	The Secret of Life	4.30	4.30	4.30	1.75
1972	Churches	0.40	0.45	3.00	0.50	1984	Royal Mail	0.80	0.70	0.80	0.40	1994	Four Seasons	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	8.50	8.50	8.50	2.50
1972	BBC	0.30	0.35	1.50	0.50	1984	Council	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.40	1994	Medical	1.30	1.00	1.30	0.65	2003	Endeavours	4.75	4.75	4.75	2.00
1972	Christmas	0.20	0.25	1.50	0.25	1984	Christmas	1.15	0.90	1.15	0.50	1994	Christmas	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2003	The Coronation	8.50	8.50	8.50	2.50
1972	S. Wedding	0.30	0.30	1.00	0.30	1984	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	6.00	7.25	3.80	1994	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	17.00	19.50	9.50	2003	Prince William	3.10	3.10	3.10	2.00
1972	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1.80	10.00	2.20	1985	Trains	1.30	1.00	1.30	1.00	1995	Cats	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2003	Scotland	4.70	4.70	4.70	2.00
1973	E.E.C.	0.30	0.30	1.00	0.35	1985	Insects	1.30	1.00	1.30	0.50	1995	Springtime	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2003	Pub Signs	4.00	4.00	4.00	2.50
1973	Tree	0.10	0.10	1.00	0.25	1985	Composers	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	Greetings	8.50	8.50	8.50	5.00	2003	Transport Toys	4.00	4.00	4.00	2.00
1973	Explorers	0.45	0.45	1.50	0.50	1985	Safety at Sea	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	N.Trust	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2003	British Museum	4.70	4.70	4.70	2.00
1973	Crickets	0.30	0.30	1.50	0.50	1985	Royal Mail	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	Europa/Peace	1.20	1.00	1.20	0.65	2003	Christmas	5.50	5.50	5.50	2.50
1973	Paintings	0.35	0.30	1.00	0.35	1985	Legends	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	Science Fiction	1.30	1.10	1.30	0.65	2003	COMPLETE YEAR	60.00	55.00	60.00	24.00
1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	0.30	1.00	0.35	1985	Film Stars	1.30	1.10	1.30	0.80	1995	Shakespeare	1.25	1.00	1.25	0.65	2004	Locomotives	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.00
1973	Parliament	0.25	0.25	1.00	0.25	1985	Christmas	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	Communications	1.40	1.20	1.40	0.65	2004	Occasions	4.25	4.25	4.25	2.00
1973	Wedding	0.25	0.25	1.00	0.30	1985	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	6.50	8.00	4.25	1995	Rugby League	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2004	Lord of the Rings	8.50	8.50	8.50	2.50
1973	Christmas	0.70	0.70	1.00	0.75	1986	Industry	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	Christmas	1.75	1.50	1.75	0.65	2004	Northern Ireland	4.70	4.70	4.70	2.00
1973	COMPLETE YEAR	2.80	3.00	9.00	3.30	1986	Comet	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1995	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	17.00	19.50	9.00	2004	Entente Cordiale	1.00	1.00	2.50	0.50
1974	Tree	0.10	0.10	1.00	0.20	1986	Birthday	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1996	Burns	1.40	1.20	1.40	0.65	2004	Ocean Liners	4.60	4.60	4.60	2.00
1974	Fire	0.35	0.35	1.00	0.40	1986	Nature	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1996	Greetings (Phos)	17.00	17.00	*	*	2004	Horticultural	4.70	4.70	4.70	2.00
1974	UPU	0.30	0.30	1.00	0.40	1986	Medieval Life	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1996	Wildfowl	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2004	Wales	3.40	3.40	3.40	2.00
1974	Britons	0.35	0.35	1.00	0.40	1986	Sports	1.30	1.00	1.30	0.50	1996	Cinema	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2004	Society of Arts	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.00
1974	Churchill	0.35	0.35	1.00	0.40	1986	Royal Wedding	0.30	0.25	0.30	0.30	1996	Football	1.80	1.60	1.80	0.90	2004	Woodland Animals	8.50	8.50	8.50	3.00
1974	Christmas	0.30	0.30	1.00	0.30	1986	Parliament	0.35	0.25	*	0.25	1996	Olympics	1.30	1.10	1.30	0.65	2004	The Crimean War	4.30	4.30	4.30	2.50
1974	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1.60	5.50	2.00	1986	R.A.F.	1.30	1.10	1.30	1.00	1996	Women/Europa	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2004	Christmas	4.30	4.30	4.30	3.00
1975	Charity	0.05	0.05	-	0.20	1986	Christmas 6v	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.60	1996	Childrens TV	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.65	2004	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00	47.50	52.50	24.00
1975	Turner	0.30	0.30	1.00	0.30	1986	COMPLETE YEAR	8.80	7.00	8.50	4.75	1996	Cars	1.80	1.60	1.80	0.65	2005	Farm Animals	8.50	8.50	8.50	2.50
1975	Architecture	0.40	0.40	1.00	0.40	1987	Flowers	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1996	Christmas	2.85	2.40	2.85	0.65	2005	S. West England	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.00
1975	Sailing	0.35	0.35	1.00	0.40	1987	Newton	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1996	COMPLETE YEAR	37.50	35.00	21.00	9.00	2005	Jane Eyre	4.20	4.20	4.20	2.00
1975	Railway	0.35	0.35	1.00	0.45	1987	Architecture	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1997	Greetings	8.50	8.50	8.50	5.00	2005	Magic	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.50
1975	Parliament	0.15	0.15	0.50	0.30	1987	St. Johns	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1997	Tudor	1.90	1.70	1.90	1.50	2005	World Heritage	5.25	5.25	5.25	2.50
1975	Austen	0.40	0.40	1.00	0.40	1987	Heraldry	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1997	Faith	1.70	1.50	1.70	0.60	2005	Trooping The Colour	4.30	4.30	4.30	2.50
1975	Christmas	0.40	0.40	1.00	0.40	1987	Victorian Britain	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1997	Terror Legends	1.40	1.20	1.40	0.60	2005	Motorcycles	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.50
1975	COMPLETE YEAR	2.20	2.20	6.00	2.70	1987	Pottery	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.50	1997	Architects of the Air	1.90	1.70	1.90	0.60	2005	Tastes in Britain	3.60	3.60	3.60	2.50
1976	Telephone	0.45	0.45	0.90	0.30	1987	Christmas	1.20	1.00	1.20	0.50	1997	Horse	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.60	2005	Classic ITV	3.60	3.60	3.60	2.50
1976	Reformers	0.45	0.45	0.90	0.30	1987	COMPLETE YEAR	7.50	6.00	7.50	3.75	1997	Post Offices	1.50	1.30	1.50	0.60	2005	Smilers	7.00	7.00	*	6.00
1976	USA	0.10	0.10	0.40	0.20	1988	Linnean Society	1.10	0.85	1.10	0.50	1997	Enid Blyton	1.85	1.65	1.85	0.75	2005	Battle of Trafalgar	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.00
1976	Roses	0.45	0.45	0.90	0.30	1988	Welsh Bible	1.10	0.85	1.10	0.50	1997	Christmas	2.85	2.50	2.85	0.60	2005	Christmas	4.30	4.30	4.30	3.00
1976	Culture	0.45	0.45	0.90	0.30	1988	Sports	1.10	0.85	1.10	0.50	1997	Golden Wedding	1.60	1.40	1.60	0.60	2005	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00	50.00	44.00	31.00
1976	Caxton	0.45	0.45	0.90	0.30	1988	Transport	1.10	0.85	1.10	0.50	1997	COMPLETE YEAR	22.50	20.00	22.50	9.50	2006	Animal Tales	5.25	5.25	5.25	2.50
1976	Christmas	0.40	0.40	0.90	0.30	1988	Australia	1.00	0.85	1.00	0.50	1998	Endangered	2.20	2.20	2.20	0.75	2006	England	8.50	8.50	8.50	3.00
1976	COMPLETE YEAR	2.60	2.60	5.50	1.80	1988	Armada	0.90	0.75	0.90	0.50	1998	Diana	1.30	1.30	1.30	0.50	2006	Brunel	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.00
1977	Sports	0.45	0.45	1.00	0.30	1988	Learn	1.10	0.85	1.10	0.50	1998	Queens Beasts	1.30	1.30	1.30	0.60	2006	Ice Age Animals	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.50
1977	Chemistry	0.45	0.45	1.00	0.30	1988	Christmas	1.25	1.00	1.25	0.50	1998	Lighthouses	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.00	2006	Queen's Birthday	5.25	5.25	5.25	2.50
1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.55	0.55	0.50	0.45	1988	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	6.25	8.00	3.75	1998	Comedians	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.65	2006	World Cup Winners	3.60	3.60	3.60	2.50
1977	Government	0.15	0.15	0.60	0.25	1989	Birds	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.50	1998	Health	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.60	2006	Architecture	3.60	3.60	3.60	2.50
1977	Wildlife	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.30	1989	Greetings	4.00	4.00	*	4.50	1998	Fantasy	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.60	2006	Portrait Gallery	8.50	8.50	8.50	3.00
1977	Christmas	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.30	1989	Food	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.50	1998	Carnival	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.60	2006	Victoria Cross	4.40	4.40	4.40	2.50
1977	COMPLETE YEAR	2.40	2.40	3.75	1.75	1989	Anniversaries	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.50	1998	Speed	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.00	2006	Sounds of Britain	3.60	3.60	3.60	2.50
1978	Energy	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.30	1989	Toys	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.50	1998	Christmas	1.70	1.70	1.70	0.70	2006	Smilers	5.50	5.50	5.50	3.00
1978	Buildings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.30	1989	Ind. Arch.	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.50	1998	COMPLETE YEAR	16.00	15.00	16.00	6.50	2006	Christmas	5.50	5.50	5.50	3.00
1978	Coronation	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.30	1989	Microscopes	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.50	1999	Inventors	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.75	2006	COMPLETE YEAR	56.00	56.00	56.00	30.00
1978	Horses	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.30	1989	Mayor																

EXTREMELY RARE US PROOF

An extremely rare progressive die proof of the USA 10 cent 1855 issue fetched \$10,000 at **Robert A Siegel** recently. With 'U.S. Postage' at the top in pencil, and missing lines in the leaf ornaments around the top X's, the proof featured the signature 'Pitcher' at the bottom, 'an intriguing reference', the auction house suggested, 'to the mysterious

"E. Pitcher", who some have speculated was a female employee of bank note security firms.' The lot description added: 'This is the only example we have encountered. Scott value of \$3,000 is inexcusably out of date, as this proof last sold for \$27,000 hammer in our Sale 1113 in 2015.'

SOLD FOR £7,280



FALKLANDS BISECTS

The **Grosvenor** sales concluded with an offering of Falkland Islands & Antarctica. A selection of varieties of the 1878 1d, the first Falklands stamp, included a cover featuring bisects which was described as 'the most important'.

SOLD FOR £8,928



ITALIAN RARITY

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions recently offered examples of the Naples 1860 1/2t 'Cross of Savoy' design, including this rare four-margin example with a boxed 'ANNULLATO' cancel in red.

SOLD FOR £360

THE RAREST COTTON-REEL

The incredible range of British Guiana 'Cotton Reels' stamps offered at **David Feldman** recently included an 1850-51, 2 cents black on pale rose, with initials of postal official Smith 'JBS', cut round, with a central 7 October 1851 Demerara datestamp. The lot was described as being 'the rarest stamp of the legendary "Cotton-Reel" primitives, being one of the only two single examples remaining in private hands.' The stamp was issued in 1851 to 'pay a local town letter rate (the Georgetown Penny Post), a service which was unpopular and little used, with no town post usages being known to have survived.'

SOLD FOR £90,000



STAMP DETECTIVE

Our philatelic private eye spies another stamp set that's likely to go up in value

An elusive waterfall

There are numerous genuinely rare stamp sets which have surprisingly low catalogue valuations. One such set was released by the Dominican Republic in 1947. The ten stamps (six regular stamps and four airmails) all depict the Jimenoa Falls, a twenty-minute drive from the town of Jarabacoa in the central part of the country.

The falls were 'discovered' by two British engineers at the beginning of the 20th century. They were helping to build a hydroelectric power plant on the Jimenoa River. The forty-metre high falls are located in a tropical setting and today the Jimenoa Falls rank among the major tourist attractions in the province of La Vega. The falls provide

not only spectacular views but the pools below are ideal for swimming.

This set was heavily used on mail in the late 1940s and the design was undoubtedly selected to encourage tourism to the Caribbean nation. When a major online auction site was checked, several single used stamps were on offer but no complete mint set. Exactly the same result was obtained when contacting two major US dealers of Latin American stamps; they didn't have a single set in stock.

Many worldwide stamps have featured waterfalls and this is a popular theme. This elusive set might rest unrecognised in a dealer's stock. Finding a complete mint set at less than £15 would be a bargain.





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LATEST INTERNET SALES

Your quick reference guide to recent online sales, in association with delcampe.net



Costa Rica, Letter franked with GB stamps (3x 4d + 2d, two different issues) cancelled 'Limon' May 1877 to Sigeon France via Cologne London and Paris, unique!

SOLD FOR £3,665



German Office in China, registered letter franked 16pf cancelled 'Field Post 7' May 1901 to Wiesbaden Germany

SOLD FOR £1,677



China, strip of five stamps Mao Zedong 1968, cancelled

SOLD FOR £1,256



Israel, 2m green definitive 1948 MNH with tab (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £700



Falkland Islands, 5/- Penguin Definitive 1933 (SG136) MNH

SOLD FOR £623



Great Britain, 2s QV brown 1867-80 (SG121) used

SOLD FOR £295



Belgium, Philatelic Days Antwerp 1928 issue (former 'Orval' issue overprinted) MNH with cert.

SOLD FOR £979

Great Britain, £1 black Postal Union Congress London 1929 (SG438) used



SOLD FOR £311



Burundi, 1983 WWF Wildlife issue imperforated MNH

SOLD FOR £671



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Bechuanaland	Gambia	New Hebrides	Somalia
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This 75c red, described as a good, clean, well-centred used stamp was recently sold by Philaxia from Bitonto, Italy for £3.75 plus £2.00 standard delivery



Southwest Stamps from the USA had this 5 lire + 1.5 lire, described as mint lightly hinged, on offer recently at US \$20 plus shipping



Another Southwest Stamps recent offering described as mint lightly hinged; a high value 10 lire plus 2.50 lire for US \$20 plus shipping

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

Italy, 1930, 'Birth Bimillenary of Virgil'

The intricate designs of these Italian stamps recreate the stories told by Virgil, yet the stamp set has another, more recent and nefarious influence, coming from a period when fascism was on the rise in Europe. Find out more in this month's price guide

Benito Mussolini probably thrust out a fascist salute when someone in his propaganda ministry spotted that Virgil's 2,000th anniversary would occur in 1930. Projects to pacify Libya, establish an Albanian protectorate, conquer Ethiopia, annex Albania, and, by other feats of arms around Europe and Africa, to recreate the former glories of Rome with himself as Emperor were progressing well. The anniversary would come at the right moment. Adolf Hitler, ally and fellow henchman across Italy's northern border, had already boasted of establishing Germany's 1,000-year Reich. Virgil, with renown around the world to rival that of England's Shakespeare, possessed what Benito saw as an unassailable two millennia lead.

Publius Vergilius Maro, born into a middle-ranking family of landowners in a region of northern Italy in 70 BC, had parents who could just about afford to pay for his education. They sent him to schools at Cremona,

Milan, Rome, and Naples where he sampled rhetoric, medicine, astronomy and other disciplines, eventually settling on poetry as his preferred career. He later had the good fortune to catch the eye of Emperor Augustus whose financial assistance helped Virgil publish the first of his three major works. The subjects dealt with by the Eclogues, the Georgics, and the epic Aeneid provided Italy's 20th-century fascists with all they needed to propagate their political creed.

Despite authorship by a pagan poet, Virgil's works were thought by fascists to predict the coming of Christianity to Italy, a powerful argument that persuaded the Catholic Church to support Mussolini. Virgil's extolling of rural life also helped fascists to gain support in Italy's agricultural regions. Aeneas, hero of Virgil's greatest work, spurred even more Italians to follow Mussolini as the leader who would recover the country's military dominance and conquer lands to create a new Roman Empire.

The man selected to design





rogerpo99 (Avion Stamps, Nottingham, UK) recently offered all thirteen values, described as mounted mint for £65 plus shipping

the thirteen-stamp 1930s set was Corrado Mezzana, already a popular artist, illustrator and stamp designer throughout Italy. Born in Rome in 1890, he was the son of a postal clerk. At school he showed great promise as an artist, studying in his teens at Rome University. Following military service during the First World War he worked as a magazine illustrator in the early 1920s until commissioned by the Italian Post Office to design a range of Zeppelin and airmail stamps. He continued to design stamps, including the Virgil Bimillenary set, until his death in 1952. A special stamp displaying

Right: UK eBay user brianpatrice from Langport, Somerset recently offered this airmail, 9L+2L value; blue; in used condition for £170 plus £2.20 economy delivery

Far left: Virgil's hero Aeneas escapes from burning Troy, carrying his father Anchises (Johann Gottfried Haid, 1745, public domain)

Mezzana's portrait was issued in 1990 to mark his centenary.

It seems highly likely that political influence played a part in deciding which scenes from Virgil's rich output the stamps would illustrate. Take, for example, the first in the set (15c) which shows Aeneas listening to the words of a prince of Troy, the city which had recently fallen to Greek arms following the famous incident in which the Greeks stole into the city in their wooden horse. The advice given to Aeneas is: 'Yonder is the land destined to be yours. Hasten



to it!' The speaker was referring to the distance country (later named Italy) where Aeneas would lay the foundations of Rome.

On the second stamp (20c) the hero's father gives him the following advice: 'Roman, remember you must rule people with your power!' On the third (25c) the hero addresses the land he had finally reached: 'Greetings you country promised to me by destiny.' And to some of the people who had accompanied him on the long journey he calls out, 'This is now our home, and our homeland.' Mussolini could scarcely have written a more rousing speech for himself.

Other values in the set heaped praise upon rural life and the fertile soils of Italy. Quotes such as 'Hail Italy, Great Mother of crops, Great Mother of men' and 'Farmers will count themselves lucky when they know how good their lives can be' made the small farmers of 1930s rural Italy feel that they were contributing to the great



E.McKim's Stamp Mart recently offered the first nine values in the set, described as all fine used, at US \$300 plus shipping



Internet seller On the Ridge Stamps recently offered this postally used high value 10 lire plus 2.50 lire at US \$182 plus shipping.



Roger North Rarities recently sold this ITALY TOBRUK 21.6.43 OVERPRINT cds f-vf 75c red for US \$16 plus shipping.

Italian resurgence. Incidentally, the surcharges added to the higher value stamps in the set were used to repair and refurbish Virgil's monuments throughout the country.

There are four airmail stamps in the thirteen-stamp set: 50c brown, 1 lire orange, 7 lire 70c + 1 lire 30c purple, and 9 lire + 2 lire blue. Each depicts Jupiter releasing his eagle. Set free during the consecration of an emperor, the bird was believed to carry the soul of the dead heavenward to take its place among the gods. In 1930 Mussolini probably anticipated his own eventual consecration and seat alongside heavenly deities. The reality, in 1945, turned out to be execution by partisans, with his body strung upside down from a



Another Italian Navy Marines cover from the Italian province of Pola (now in Croatia). Seller Aztec Collectables describes it as from RN Dalmazia Italian Navy Marines, sent from Pola to Milan on September 22nd 1931. The selling price was US \$112 BIN plus shipping

Aztec Collectables recently offered this 1931 cover, described as a censored cover from the Italian Navy Marines (Torpedo Boat Squadron) in Pola To Milan Italy; postmarked August 15, 1931 . Beautiful stamps with great cancels and markings. In good condition. Cover was mailed to Milan with two 20c orange and a 20c Italy definitive. The selling price was US £82 BIN plus shipping (Pola, now a part of Croatia, was an Italian province in 1931)

public lamp-post.

Mint lightly-hinged examples of each of the thirteen values can be acquired relatively cheaply, but lightly used stamps, especially the higher values, rise quite steeply. With patience it is possible to build the full set, lightly used, buying the values one at a time. Expect to spend three-figure sums on full sets, with each stamp well-centred, and all lightly used. Priciest of all will be stamps on cover. Some of the examples we spotted, as singles, part sets, full sets and on cover, illustrate this month's feature.

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

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POST & GO

Kiosks in Royal Mail Delivery Offices

In 2015, a new design of kiosk – M series, supplied by Intelligent AR – appeared in Royal Mail delivery offices in Crewe and Bradford North on 9th February. Both dispensed 1st class and 2nd class Machins, with an overprint of the office location. However, The 'Crewe' and 'Bradford N' inscriptions were removed before the end of March 2015, at the same time as the tariff change, a life of some six weeks, the only identifier now being in the data-string M002 and M003.

These were quickly followed with kiosks at Kingston-upon-Thames, Croydon, and Doncaster in April 2015, followed by Norwich in 2016 and in 2017, the kiosk from Croydon was installed at the QEII Windsor Delivery Office.



In addition to the facility of having two reels / printers, the M Series can perform other functions. These machines also accepted payment for 'Postage Due', VAT and Customs Duty. A receipt is issued that could then be given to the office staff for collection of the letter / package. It was envisaged that further duties would be available in the future.

From the beginning of 2016, these kiosks no longer showed on-screen the design of the stamps being dispensed (see illustration, left), only the indication of 1st Class or 2nd Class. As these machines were primarily for postal and non-philatelic use, the design of stamp is irrelevant, making operation and maintenance simpler.

Unfortunately, in late 2019, all the kiosks were removed from the delivery offices.

FIRST DAY COVERS

Finding the phosphor

If you look carefully round any stamp fair, you will see collectors holding stamps and covers in the air, while squinting to get a good view, writes Brian Austin. With this month's cover I will try and dispel the rumour that they are a member of a secret club or just attention seeking!

If they are holding a British First Day Cover in the air, issued between the 1962 National Productivity Year and the 1967 Flowers issue, they are probably checking for phosphor bands. At this point the GPO were trying out different ways of sorting post, so for nearly every issue between these dates, there were two sets, one with phosphor bands, the other without. The collector who did this 1966 Christmas cover put both sets on and if you have never had any luck spotting the difference finding a cover like this is a great help.

There are UV lamps on sale which makes 'phosphor spotting' easy, but with a little

practice most of the British commemorative issues can be spotted without one.

So take your cover and using natural light if possible hold it at an angle until the light bounces of the stamps. Then hopefully the bands should appear, the phosphor will be the stripes which don't shine.

The other things you will need to know are that the 1966 England Winners stamp had no phosphor version and only the 1965 Parliament (the 6d stamp) and 1966 Westminster Abbey (3d) had just single values issued in phosphor, though some collectors at the time added an ordinary stamp to complete their cover.

Finally, and something I have never really



got to the bottom of, is why you see some of these ordinary and phosphor covers all the time and yet others are very rare. You would expect similar numbers of each, but possibly supply was patchy. As a general rule the very early covers (1962-63) and very late examples (1966-67) are the ones to look out for.

POSTCARDS

A war to remember



In the late 1970s I went to my brother's wedding somewhere in Yorkshire and there was an antique shop next door to where we were staying, writes Richard Stenlake. I already had collections of Marvel comics, stamps and old 'stuff' so just had to go in and amongst a box of inexpensive postcards were some showing the neighbouring village to us. That's what got me started on postcards. Those were the days when if you could find postcards for sale they cost pennies. Even at very low prices, for a long time war memorials were uncollected except by the local history collectors.

All that has really changed. Boer War memorials were the price leaders until about ten years ago and since then interest in the First World War has greatly increased. With the centenary of the Great War there was a profusion of books and television programmes on the subject, and hundreds of websites have sprung up covering major and minor subject areas.

Back to postcards and the Boer War memorials seem to have settled around the £3 to £4 mark, and unusual First World War memorials are selling for around £5 to £7. Unveilings come in around £12 to £15, with some commoner than others. War memorial tablets and similar, some of which were in buildings subsequently demolished, go for £8 to £10, and are probably still undervalued.

We use the phrase 'Lest We Forget' but the illustrations show memorials in 1920 or 1921 when remembrance was painful and



emotions were raw. The photographers have focused on the bereaved and not local dignitaries. The lads at the naval memorial at St John's School in Ealing are wearing their late dads' medals on their right breast. Only one boy seems aware of the camera. The lady in front of the Canterbury memorial is wearing three trios of medals and so has sadly lost two family members.

CINDERELLAS

Philatelic jokers

There is no country called Haggar but stamps carrying that name have puzzled worldwide collectors since the early 1930s, writes Christer Brunström. Haggar is supposed to be located somewhere in the north of Africa and, if we are to believe the stamps, dates are used in all kinds of monetary transactions in lieu of other more frequently used currencies. The illustrated stamp has a denomination of '25 dattes'.

Most Cinderella stamps have intriguing background stories and this Haggar stamp is certainly no exception. The April 1931 issue of the bulletin of the Cercle Philatélique de Namur, a Belgian philatelic society, carried a detailed report on a new issue of stamps released by the Amalat of Haggar. According to the report, the Amalat had joined the UPU and sent 720 sets of its new stamps to the organisation's headquarters in Geneva. The three top values depict the likeness of Amal Tuotta-El-Fetzan, prince of Haggar, a member of the Nahms-uh-Oès

dynasty. The name of the dynasty resembles that of Namur.

Several contemporary philatelic magazines reprinted the story but it was soon discovered that Prince Tuotta was no other than Monsieur Attout, the club's vice president, who had just returned from a stay in Morocco and his fellow 'Namurwès' members obviously wanted to celebrate his safe return.

It was all a practical joke of sorts but after a few years the background story faded into oblivion. Today the Haggar stamps are eagerly sought by Cinderella collectors specialising in old bogus issues. A similar stamp was recently sold for £30.



Forever stamps

In most of the world they're called non-denominated or non-value indicator (NVI) stamps, writes Paula Hammond in her latest guide to types of stamp. However in the USA, these very practical postal essentials have the rather wonderful name of 'Forever' stamps

Forever stamps are designed to be used on certain sized letters and, because there's no value indicated on the stamp, they can continue being used regardless of how much postal rates rise, saving both the customer and the postal authority money.

The first Forever stamp went on sale in April 2007 and was designed to be used to post any letter under an ounce weight. In 2007, Forever Stamps cost the same as a standard first class stamp, 41 cents, and compared to UK postage costs, prices have barely risen since, making them a very affordable collectable.

The second Forever design (pine cones) was issued in 2010. In 2011, all first class stamps began to be issued with the Forever designation. The Forever stamps range has since been expanded to include global letters (starting 2013) and (from 2015) at rates for two-ounce letters, three-ounce letters, postcards, and non-



machine surcharge postage costs.

Forever stamps are printed in vast numbers and not generally considered valuable. However value and collectability are very different beasts and Forever stamps are well-loved by philatelists for their enduring, fun, and thoughtful themes.

FIVE TO LOOK FOR

- While technically not a Forever Stamp, because they don't carry the word 'forever', 1975's Christmas stamps were the USPS's first non-denominated stamps. The value was omitted because of uncertainty about the upcoming rate rise.
- 2007's first ever Forever stamp was issued in Philadelphia, the home of the Liberty Bell, with special first day cancellations.
- Between 2007-2010, thirteen Liberty Bell varieties were issued and it can be a challenge to find them all.
- 2018's 'Frozen Treats' issue (pictured below) marked the US postal service's first use of 'scratch and sniff' technology with a set of stamps that smelt like ice cream.
- 2018 was clearly a year of innovative design with August's Forever Dragon stamps printed on foil.



TOP SELLERS

- 2013/14's four Global Forever stamps were issued, imperforate, in small numbers for collectors. Values start at \$145 for a mint sheet.
- Forever stamp errors, freaks, and oddities are worth hunting out. Shift errors and die cut errors are the most commonly found mistakes and these can triple the value of a \$10 sheet. Examples offered for sale recently include the Liberty Bell, minus 'Forever' (around \$100), inverted Charlie Brown sheets (starting price \$100) and a booklet pane of imperforate US Flags starting at \$2,000.
- Love-themed issues are perennially popular. A 2011 Garden of Love pane of twenty stamps, for example, can cost over \$35.

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STAMP QUIZ

These days TV quizzes seem to take an age, with each question pored over by presenter and contestant alike, even the audience get involved and then there's the friend waiting by the phone. Final answer? If only. Let's speed things up with our monthly stamp quiz, how many can you get?

- 1** Denmark's 1925 AIR set depicted an aircraft in the upper part of the vignette; but what occupied the lower part (see figure 1)?
- 2** In which year did Norway become an independent kingdom; and who was the monarch featured on the country's first independent stamps?
- 3** Which deity is seen on the first stamps of Greece, issued in 1861 (see figure 2)?
- 4** Which creature featured as the central design on Brazil's 1963 Tricentenary of postal services stamp?
- 5** Describe the scene in the central vignette on the USA 4 cents Trans-Mississippi Exposition set of 1898.
- 6** What was the name of the man whose portrait appeared on the 1860 5 cents stamp of New Brunswick; and what was his occupation?
- 7** What was the shape of the New Brunswick 1857 3d stamp?
- 8** What was celebrated by Canada's 1898 postage stamps issue on 7 December of that year?
- 9** Why were the designs of the ½d and 2d stamps of George V reduced in size during the issue years of those stamps?
- 10** What were the values of the stamps making up the George VI 1948 Royal Silver Wedding set?



**HOW
DID YOU
GET ON?**
Find the
answers on
page 34

POSTMARKS

Chemlan

This month our postmark adventures take us to Lebanon and the ancient village of Chemlan, writes David Gwynn. As is the case with many communities in the Middle East, Chemlan has a variety of acceptable spellings: Shimlan, Chemlane and Chimlane being the most common. The village signpost uses Shimlan, but the illustrated postmark spells the name as Chemlan.

The area that is now Lebanon had been controlled in the past by the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire and by the Ottoman Empire. After the defeat of the Ottomans in the First World War, Lebanon was entrusted to the French by the League of Nations, just as Palestine to the south was entrusted to the British. Lebanon gained its independence from France during the Second World War. The postmark shown was used in 1949 just after independence.

Chemlan overlooks the International Airport in Beirut and so was a major battleground during the civil war of 1958 and Israel's invasion of the country. The second civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990 saw



many local people flee the area and most have not returned.

In 1948 Britain opened the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies in Chemlan. Some Lebanese politicians suspected that it was a training centre for spies. This has never been proved although George Blake, the double agent, attended the centre and was arrested after being brought back to Britain from there.

After a year of Zoom meetings it was good to get some normality back into our hobby and the recent President's Night at **Dundee and District Philatelic Society** was the first face-to-face meeting this year. President Harry Jackson provided everyone with a fascinating display of 'Germany from States to the Weimar Republic'.

Harry began the display by showing stamps from mainland Germany which were issued by postal authorities. At that time there was no overarching authority and each state operated independently. Issues started slowly with Bavaria being first and by the 1860s all the states had pulled together after the Franco-Prussian War and this became the German Empire which ran from 1870 until 1920 after the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles.

The second half of Harry's display covered the period from the Weimar Republic up to the start of the Second World War showing the stamps and postal history issued in Germany during the Weimar Republic. Harry finished off his presentation with the stamps and postal history leading up to the creation of the Third Reich.

Visit the society website: www.dundeephilatelic.org

The Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Edward H. Spiro invited a few fellow members of the Wimbledon Philatelic Society who were interested in Swiss stamps, round to his house, and they founded the embryonic 'Helvetia Stamp Club' in 1946, later to evolve into the Helvetia Philatelic Society under Edward Spiro's enthusiastic leadership. Following a public display of Swiss stamps at the Stagg & Russell Exhibition Gallery at Leicester Square, London, and the formation of a formal committee, the society flourished. Many eminent philatelists such as Professor Landau, Dr. K. Strauss, Lawrence Moore MBE, Colonel H. DeWatteville CB, R.F. Bulstrode OBE, Alma Lee and many others were at one stage active members of the HPS. One of the first lady members, Mrs Edith Rawnsley, became a firm pillar of the society in her roles as secretary and newsletter editor. She wrote many articles about Swiss stamps and philately in all the British stamp magazines, always fostering the Helvetia Philatelic Society. Today the society is as popular and as active as ever. The flagship publication, the *HPS Newsletter*, has been published without interruption since the late 1940s and continues to offer the membership about 150 full-colour A4 pages annually of philatelic and society news, research articles on Swiss philately and postal history, questions and answers, and meetings reports. A large part of this treasure trove of information has been digitized and is now available to the membership on the society's equally active and ever-growing website: www.swiss-philately.co.uk.

Other benefits of membership include a fantastic philatelic reference library covering Swiss stamps and philately. With over 300 books and catalogues, it is one of the largest such library outside Switzerland, and members can borrow the books without charge. The Society also offers a postal sales packet offering a wealth of stamps and covers for and by members. Meetings are about to be resumed after the pandemic, with an annual 2-day national meeting (this year in October), usually three southern England meetings per year in Salisbury, and now new regular Zoom meetings as well.

Anybody interested in the stamps and postal history of Switzerland is invited to join the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain. For a very modest £10 annual membership fee they can enjoy all the benefits outlined, including the newsletter in digital form. (Subs, including newsletter by post, are £22) Please contact the Secretary Mike Sharp, email: secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk; tel: 01905 423 091, for further details.



Top: President of the Dundee and District Philatelic Society, Harry Jackson, presents his display 'Germany from States to the Weimar Republic'; above: members enjoy the display



David Colman presents at a meeting of the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain

'The Postal History of the World: 3000BC to 1940AD' sounds an impossible task to undertake in a display. Yet it was one that James Grimwood-Taylor RDP FRPSL achieved on 30 September, to the astonishment and delight of over 130 members of the **Royal Philatelic Society London**.

As James himself commented: 'It was a rare opportunity to show so much at one time.' The display fulfilled its aim, including a Sumerian cylinder seal from c3000BC and two 4,000-year-old cuneiform clay tablets, while the earliest letters shown were a vellum deed of around 1175, and a Merchant's Guild-Mark letter from London to Venice in 1458. ►

► Introducing the display, Peter Cockburn FRPSL, President of the Society, described the items on show as ‘most extraordinary – in every sense of the word’, adding it must have ‘taken a lifetime to amass’. These sentiments were re-iterated by Frank Walton FRPSL, giving the Vote of Thanks, commenting that ‘the material is quite remarkable’. Frank also congratulated James on being invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists this year.

In reply James noted that he collects the things he likes, showing in this display Great Britain and 124 other countries. He also thanked Richard Stock, Past President of the Society, for the invitation to give his display, initially postponed as a result of Covid.

It was therefore fitting that Richard should present James with the Society’s Crawford Medal for this year. Awarded for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form, James received the medal for his two-volume work on International Postal Reforms.

Visit the society website: www.rpsl.org.uk

At the recent **Chelmsford And District Philatelic Society** meeting, Nick Adams presented a display entitled ‘British Occupation of Italian Colonies’ which was very well received by members attending.

In the first part of his presentation Nick displayed envelopes with censor stickers from North Africa following the Second World War to destinations all over the world. As British stamps of low value were available, envelopes were often festooned with high numbers of these to provide the required postage rate, with some being overprinted with a higher value. Over time the level of censorship gradually reduced, as



James Grimwood-Taylor RDP FRPSL (centre) with Peter Cockburn FRPSL, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London (left) and Richard Stock FRPSL, Past President, following his display to the Society of ‘The Postal History of the World’

was shown on the material displayed.

For the second part of the evening Nick displayed envelopes sent by German and Italian Prisoners of War who opted, in the main, to remain in North Africa and work from civil works camps to repair and improve infrastructure damage caused during the conflict. The display included envelopes sent to Berlin which was at that point divided between the American, French, British and Russian sectors.

Finally Nick displayed the famous Seahorse stamps overprinted for local needs including Morocco (British and Spanish) and the Irish Free State.

READER LETTERS



NEATLY CANCELLED... FOR ONCE

Dear *Stamp Collector*,

We are accustomed to seeing images in your magazine depicting stamps cruelly defaced with felt tips, biro's and other objects.

I attach a scan of a letter received recently from Fairford, where all the stamps were neatly cancelled with the office's self-inking datestamp. At some stage during the journey each stamp was then struck with a numerical '3865231'. I have no idea what purpose this served or what the numbers mean, but maybe one of your readers can enlighten us.

John Scott, via email

THEMATICS IS DUMB? ON YER BIKE!

Dear *Stamp Collector*,

The guide to bicycles on stamps in your recent number was comprehensive and inspiring. Thematic collecting still, after all these years, has a reputation of being second rate or a 'dumbed down' version of



stamp collecting, but it is nothing of the sort, and the article on the bike theme proved this.

The guide to the topic ably used stamps to describe the history of the mode of transport, and it was lovely to see local stamps and Cinderellas included; many collectors, myself included, would not have thought of including such material. It just goes to prove there is so much more to collecting by theme than simply ticking off the relevant designs. Congratulations to Mr Sole for a brilliant guide and from what we were shown, a brilliant collection.

B Fry, via email

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A ploughman with a pair of horses
2. 1905. The monarch was King Haakon VII
3. Hermes
4. A carrier pigeon
5. A Native American hunting buffalo
6. Charles Connell; postmaster
7. Triangular
8. Imperial Penny Postage
9. To provide more space for perforations
10. 2½d and £1

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WORLD

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Ideal album to about 1917 for foreign countries with useful Argentina from 1864, Austria from 1850, China from 1897 1 cent surcharge, Japan, USA etc. Enormous Cat value
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ADEN

S.G. 30/1 and 36/46 1949 RSW pair and 1951 surcharge set mint. Cat £120
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AUSTRALIA

Many 100s on Gibbons leaves from Roos to 5/- (all 5 W'Mks) Heads to 1/4, Robes to £1, all the early Commens inc Bridge set, Navigators etc virtually complete to 1982. Untidily arranged but would display well given time. Cat £4000
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AUSTRIA

Many 100s on hingeless leaves mint (much UNM) or Fu from 1945 Views apparently complete to 1976 inc. '46 Renner, '49 welfare, Prisoner of War, '50 Plebiscite, '51 Reconstruction etc. A lovely clean lot Cat. £2250
£275.00

CANADA

S.G. 206 1911 5c deep blue, a marginal mint (3 are UNM) plate No3 block of four
£120.00

S.G. R8 1875 8c Registration stamp FU missing from most Canada lots we have seen Cat £300
£90.00

S.G. 378b 1947 3c booklet pane of 6 Fu, unpriced by Gibbons as such
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CYPRUS

53 from QV to 4 pi (M) K.Ed to 9 pi (M&FU) KG5 to 9 pi plus 90 pi (fiscal, not counted) 1934 set etc. Cat £950
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GERMANY

German P O s in Morocco Mi 58 1911 6 pes 25 on 5 Mk, a corner Marginal block of 4 mounted in the margin only Cat 240 Euros
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German States About 115 inc T&T to 9 kr, useful Prussia to 3 Sbr, Brunswick, Hanover to 1 Th, and 6gr, Saxony to 5 gr etc. Mixed condition poor to fine. Cat many £1000s
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NEW ZEALAND

Few 100s mainly UN/m in Lindner boxed hingeless album 1967-80, sparse earlies but many complete sets later. A good basis
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BIRTH CENTENARY OF CZESLAW SLANIA

Celebrating Slania

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Czeslaw Slania, perhaps the greatest stamp engraver of all time. In this special article for *Stamp Collector*, engraved stamp specialist Armagan Ozdinc looks back on the career and remarkable stamp artwork produced by the Polish-born artist

This is a special year for engraved stamp collectors like me as we are celebrating the centennial birth of Czeslaw Slania, a distinguished Polish engraver. Slania is the most productive stamp artist of all time as he designed and/or engraved 1,080 unique motifs that appeared on a total of 1,547 stamps issued by 32 postal administrations. 1,047 of these unique motifs were hand engraved on a steel plate and printed in intaglio.

Czeslaw Slania was born on 22 October 1921, in Czeladz Piaski, Poland. At age six, Slania displayed outstanding artistic talent, drawing the

A portrait of Czeslaw Slania, produced by Martin Mörck, the Norwegian-Swedish artist, who is considered to be Slania's heir. The portrait, based on Wayne Chen's photo of Slania from 1997, recently featured on jointly issued stamps from the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark

portraits of his family members and friends with great accuracy. His teenage years were full of struggles as he lived in a country invaded by Nazi Germany during the Second World War. His high school education was interrupted during the occupation years, and it was only after the liberation of Poland that he was able to finish his high school studies, and he started attending university in 1946. One of his professors, Witold Chomicz, a renowned graphic artist, persuaded Slania to transfer to the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. This was a turning point in Slania's artist career.

While still continuing with his study, in 1950, he was hired as an

apprentice engraver at a branch of the Polish State Printing House where he was put under one of the senior engravers, Marian Roman Polak, who introduced him to engraving techniques and stamp production.

Stamp engraving process

What does the engraving an image for a postage stamp involve? It is the process of cutting the stamp-size image in reverse into a soft steel plate known as a 'die' by hand using a sharp tool called a 'burin'. The engraver makes stage proofs by manually applying ink to the die during this process to ensure that the work is progressing according to plan.

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1 This is a die plate proof of the 'The Battle of Grunwald' painting engraving by Slania for his graduation diploma work at the Krakow Academy of Fine Arts in Poland



2 This 1951 Polish stamp is the first officially issued stamp engraved (though only partially) by Slania. It commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the Paris Commune

Today, hand engraving for stamps is becoming a dying art.

How is an engraved stamp printed? Once the engraving is finished, the die is then hardened and the image is transferred to the cylinder used for printing. When the stamp is printed, the printer ink fills the areas that were cut away and makes the image printed as recessed on the surface of the stamp. This printing method is usually called 'steel engraving recess' or 'intaglio'.

For his graduation diploma work at the academy, Slania chose an engraving project. It was the stamp size engraving of Jan Matejko's *The Battle of Grunwald* painting that depicts the battle scene from the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War fought on 15 July 1410. It is a huge canvas oil painting measuring about 426 x 987 cm. The battle scene in this painting had influenced Slania for a long time. He decided to challenge himself with this historic masterpiece and chose the central

section of the canvas for his engraving, which he found most interesting part of the painting.

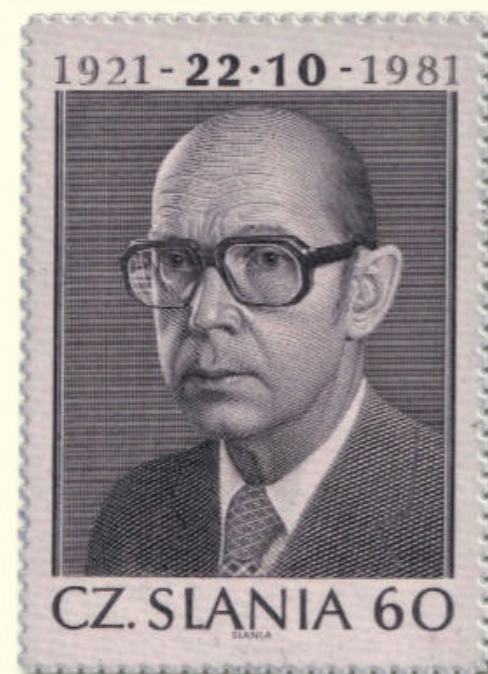
It took him two years to finish this engraving. The tiny miniature engraving of the original painting proved to be an equally great masterpiece. As a novice engraver, he succeeded in creating a postage-stamp-sized artwork that is exceptional in its detail and faithfulness to the original painting. The die proof of his first major engraving is shown in figure 1.

After completing his diploma work and graduating from the academy, Slania continued working for the Polish State Printing House until 1956. During his years at the state printing house, he designed and/or engraved a number of stamps for Poland. Slania's first official stamp was issued by the Polish Post on 24 March 1951 to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the Paris Commune. It was a co-production with M. R. Polak

3 Below: These hand-printed and manually-perforated vignettes feature Slania's engravings of the portraits of two European movie stars: Brigitte Bardot of France (left) and Sophia Loren of Italy (right).



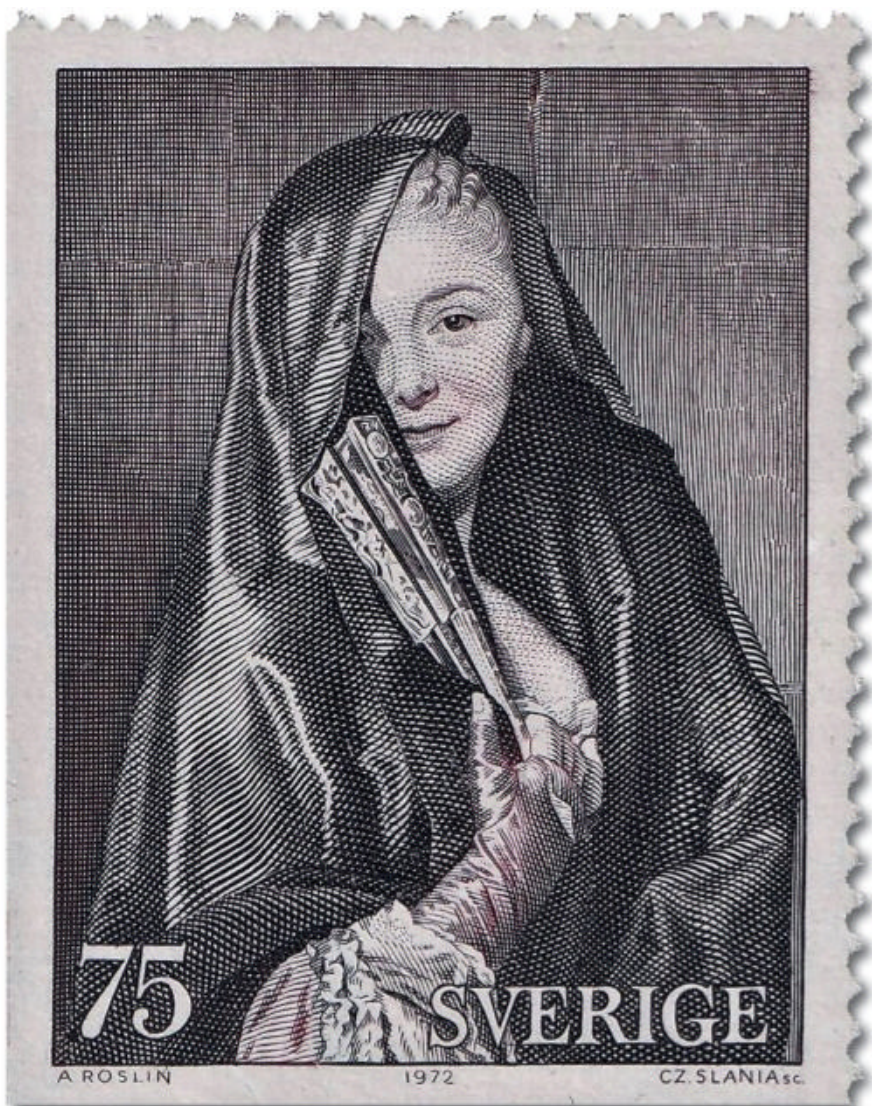
4 This hand-printed and manually-perforated vignette features Slania's engraving of the portrait of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill



5 This is a hand-printed and manually-perforated vignette featuring Slania's engraving of his self-portrait for the occasion of his sixtieth birthday



6 Slania engraved the 'Fiddler' by Zorn for a 1983 Swedish stamp. At the time, he said this was his 'most challenging' and 'probably best' stamp engraving



who engraved the battle scene while Slania engraved the likeness of Polish General Jaraslow Dabrowski portrait. I say 'likeness' because it was in fact a portrait of composer and pianist Henryk Dabrowski used by mistake. Slania's first officially issued stamp is shown in figure 2.

In spite of his well-paid and prestigious job at the Polish State Printing House, Slania was uncomfortable with the communist

7 The 'Lady with a Veil' painting by Roslin was engraved by Slania on this 1972 Swedish stamp



8 This set of four Slania-engraved 1989 Faroe Islands stamps depicts the beautiful western coast of the Suduroy island with high cliffs



9 This Monaco souvenir sheet was issued in 1987 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Monaco Stamp Issuing Office. Slania engraved all of the three stamps attached to this sheet. The stamp in the center depicts the historic building of Villa Miraflores that housed the Monaco Stamp Issuing Office at that time. The stamp on the left side portrays Prince Rainer III while the stamp on the right features the portrait of Prince Louis II, the predecessor of Prince Rainer III

regime of Poland. The totalitarian system he was living in stood in clear contradiction to his understanding of freedom. Under these circumstances, he decided to flee from Poland. In August 1956, he embarked on a cruise liner bound to Sweden. He never returned from that trip.

During those first years Slania's life in Sweden was extremely difficult. He entered Sweden in a refugee status and worked in some low-paying jobs, including washing dishes. He supplemented his low wage with proceeds from selling pieces of his artwork that he had brought from Poland.

As Slania did not have a permanent job as an engraver in those early years, he created stamp-like engraved vignettes portraying celebrities from the world of boxing and film. Slania hand-printed these vignettes in different colours on different paper types and manually

perforated them. Portrait vignettes of Sophia Loren, an Italian actress, and Brigitte Bardot, a French actress, are shown in figure 3.

As these portrait vignettes provided Slania with some supplemental income, they also gave him the chance to practice and master the challenging art of portrait engraving, considered the pillar and most difficult aspect of engraving. Over the years, even after he found a permanent job as an engraver, he extended his portrait vignette series by engraving the portraits of politicians, heads of state, his family members and his own self-portrait. One of his vignettes was for Winston Churchill, the former British Prime Minister, as shown in figure 4. In 1981, he engraved his self-portrait to celebrate his sixtieth birthday and hand-printed it in various colours. A brown colour print of his self-portrait vignette is shown in figure 5.

After several years of working in menial jobs with his artwork only serving as a sideline, he finally got the chance to engrave for Sweden. In the autumn of 1959, he received a call from Sweden Post to complete a stamp engraving job that could not be finished due to the illness of their head engraver. His first stamp for Sweden was issued on 18 February 1960. It was the portrait of Anders Zorn, a Swedish painter. Slania was eventually hired and



- 10** Slania engraved many stamps picturing members of Monaco's royal family. On this 1989 souvenir sheet issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Princess Grace Foundation, Slania engraved the portraits of Princess Grace and her daughter Caroline. These two are considered among his best portrait engravings

started as a permanent employee of Sweden Post on 1 April 1960.

Masterly-engraved stamps for Sweden Post soon drew the attention of Post Denmark which began to collaborate with Slania in May 1962. This was followed by the postal authorities of Greenland, Iceland and

the Faroe Islands. This Polish engraver ultimately turned into an engraver of Scandinavia by engraving the majority (75%) of his stamps for the Nordic postal administrations.

In the Nordic world, Slania engraved his most beautiful stamps for Sweden and the Faroe Islands. Slania was big in rendering paintings and thus this was one of his favourite themes. The most significant example of this was the selection of Jan Matejko's painting for his graduation diploma engraving work. Slania was a master of retaining similarity to the original paintings in his engravings. Over the years, he rendered many paintings on the engraved stamps of Sweden. One example of this is his 1983 stamp shown in figure 6, depicting the 1904 *Fiddler* painting by Swedish painter Anders Zorn whose portrait happens to be the subject of his first issued stamp by Sweden Post in 1960. Slania is known to tell his acquaintances at the time that this was his 'most challenging' and 'probably best' stamp engraving. Another good example of Slania's engraving of paintings is his interpretation of the *Lady with a Veil* by Swedish portrait painter Alexander Roslin (1786). The engraving featured on the 1972 Swedish stamp (figure 7).



- 11** These two 1984 Slania-engraved Monaco definitives are based on the old Monaco scene paintings by Clerissi. The stamp on the left side depicts 'Rue Basse', a narrow alley in Old Town while the stamp on the right side depicts 'Rue des Iris', another historic Monaco street



12 These two Slania-engraved Monaco stamps are based on the paintings by Clerissi, that show different Monaco scenes from the 'Bello Epoch' period. The 1983 stamp shown on the left side depicts 'Le Café de Paris' in 1905. This stamp was selected as the most beautiful stamp for the year of 1983 by the World International Philatelic Association. The 1985 stamp shown on the right side depicts 'Avenue de la Gare' in 1920



Another of Slania's favourite themes was landscapes. He was a master at rendering elegantly natural scenes with his burin, while retaining the atmosphere, expression and mood. Some of his best landscape stamp engravings were done for the beautiful Faroe Islands. One of those Faroese

landscape stamps is a set of four depicting the western side of the Suduroy island, its high cliffs are an important sanctuary and breeding ground for a variety of birds. They are shown in figure 8.

Outside of the Nordic world, the postal administration for which he

completed most of his engravings is the Principality of Monaco. Slania's affiliation with Monaco started in 1972 at the request of Prince Rainer III, the ruling monarch of Monaco at the time and an ardent philatelist. Rainer believed that postage stamps served as ambassadors of countries to the

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world. For this reason, he took a strong interest in Monaco's stamps and wanted the best artists to work on them. Over the years, Slania developed a close relationship with Prince Rainer III who became a big lover of his artwork.

Slania engraved the portraits of the Monégasque royal family on many stamps of Monaco. There are two outstanding examples of this work; one is the 1987 souvenir sheet featuring the portraits of Prince Rainer III and his grandfather and predecessor, Prince Louis II, this souvenir sheet is shown in figure 9. Slania rendered these two portraits in different styles. In the portrait of Prince Rainier III, the bright face of Rainier is formed against light background at the bottom and darkening to the top. Slania made this portrait engraving to photographic precision. In contrast, the portrait of Prince Louis II was given a painterly treatment as it was likely to be worked from a painting.

The second outstanding example of Slania-engraved Monaco royal portraits is found on a souvenir sheet issued in 1989 as shown in figure 10. For this souvenir sheet, Slania engraved the portraits of Grace Kelly – the Princess of Monaco – and her daughter Caroline. He perfectly reflected the beauty of these two women in these engravings. Slania used the engraving lines delicately to portray Princess



Grace's face with light and soft skin under subtle shading. Caroline's portrait was rendered in a similar way, but with one difference; her facial skin was made much darker.

Slania also enjoyed the theme of architecture. This subject requires carving straight and delicately incised lines in a disciplined way to build the outlines of buildings and structures. Slania has many examples of such detailed architecture engravings to his credit. One of these can be found on the 1987 Monaco souvenir sheet shown in figure 9. The middle stamp on this sheet depicts the historic 1909 building Villa Miraflores that housed the Monaco Stamp Issuing Office at the time when this stamp was issued. Look very closely at this stamp, under a magnifying glass, and you can easily see and appreciate the outstanding precision and faithfulness to the details.

As a deviation from the standard way of engraving architectural motifs,

13 Slania engraved these British Machin type definitives issued in four high value denominations in 1999

Slania used a different style to engrave Monaco's definitives series consisting of 28 stamps that begun in 1984, depicting the old Monaco scenes based on the paintings by Hulbert Clerissi, a Monégasque painter. A large majority of the stamps in this series feature architectural motifs. These stamps were engraved in a style of freehand sketches that lends their appearance a level of lightness and charm. My two favourite stamps from this series are shown in figure 11. In addition to this, Slania engraved another series featuring architectural scenes of old Monaco as a reproduction of Clerissi's *Monaco Belle Epoch* paintings. This series of sixteen stamps started being issued in 1982. My two favourite stamps from the *Belle Epoch* series is shown in figure 12.

Slania engraved 24 unique stamp motifs for Great Britain, issued



14 Slania engraved five British commemorative stamps depicting different mail coach runs between 1784 and 1831. These stamps were issued in 1984 on the bicentennial occasion of the first British mail coach run

between 1982 and 2002. One of these engravings was for a set of Machin definitives featuring the sculpted side profile of the Queen. These definitives were issued in four different denominations of £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 in 1999 and printed by Enschedé of Netherlands as shown in figure 13. They were re-issued in 2000, and printed in different colours or different shades of the same colour by Thomas de la Rue & Company of London.

One of the commemorative British stamp sets engraved by Slania was issued in 1984 on the occasion of the bicentenary of the first British mail coach run. The set consist of five stamps depicting different mail coach runs between 1784 and 1831. These stamps are shown in figure 14.

As his outstanding engraving work was being recognised around the world, he also began to receive commissions for banknote engraving. During his career, he engraved 42 unique banknote motifs for ten countries. There were also some banknote essays and engravings that were completed but never adopted. One example of

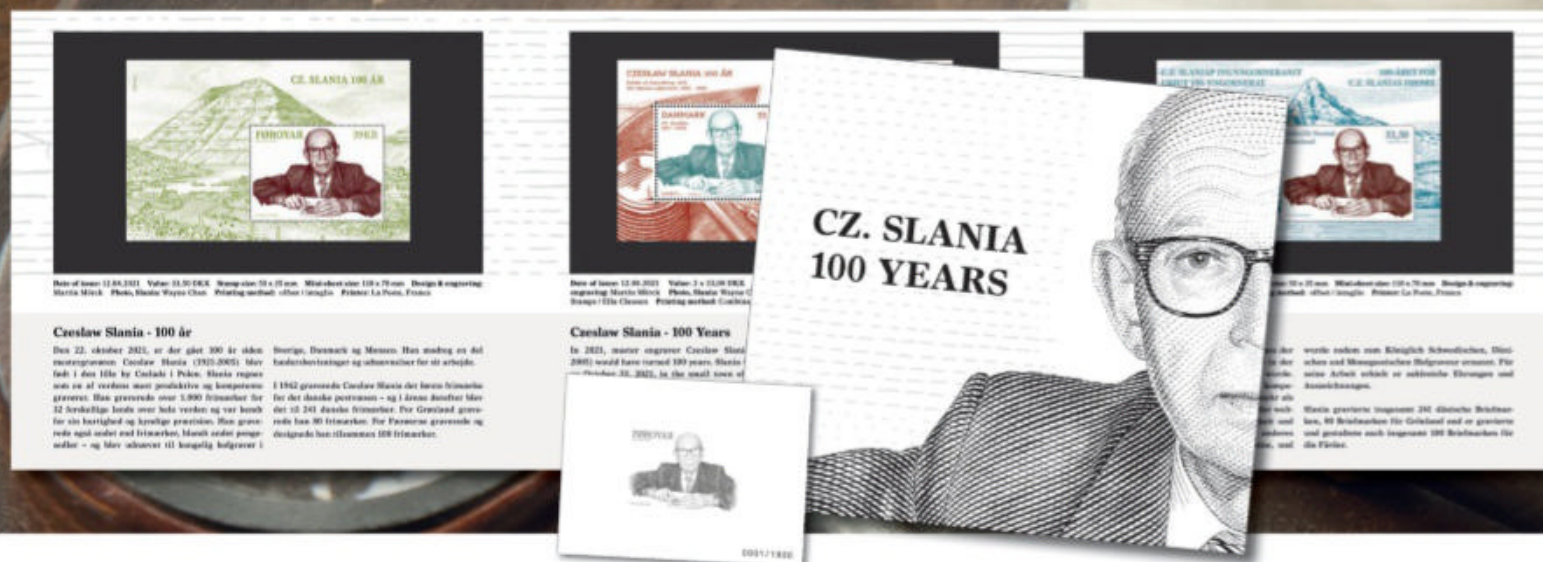
15 Slania engraved a number of private portrait engravings. One of them was this beautiful portrait of Queen Elizabeth II displayed inside an oval frame



Faroe Islands Stamps

Master engraver Cz. Slania's 100th Birth Anniversary Folder

Includes the three joint souvenir sheets from the Faroe Islands, Denmark and Greenland as well as the Faroese numbered black print. The souvenir sheets are engraved by Martin Mörck.



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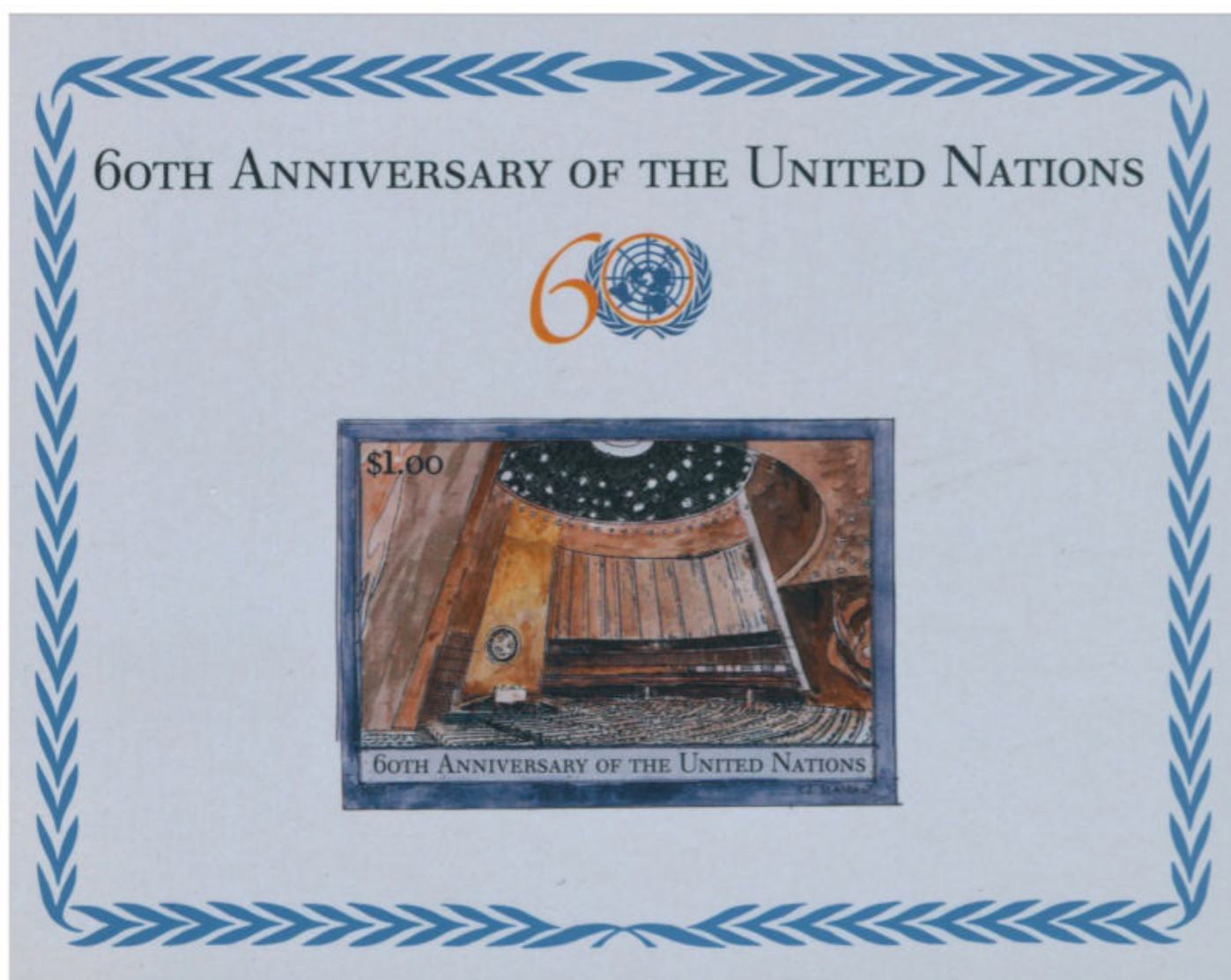
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this was an essay of the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. Once this essay was rejected for adoption, Slania issued this as a private engraving in the size of 72 x 92 mm. They were issued in two different formats, with and without an oval frame, in various colours. Figure 15 shows this private engraving with the oval frame in black.

After fleeing from Poland, Slania remained in Sweden for the rest of his life, spending some summers in Monaco, until he returned to Poland late in life to be cared by his sister as his health started to become fragile. Slania passed away on 17 March 2005 in Krakow and was buried there.

The last printed stamp featuring a Slania engraving was issued by the United Nations (UN) Postal Administration on 4 February 2005 to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the UN. The souvenir sheet, including this UN stamp in an imperforated format, is shown in figure 16. However, this was not the last stamp engraved by Slania. His final stamp was for Sweden and was the portrait of Elvis Presley (figure 17) issued on 2 October 2004. Sadly his health deteriorated while working on this portrait and he was not able to complete the work. The large part of the engraving was therefore



16 This 2005 souvenir sheet, issued by United Nations Postal Administration's New York Office, celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of United Nations. Slania engraved the imperforated stamp on this souvenir sheet. It was also issued as a single perforated stamp. In addition to the New York office, the Geneva and Vienna offices issued the same stamp in two different formats as well. This was the last ever issued Slania-engraved stamp by any postal administration

completed by Piotr Naszarkowski, another Polish engraver. Although Slania finished engraving the aforementioned UN stamp before he started engraving the Presley stamp, it took a while for the UN Postal Administration to issue it.

As of today, Slania remains the most prolific stamp artist of all time. It is possible that the total number of 1,080 unique stamp designs credited to him may be surpassed by Martin Mörck, the Norwegian-Swedish artist, who is considered by many to be Slania's heir. Mörck recently engraved two different Slania portraits for stamps in celebration of Slania's centennial birth. One of these portraits featured on jointly issued 2021 stamps from the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark, as shown on the front cover of this issue of *Stamp Collector*, while the second portrait appeared on a 2021 Monaco stamp.

Even if Slania's total number of 1,080 stamp designs is surpassed one day, I do not believe that the total number of 1,047 unique stamp hand engravings achieved by him will ever be beaten, given that nowadays there are only very few hand-engraved stamps issued by very few postal administrations, due to cost concerns.

No matter what the future holds, Slania shall always be remembered and recognized as one of the greatest stamp engravers.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Roman Harmel and Vicente Lopez for providing some of the high resolution images of their collection items, used in this article.

Discover more about engraver Martin Mörck in a follow-up feature in the March 2022 issue of Stamp Collector. Subscribe to the magazine today, save money, and have every issue delivered direct to your home. See page 57 for our special '£3 for 3 issues' offer.



17 The Elvis Presley motif on this 2004 Swedish stamp was the last engraved by Slania before his death. As his health condition declined while engraving this stamp, he was unable to complete the engraving. It was finished by Naszarkowski. Therefore, both the names of Slania and Naszarkowski were inscribed as the engravers on the lower right part of this stamp

FURTHER READING

Harold Ashby Short, *The Engraving Art of Czeslaw Slania*, Czeslaw Slania Study Group, Milwaukee, 2008

Vicente Lopez, *The Burin of Czeslaw Slania* (www.czeslawslania.org)

Zygmunt K. Jagodzinski, *Slania*, Korporacja Polonia, Warsaw, 2006



NEW STAMPS

Slania's legacy

The birth centenary of Slania has given many philatelic bureaus the perfect excuse to remember and celebrate the work of the master engraver, as our quick guide to new issues reveals

There are few stamp artists who have appeared on stamps themselves, since their task is to create a beautiful, arresting image that speaks for itself, but such is the reverence for Czesław Słania, there is now a growing number of stamp issues showing his portrait.

This year we have seen a range of stamps celebrating the engraver's life and work as we mark his birth centenary. It is appropriate that these new stamps have been issued by post offices that have long links with Slania, each clearly proud that the renowned artist produced artwork for their stamps in years gone by.

Take Monaco, for example, who recently issued a single stamp featuring a portrait of the Master Engraver. 'Slania produced around 150 stamps (miniature sheets, normal postage stamps, air-mail stamps) between 1972 and 2004 and his creations are unmatched,' says Florence Bouvier of the Office des Emissions de Timbres-Poste. Indeed, Slania's work for the Monegasque post office earned him great accolades from high

places, including Monaco's version of a knighthood. 'H.S.H. Prince Rainier III pronounced Slania, Chevalier de l'Ordre de Saint Charles in November 1985,' Florence confirms.

Naturally, Posta Faroe Islands have a similar respect and love for Slania's work. Director Svanbjörg Manai told us: 'We started using Slania to engrave our stamps from the beginning of our postal administration in 1975. Our first issue included fourteen stamps and Slania engraved eleven of them... Slania was a great engraver. The collectors of Faroese stamps have always appreciated engraved stamps as this is an old craft and stands for quality. Since Slania was our first choice, from the first issue until his death, collectors had a special relationship with his work.'

For the Faroe Islands, the plans to mark the engraver's birth centenary developed into a joint issue with Greenland and Denmark. 'We have a long history of collaborations and this so very important issue was ideal for such a cooperation,' Svanbjörg says.

It's appropriate that both the joint issue and Monaco's celebratory stamp were engraved by Martin Mörck, who is considered to be Slania's heir, continuing the tradition of engraving stamps. 'Engraving remains the privileged technique for the stamps of Monaco,' Florence Bouvier says, 'and that's the reason why we entrusted Martin Mörck, with whom we collaborate regularly, to create this specific stamp.'

As Svanbjörg explains, Martin and Czesław were friends, and no doubt he

was thrilled to create engravings of his mentor. 'Since this stamp was going to be about Slania, we decided that it must be hand engraved to honour his legacy. Martin and Slania were friends even though Martin was relatively young and Slania had already been engraving stamps for many countries. Martin was still learning then and he became one of the best... he is certainly following in Slania's footsteps even though Martin has his distinct style.'

Whilst we are taking the chance to look back on the incredible work of Slania during this anniversary, we can also look forward. It is good to know that the tradition and talents he showcased live on, both in the stamps that honour him and the beautiful designs created by today's skilled engravers.

SLANIA STAMPS 2021

Denmark, 33 KR, 12 August 2021 (joint issue)

Faroe Islands, 39 KR, 12 August 2021 (joint issue)

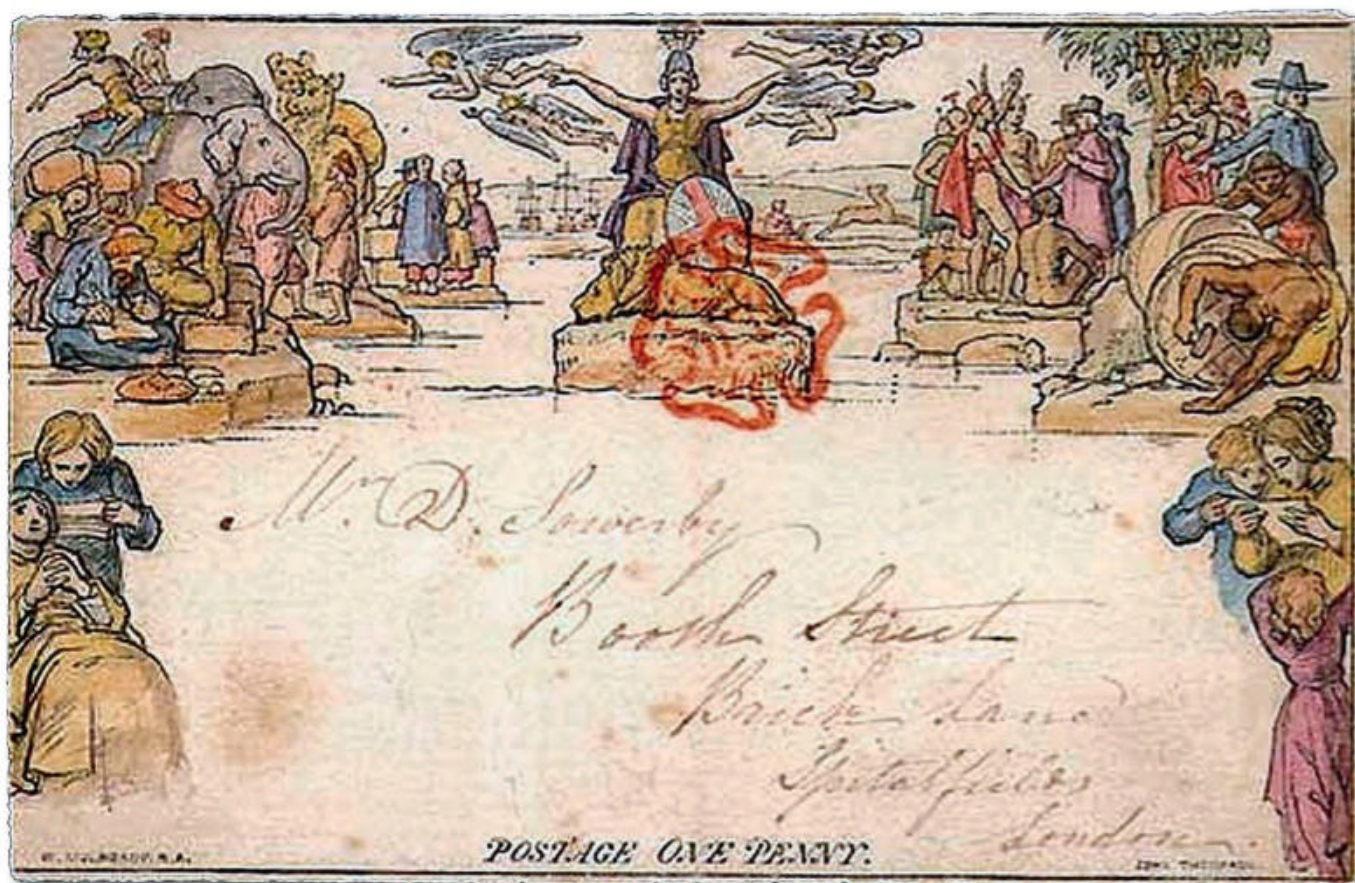
Greenland, 33.50 DKK, 12 August 2021 (joint issue)

Monaco, €2, 17 June 2021

Poland, 15,30 PLN minisheet, 22 October 2021

Sweden, SEK 100 minisheet, 22 October 2021





Although not popular with the general public as postal stationery, used Mulready envelopes sold for up to 15s in 1880



French Ceres issues from 1849 were popular collectors' items in the 1880s. In Paris they sold for £1. Today this 20c example would sell for over £200

THE HISTORY OF OUR HOBBY

The 1880s when stamp collecting came of age

Ed Fletcher attempts to pinpoint the year when stamp collecting made the giant leap from mere accumulations of used stamps to the dawn of specialization, and the identification and valuation of rarity

In the 1850s, a decade after Great Britain introduced Penny Blacks as aids to rapid and inexpensive postal communications, the general public, spurred on by sensation-mongering newspaper reporters, believed with unswerving conviction that anyone who collected used postage labels, as stamps were known at that time, must be up to no good. It was common knowledge, they asserted, that gangs of unscrupulous confidence tricksters had developed scientific methods to remove obliterating marks from used stamps so that they could be fed back into letter delivery systems for a free ride in a postman's sack. In truth, that very fraud had been perpetrated within a few days of the first postage stamps going on sale in 1840. Hungry, under-fed office boys began experimenting with the basic cleaning fluids kept in Victorian

sculleries from the moment they were sent out to buy Penny Blacks and post their company's office mail. The boys soon learned that oil-based obliterating ink could be removed with the swift pass of a bit of rag soaked in a solvent; and that one penny could then be safely pocketed to buy an evening meal. Here is a typical newspaper snippet from those days: *Portsmouth Times* (18 April 1857) *Used Postage Stamps. A party having assisted in supplying used stamps in answer to an advertisement in a London newspaper was informed on unquestionable authority that these advertisements are baits held out to obtain stamps for the purpose of obliterating the post-office marks and defrauding the revenue. It is confidently declared that the Queen's heads can be cleansed and the stamp made fit for use so as to elude detection.*

[We warn our readers that all persons dealing in either buying or selling



UK eBay seller pennyblack1 of Dorset, recently offered this Cape of Good Hope 1d imperforate, vermillion, described as good used at £365 with free shipping. In 1889 singles were offered at £5

stamps, except through the Post Office, the Stamp Office, or a licensed stamp distributor or sub-distributor, are liable to heavy penalties for such offences.]

As improvements in the quality of obliterating inks, together with the introduction of fugitive varieties for stamp printing, reduced opportunities for stamp washers, an alternative means of profiting from postal detritus hove on the horizon of opportunity: people began to collect used stamps. Office boys may have formed the vanguard,

but the idiosyncrasy spread swiftly to adults. It resulted in appeals for used stamps as donations to charities, or to augment accumulations gathered to save young women from fates worse than death, or similar moral plights. For example, the *Blackburn Standard* of 1 May 1859 headlined one of its pieces '180,000 Used Postage Stamps' and went on to say: *We recently reported that many persons were collecting used postage stamps to save a young lady from becoming, contrary to her inclinations, the inmate of a nunnery. Her father had converted to the Church of Rome, and wished to place her in a French nunnery, but consented to forego his intentions if she could procure, in ten days, 180,000 used postage stamps. She and some of her friends commenced to collect the stamps, and from the following advertisement, which appeared in the Times of the 20th ult., it appears they succeeded in their novel task: The number of obliterated postage stamps required by the young lady about to enter a convent being already collected, it is particularly requested that no further contributions be sent to the address given in the advertisement.*

The 1860s brought a change in stamp collectors' behaviours. The *Birmingham Journal* of 20 December 1862 told its readers that:

A few weeks ago we referred to the mania of our times, which has risen from the mere collecting of a quarter of a million, or half a million, obliterated stamps. The latest manifestation of the

hobby now lies in getting as many as possible of the postage stamps issued by each nation throughout the world. Since the introduction of our own stamps of twenty years ago, to those of Turkey most recently issued, more than twelve hundred varieties have gone on sale... So large and increasing is the demand for rare stamps, that fraud and forgery are known already, and not a few stamps are made curious by the use of chemicals to change their colours... More than twenty works and papers on stamp collecting have been issued in England and France. Lists, albums, pocket books, etc. are issued at prices varying from a shilling to two or three guineas each.

Towards the end of the decade the *Illustrated Berwick Journal* (July 1868) drew a word picture of the hobby in England's capital: *The Postage Stamp Mania, Scenes in Birchin Lane, London a few years ago... where ladies and gentlemen of all ranks, from cabinet-ministers to crossing-sweepers, were busy, with albums or portfolios in hand, buying, selling, or exchanging, are now known to have been the vanguard of what may almost be termed a new trade. Postage stamp exchanges are now commonplace, with the meetings in Lombard Street on Saturday afternoons most enthusiastically attended. In the advertisement pages of a monthly magazine, we counted no fewer than sixty different dealers in postage stamps offering their wares. Twelve months ago there was no regular mart in London at which foreign stamps might be bought;*



Great Britain, 1876, Queen Victoria, 8d. orange, Large Garter water-mark, plate 1, part o.g., lightly hinged, fresh and quite well-centred with bright colour, wing margin at left, fine to very fine. Auctioned by theswedishtiger.com and estimated to sell at US \$500 – \$750. Back in 1889, at a London 'rarities' auction, an unused pair sold for £6.50

now there are a dozen regular dealers in the metropolis, all enjoying a profitable trade. Within the last few months we have witnessed the establishment of the Stamp Collector's Magazine. Its publishers say its success has far exceeded their most sanguine expectations.

The 1870s witnessed the use of the term philately in newspaper columns for the first time. Readers could also make notes on numerous individual stamp prices. As an issue of the *Morning Advertiser* put it, in March 1872: *The business of stamp collecting has become a branch of trade. There are now dealers in Hull, Bristol, Southampton, and Cheltenham, while the commercial spirit of the nation develops in boarding schools where boys become commission agents for dealers, and earn a percentage by moving off goods among their schoolfellows. Still more extraordinary is the fact that a certain Mr. Scott has, it seems, accumulated a fine collection. It has just been disposed of at auction by Messrs. Sotheby, where it realized £252. A St. Louis stamp found a purchaser at £8. 12s. A Boyd's City Express Post specimen went for £7. 15s. ; and a Sandwich Islands stamp brought the seller £8.10s. A further 275 lots were offered, yielding an average of 8s. per stamp.*



The Mystic Stamp Company USA recently sold this example of a Boyd's City Express Post stamp for US \$230. A similar stamp auctioned in London in 1872 went for £7. 15s



eBay seller stampman_dave from Western Australia recently offered this New South Wales 1854 8d orange imperforate for US \$278, plus shipping. Back in 1889 several examples were sold at auction in London at £2 each. Thanks to stampman_dave for use of this image. Check out his latest eBay lots

The 1880s introduced sections of the newspaper reading public to some mildly philosophical features on the hobby. As a taster, here are a few lines from *The Colonies Gazette* of February 1883: *Scarcely twenty years have passed since stamp collecting first came into vogue; yet nowadays it may take a place among the ranks of the most popular and most profitable of quiet indoor amusements. As pictorial milestones on the highway of time, postage stamps present a record in which may be read the history of the modern era. Scarcely a single major readjustment has taken place in the political, geographical or cultural world without leaving its mark in the shape of a new stamp. The unification of the German Empire; the assassination of the Tsar of all the Russias; the substitution of a Republican for an Imperial form of government by our neighbours across the Channel, the acquisition of new possessions by perfidious Albion herself (a Fiji or a Cyprus, for example). Each was marked by the issue of a new stamp. Viewed in this light, stamp collecting passes from the category of an idle amusement to that of an intellectual and instructive pastime.*

The Birmingham Journal mused, at about the same time: *When Rowland Hill proposed penny postage – when Mulready designed his envelope – when Archer first perforated our stamps, they little thought how extensively these*



Newspaper records show that in 1888 dealers were offering to buy examples of this rare Penny Black with V.R. top corner letters for £8, but we have no way of knowing how many – if any – were sold at that price

stamps would be issued, or that those which had been used, obliterated, and thrown away, would be so eagerly sought for and proudly displayed by philatelists.

The *St James's Gazette* (December 1886) stuck to foreign news on stamp markets, telling readers that: *One of the Paris dealers now offers to buy for £2 every Tuscan used stamp dating anterior to 1860; and three times that amount for each unused one. French stamps of 1849 are quoted in the same list at £1 each; British Guiana stamps of 1836 at £20 - £40 each; and Mauritius stamps of 1847 at £80 each. There are no fewer than 150 wholesale postage stamp dealers in business in Paris at present.*

By 1888 the *Bournemouth Guardian* had its own 'Stamp Collecting Correspondent'. In October of that year he enlightened readers on a number of stamp rarities, stating that: *In 1840, a newly prepared stamp became known to collectors as The British V.R. Identical to the Black Penny of the same year, in its top corners it has the letters V.R. engraved in lieu of asterisks. It was never officially issued; but its present market value stands at £8. Mulready envelopes, on India paper, are also becoming rarer. The 1 franc orange of the French Republic, issued in 1849, is now worth about £5. Triangular Cape Colony labels, engraved on wood block, are very scarce. The early Mauritius stamp, though hideously engraved, is*

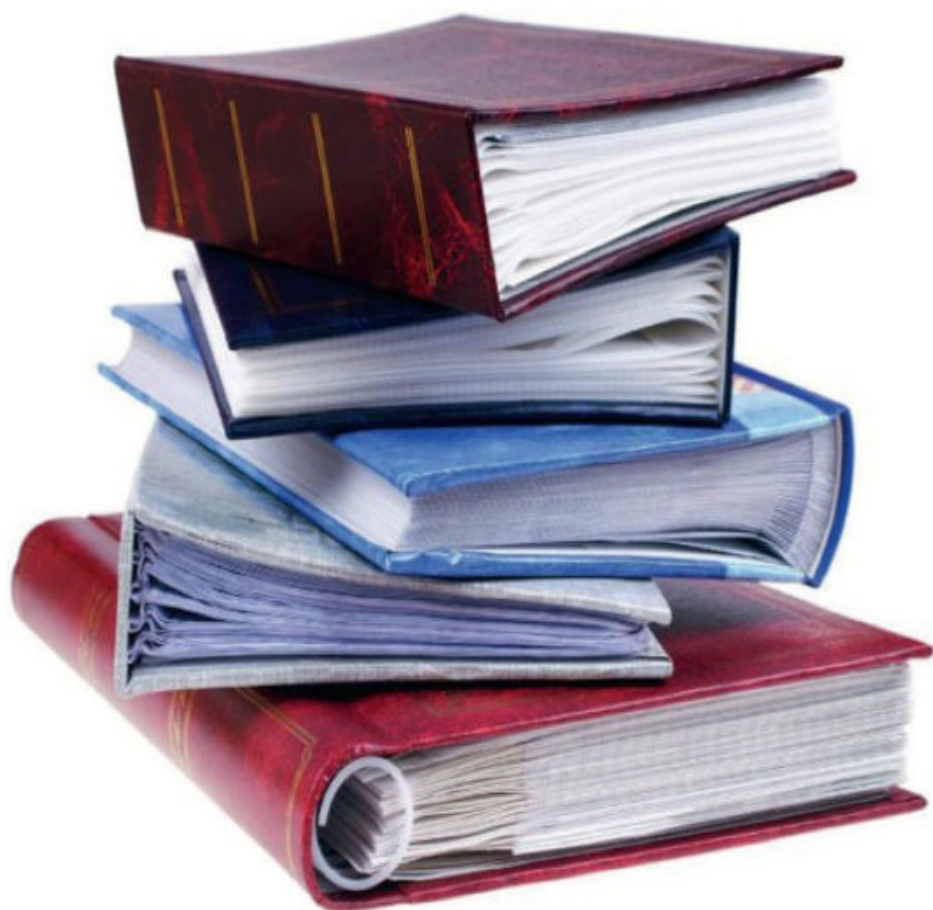
regarded as almost priceless. The first two issues of Natal in 1857, which look as if the artist drew them with a J pen [a dip pen with a broad, stubby nib] will fetch almost any price the owner wishes to demand. The first Guiana stamps of 1850, in four values, are worth not less than £50 each, even though they closely resemble circular post marks. The Connell issue of Canada, being almost immediately with-drawn, is worth about £10. The beautifully engraved Periodicals stamps of the United States fetch £42 the set. Those stamps issued by the Pacific Ocean Steam Navigation Company sell from £10 each. The Guadalajara stamps of Mexico are worth from £25 to £40. The early Locals of the U.S. are worth about £10 on the average. The 1850 New South Wales issues fetch about £12 apiece. All issues mentioned here comprise those that stamp collectors regard as in the rarer category.

Here is our final quote from the 1880s survey, this from the *Lyttelton Times*, December 1889: *The following market quotations from an English current price list will be of interest to stamp collectors: Seven Natal first issues, £100; six 1860 Cape of Good Hope for £20, or one for £5; six 1866 Canadian, £20; ten 1850 Brazil, perforate, £10; a penny blue Tasmanian of 1853, for £4.10 s. Two unused eightpenny English, of the 1873 issue, recently realised £6. 5s. at auction. To those may be added the Mulready, which is worth, for ordinary specimens (1d and 2d), from 2s 6d to 15s, according to condition, whilst on Indian paper (the original proofs) the same are worth £80. A large business is done in forged Mulreadys, some of which, as is the case with forgeries of rare stamps generally, are so skilfully copied that it needs the practised eye of an expert to detect them.*

This seems an appropriate point to call a halt to the press survey. We can safely conclude that stamp collecting came of age in the 1880s. Why not browse your catalogues, dealers' lists, internet sites and look up a few stamps mentioned by commentators in those distant decades? Collectors who bought at those prices in the 1870s and 1880s would not be dissatisfied if they returned from the Elysian Fields and browsed current offerings to judge their earlier purchases.



This St Louis Bears USA Provisional 10c Stamp was recently valued at US \$8,000. In 1872 a similar stamp was sold at a Messrs Sotheby London auction for £8, 12s



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STAMP
COLLECTOR

The drifting continents

The man on this stamp was, as one might expect, a famous explorer, but he also produced one of the most remarkable theories in scientific history. Chris West explores his life and achievements which earned him a place on a range of stamps

Alfred Wegener was born in 1880. He was a keen student of physics, meteorology and astronomy. He also had a taste for adventure. Aged 26, he took part in a record-breaking balloon flight and went on an expedition to Greenland, mapping the last unknown section of the coast. Five years later, he went on a second expedition, and nearly died trying to cross the ice cap. Two more expeditions would follow.

Just before his second expedition, he published his theory of continental drift. The idea that the continents are not fixed, but actually move very slowly across the earth's surface, was not new. It had been suggested by Dutch cartographer Ortelius in the late 16th century, and other people had subsequently noted how snugly South America fits into Africa. Wegener produced a thorough model of an earlier 'supercontinent', showing how all the world's land had once fitted together, and produced a theory of how they then drifted apart.

The response of the scientific community was derisory. How could continents drift? And if they could, wouldn't they all congregate along the equator as the earth spun? Albert Einstein even wrote an introduction to a volume rubbishing Wegener's theory.

The response of the scientific community was derisory. How could continents drift? Wegener's theories did not gain widespread acceptance until the 1960s.

Wegener stuck to his guns, however, developing his theory while working on his other interests. These took him to Greenland again, on two expeditions in 1929 and



1930. On the second of these, he died, attempting to bring food to an outlying camp.

His theory remained heretical until after the Second World War, when the continental plates that stick out vast distances from the actual shore, were discovered. These dovetail

even more neatly than shorelines. Wegener's theory of what made the drift happen was replaced by a newer one: it is driven by magma emerging through the gaps between the plates

and pushing them apart. However, continental drift did not gain widespread acceptance until the 1960s. It is now believed that the continents move at about the same speed that a human fingernail grows.

Wegener's supercontinent, known as Pangaea, was discovered to have existed over 200 million years ago. The dinosaurs evolved on it, as did the first mammals. There were probably other supercontinents before it: the earth's surface is always changing.

Humans seem to have inhabited Greenland's coasts for thousands of years – on and off. Survival there is difficult. The Viking Eric the Red arrived in the 980s and founded a colony that lasted for five hundred years. Historians are still arguing about why it died out. It was probably a combination of factors such as climate change (it began to get colder in the 1400s) and environmental damage caused by inappropriate farming methods. Later, Europeans became interested in the island – the world's biggest – again. It was recolonized, and ended up part of Denmark. In 1988, it defied that country by voting to leave the European Community, of which it was a member by default.

Greenland has issued stamps (or stamps have been issued for it, from Copenhagen) since 1905, when ones were issued for parcels. Stamps for letters, which up till that point had been delivered free, were introduced in 1938. It produces a number of issues a year, but most seem to be relevant to this country's unique culture, fauna and geography, unlike some nations that just churn stamps out for gullible collectors. The stamps have been bilingual since 1969. 'Grønland' is Danish, 'Kalaallit Nunaat' means 'Country of the Greenlanders' in Inuit.

Wegener appeared on a Greenland stamp, part of a horizontal miniature sheet, in 2006, and has also been philatelically honoured by countries including Austria, East Germany, and Germany. The illustrated example was engraved by Martin Morck

Chris West is author of *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps*

CURATOR'S PICK

It's a long long way to... Muscat

In his latest examination of a remarkable stamp or piece of postal history, Museum of Philately curator Devlan Kruck finds out why this piece of post was sent so far, to a thriving port that links the West to the East

'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' is a famous music hall song, often sung by soldiers during the wars of the early part of the 20th century. But it's an even longer way from Ballymackey in Tipperary to Muscat.

You might wonder why we mention this fact. There isn't much, if anything, to connect Ballymackey and Muscat. The former is a small Irish town in Tipperary, with a population of just over 3,000, and the latter is the capital city of Oman with a population of well over a million. The north-western European country of Ireland, in which Ballymackey sits, is far

far away from the Arabian Peninsula in Western Asia where Muscat resides on the coast of the Arabian sea. In fact, it's over 5,000 miles away via mainland Europe, Turkey, Iraq and Saudia Arabia before you can make the hop on to Muscat. And even travelling by plane nowadays, it would take over nine hours. Basically there is a gulf between them, in more ways than one.

But back in 1915 these two locations were intrinsically linked through a unique cover which set off from the Emerald Isle, postmarked Ballymackey, addressed to a British soldier. After bouncing around various places in an effort to locate the recipient, it arrived in Muscat, where the military man ended up, some ten weeks later.

Why was he there? Well, back then the British were involved in a conflict known as the Imamate Rebellion, and British India forces were gathering in and around Muscat to protect the interests of the Empire. As a result of these events there are a handful of covers from servicemen sent from Muscat, albeit they are scarce, but incoming mail to these troops during this conflict are extraordinarily rare. The featured cover is the only known mailing of this ilk, and it is part of a detailed study on the development of the Indian Post Office in Eastern Arabia, between 1864 and 1948, focused on Muscat. It's a large gold medal-winning



collection and illustrates the changing rates, routes, postal censorships, cancellations and other postal markings that were used at the Muscat post office.

The geography and the period means that other conflicts both before the Imamate Rebellion, which enabled a small Irish town to touch the shores of Arabia, and following it, are represented right up to the Second World War, when censorship marks became more prevalent, and air mail more of an influential service and of course registered and express mail were utilised by commercial and official sources to communicate in

and out of what was a strategic location between the East and West.

Like our cover from Ireland these historical incidents provide the need for the field post offices, and when this cover was sent to Tank in India and couldn't find the intended recipient, it was forwarded to Aden Camp, which is distinguished by the FPO 323, It was later sent onto FPO 324, which is Sheikh Othman, in search of the soldier, and then yet another location you'd never expect to see on a humble envelope sent from Tipperary. Not being successful in its travels, it made its way to Dera Ishmail Khan where it was re-addressed to Muscat to meet up with the British serviceman. The front and back of the cover sings its own story of what is a most unlikely journey, and more pertinently a very long long way from Ballymackey to Muscat.

The Museum of Philately is a unique digital platform that captures and preserves award winning collectors, collections and rarities, as well as providing the facility to track provenance and pricing information. Find out more at: www.museumofphilately.com



Eminent Philatelists

John Walter Scott

(1845–1919)

So, I'm going to backtrack a little here, writes Devlan Kruck, because having brought you up to date with Frederick J Melville's contribution to philately during the early to mid 1900s (see last month's *Stamp Collector*), I was about to introduce you to James L Lindsay, the Earl of Crawford, but you can't do that unless you at least mention John Kerr Tiffany, and by default you really shouldn't be talking about Tiffany even if as a supporting act in a Crawford piece unless you have asked John Walter Scott (1845–1919) to pop in and have a cup of tea.

And you'd receive a warm and favourable response if you did ask Scott round for an English cupper, because although he is synonymous with American Philately – he is the Scott catalogue man after all – he was actually an English chap who immigrated to the US in search of gold. Lucky for us philatelists, and in particular the Americans amongst us, he wasn't too good at finding that glittering treasure and so employed his abundant business, creative and analytical talents in an 'avant-garde' manner in America, dealing in the world of stamps.

Scott became a significant dealer in the US having found much more success selling rare adhesives to collectors than prospecting for precious metals. As early as 1868 he began to catalogue stamps and published *A Descriptive Catalogue of America and Foreign Postage Stamps, Issued from 1840 to Date*. This developed into Scott becoming the leading stamp catalogue publisher in America and by 1885 he was able to sell the rights to his Scott catalogue to the Calman brothers who renamed it the Scott Stamp and Coin Company. They recognised the influence his name carried. We all still do today.

Scott did many inventive things to develop the world of philately, such as produce a stamp album featuring spaces for specific stamps and, after selling the rights to his catalogues, he wrote philatelic literature and newsletters promoting the hobby. Scott is affectionately known as 'The Father of American Philately', and he certainly conceived ways to innovate stamp collecting and stands out more than anyone as an adventurous and enterprising prospector of philately at that time.

For example, Scott started what we know today as a stamp auction held in May 1870 in New York City. He went on to organise and conduct auctions in the US and even Europe. At David Feldman SA we appreciate that Scott was the first, in 1882, to produce an auction catalogue with full colour plates of the stamps available in the sale. It might seem basic now, but at the time this was a very expensive and cutting-edge process.

And even more akin to our hearts at David Feldman SA is how Scott pushed the boundaries of the prices achieved for rare stamps and, whether folklore or fact, some claim Scott was the first philatelist to sell a stamp for over \$1,000.

Given his achievements and his entrepreneurial spirit it is no surprise he was one of the founding members of the Collectors Club of New York 1896, and active in the American Philatelic Society, serving as president from 1917 to 1919. Some might say it is a surprise he didn't make The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, but perhaps that comes with the territory he occupied commercially. However, Scott was active in organising philatelic exhibitions and promoting the hobby, yes these activities had a business edge to them, but it is hard to ignore what he achieved. Indeed, one is left pondering what the US philatelic landscape would look like without the 'imprint' of Scott upon it.

Well, there would be one less name on the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame, which Scott was added to in 1941. And the other obvious fact is that the Scott catalogues continue to thrive today, which maintains Scott's legacy, even if it's actually an English guy who is the most well known name to all American stamp collectors. John Walter Scott, a philatelic pioneer.

Devlan Kruck is Regional Representative for the UK for David Feldman International Auctioneers. Find out more about the auction house at the website: www.davidfeldman.com



WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORLD'S PHILATELIC TREASURES?

EXPERT WEBINAR
22 NOVEMBER, 6.30PM

Later this month, Marcus Orsi and Devlan Kruck from the Museum of Philately present the fifth and final expert stamp collecting webinar in the current series, this time asking 'Who's responsible for the world's philatelic treasures?' Presented by Matt Hill, editor of *Stamp Collector*, the friendly online forum will give you the chance to ask questions and comment on the subject, whilst the experts will also provide practical advice to help you improve your collection.

Book now for just £5 and join us as we explore our wonderful hobby. Missed the previous webinars? Don't worry, we recorded them and they're available for anyone with a 'Season Pass'. To get your Pass and enjoy all webinars, for as little as £10, just visit: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/webinars

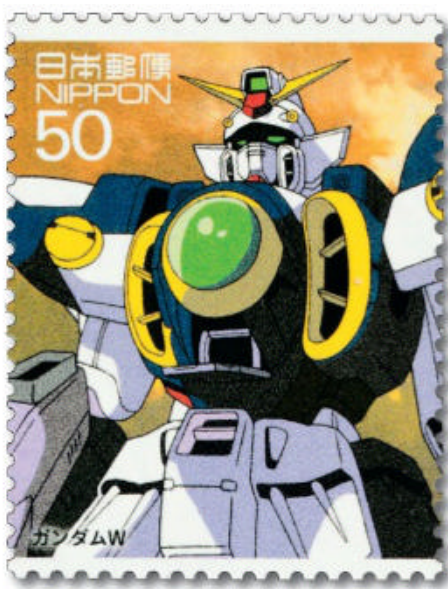
ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Marcus Orsi, Senior Philatelist at David Feldman SA

Marcus joined David Feldman in 1981, and has risen to become the company's Head of Philately. In this role, Marcus has taken the lead in building upon David Feldman's legacy by expanding the brand and its international exposure. Marcus has a leading role in business-getting, regularly travelling around the world to pick up new collections for auction. His philatelic specialities include the Middle East, Worldwide Classics and British Empire.

Devlan Kruck, Regional Representative UK at David Feldman SA

Devlan is based in the UK, currently living in Cambridgeshire, a professional philatelist and philatelic journalist for the last eleven years, who's been studying stamps for over thirty years. He is a member of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) and the Cambridge Philatelic Society and had literally hundreds of articles published in philatelic publications, and has been a regular face at all the main stamp shows and fairs in the UK for the last decade, where he has specialised in the supply of GB & Commonwealth material.



CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

CELEBRATED SETS

Japan 2005 MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM *The birth of a genre*

In his latest examination of a popular set that would add interest to an album, David Bailey discovers how a 1979 television series changed the face of animation and brought colour and action to Japanese stamps

Animation – or Anime – is a major industry in Japan, with films and television programmes plus models, toys, t-shirts, comics and computer games that are sold all over the world.

Anime productions began as adaptations of Manga, printed comic books, but soon started to develop on their own, encompassing romance, fantasy, sci-fi, comedy and a dozen other genres and sub-genres.

Mecha is one of the most important of these and features huge, humanoid robots, frequently fighting each other. Most are under the control of a human operator, either inside them or operating remotely. Some have supernatural powers to boot.

Metal Suit Gundum was not the first of these but it was one of the most successful. It was the first series to be based around 'real robots'. They used no magic, just advanced versions of existing technology. And they were piloted by people, not superheroes. Many pilots had evolved into 'Newtypes', genetically adapted for space, but they were unmistakably

human and fallible characters who would change and evolve over time.

Spin-offs from the original series are still being made today, but it flopped on its first appearance and was nearly cancelled altogether.

Gundam was written and directed by Yoshiyuki Tomino, who aimed to use the sci-fi format to show the reality of war. It was originally slated for 52 episodes, but ratings were disappointing and the show's sponsors cut it down to 39. What saved it were the models, made by new sponsor Bandai. They sold well. Then, re-runs of the TV show built up big audiences and a re-edit for cinemas started packing them in. Like Star Wars, it now has a legion of fanatical fans and by 2000, the franchise had grossed over \$5 billion in retail sales.

Animation on Japanese Stamps

Anime's importance to the economy, and its popularity with collectors, has been long appreciated by the Post Office. Prior to Gundam, there were seven series of stamps under the theme 'Science, Technology and Animation'



and cartoon characters pop up frequently before that.

Mobile Suit Gundam is the second set of a series called 'Heroes and Heroines of Animation'. The first is devoted to Pokemon characters (Pocket Monsters) and has five stamps. The other sets have ten, which are printed as se-tenant pairs and also in special sheetlets where they make up a composite design.

There were twenty issues between 2005 and 2014, making 195 stamps in all.

Meet the Gundam 50y Wing Gundam. 50y Heero Yui.

The first stamp in the series features a Gundam from 1995. Wing Gundam has a pair of wing units in its backpack which can power and steer it with or without an atmosphere. It can also transform its shape by going into bird mode to take flight. It is armed with a variety of weapons to suit different opponents, but also has a self-destruct mechanism

The green jewel-like shape on its chest can gather visual or radio data.

Heero Yui is its regular pilot. One of five Gundam pilots, he has been trained as a soldier from an early age and is also a skilled computer hacker. As a character, he tends to keep himself to himself, even with those closest to him

His adventures are another chapter in the wars between the space colonists and the Principality of Zeon on earth, but neither side is entirely good, or bad. And over time, the series introduced new characters and storylines, creating a complete fantasy world, as detailed and complex as anything in Tolkien.



50y Freedom Gundam and Kira Yamamoto

Freedom Gundam is nuclear-powered, which gives it virtually unlimited endurance in combat. It can fly, but can call on an extra set of wings for manoeuvrability in dogfights. It also features a multiple lock-on target system to attack many targets at once and a devastating Full Burst mode where it fires all its weaponry at once.

Anime's importance to the economy, and its popularity with collectors, has been long appreciated by Japan's Post Office

Kira Yamamoto becomes its pilot by stealing it to rescue an ally in a battle. He is a reluctant warrior caught up in the conflict. His combat skills are essentially self-taught and he will try to disarm an opponent instead of blasting him into space. He is consistently one of the most popular characters in the Anime Grand Prix polls.

50y Justice Gundam and Athrun Zala

Justice Gundam was developed alongside Freedom Gundam has roughly the same capabilities. However, it also has a backpack which has a triple function as a jetpack, a subliifter for subsonic flight and



a platform for beam cannons and machine guns. Justice was given to Athrun Zala by his father Patrick, to retrieve or destroy the Freedom Gundam, stolen by Kira Yamamoto. Yamamoto and Athrun Zala were childhood friends who for a while, ended up on opposite sides, triggering a conflict of loyalties for Athrun.

As an individual, he is a quiet, reserved and compassionate figure,

with a firm belief that military discipline is a prime requirement for victory. He has undergone full military training and gains a commanding authority from his status as a hero.

80y Amuro Ray, 80y Mobile Suit Gundam

Amuro Ray is from the first series from 1979. He is living on a space colony which has not been touched by the war so far and working as a mechanic. The colony is developing a line of Gundams, and when it is attacked, Amuro climbs aboard one and his natural ability with machines (plus the instruction manual) enable him to fly it effectively.

The first Gundam is not the first

mobile suit, the enemy has them too, but it is highly advanced for its day. It is made from a titanium alloy for lightness and defence against other weapons, and it carries a scaled down version of the beam cannons on spacecraft, called the beam rifle. It is also equipped with a Learning Computer which analyses mechanical and tactical data to improve performance. 43 years later, we call this Machine Learning.

80y Zaku, 80y Char Aznable

The Zaku mobile suit is the preferred weapon of the Principality of Zeon. It is inferior to the Gundams, but it is quick and easy to mass-produce.

Char Aznable is the Principality's best pilot, who can overcome many of its shortcomings and is the long-term opponent of Amuro Ray.

Known as the 'Red Comet', he is a mysterious, charismatic figure, which helps to mask his real views and intentions. He is also inclined to bear a grudge against anyone who crosses him and will always seek revenge.

80y Kamille, 80y Zeta Gundam

Kamille always resented the fact



that his parents gave him a girl's name. This made him chippy and aggressive, got him into a lot of trouble and turned him the archetypal stropky teenager.

Kamille finds his true vocation as a developer and pilot of the Zeta Gundam, which brings out all his considerable powers as a Newtype.

The Zeta Gundams have been designed to work as efficiently in an atmosphere as in space. They can handle the extreme temperatures generated on re-entry and when on Earth can carry another mobile suit on their backs.

Among a battery of sophisticated weaponry, the Zeta Gundam also carries a grappling wire, to immobilise an enemy ship without destroying it.

Many thanks to Colnect.com and gundam.fandom.com for images and information used in this article.



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GB MNH Decimal Stamp Collections	55%	UNSORTED - Post 2000
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Second (2nd) Class NVI (Self-adhesive gum)	65%	All 2nd class stamps with self-adhesive gum, definitive, commemorative regional and Christmas.
Second (2nd) Class NVI Stamps (lick and stick)	50%	Ditto (66p) with NON-ELLIPTICAL perf pre 1993
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First Class LARGE NVI (lick and stick)	65%	ALL TYPES (£1.29)
Second Class LARGE NVI (self-adhesive)	70%	ALL TYPES (96p)
Second Class LARGE NVI (lick and stick)	65%	ALL TYPES (96p)
1st Class Signed For Stamps (standard & large)	65%	All types (£2.25 and £2.69) poor sellers
Special Delivery Stamps	65%	(£6.85 > 100g and £7.65 > 500g) poor sellers
Europe up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps & W/W up to 10g (postcard)	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams and W/W up to 10g (£1.70)
Worldwide up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams (£1.70)
Europe 'E' Rate up to 20g Stamps	95p ea	'E' Rate Stamps (£1.70)
Europe & Worldwide NVI Stamps up to 100g	E 95p ea W £1.50 ea	Up to 100g (e £1.70 & w/w £2.55)
Presentation Packs	50%	from 1971 to 1999
Presentation Packs	55%	from 2000 to 2018
Presentation Packs	60%	from 2019 to 2020
Presentation Packs	65%	2020
Royal Mail Year Books	55%	1984 to 2000
Royal Mail Year Books	65%	2001 to 2020
Prestige Booklets	50%	up to 1999
Prestige Booklets	63%	2000 to 2018
Prestige Booklets	65%	2019 to 2020
Booklets with Stamps up to 29p	50%	folding & retail etc
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In the second and final part of his in-depth guide, David Bailey continues his exploration of the stamps and history of a dynasty in decline

THE STAMPS OF THE QAJAR SHAHS

The philatelic legacy of a doomed dynasty

Philatelically, Ahmed Mirza's reign began with a backward look. Seventeen stamps of Mohammed Ali were overprinted with 1ch and 2ch to pay postage on newspapers coming in from abroad, but many were also used on ordinary mail.

As far as the Shah's own definitives were concerned, the idea was to have a long, recess-printed set. But

this would take time to prepare, so Enschedé were asked to produce an interim set, printed letterpress.

It's still a handsome production. The design shows the lion and sun symbol with a laurel wreath and crown. It is printed in two colours, with silver and gold inks for the higher values. And many non-specialised collectors have never seen a real one.

Buyers are warned to beware of

Above: Ahmad Shah Qajar (1898-1930), who was Shah of Iran from 1909 to 1925 and was the last leader of the Qajar dynasty (Library of Congress)

Unless otherwise stated, the stamps shown here come from a typical collection and will be a mixture of reprints, forgeries and genuine stamps. Guidance on identification can be found on page 61

reprints of Persian stamps from 1870 to 1925. But from 1909, the process goes into overdrive. This coincides with the arrival at the Post Office of a Mr A Kurdistan. He starts to order vast quantities of overprints, delivered to him and sold by him on the philatelic market. Looking at the lion and sun stamps, the Farabakhsh catalogue gives figures of 100,000 reprints of



Far left: a high value from the stopgap Typographed set

Left: Lion and Sun stamps were overprinted for carriage by horses

Right: a high value from the 1911 set





each value to 13ch and 50,000 for the higher values to 30k.

With a parliament and the beginnings of a civil service, the country needed stamps for official correspondence. So eight stamps from the 1909 set were overprinted in Persian. There were stamps overprinted 'Officiel' both before and after these. But that was just to say 'this stamp is an official production – not a looted stamp or a forgery'. Another overprint arrived in October 1911, with the 'Relais' overprints on the 1909 set and the next. These were designed for use on letters posted in boxes along the route between Resht and Tehran, for onward travel by horses. Stamps were supplied to the Stage Managers at a discount of 10% and the Relais overprint was to ensure they were not sold on the open market. But the experiment was unsuccessful and the stamps were soon discontinued.

The overthrow of Parliament

One of the most pressing needs for Persia's Parliament, the Majlis, was to put the country's finances on a more secure footing. In 1911, they recruited an American, Morgan Schuster, for the job and he put together an ambitious plan to collect taxes from the entire country. This immediately upset the British in the South and the Russians in the North who claimed it impinged on their sovereignty. It also trod on the toes of various officials who were under Russian protection. The Russians demanded Schuster's dismissal. The Majlis refused. Russian troops advanced towards Tehran. And Ahmed Mirza's regent, supported by Bakhtiari troops, sacked Schuster and dissolved the Majlis in December 1911.

The 1911 set

The story of this set is one of reprints and overprints. Reprints flooded the market during the 1920s, and every

Above, from left: attractive colour combinations make this a very collectable set • In 1912, when stamps were looted by Russian troops in Tabriz, legitimate stamps were overprinted 'Officiel'. This is the top value • Darius on his throne, from the Coronation set of 1914

Below, from left: the unissued Coronation set was more elaborate; this is the top value Official stamp (image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries) • Two overprints validating the stamps for use in 1914 and 1915 – and also changing them to the more commonly used lower values

schoolboy collection will have one or two of these stamps.

It was also the only new definitive set until 1924, during which time the Persian Post Office struggled to maintain some sort of service, while the country fell to pieces around it.

The young Shah was crowned on 21 July 1914. And the event prompted Persia's first commemorative stamps, which appeared in 1915. It was a set of seventeen values for letter post plus overprinted sets for use on parcels and official correspondence.

To its Persian audience, the design of these stamps marked a shift in attitudes following the constitutional revolution of 1906. There are no portraits of the Shah himself, showing him as the new embodiment of the nation as a whole. Instead, it shows the Kayani Crown, the tomb of Darius and the ruins of Persepolis, which portray him as the guardian of Persia's cultural traditions.





However, the set that we know is only a provisional issue. The original set was held up by the outbreak of war, but its design has a similar message; that the present Shah is simply the latest of a line stretching back to Nader Shah, while the nation is represented by its buildings and monuments.

Meanwhile, the nation was in danger of collapse. When war broke out in 1914, Persia declared itself a neutral country; instead it became a battlefield.

Persia had borders with Russia, India and with the Ottoman Empire, who had sided with Germany. Russian troops occupied parts of the North of Persia and British troops occupied the South, guarding Britain's oil interests. Oil had been discovered in 1908 and the Royal Navy wanted to use it to fuel their ships. In Commonwealth catalogues, this is known as the British Occupation of Bushire and features overprints on the Shah's Coronation stamps.

When Turkey entered the war, they tried to foment a holy war against the British and Russians, but the Persians weren't interested. So instead, they invaded. As central authority ebbed away, Persia's old tribal divisions re-asserted themselves, with their local rivalries and warlords. Meanwhile, landed interests in Persia sought German involvement as a counterweight to Britain and Russia and they too joined the factions fighting in the country.

All this unrest caused a humanitarian disaster, exacerbated by drought. Harvests failed, food distribution broke down and supplies were requisitioned

to feed soldiers. By 1917, two thirds of the country was suffering from food shortages while diseases, including typhus, cholera and the plague - spread amongst the population. Movements of troops and refugees made this even worse and it is estimated that over 2 million people died.

Russia withdrew in 1917, Germany and Turkey were defeated in 1918, leaving Britain the sole power in the region. There was talk of Persia becoming, in effect, a British Protectorate, but the newly-restored Majles opposed it. Instead, they signed the Anglo Persian agreement, which gave exclusive drilling rights to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

War stamps

Somehow, the Persian Post Office continued to function and to cope with a new threat to its revenue. As regions of the country were occupied by foreign troops, their stocks of stamps were looted. Sometimes, entire consignments from Enschedé went missing in transit. And it was vital that these stamps did not find their way back into the system. The Post Office responded by hastily overprinting legitimate stocks of stamps. These feature the year – in both Roman and Persian lettering and sometimes an extra word or two: 'Controle' or 'Officiel'. These add to the normal run of overprints to cope with shortages of popular values and the handful done for operational reasons. For instance, the overprints of 10ch and 1 Kran plus the word 'Benaders', which means 'Ports',

Two overprints from 1915 on the Lion and Sun stamps. The second stamp is now 12 chahis

Below, from left: one from a set of seven stamps overprinted '1333', or 1915 to us
• In 1919, surviving stocks of earlier stamps were bought up and overprinted. This 2k on 5ch mauve was originally printed in 1889

which were done to reconcile Persian rates charged for postcards and letters sent abroad with the lower charges levied by the Indian Post Offices in the Gulf. The stamps were sold at these lower rates in Port towns only.

The Post Office also did its bit for famine relief. This took the form of a Postal Tax stamp affixed to letters and newspapers in addition to the regular charge. These were produced locally, in Tehran, Resht, Tabriz and Khoi.

By 1919 the stock of stamps for overprinting was starting to run low, so the Post Office looked for alternatives. One was to print locally; this had been tried in 1902 and in 1906, when the Pharos Press in Tehran had perforated sheets of stamps using sewing machines. Now, they had some proper machinery and were printing by litho and letterpress (typography).

They took a die proof of the frame from the Mohammed Ali stamps, dropped a portrait of Ahmed Mirza in the centre of it and used it to make a litho plate. This left the figures of value blank, to be added separately by letterpress. Variations in this second printing are a speciality in themselves.

Another option for the Post Office was to buy obsolete base stamps on the wholesale stamp market. They found some 5 ch values from the French set of 1889 and 10ch and 14ch from the Viennese set of 1891. These were then overprinted with a range of different values and the year.

A two-stage coup

British Advisers remained in Persia until 1921, when international pressure forced a withdrawal. But that year, they lent their support to Reza Khan Pahlavi, the commander of the Persian Cossack Brigade, which was the only effective fighting force in the country. Reza Khan staged a





coup in February 1921, in which he took control of Persia's armed forces, installing himself as Minister of War. The coup was commemorated in a set of overprinted coronation stamps, on sale for three days in May.

From 1921 to 25, Reza Khan built up his power base in the country, creating an army that was loyal only to him and bringing peace to a people who had known nothing but turmoil for years.

Ahmed Mirza was still Shah, but he could see the way the wind was blowing and went into exile with his family in 1923. In 1924, his new set of definitives arrived from Holland. This was a set of fourteen stamps in one and two colours, showing an adult portrait

of the Shah in military uniform. Meanwhile Reza Khan was debating what kind of ruler he was going to be, another Shah, or the head of a secular government like Kemal Attaturk. But the country's religious leaders were very much opposed to the secular solution. So in 1925, Reza Khan deposed Ahmed Mirza and replaced the Qajar Dynasty with his own: the Pahlavis.

Sorting out the reprints

Early Persian stamps have been intensively studied and there is a lot of information available to help collectors weed out the wrong'uns.

Stanley Gibbons Part 16 for Central Asia is sadly out of print but can be found online from £60 to £100.

From top: a cover to Isfahan franked with overprints on Lion and Sun and 1911 stamps to make up the inland letter rate of 6 chahis. It was posted in Koum on 4 December and arrived in Isfahan on the 10th Lower cover • Late usage of a 1ch Famine Relief stamp printed in Tabriz alongside three 2ch Ahmed Mirza stamps. It was posted on 22 December to Hamadan, where it arrived on 13 January (images courtesy of Balkanphila)



From top: a locally-printed lithographed stamp using the frame from the Mohammed Ali stamps of 1908. Overprints were added by letterpress • In 1922, a consignment of stamps from Enschede was stolen en route, prompting this overprint on legitimate stamps

The American Big Blue Blogspot gives detailed, illustrated guidance on 12 of the most common stamps, derived from 'Focus on Forgeries' by Varro Tyler. The RPSL Library (email: research@rpsl.org.uk) has the Gibbons plus the Iranian Farabakhsh catalogue with text in English. There is also the comprehensive guide produced by the Iran Philatelic Study Circle. Joining the Club is a must for serious collectors. The catalogue is produced in the old-fashioned way: foolscap papers in two lever-arch files. But it contains detailed information (with diagrams) on not only the forgeries and reprints, but plate variations, too.

Many thanks to Balkanphila, Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, Colnect.com, Encyclopaedia Iranica, Stamp Forgeries Blogspot, Museum of Philately, Britannia.com, Iran Philatelic Study Circle, Persia: A Postal History Outline by Giorgio Migliavacca, Wikipedia, The National Archives – and Stanley Gibbons – for images and information used in these articles.

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- Harald Möller
- Rölli
- Complete Stamp
- Laser Invest
- Doreen Royan
- Filat
- Mohrmann
- Sammarinese





Competition entries

Enjoy highlights from the latest All About Stamps competition here, and see more one-page displays at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/virtual-events/stamp-displays

Launched in 2020, the All About Stamps competition has captured the imagination of collectors around the world, as they meet the challenge of creating a one-page display of stamps or postal history. This time we left the subject open, and offered a fantastic prize, with the winner set to receive a Penny Black worth £300. Enjoy highlights of the entries here and be sure to enter our next competition.

Entrants are in contention to win a 1d Black, Plate 2, DF. A very fine used four-margin example, worth around £300, courtesy of Andrew Vaughan Philatelics. The winner will also get their hands on the coveted All About Stamps Trophy.



Andrew Vaughan Philatelics offer a comprehensive stock of mint and used British stamps in all grades (specialising in fine quality) from 1840-1970. Find out more at the website: www.stampsgb.co.uk



1918 6d stamp.



1942 5/- stamp.

GREAT BRITAIN NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS

From the 30th September 1880, ordinary penny postage stamps were used to save up to one shilling (12 old pence) which was sufficient to open a Post Office Savings Bank account, although the minimum amount required changed to £1 in 1912.

Savings certificates were issued during World War 1 and the first savings stamp, the 6d Britannia Head was issued in July 1918. Various issues during the years were issued and continued until 1973, being replaced by electronic cards.



1954 6d stamp.



1960 2/6 stamp.

In addition, the Bank used specially designed savings stamps with higher values which also could be used to save enough to open an account.

Private companies in Britain also used savings stamps including the holiday company Butlins and supermarkets, such as Sainsburys and Safeway.



1967 2/- stamp.



1971 10p stamp.

A wide variety of utility companies used savings stamps, particularly regional electric companies, also British Telecom for telephone bills and government bodies for payment of National Insurance contributions and television licences etc.



Saving stamps were not valid for postage.

An unfranked cover, showing a 13p postage due charge, (3p and 10p). Double the 6½p postage rate charge.

MICHAEL R. THOMPSON

Arabian Nights: whose story is it, anyway?

Tales of Aladdin, Ali Baba, and Sinbad are popular today as children's stories, Disney films [1] and festive pantomimes [2]. However, the story behind the collection from which they come provides rich material for the thematic collector.



[7] Somalia 1997, designed by Italian artist D. Vangelli

The 'Arabian Nights', or '1001 Nights' is a collection of tales that Scheherazade tells to the king each night. She leaves each on a cliffhanger so that she is allowed to live to tell the next instalment, until finally - after 1001 nights - the king trusts her enough to lift his threat of execution.

The *Nights* was unknown in the West until Antoine Galland [3] began to publish his translation in 1704. But where did he find the stories he translated?

Galland's work coincided with a growing interest in Arabic language and literature, when the origins of the *Nights* became a serious topic of academic study. However, pinpointing the origins of a story relies on complex methods that are subject to flaws and debate.

It wasn't until 1984 that the first authentic medieval text of the *Nights* was produced. While it was for the purpose of studying style, language and narrative technique, it uncovered a number of fakes, translated into Arabic and passed off as originals!

A Syrian manuscript from the 13th century was identified as the main source used by Galland. However, the tales go further back than that. Various medieval works refer to the existence of the *Nights*, and fragments of Arabic text from the 9th century have been found.

A consensus has emerged that the stories first evolved from the tales of the Jataka [4], a collection of over 500 Indian fables from as early as 300BC and considered the

source of all great stories. Ancient Greek and Roman literature is also seen in the *Nights*, such as parallels between the adventures of Odysseus and Sinbad.

The *Nights*, in turn, has had a strong influence on much of the literature we are familiar with today. The Brothers Grimm [5], for example, identified the *Nights* as the source of several of their fairytales, and Hans Christian Andersen spoke of his love for the tales that inspired his own work.



[5] Germany 1985, 200th anniversary of birth of Grimm brothers



[4] Thailand 1996, tales from the Jataka

Many countries have issued *Nights*-themed stamps commemorating writers, illustrators, pantomime or Disney as well as simply depicting beautiful artwork [6, 7]. This, along with the links to a much larger body of world literature, makes for an especially aesthetically appealing and potentially wide-ranging thematic collection on a fascinating topic.



[6] Mali 1971, designed by French artist P. Lambert



[1] USA 2007, set of four, Disney characters



[2] Ascension Island 2011, set of four, Pantomimes

THE ARTIST

Erich Gruner (14.11.1881/30.12.1966)

From 1900 to 1905 Erich Gruner studied at the Leipzig Academy of Visual Arts, and then travelled to Paris where he remained for one year, having lessons with Jean Paul Laurens...the period from 1909 to 1912 was more relaxed, with travels to Portugal, Spain and Italy. After returning, he began to have some Artistic recognition, but this short period was interrupted by WWI, where he was wounded twice. In 1919 he made some designs, posters and the Logo for the Leipzig Fair. He was the Director of the Leipzig School of Applied Arts from 1930 to 1946. His Art work covers a wide range of specialties: Book covers, illustration, Posters, Postage stamps, Typography, Logotypes, Stage and set designs, etc..

The engraver for these stamps was Karl Wolf.

The first art stamps were issued in 1947 for the Spring and Autumn Fairs.



1160 A.D. Image of the declaration being read by a City Representative. Behind him stands the Castle Captain.



Image from 1268 A.D. Two commissioners follow the commercial transactions of foreign merchants, dealers and buyers. A few Leipzig citizens on the right.



Image from 1365 A.D. This shows a market commission of the Leipzig Council estimating and charging the stall rate. The scene takes place on the Altmarkt. On the right the top floor of the old Gothic Town Hall is visible.

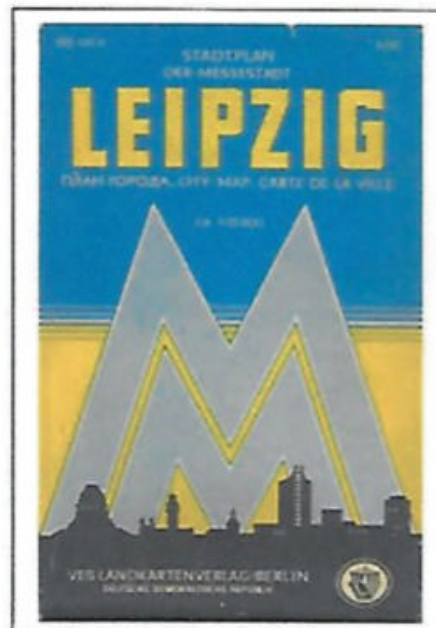


Image from 1497 A.D. It shows in free artistic design Emperor Maximilian's posture, and a Leipzig councillor receiving the certificate obtained for the worldwide development of Trade Fairs.

Alfons Mucha and Auguste Rodin

Alfons Mucha (1860-1939) rose to fame in Paris in the last decade of the nineteenth century as one of the greatest exponents of the *art nouveau* style. In Paris, the art-form was often known as “*le style Mucha*”. Later, when his native Czechoslovakia gained its independence from Austria-Hungary in October 1918, Mucha designed the new country’s first postage stamps.

Mucha was born on 24 July 1860 in Ivančice, a small town in Moravia (then an Austrian province and now part of the Czech Republic). Having moved to Paris in 1887, he had an instant and meteoric rise to fame when, just after Christmas in 1894, he designed a popular and radically new style of theatre poster for the great French actress Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923). Mucha’s studio in Paris became a fashionable meeting place for artists, writers and composers, including Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) and the sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917).



This cover contained a letter (copied below, reduced by 25%) sent by Auguste Rodin to his friend Alfons Mucha in 1910. The cover has a French 25c Sower stamp cancelled by the “PARIS / Bd (Boulevard) SAINT GERMAIN” machine cancel dated 4 June 1910. It was addressed, in Rodin’s hand, to “Monsieur Alphonse Mucha, Chateau Zbiroh, Bohème, Autriche” (in 1910, Bohemia was still a province of Austria). The dual-language (Czech/German) “ZBIROH / ZBIROW” datestamp dated 6 June was struck as a redirection mark after the cover was redirected (faintly in pencil) to “Thunovská 25, Prague”.

From 1904 to 1910, Mucha spent most of his time in the USA. He returned to his Czech homeland in 1910 where he rented a large apartment at Zbiroh Castle, about 40 kilometres south-west of Prague. Here, he worked on what had become his burning ambition, the 20 massive canvasses of the Slav Epic (*Slovanská epopej*) – his *magnum opus* – which was not completed until 1928.

3rd June 1910

My Dear Mucha,

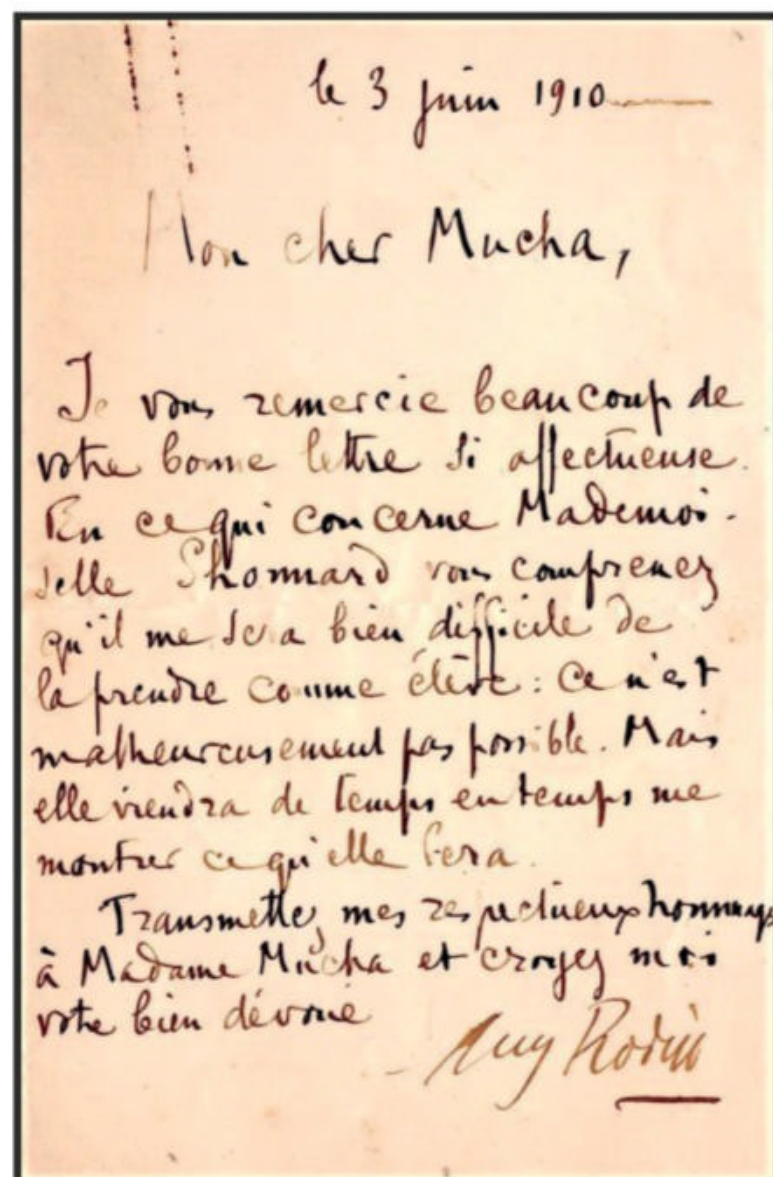
Thank you very much for your kind letter, which was so loving.

As far as Miss Shonnard is concerned, you will understand that it will be difficult for me to take her on as a pupil. It is, unfortunately, not possible. But she will come to see me from time to time to show me what she has been doing.

Send my respectful regards to Madame Mucha and believe me, your loyal friend.

Aug Rodin

The “Mademoiselle Shonnard” mentioned in Rodin’s letter was Eugenie Shonnard (1886-1978), an American sculptor and painter who began her studies in New York, with Alfons Mucha as her tutor.



SURFING THE VICTORIAN WEB

Just as virtual Philately in the 21st century is currently gaining momentum, so the Victorian era had its own popular modes of mass communication, e.g. books. Books helped to fuel the increasing national literacy rate and British cultural development. Book publishers were integral to this social media trend. This postal history item is closely tied to the history of Victorian book publishing via the addressee.

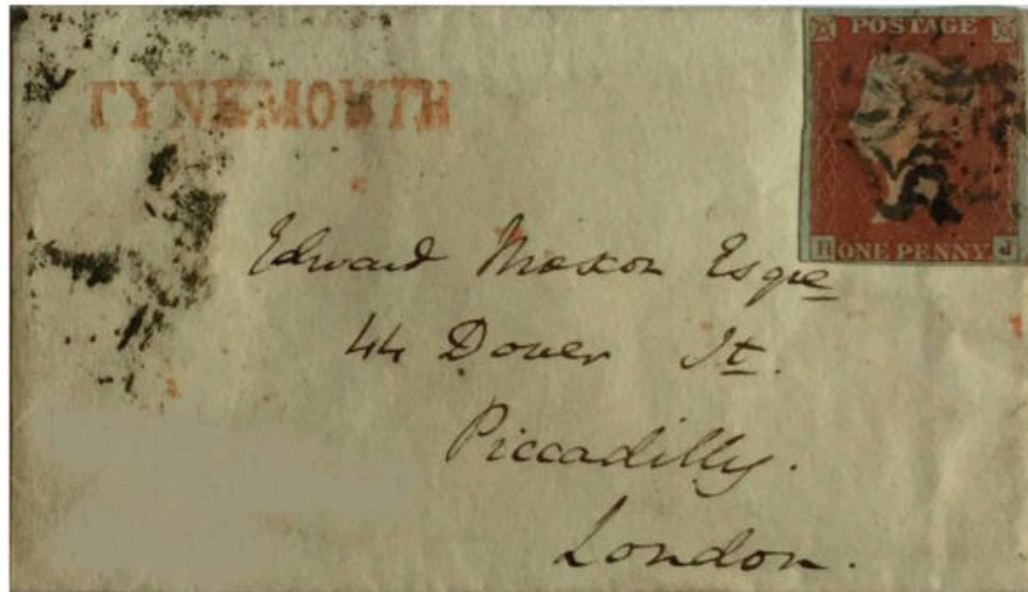


Figure 1. 1842 (Great Britain - cover).

Route: TYNEMOUTH – North Shields (North East of England) to London.

Rate: ONE PENNY (½ - half-ounce rate). **Dimensions of cover:**

94 mm by 54 mm.

ADDRESSEE: *Edward Moxon Esqre, 44 Dover St., Piccadilly, London.*



Figures 2 (left) and 3 (above).
Obverse: Featuring backstamp (Circular dated double arc). From: **NORTH SHIELDS SP 3 1842.**



Figure 4 (above). **TYNEMOUTH** (red) one straight line uppercase script mark, located on the cover's front.



STAMP on COVER:
Imperforate 1d. red-brown with Maltese Cross cancellation.

Figure 5. Date and Hour Stamp. Receiving London office: **8 N^T 8 SP 5 1842** (red). Time is 8 PM at night, indicated by **8 N^T 8**. It is located on the cover's back.

THE ADDRESSEE:

Edward Moxon (1801 – 1858) was a Victorian publisher. Some milestones of his career were:

- 📖 **William Wordsworth** entrusted him with the publication of his works from 1835 onwards.
- 📖 He published the poetry of **Alfred Lord Tennyson** and **John Keats**.
- 📖 In 1839, he issued the first complete edition of **Percy Bysshe Shelley** poems, edited by **Mary Shelley**, who herself was the author of the classic gothic novel *Frankenstein* (1818).
- 📖 Both **Tennyson** and **Wordsworth** became personal friends of **Moxon**.
- 📖 He published the work of **Harriet Martineau (1802 – 1876)**, female author and sociologist.



NOTE: The background of the title bar starting this exhibit is an antique map fragment showing **Front Street** in **TYNEMOUTH**. **Harriet Martineau** lived at **57 Front Street, North Shields (TYNEMOUTH)** for nearly 5 years, from 16th March 1840. This cover is dated 1842.

LINK

The World's First Naphthadag Automatic Sorting Machine.

After the second world war, the Post Office established a Mechanical Aid Committee to oversee the conception of an Automatic Letter Facing machine, (ALF). The committee first met on 24th May 1946; progress was slow as the priority of the Post Office was the telephone service.

The development work was undertaken at the Post Office Research Laboratories at Dollis Hill, London. By 1947 the general concept was put forward that 'letter collections would be fed, via hoppers, into a mechanical segregator & facing machine, whence the letters would pass automatically through a stamp cancelling machine then be fed automatically to a machine sorter which would read the address and code for subsequent mechanical sorting'.

By 1947 photo-electric scanners were being tested that could 'detect the stamp on each letter or postcard, and, by turning the items where necessary, place them all in the same relative position ready for the stamp cancelling process'.

By September 1949 a machine having four scanners to check each corner of an envelope was being live tested at Mount Pleasant, using reflectivity to distinguish between the colour of the stamp and the colour of the envelope. It could separately detect whether items bore the red 1d printed paper rate stamp. It worked at 320 items per minute, but could not turn envelopes over, nor did it simultaneously cancel the items. Difficulties arose when stamp and envelope were of similar colour, or labels other than stamps were affixed to the envelope.

Other ideas considered for detecting the stamp included adding a metallic foil to the face, treating the stamp paper with zinc, aluminium, or ferric oxide, or even adding a small quantity of table salt so that the stamp would become a good conductor of electricity.

In the end the option chosen was to use graphite inks printed on stamps: initial thoughts were to print as a frame around the stamp design, or as two lines either side, but the chosen option was to print on the back of the stamps under the gum. The machinery, known as ALF, was thus able to detect the stamps, turning the envelopes, if necessary, before cancellation and stacking: unstamped mail was segregated.

Live testing was planned for late 1956 at Liverpool, but the location did not have sufficient space. So, Southampton was chosen, at the end of 1957 to include the Christmas period. The 'graphite-lined' stamps were issued on 19 November and ALF was put into use on 7 December, although the 'official' start date was 19 December in the presence of the Postmaster General. The machine was called **NAPHTHADAG AUTOMATIC SORTING MACHINE**

The trials were not a complete success, so work continued to find an alternative to the graphite lines. This came with phosphor, less visually conspicuous and less costly to produce the stamps.



The first issue of Graphite stamps in the Southampton area was 19th November 1957. Two Graphite lines on the back under the gum except 2d which has 1 line & St. Edwards crown watermark,

The second issue of Graphite stamps in the Southampton area was 24th November 1958. Two Graphite lines on the back under the gum except 2d which has 1 line & multiple crowns watermark,

The third issue of Phosphor-Graphite stamps in the Southampton area was 18th November 1959. Two phosphor bands on the front & two Graphite lines on the back under the gum except 2d which has 1 band on front & 1 line on the back & multiple crowns watermark,



The Stamps produced by Hämmerle & Vogel

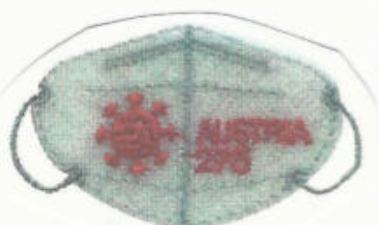


The firm of Hämmerle & Vogel based in Lusten, Vorarlberg, Austria is well known for its embroidery. The company came up with the idea of an embroidered stamp and after overcoming a number of problems including the security features and perfecting the self-adhesive technique they produced a number of colour trials of a stamp with an edelweiss. Austria.Post selected a white edelweiss on green ground and ordered a production run of 400,000 which the company produced in about 30 weeks. The world's first woven/embroidered stamps with integral edges they were cut into individual stamps at the factory. The stamp issued on 19th July 2005 was well received apart from the use of Austria as the country name but this was no doubt because the name was shorter than Österreich.



A second stamp depicting a blue gentian on white background was issued on 19th September 2008 as part of WIPA08.

Further stamps have been produced for Austria.Post including a lace dress in 2016 and a traditional hat from Styria 2018. Their latest stamp is a 'Mini-FFP2 Mask' (FFP-2 is the Austrian regulations for masks) with a red embroidered COVID germ on white ground was issued on 16th September 2021 – scan taken from the Austrian magazine 'Die Briefmarke' issue 10.2021.



Hämmerle & Vogel have produced stamps for other countries including the two shown below produced in 2019 for Liechtenstein to mark 300 years of the ruling Princes and for Vatican City to celebrate 90 years as a separate state.



Whilst the judges decision will be based on a number of factors, including accuracy and grammar, we feel it is unfair to correct and edit the entries for publication here or on the allaboutstamps.co.uk website, and so cannot take responsibility for any errors included in the contents submitted by competition entrants. See next month's *Stamp Collector* for details of the winner.

The First Fleet 1787-1788

By Dennis Mews

On 13th May 1787, 11 ships sailed out of Portsmouth harbour in England and began a journey halfway around the world to set up a penal colony at Botany Bay in New South Wales, later to become part of Australia. England routinely sentenced thousands of miscreants for the most minor of offences, transporting them "Down Under" for periods of 7 years, 14 years or even for life. The First Fleet (there were to be many more) comprised two Royal Navy ships, three stores ships and six convict transports carrying 772 convicts, 324 crew and 247 marines. They would not reach their destination until the following year.



The fleet first headed west across the Atlantic Ocean and reached Rio de Janeiro on 6th August. The ships were cleaned and repaired and fresh supplies of water, clothing and food were taken on board.



After resting in Rio for a month, The fleet then headed east and reached the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa on 13th October. They bought plants, seeds and animals to take to "The Great Southern Land". The animals included: two bulls, seven cows, one stallion, three mares, 44 sheep, 32 pigs, four goats and poultry. They left the Cape on 12 November.



From Cape Town it took two months to reach Australia. They arrived on 18th January 1788, the entire journey taking 252 days. The first European settlement of Australia had begun.

These stamps were issued by Australia Post - the first strip "Departure" on 13th May 1988, 200 years to the day since the First Fleet left England. The second strip "Rio de Janeiro" was issued on 6th August 1987 and the final strip "Arrival" was issued on 26th January 1988. This last date is still commemorated to this day as Australia Day.

Botany Bay would prove to be unsuitable and the convict settlement was relocated north to Port Jackson (later renamed Sydney). Transportation to New South Wales was discontinued in the 1850's to be replaced by hordes of free migrants and gold diggers seeking a better life or a fortune in gold. "The Gold Rush" lasted throughout the 1850's and 60's and Australia would never be the same again.

Miniature Sheets

What is a Miniature Sheet, and when where they first produced? To the first question there seems to be a rough answer though not without a little confusion as they are sometimes referred to as Souvenir Sheets as well!

David Field in his All-World Miniature Sheet Catalogue 1973 tells us, "...The issuing policies of different countries have always made this hard to define, but for a start it is a small sheet containing a stamp or stamps valid for postal use at time of issue and provided for use by the normal stamp issuing authority."



He continues, "It may appear alone or with other stamps, but it differs in format from normal stamp sheets and is of a size and shape which make it acceptable to the collector as an individual item. But then he comments, "Having said that, one must admit that at times the borders between a post-office sheet and a miniature sheet are blurred..."



Well that leaves plenty scope for debate if nothing else!

Second question: When were they first produced?

Well it seems that Luxembourg issued the first generally recognised souvenir sheet in 1923, a single 10-franc, not otherwise available, inset in a larger blanc sheet. There

were earlier small sheets of stamps but without marginal inscriptions and were regular stamps otherwise available.

Miniature Sheets, not always very miniature, were produced too in various materials paper, wood, silk etc. A fascinating realm of Philately which is desirous of much further research I would suggest!

Appendix:

1. Rugby World Cup 2003 Australia.
2. 30th Anniversary First Moon Landing produced by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau Great Britain in 1999 and given away at the Stamp Show 2000.
3. Republic De Djibouti to date the only country to produce Miniature Sheets in Wood Veneer!



LATVIA: UNUSUAL STAMP PAPER

In November 1918, in the aftermath of the Great War, Latvia declared independence. There was no paper available to print stamps, so the postal authorities used stocks of military maps, left in Riga by the retreating German forces.



Error: stamps printed on map side (also printed on the correct side).



10 Ruble banknote of the Bolshevik Riga Soldiers' and Workers' Council (Block of 4).

Stamps were also printed on the backs of sheets of unfinished banknotes, abandoned by Bolshevik and anti-Bolshevik forces, which had been fighting to gain control of the capital in 1918-19.



5 Ruble banknote, issued by the Bolshevik Riga Soldiers' and Workers' Council.



10 Mark banknote of the Western Volunteer Army (anti-Bolshevik).

Even when there was enough 'proper' stamp paper available to print stamps, printer's proofs were often produced on the back of paper printed for other purposes.



(Double print).



Bottle label paper (corner marginal block of nine).

DEAD LETTER OFFICE (DLO) INDIA

A dead letter office (DLO) is a facility within a postal system where undeliverable mail is processed. Mail is considered to be undeliverable when the address is invalid so it cannot be delivered to the addressee, and there is no return address so it cannot be returned to the sender. The covers below, show the pre-independent India DLO Post marks.

Postal cover, with One Anna, Six pies stamps of King George VI, India Postage, letter starting from Devakottai, with post mark of Devakottai -7AM, 27-JLY-39, received at DLO Rangoon 4-Aug-39, due to lack of proper address, further hand written proper address in red by DLO on the address side of the card, finally delivered on Moulmeinoyun, 9.30 AM, 5-Aug-39, the stamps are Indian stamps used in Burma.



Postal Card, with half anna, King George V, India postage, with post marks as, Kandavarayan – BO-29-May-31, ...Pattur -28-May-31 Ramnad, Dindigul – Dely -30-May-31, DLO-Madras-6-Jun-31 (Square Cancellation), Dindigul – Dep-11-Jun-31, Dindigul –SA-11-Jun-31, returned back to the sender, Kandavarayan – BO-21-Jun-31, Ramand, also has label Unclaimed letter, by DLO office.

P S Vara Prasad – India .

PS VARA PRASAD



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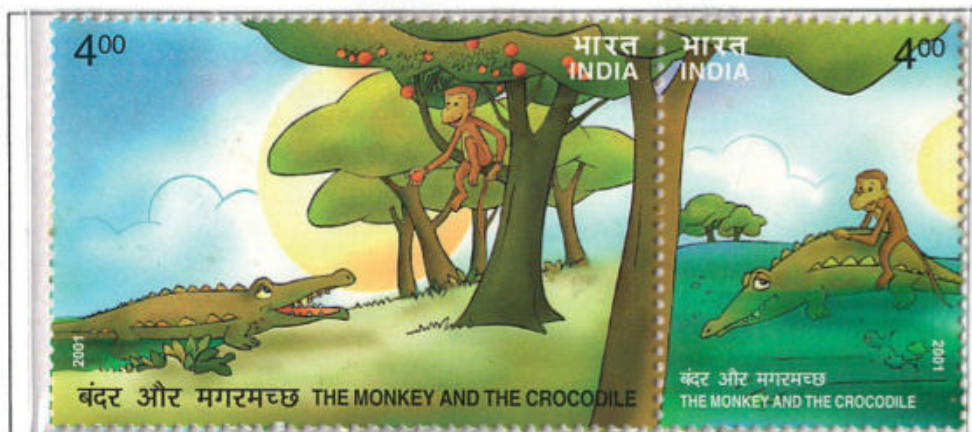
The wise conduct of life

The Panchatantra is an ancient Indian collection of interrelated animal fables in Sanskrit verse and prose, arranged within a frame story. The surviving work is dated to about 300 BCE, but the fables are likely much more ancient. The text's author is unknown, but has been attributed to Vishnu Sharma in some recensions and Vasubhaga in others, both of which may be fictitious pen names. It is likely a Hindu text, and based on older oral traditions with "animal fables that are as old as we are able to imagine".

It is "certainly the most frequently translated literary product of India", and these stories are among the most widely known in the world. It goes by many names in many cultures. There is a version of Panchatantra in nearly every major language of India, and in addition there are 200 versions of the text in more than 50 languages around the world.



Mitra-bheda -The Lion and the Rabbit



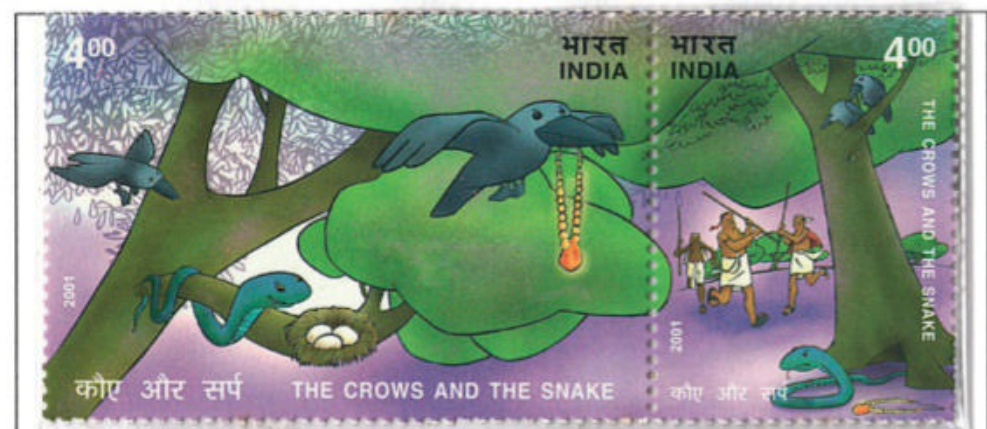
Labdhapranāśam -The Crocodile and the Monkey

Panchatantra stories is based on following classifications:

- ◆ **Mitra-bheda** -The Loss of Friends
- ◆ **Mitra-lābha** - The Winning of Friends
- ◆ **Kākolūkiyam** - On Crows and Owls
- ◆ **Labdhapranāśam**—Loss of Gains
- ◆ **Aparīksitakārakam**—Ill-Considered Action



Mitra-bheda - The Tortoise and the Geese



Mitra-bheda -The Crows and the Snake

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<input type="checkbox"/> AUST. STATES	<input type="checkbox"/> FALKLANDS	<input type="checkbox"/> MALAYA	<input type="checkbox"/> S. LEONE
<input type="checkbox"/> BAHAMAS	<input type="checkbox"/> FIJI	<input type="checkbox"/> MALTA	<input type="checkbox"/> S. AFRICA
<input type="checkbox"/> BARBADOS	<input type="checkbox"/> GAMBIA	<input type="checkbox"/> MAURITIUS	<input type="checkbox"/> SW. AFRICA
<input type="checkbox"/> BERMUDA	<input type="checkbox"/> GIBRALTAR	<input type="checkbox"/> N. BORNEO	<input type="checkbox"/> S.A. STATES
<input type="checkbox"/> BR. HONDURAS	<input type="checkbox"/> GOLD COAST	<input type="checkbox"/> N'FOUNDLAND	<input type="checkbox"/> S.A. COLNS
<input type="checkbox"/> BRUNEI	<input type="checkbox"/> GT BRITAIN	<input type="checkbox"/> N.ZEALAND	<input type="checkbox"/> ST. LUCIA
<input type="checkbox"/> BURMA	<input type="checkbox"/> HONG KONG	<input type="checkbox"/> NIGERIA	<input type="checkbox"/> ST. VINCENT
<input type="checkbox"/> CANADA	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIA	<input type="checkbox"/> NYASALAND	<input type="checkbox"/> SUDAN
<input type="checkbox"/> CAYMAN IS.	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIAN STATES	<input type="checkbox"/> PACIFIC IS.	<input type="checkbox"/> TANGANYIKA
<input type="checkbox"/> CEYLON	<input type="checkbox"/> ISLE OF MAN	<input type="checkbox"/> PAKISTAN	<input type="checkbox"/> W. INDIES
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Chronicles of NOELLA BRY

A philatelic distraction based on real events,
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CHAPTER ONE THE CURIOUS CASE OF 'THE LONDON GANG'

PART NINE – THE TRIAL AND SENTENCE

The Cullum Street stamp shop of Benjamin & Sarpy was found to be full of incriminating material and under the guidance and experienced eye of Charles Phillips, Inspector Stephens gathered the questionable items and the three returned to Leman Street Police Station. On arrival Noella discovered that Sergeant White had arrested the third suspect, George Jeffryes, at his home in Grove Road, Bow, and an initial search of his premises had identified several printing mechanisms, two perforation machines, and a large quantity of what was believed to be forged stamps. Inside the police station, Jeffryes caused a commotion when the coachman from the cab he had been brought into detention returned to the station with a package which the cabman had discovered under Jeffryes' seat. He initially denied any knowledge of the packet which, upon inspection, contained sheets of unused stamps. When confronted by Sergeant White with the logic that no one else had been in the coach and the package could only have come from his personage, Jeffryes admitted that he'd panicked and in a moment of stupidity had tried to conceal it under his bench in the cab. Later the three prisoners were charged with 26 counts of forgery and conspiracy to defraud and cheat and they remained in custody, with a trial hearing set for 1 January 1892. This initial hearing went ahead but because of the complexity and scale of the various pieces of evidence it had to be resumed again on the 8th and 22nd of the same month, with a final hearing on 5 February, when the trio were committed to a trial at the Old Bailey, set for 11 March.

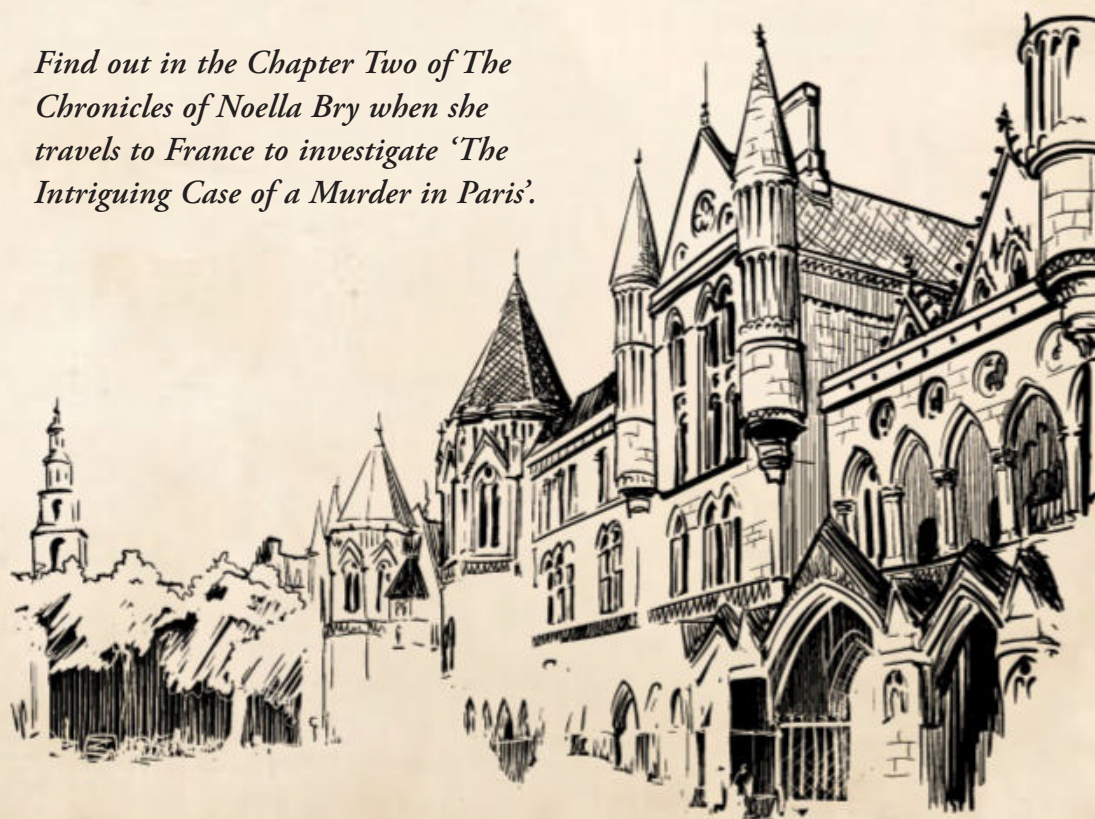
Noella followed the legal proceedings closely, and on the 14 March the jury found the three men – Benjamin, Sarpy and Jeffryes – guilty of lesser charges relating to three counts of conspiracy to defraud and cheat by selling forged stamps. The other 23 more significant counts of forgery were curiously dropped on a technicality, when their barrister explained that a 'stamp in law' was not a document in writing and thus could not be forged. Jeffryes and Benjamin were then sentenced to six months hard labour and Sarpy to four months, and identical sentences were also to run concurrently on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences.

The Turnover article Mr Armstrong so dearly wanted was published in the *Globe* newspaper on 15 March 1892, and caused a great sensation. The *Globe* printed an extra 1,000 copies to meet public demand, and later printed a further 1,000 copies following requests from news sellers across the continent, where many stamp collectors and especially dealers read in horror the facts. The article was credited to Noella Bry, Stunt Reporter, which created a swell of fascination throughout the country, much praise was directed at the reporter and the *Globe* for their gutsy tactics in gaining an exposé on these ruffians. However, there was a small contingent that did not feel a predisposition to agree with the new journalistic innovation. Whilst many females wrote to Miss Bry, encouraging her and thanking her for her inspiration, some complaints were

received from certain quarters of the readership – which Armstrong described as 'traditional readers' – who were outraged at the tactics employed by the publication, stating it was scandalous to exploit females in such a manner to uncover crime. Despite these dissenters, Mr Armstrong was delighted, and Noella glowed with pride as he paced up and down his office, throwing the pages of the newspaper around in his gesticulating hands whilst complimenting his investigative reporter. Noella harboured an unnerving feeling that she'd missed something and shared her unease with her editor. 'It's a curious case, the London Gang, Mr Armstrong. Their sentences are extraordinarily light and certainly not consistent with comparable proceedings. There was that conviction of Dr Bernhardt Assmus last month on almost identical charges and he received three years penal servitude. Could it be that Benjamin, Sarpy and Jeffryes were given a deal for providing information on a more influential criminal?'

But there was no time for her to dwell on these questions. Armstrong brushed aside doubts and told her she had succeeded in her assignment and he was satisfied. He sat down opposite Noella visibly out of breath and excited. 'Splendid my girl. Absolutely splendid. You shall be rewarded with the 3 guineas and an additional guinea for impressing our eminent owner George Cubitt. He's sent word to me that he wants to meet with you in person, which is quite an honour. However, I have had to put him off my dear.' Noella gave Mr Armstrong a quizzical look. 'You see my intrepid stunt reporter, your next assignment has landed on my desk, and it is just perfect for you. Perfect! You leave for Dover this afternoon, ready to catch the packet across the channel to France tomorrow. No time to waste. There's an intriguing case of a murder in Paris, the victim is a renowned philatelist. It's perfect! You must make haste and get to the bottom of it.'

Find out in the Chapter Two of The Chronicles of Noella Bry when she travels to France to investigate 'The Intriguing Case of a Murder in Paris'.



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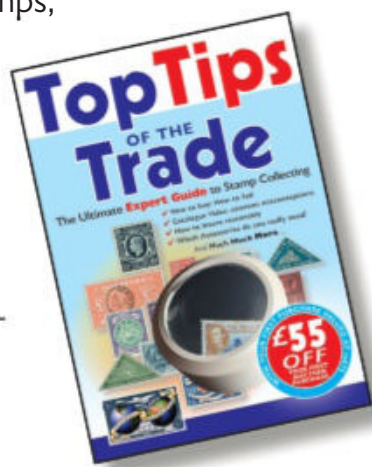
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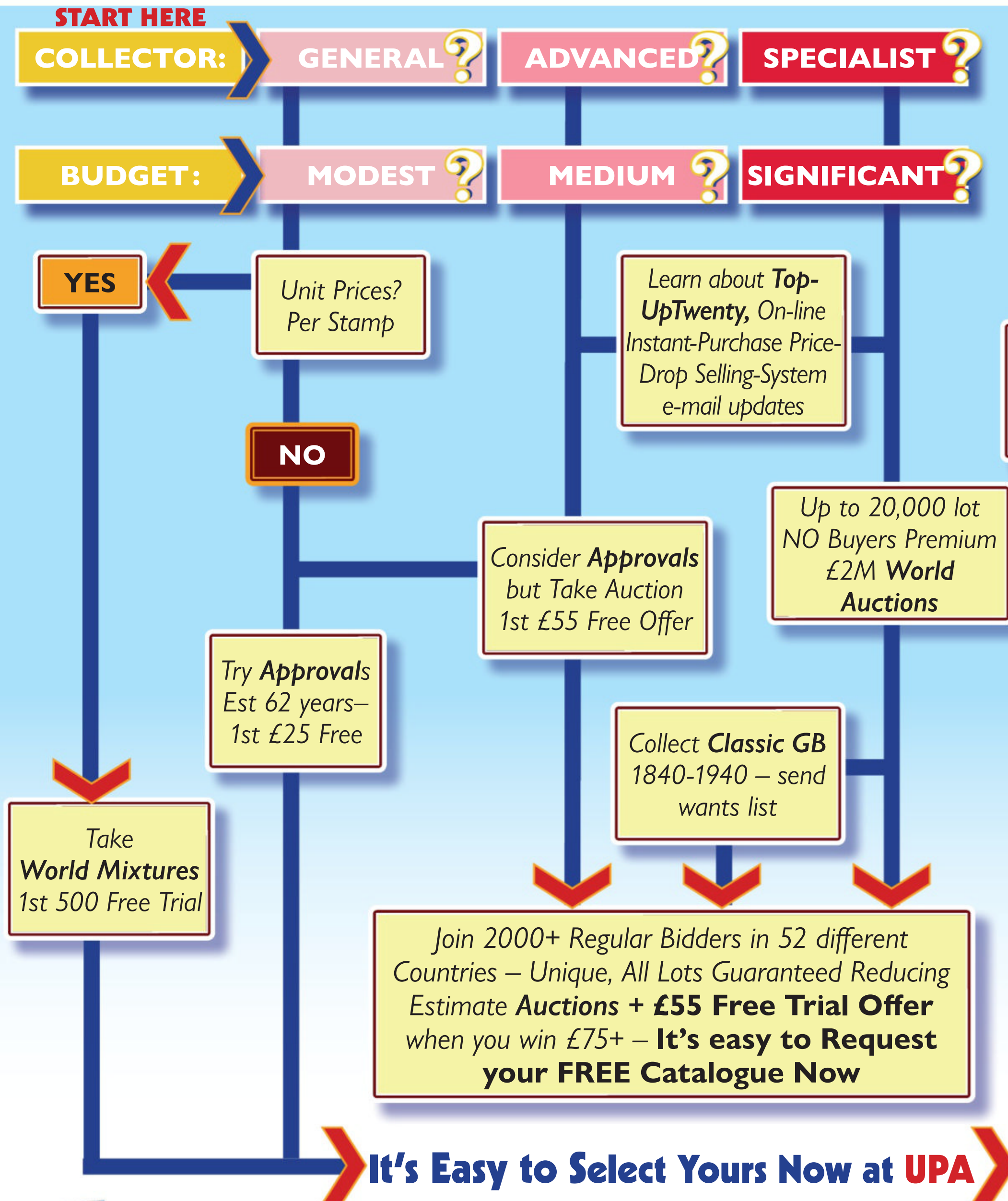
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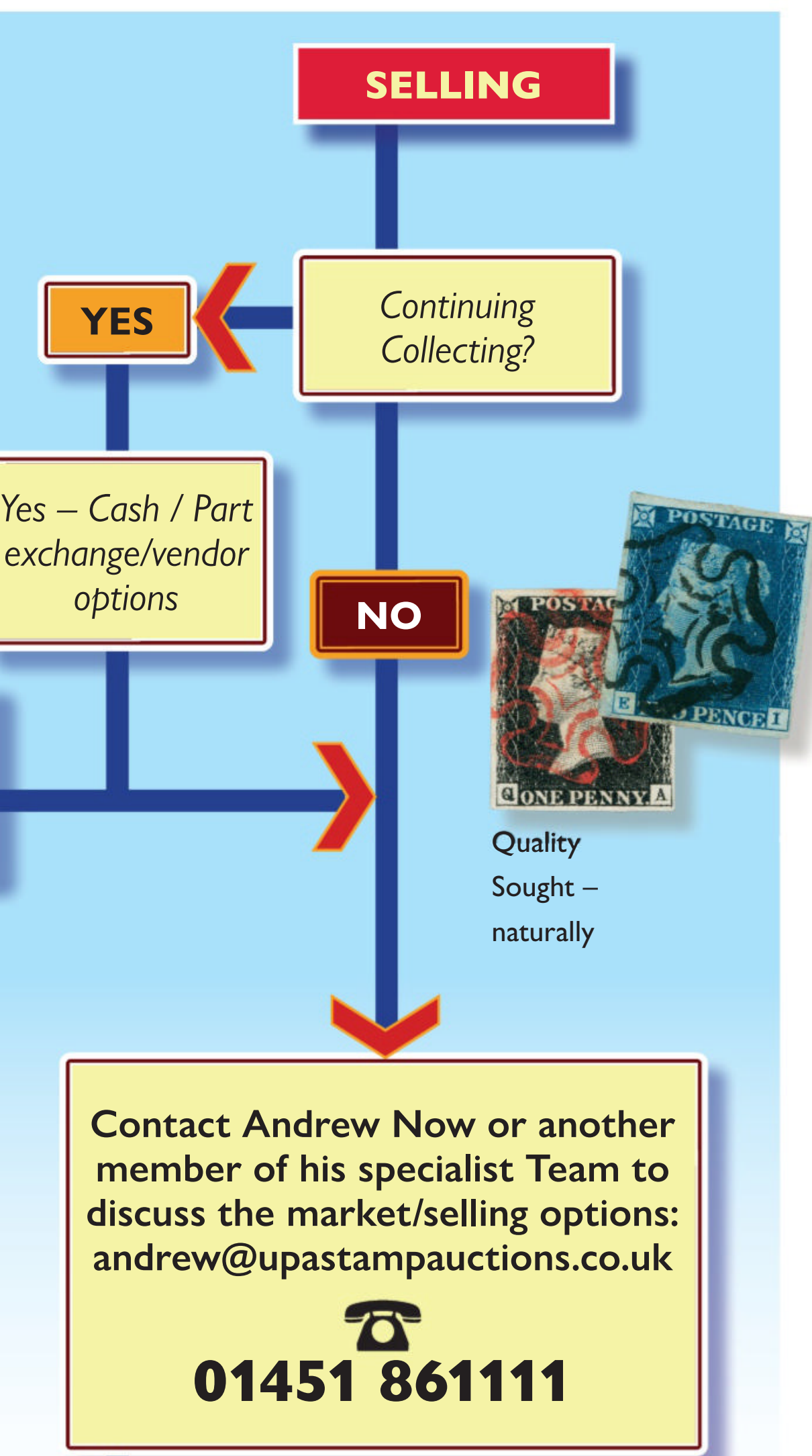
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