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definitives in detail*



*Your price guide to
Gold Coast stamps*



*The stamp history of
British East Africa*

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

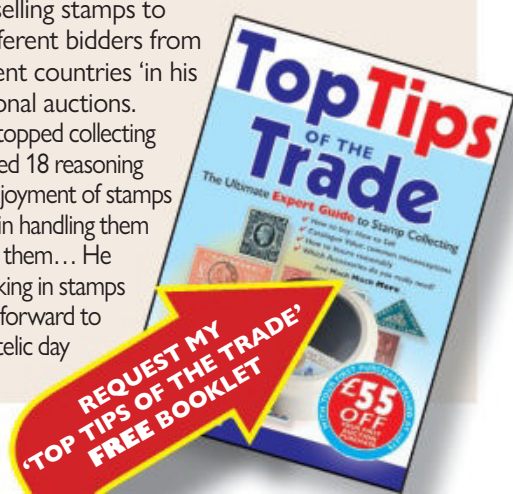
1▶ If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the 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 revolved **the Stamp Market, imperceptibly Changed, and incrementally – Massively**

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

AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors), but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?

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

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

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

18▶ What Should I Do Next?

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



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

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

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

Andrew

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

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Welcome

GIVE YOURSELF SOME 'STAMP TIME'...



Many of us will have read that King George V took great solace from his stamp collection, turning to his hobby to ease stress and take a break from the challenges of the difficult period in which he reigned. Some have wondered if the 'Collector King' was hiding his head in the sand when he should have been taking a lead on the

world stage, but whatever you think, it's fair to say that philately can be a welcome distraction.

In today's mixed up world, these kinds of pursuits are an important part of our lives, giving us time to reflect, improve our knowledge, and shut off from the wider world. Perhaps you already have a set time of the week when you work on your collection, but if not, why not schedule some 'stamp time'? Adding new stamps to your albums or researching and writing up a particular part of your collection is a wonderful way to refresh your batteries.

This issue of *Stamp Collector* has a wide range of subjects for you to explore further when 'stamp time' comes around, including a number of guides to Commonwealth stamps, shedding light on our past as well as the stamps we can pursue to tell these stories. As our cover proudly shows, we're also celebrating the Platinum Jubilee in this issue, and there are many new stamps to add to a royalty-themed collection.

Whether you're planning a street party, getting together with family or friends, or simply using the long Jubilee weekend to relax and (fingers crossed) enjoy the sunshine, we hope you can dedicate an hour or two to your stamp collection. You deserve it!

Matt Hill, Editor

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

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We know things are a little tight right now, and we all need to keep an eye on the pennies, but that doesn't mean you need to stop enjoying your hobby. Our £5 offer gives you the chance to save over £20 over the first five months, getting your subscription off to a great start. After your first five months you'll pay just £12.99 per quarter by Direct Debit, still saving 15% every month.

Give the team a call today on 01778 392030 to claim the offer or see page 58 for more details of this fantastic offer.



UKRAINIANS QUEUE FOR HOURS TO BUY DEFIANT STAMP

The recently issued Ukrainian stamps featuring a provocative image of a soldier making a gesture at a Russian warship have proved hugely popular, with customers queuing outside the postal headquarters in Kyiv in order to buy the stamp.

As reported in last month's *Stamp Collector*, Ukrposhta, the Ukraine postal service ran a competition to find a stamp design to sum up the country's defiance in the face of the Russian invasion. The winning piece of artwork, showing a soldier making a rude gesture at the Russian warship *Moskva*, took on added meaning following the attack and eventual sinking of the ship. To coincide with the stamp's launch, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky posed with the stamps, his social media post being shared by thousands.

Following the destruction of the warship, Ukrposhta have announced that a new version of the stamp will be issued this month, with the warship missing from the image and the date '14.04.2022' added – the day on which the ship was sunk. A statement on Facebook read: 'The history of Ukrainian heroism is happening in our eyes. And we want to lock her up in the postal stamps. Therefore in May we present a new philatelic masterpiece as a continuation of the previous release... We will do our best to make them enough for everyone who wants them, and historical stamps despite the fuss have only caused pride for our country and its heroes.' The 'Russian Warship... Done' stamps will have an issue limit of 5 million.

But someone is fighting back. Ukrposhta recently reported that their website, including the online shop selling the stamps, has been the subject of a cyber-attack. Writing on the organisation's Facebook page Ihor Smilianskyi, Ukrposhta's director general, said: 'We are really doing everything, together with internet providers, to restore both the online store and other Ukrposhta systems that are also temporarily not working due to a DDos attack on our systems.' At the time of writing the online shop was unavailable.

Meanwhile, Mart Mägi, Chairman of the Management Board of Omniva, the Estonian postal service, has said that the sale of their 'Glory to Ukraine' stamp has sold twice as fast as their normal postage stamps. 'I am happy to see that the postage stamp issued in support of Ukraine is so popular and its important message means a lot to so many people,' he said. 'I would like to thank everyone who has used these postage stamps and postcards to send a message of peace all around the world, and I urge everyone to continue to do so!'



NEW COLLECTIONS FOR MUSEUM WEBSITE

The team at the Museum of Philately, the website which captures and preserves award winning collections, has announced the addition of several new exhibitors to the website following the London 2022 international exhibition.

New collections now online include Chris King's award winning collection 'Posts In The City Of Lübeck Before 1868'; exhibitions from Dr Geoffrey Lewis including 'PHILIPPINES: Mail Routes and other Mail 1775 to 1878', 'SPAIN: Stampless Mail Entering Spain' and 'UNITED STATES: New Orleans Postal History 1700 to 1875'; Simon Beresford-Wylie's collection 'GREAT BRITAIN: Development and

Usage of the World's First Postage Stamps (1840-1841)' is also available to view at the www.museumofphilately.com website.

Marcus Orsi, Curator for the Museum of Philately said: 'It is wonderful that so many collectors are sharing their exhibitions with us, the museum is gradually growing and is a wonderful space for all those in the hobby to go and enjoy privately held collections. This platform is a wonderful space for people to find out about pieces, reference material and read interesting articles'

Exhibiting on the Museum of Philately is open to anyone. To find out more email info@museumofphilately.com or fill in the online form.



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 <p>REF T500 FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE GREAT BRITAIN INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER INC KGVI & 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 KGVI WITH VALUES TO £1 AND QEII TO £5 MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH MANY BETTER VALUES WITH A CAT PRICE OF £1,000+ FOR JUST £149.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>	 <p>CAT £95 REF T501 FREE C. O. G. H TRIANGULAR CAT £95 WITH EVERY COMMONWEALTH BOX FILE COMMONWEALTH MIX INC 1,000 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER USED STC £150+ ALSO ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD RANGE OF COUNTRIES, PLUS STAMPS LOOSE ON AND OFF PAPER TO SORT, WITH GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £25+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST £99.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p>REF T502 FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE FOREIGN COUNTRY MIX OF ON & OFF PAPER EARLY TO MODERN 1,000+ & MIXED ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES & £50+ OF BAGGED & PRICED ALBUM PAGES AND AUCTION LEFT OVERS WITH STAMPS CAT £20+ £89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p>CAT £900 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, KGVI 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 £12.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T603 FOREIGN SHOE BOX CRAMMED WITH ON AND OFF PAPER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ALL WORLD MIXTURE STATED TO BE A MINIMUM OF 1000+ DIFFERENT. ALSO ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £5+ THIS IS A VERY GOOD CHEAP SORT (NO GREAT BRITAIN) OVER 4000 SOLD THE LAST 50 YEARS FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T604 COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX CONTAINING ON AND OFF PAPER, UNCHECKED A TO Z EARLY TO MODERN, LOOSE AND ON LEAVES, A GOOD MAINLY MODERN MIX, BUT SOME EARLY MIXED IN, BETTER SINGLES, CHEAP LOT, 1000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T605 CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS & IOM SHOE BOX CONTAINS STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, DEFINITIVES & COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS ALBUM PAGES FDCs ETC, ALSO SOME SETS & SINGLES, MINT & USED, A GOOD SORT FOR THESE POPULAR COUNTRIES, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T606 GREAT BRITAIN SHOE BOX, FREE 1841 IMPERF 1d RED & 2d BLUE CAT £130 CONTAINING A GOOD MIX OF ALL 6 REIGNS FROM 1d REDS TO MODERN INC STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, INC SOME EARLY, IDEAL FOR WATERMARKS, ALSO ALBUM PAGES, FDCs, MINT & USED SETS & SINGLES ETC £49.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>
 <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 £29.00 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 £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>		<p>REF T624 COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULAR, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, LOOSE STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, COVERS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, SETS & SINGLES, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>		<p>REF T626 FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON & OFF PAPER, & SINGLE STAMPS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
 <p>REF T627 THE WHOLE WORLD IN SUITCASE INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM & GREAT BRITAIN INC STOCKBOOKS, COLLECTIONS, ALBUM PAGES, FIRST DAY COVERS STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER BOXES AND PACKETS OF UNSORTED MATERIAL. AUCTION LEFT-OVERS A GOOD SORT FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £100+ STATED TO RETAIL £450 £349.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>		 <p>REF T607 ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/2 BOX INCLUDING LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER PLUS CHILDREN COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC PLUS OTHER BITS, ALBUM PAGES, THE ODD COVER, EVERY BOX IS DIFFERENT (VIRTUALLY NO GB) 1,000s TO SORT £99.50 PLUS £12.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>		 <p>REF T622 WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON & OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER £24.50 PLUS £4.50 POSTAGE</p>

OUR 'T' NUMBERS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

MONTHLY POSTAL AUCTION

ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH CLOSING TIME FOR BIDS 5pm WEDNESDAY OF THE AUCTION
PLACE YOUR BIDS BY PHONE, POST, FAX OR E-MAIL

WRITE OR PHONE ON 01254 393740 OR E-MAIL: sales@ajhstamps.co.uk NOW FOR OUR FREE MONTHLY AUCTION CATALOGUE CONTAINING APPROX 700 LOTS, WITH CARTONS, COLLECTIONS, FOLDER ONE COUNTRY LOTS, PLUS GREAT BRITAIN, COMMONWEALTH SETS AND SINGLE ITEMS, PRICES FROM £24 TO £20,000 PER LOT.

NO BUYERS' PREMIUM - AUCTION LEFTOVERS ARE E-MAILED ON THURSDAY FOLLOWING THE AUCTION.

WE WILL RING YOU AT A PRE-ARRANGED TIME, PLEASE CONTACT US WITH YOUR LOT NUMBER/S AND YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS AND PHONE NO AND WE WILL RING YOU FROM 6.00pm ONWARDS.

AUCTION DATES FOR 2022

8th June, 13th July, 10th Aug, 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov



WRITE PHONE OR FAX FOR OUR MONTHLY WHOLESALE/RETAIL SALE LIST WITH OVER 1,000 ITEMS, INCLUDING COMMONWEALTH A TO Z SINGLE STAMPS AND SETS MINT AND USED ALSO GREAT BRITAIN QV TO MODERN FROM HALF PRICE PLUS GREAT BRITAIN DEFINITIVES, SETS AND SINGLES, MINT AND USED AND 1840 QV TO 1936 G/F/USED, PLUS COLLECTIONS AND BOXES, AND A FURTHER RANGE OF 'T' NUMBERS

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PAYMENTS. RING NOW



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ROYAL MAIL REVEAL DETAILS OF 'SWAP-OUT' SCHEME

Royal Mail has announced the launch of its Swap Out scheme that will allow customers to swap their non-barcoded definitive stamps for the equivalent value of barcoded stamps.

Definitive stamps without a dot matrix code, actually more like QR codes, will become invalid on 31 January 2023 as new barcoded stamps replace them. Now Royal Mail have revealed how members of the public can exchange their old stamps for the new versions, also confirming that any mail posted with non-barcoded definitive stamps after 31 January 2023 will be treated in the same way as if there is insufficient postage on an item.

Customers are being encouraged to use-up their non-barcoded stamps before 31 January 2023. However, those who cannot do so can swap their non-barcoded stamps for the equivalent value of barcoded stamps by completing a Swap Out form.

Customers will need to enclose the non-barcoded stamps and post the form and the stamps to Royal Mail using a Freepost service. Royal Mail have also attempted to clarify exactly which stamps can be exchanged. According to the scheme organisers, eligible stamps are the regular 1st and 2nd Class 'everyday', unused stamps featuring the profile of HM The Queen and those that show any other value. Non-barcoded Christmas and other special stamps with pictures on continue to be valid for postage and should not be submitted for swap out. Customers only need to swap out the 'everyday' stamps featuring the profile of The Queen.

There are three ways customers can obtain a form:

1. Via the Royal Mail website at www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps where customers can download a form. Customers who do not have access to a printer can instead complete a web form and request a form be posted to them. Customers who print off a Swap Out form can address an envelope to: Freepost SWAP OUT. No other address details are needed.
2. By contacting Royal Mail's Customer Experience team by telephone on 03457 740740 and requesting a form, and freepost envelope, be posted to them.
3. By visiting one of more than 1,200 local delivery office Customer Service Points, where they can pick up a form in person, along with a freepost envelope.



Customers can complete a standard Swap Out form for stamps worth up to £200, and those wishing to swap stamps with a value of more need to request a Bulk Stamp Swap Out form from www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps

As part of the plan, Royal Mail will launch an ongoing nationwide awareness programme, that will run throughout the year, to ensure that everyone who wishes to swap out their stamps will have the opportunity to do so. The campaign will include press and radio advertising and a national door drop leaflet delivered to every household in the UK.

In February, Royal Mail announced it is moving to barcoded stamps as part of the company's extensive and ongoing modernisation drive. The unique barcodes – actually more like QR codes – can, according to Royal Mail, 'facilitate operational efficiencies, enable the introduction of added security features and pave the way for innovative services for customers'.

The new stamps also allow customers to watch and share exclusive videos – such as a specially created Shaun the Sheep video by Aardman – by scanning the barcode in the Royal Mail App.

The new barcoded stamps will have a digital twin and the two will be connected by the Royal Mail App. The barcodes match the stamp colour and sit alongside the main body of the stamp, separated by a simulated perforation line.

YOUR VIEWS ON 'BARCODE' PLANS

We asked you for your thoughts on the plans to replace definitives...

'My main concern is how can you prove what value of stamps have been forwarded to them if no check is being made by post office workers. It will be an added expense having to send them recorded delivery but what proof have you unless someone checks the value enclosed before the envelope is sealed. Just because you list what's enclosed doesn't prove it. They have not be clear enough on procedures for the exchanges and I think it's diabolical that they have put a deadline on use of present NVI stamps.'

Rodger Hall, Doncaster



Scan the barcode on the new stamps using the Royal Mail App and you'll see a special Shaun the Sheep video by animation company Aardman. But despite Shaun's optimistic pose here, many collectors have given the scheme a firm 'thumbs down'

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We put your questions about the Swap Out scheme to Royal Mail and received the following responses from David Gold, Royal Mail, Director of Public Affairs & Policy

Are the large 'parcel' type Machins and the 1990 Machin with QEII & Victoria's portrait in the swap out scheme?

Yes, all definitive Machins are included in the scheme. Further information about stamps eligible for the Swap Out scheme can be found here: royalmail.com/barcodedstamps. All five values in the Penny Black Anniversary Stamps 1840-1990 issue are eligible for the Swap Out scheme.

Can I send single stamps or must they be in the stamp booklets of twelve stamps?

Customers can complete a standard Swap Out form for stamps worth up to the value of £200. Self-adhesive stamps must be attached to their original backing paper or book. Individual stamps that are not self-adhesive must be stuck to the Swap Out form within the box overleaf.

For applications of stamps in values of over £200 a Bulk Swap Out form must be used. Individual gummed stamps that are not self-adhesive should not be stuck to paper. They should be batched by the stamp value and colour in clear plastic bags of no more than fifty stamps per bag. Stamp numbers of less than fifty should be collated together in value order and placed in clear plastic bags.

If individual stamps can they be mixture of 1st/2nd/large stamps?

Yes. The stamps can be a mixture of various values.

What happens if there is a dispute over the number of stamps? For example, I claim that I sent ten 1st class and five 2nd class and I receive back ten 2nd class and five 1st class?

If a customer has an issue with an application, there are contact details on the letter they receive with the outcome of their swap out request. If they haven't been sent an outcome letter, they should contact our Customer Experience via usual contact details www.royalmail.com/contact or by phone on 03457 740740 – who will deal with each customer on an individual basis.

Will commemorative stamps be valid if they don't have a barcode?

Commemorative stamps remain valid for postage.

Why are we not able to go to a post office to exchange the face value for the new stamps? We're not charged to exchange banknotes that go out of circulation and have several years to do that in.

We need to capture the details of what stamps are being received for swap out – this includes carrying out checks on the stamps and recording what stamps are being sent out. This activity isn't something the Post Office is set up to do. There is no charge to our customers to swap their non-barcoded stamps for the new barcoded versions.

Will future special stamps feature a barcode too?

There are no plans to add barcodes to our Special Stamps.

With thanks to David Gold and Natasha Ayivor for their time and help.

Examples of stamps accepted for Swap Out



Examples of stamps not accepted for Swap Out



The simple guidance provided by Royal Mail shows which stamps will be accepted for the swap-out scheme, confirming that Special Stamps will not be affected and can still be used

'I've been a stamp collector for years, and hate the barcode stamps. I will not be saving them... it costs more and more to keep your collection up to date but the barcode stamps are the final straw.'

Gary Heathcock, via email

'For all of us, it should be free to go to a post office to exchange their face value for the new stamps. We are not charged to exchange banknotes that go out of circulation and have several years to do that in.'

Jeff Jones, via email

'Fortunately I only collect used stamps but it's a disappointment that I won't be able to use certain mint stamps in mixed auction lots. At least it is just definitives but I'd be especially concerned for collectors who have a very good range of mint definitives in their collection but are not at a stage where they want to give up that part of their collection

and use it for postage before the cut off date for swap out. Perhaps to compensate for all the gimmicks Royal Mail has introduced on their stamps over the years they could put a CDS at the right hand end of the postmarks so that the untidy wavy lines would spoil fewer stamps.'

Ken Dunn, Dalgety Bay

'It seems that little thought has gone into the logistics of all of this, and to me it smacks of a decision being made on high, with an eye on profits and operations rather than collectors or traders, which is a real shame, but not overly surprising.'

N Grace, via email

'I fail to see why Royal Mail seeks to invalidate definitive stamps only, it seems illogical; why not just let them run out?'

Anonymous, via email

IN BRIEF

A 24-carat gold stamp has been issued to honour Dutch footballer Johan Cruyff who would have marked his 75th birthday this year. The €50 stamp was produced by Spanish postal service, Correos, and Caribbean FXDC Post, and is limited to just 1,000 copies. In 2016, the Dutch post office PostNL issued a silver stamp in memory of the famous footballer.

Morocco and Serbia have launched two joint stamps to celebrate 65 years of diplomatic relations and the hosting of two joint cultural exhibitions. The stamps depict Africa's longest bridge, Mohammed VI bridge, and Serbia's renowned international rail corridor, Rail Bridge.

The Royal Collection Trust have released a series of products featuring the Arnold Machin portrait of the Queen, as seen on definitive postage stamps. Products in the range, released to mark the Platinum Jubilee, include fridge magnets, a silk scarf, mugs, and tea towels.

The most beautiful Croatian postage stamp of 2021 has been revealed by Croatia Post. Following a public vote, the miniature sheet of two stamps marking the 350th anniversary of the deaths of Petar Zrinski and Fran Krsto Frankopan, won the competition.

US President Joe Biden recently signed the Postal Reform Act 2022 into law, giving the United States Postal Service what he described as 'a more sustainable and stable financial' future. Measures that are expected to save the USPS nearly \$50 billion over the next decade include the removal of the requirement to cover staff health care costs years in advance. The new law also means the USPS must update the public with local and national delivery time data via an online platform.

FANCY A JOB AT THE PENGUIN PO?

Want to escape the nine to five, turn off your mobile phone and focus on stamps? Now you can get paid for the privilege, so long as you don't mind taking a shower as and when a ship passes, working in temperatures as low as -5°C, and helping count penguins.

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust recently advertised for a Base Leader for Port Lockroy, also known as 'The Penguin Post Office', who will be responsible for managing the British Antarctic Territory Post Office.

Duties of the job will include: liaising with International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) ship Hotel Manager's for any on-board sales of stamps; managing all postal stock, promoting and selling all postal stamps, hand franking all mail processed through the Post Office (up to 80,000 pieces of mail seasonally) and coordinating transport of mail. If dealing with the stamp orders wasn't enough, the successful applicant will also be expected to 'Assist in the penguin and other wildlife and environmental monitoring on behalf of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).'

Four post offices operate in the British Antarctic Territory during the summer season. The British Antarctic Survey run three of these from their bases at Rothera, Signy and Halley. The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) operate the 'Penguin Post Office' at Port Lockroy. Every year the post office's Philatelic Clerk collects all the new stamp issues from the Falkland Island Post Office from where they are taken to the territory. Once in the Territory, the



First Day Covers are hand-cancelled and the stamps are released for sale.

Whilst the management of the post office and its stamps will be appealing to many, the conditions may give some collectors second thoughts. 'There are no shower facilities at Port Lockroy, so staff are expected to be comfortable living with these limited washing facilities yet still keeping hygiene levels high' the job description states. 'Visiting ships will offer showers every few days but when conditions are poor you might expect to go up to two weeks without visitors or a shower.' The document also adds: 'There is no flushing toilet at Port Lockroy' and that 'You will have very minimal communication with home for up to five months.'

FRANK WALTON FRPSL (1955-2022)



Frank Walton FRPSL, the chairman of the London 2022 international stamp exhibition, has passed away after a brief illness.

Frank was a well known and popular figure within British philately, having contributed to the

hobby in many different ways. Anyone who read the special 'Trials and tribulations' article in the March issue of *Stamp Collector* will know that the organisation of the London 2022 event was fraught with difficulties, thanks to the uncertainties of the pandemic, and Frank's leadership was instrumental in the event's success.

Frank's many philatelic achievements include serving as President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and being awarded the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Study and Research.

Frank's collecting interests were varied, covering everything from Sierra Leone to QEII 'Wildings', but each display or exhibit he showed was of the same high value, and always delivered with a passion for the subject; he was the recipient of many exhibition medals. Simply 'google' Frank's name and you will find a range of videos showcasing his philatelic knowledge, his impressive collections, and his enthusiasm for the subject and the hobby.

Regular readers will know the *Stamp Collector* team worked closely with the London 2022 organising committee to bring readers the official catalogue for the event; Frank was instrumental in making this happen. Editor Matt Hill said: 'Frank was hugely generous with his time and expertise as we worked together on the catalogue, but he had been a great friend and mentor for many years, always happy to help me with articles and projects. Like much of the philatelic world, we are in shock, and our thoughts are with his family and friends. Philately won't be the same without him.'

GB 1924-2016 COMMEMORATIVES UM

DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M
1924	Wembley	11.50	1970	Cottages	0.20	1982	Christmas	1.00	1993	Greetings	9.50	2001	Christmas	4.50	2009	Eminent Britons	9.50
1925	Wembley	33.00	1970	Anniversaries	0.30	1982	COMPLETE YEAR	6.25	1993	Clocks	1.20	2001	COMPLETE YEAR	44.00	2009	Olympics	9.50
1929	P.U.C.	12.50	1970	Dickens	0.40	1983	Fishes	0.90	1993	Orchids	1.40	2002	Kipling Stories	9.50	2009	Christmas	7.00
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	140.00	1970	Games	0.30	1983	Commonwealth	0.90	1993	Art	1.20	2002	Golden Jubilee	4.50	2009	COMPLETE YEAR	67.50
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	40.00	1970	Philypia	0.30	1983	Engineering	0.65	1993	Roman	1.20	2002	Occasions	4.75	2010	Album Covers	9.50
1935	Jubilee	3.00	1970	Christmas	0.20	1983	Uniforms	1.10	1993	Canals	1.20	2002	Coastlines	2.70	2010	Royal Society	9.50
1935	Jubilee Inv.	18.00	1970	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1983	Gardens	0.95	1993	Autumn	1.40	2002	Queen Mother	3.90	2010	Dogs and Cats	9.50
1937	Coronation	0.10	1971	Ulster	0.20	1983	Fairs	0.95	1993	Holmes	1.20	2002	Circus	4.50	2010	Stewart	5.75
1940	Centenary	2.50	1971	Literary	0.20	1983	Christmas	1.00	1993	Christmas	1.50	2002	Aircraft	4.50	2010	Mammals	9.50
1946	Victory	0.10	1971	Gen. Annivs	0.25	1983	COMPLETE YEAR	5.80	1993	COMPLETE YEAR	19.00	2002	C.wealth Games	4.60	2010	LONDON 2010(6v)	9.00
1948	Wedding	11.50	1971	Universities	0.30	1984	Heraldry	0.95	1994	Railway	1.50	2002	Peter Pan	4.60	2010	Britain Alone	6.50
1948	Liberation	0.10	1971	Christmas	0.20	1984	Cattle	1.10	1994	Greetings	9.50	2002	London Bridges	4.60	2010	Stuart	5.50
1948	Olympics	1.25	1971	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1984	Urban Renewal	0.95	1994	Paintings	1.50	2002	Pillar Boxes	4.60	2010	Olympics	9.50
1949	U.P.U.	0.30	1972	Explorers	0.30	1984	Europa	0.75	1994	Postcards	1.50	2002	Christmas	4.60	2010	Railways	5.00
1951	Festival	0.10	1972	Gen. Annivs	0.25	1984	Summit	0.30	1994	Tunnel	1.20	2002	COMPLETE YEAR	52.50	2010	Medical	4.75
1953	Coronation	8.50	1972	Churches	0.40	1984	Meridian	0.95	1994	D-Day	1.25	2003	Birds of Prey	9.50	2010	Pooh	4.75
1957	Scouts	2.00	1972	BBC	0.30	1984	Royal Mail	0.80	1994	Golf	1.50	2003	Occasions	5.70	2010	Christmas	7.00
1957	Parliament	0.20	1972	Christmas	0.20	1984	Council	1.00	1994	Four Seasons	1.50	2003	The Secret of Life	4.60	2010	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
1958	Games	0.50	1972	S. Wedding	0.30	1984	Christmas	1.15	1994	Medical	1.30	2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	9.50	2011	Gerry Anderson	6.00
1960	G.L.O.	1.20	1972	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1984	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	1994	Christmas	1.50	2003	Endeavours	5.00	2011	Musicals	7.50
1960	Europa	1.25	1973	E.E.C.	0.30	1985	Trains	1.30	1994	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	2003	The Coronation	9.50	2011	Magical Realms	7.00
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.50	1973	Tree	0.10	1985	Insects	1.30	1995	Cats	1.50	2003	Prince William	3.20	2011	WWF	9.50
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10	1973	Explorers	0.45	1985	Composers	1.00	1995	Springtime	1.50	2003	Scotland	5.00	2011	Shakespeare	5.25
1961	Parliament	0.70	1973	Cricket	0.30	1985	Safety at Sea	1.00	1995	Greetings	9.50	2003	Pub Signs	4.25	2011	Morris	5.50
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.50	1973	Paintings	0.35	1985	Royal Mail	1.00	1995	N.Trust	1.50	2003	Transport Toys	4.25	2011	Thomas	5.25
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	8.25	1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	1985	Legends	1.00	1995	Europa/Peace	1.20	2003	British Museum	5.00	2011	Olympics	9.50
1963	F.F.H. (O)	0.50	1973	Parliament	0.25	1985	Film Stars	1.30	1995	Science Fiction	1.30	2003	Christmas	5.75	2011	Crown Jewels	7.00
1963	F.F.H. (P)	8.25	1973	Wedding	0.25	1985	Christmas	1.00	1995	Shakespeare	1.25	2003	COMPLETE YEAR	62.50	2011	Hanover	6.00
1963	Paris (O)	0.10	1973	Christmas	0.70	1985	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1995	Communications	1.40	2004	Locomotives	3.90	2011	UK A-Z Part 1	11.50
1963	Paris (P)	1.50	1973	COMPLETE YEAR	2.80	1986	Industry	1.00	1995	Rugby League	1.50	2004	Occasions	4.75	2011	Christmas	7.50
1963	Nature (O)	0.10	1974	Tree	0.10	1986	Comet	1.00	1995	Christmas	1.75	2004	Lord of the Rings	9.50	2011	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
1963	Nature (P)	0.75	1974	Fire	0.35	1986	Birthday	1.00	1995	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	2004	Northern Ireland	5.00	2012	Olympics - 4v	9.00
1963	Lifeboat (O)	0.75	1974	UPU	0.30	1986	Nature	1.00	1996	Burns	1.40	2004	Entente Cordiale	0.85	2012	Ronald Dahl	5.25
1963	Lifeboat (P)	14.50	1974	Britons	0.35	1986	Medieval Life	1.00	1996	Greetings	9.50	2004	Ocean Liners	5.00	2012	Windsor	4.50
1963	Red Cross (O)	1.50	1974	Churchill	0.35	1986	Sports	1.30	1996	Greetings (Phos)	17.00	2004	Horticultural	5.00	2012	Britons	9.50
1963	Red Cross (P)	19.00	1974	Christmas	0.30	1986	Royal Wedding	0.30	1996	Wildfowl	1.50	2004	Wales	3.60	2012	Comics	9.50
1963	Cable (O)	0.50	1974	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1986	Parliament	0.35	1996	Cinema	1.50	2004	Society of Arts	3.50	2012	UK A-Z Part 2	13.25
1963	Cable (P)	4.00	1975	Charity	0.05	1986	R.A.F.	1.30	1996	Football	1.80	2004	Woodland Animals	9.50	2012	Fashion	9.50
1964	Shakes (O)	1.20	1975	Turner	0.30	1986	Christmas 6v	1.10	1996	Olympics	1.30	2004	The Crimean War	4.40	2012	Diamond Jubilee	8.00
1964	Shakes (P)	3.25	1975	Architecture	0.40	1986	COMPLETE YEAR	8.50	1996	Women/Europa	1.50	2004	Christmas	4.40	2012	Dickens	6.50
1964	Geog (O)	0.90	1975	Sailing	0.35	1987	Flowers	1.00	1996	Childrens TV	1.50	2004	COMPLETE YEAR	54.00	2012	Space Science	6.00
1964	Geog (P)	7.50	1975	Railway	0.35	1987	Newton	1.00	1996	Cars	1.80	2005	Farm Animals	9.50	2012	Lest - Poppy	1.20
1964	Bot (O)	0.90	1975	Parliament	0.15	1987	Architecture	1.00	1996	Christmas	2.85	2005	S. West England	3.70	2012	Christmas	8.50
1964	Bot (P)	7.50	1975	Austen	0.40	1987	St. Johns	1.00	1996	COMPLETE YEAR	38.00	2005	Jane Eyre	4.40	2012	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.10	1975	Christmas	0.40	1987	Heraldry	1.00	1997	Greetings	9.50	2005	Magic	3.60	2013	London Underground	6.00
1964	F.R.B. (P)	1.60	1975	COMPLETE YEAR	2.20	1987	Victorian Britain	1.00	1997	Tudor	1.90	2005	World Heritage	5.50	2013	Jane Austen	6.00
1965	Churchill (O)	0.15	1976	Telephone	0.45	1987	Pottery	1.00	1997	Faith	1.70	2005	Trooping The Colour	4.40	2013	Doctor Who	10.50
1965	Churchill (P)	0.50	1976	Reformers	0.45	1987	Christmas	1.20	1997	Terror Legends	1.40	2005	Motorcycles	3.50	2013	Great Britons	9.50
1965	Parliament (O)	0.30	1976	USA	0.10	1987	COMPLETE YEAR	7.50	1997	Architects of the Air	1.90	2005	Tastes in Britain	3.80	2013	Football Heroes	10.50
1965	Parliament (P)	0.20	1976	Roses	0.45	1988	Linnean Society	1.10	1997	Horse	1.50	2005	Classic ITV	3.80	2013	Coronation Anniversary	6.50
1965	Army (O)	0.25	1976	Culture	0.45	1988	Welsh Bible	1.10	1997	Post Offices	1.50	2005	Smilers	7.00	2013	Butterflies	9.50
1965	Army (P)	0.50	1976	Caxton	0.45	1988	Sports	1.10	1997	Enid Blyton	1.85	2005	Battle of Trafalgar	4.00	2013	Auto Legends	7.00
1965	Lister (O)	0.25	1976	Christmas	0.40	1988	Transport	1.10	1997	Christmas	2.85	2005	Christmas	4.40	2013	Merchant Navy	7.00
1965	Lister (P)	0.50	1976	COMPLETE YEAR	2.60	1988	Australia	1.00	1997	Golden Wedding	1.60	2005	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00	2013	Dinosaurs	9.50
1965	Arts (O)	0.25	1977	Sports	0.45	1988	Armada	0.90	1997	COMPLETE YEAR	22.50	2006	Animal Tales	5.50	2013	Christmas	8.00
1965	Arts (P)	0.70	1977	Chemistry	0.45	1988	Lear	1.10	1998	Endangered	2.20	2006	England	9.50	2013	Childrens Christmas (2v)	2.50
1965	B.O.B. (O)	2.50	1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.55	1988	Christmas	1.25	1998	Diana	1.30	2006	World Cup Winners	3.60	2013	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	3.25	1977	Government	0.15	1988	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1998	Queens Beasts	1.30	2006	Architecture	3.60	2014	Childrens TV	12.00
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.10	1977	Wildlife	0.50	1989	Birds	1.10	1998	Lighthouses	1.90	2006	Portrait Gallery	9.50	2014	Working Horses	6.50
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.10	1977	Christmas	0.50	1989	Greetings	4.00	1998	Comedians	1.90	2006	Victoria Cross	4.60	2014	Remarkable Lives	9.50
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.25	1977	COMPLETE YEAR	2.40	1989	Food	1.10	1998	Health	1.50	2006	Sounds of Britain	3.70	2014	Buckingham Palace	6.00
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.50	1978	Energy	0.45	1989	Anniversaries	1.10	1998	Fantasy	1.90	2006	Smilers	6.00	2014	Great British Film	7.00
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.25	1978	Buildings	0.45	1989	Toys	1.10	1998	Carnival	1.50	2006	Christmas	6.00	2014	Sustainable Fish	9.50
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.40	1978	Coronation	0.45	1989	Ind. Arch.	1.10	1998	Speed	1.80	2006	COMPLETE YEAR	57.50	2014	Commonwealth Games	7.50
1966	Burns (O)	0.15	1978	Horses	0.45	1989	Microscopes	1.10	1998	Christmas	1.70	2007	Beatles	4.60	2014	The Great War	7.50
1966	Burns (P)	0.50	1978	Cycling	0.45	1989	Mayor	1.00	1998	COMPLETE YEAR	15.50	2007	Sea Life	9.50	2014	Seaside Architecture	7.00
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20	1978	Christmas	0.45	1989	Christmas	1.20	1999	Inventors	1.50	2007	Inventions	4.60	2014	Prime Ministers	8.00
1966	Abbey (P)	0.05	1978	COMPLETE YEAR	2.50	1989	COMPLETE YEAR	11.50	1999	Travellers	1.50	2007	Slave Trade	4.30	2014	Christmas	9.50
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.20	1979	Dogs	0.45	1990	150th Anniv.	1.50	1999	Patients	1.50	2007	Seaside	3.90	2015	Alice In Wonderland	11.00
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.20	1979	Flowers	0.45	1990	RSPCA	1.20	1999	Settlers	1.50	2007	Grand Prix	4.50	2015	Smilers	13.50
1966	W. Cup (O)	0.15	1979	Elections	0.45	1990	Greetings	4.00	1999	Workers	1.50	2007	Harry Potter	6.50	2015	Inventive Britain	9.50
1966	W.Cup (P)	0.15	1979	Racing	0.45	1990	Europa	1.00	1999	Entertainers	1.50	2007	Scouts	3.90	2015	Bridges	9.50
1966	Birds (O)	0.15	1979	Year Of Child	0.45	1990	Queens Award	1.00	1999	Royal Wedding	0.85	2007	Birds	9.50	2015	Comedy Greats	9.50
1966	Birds (P)	0.15	1979	Rowland Hill	0.45	1990	Gardens	1.20	1999	Citizens	1.50	2007	Uniforms	5.00	2015	Great War	8.00
1966	Winners	0.05	1979	Police	0.50	1990	Hardy	0.20	1999	Scientists	1.50	2007	Diamond Wedding	4.50	2015	Magna Carta	8.00
1966	Technology (O)	0.15	1979	Christmas	0.55	1990	Birthday	1.20	1999	Farmers	1.50	2007	Christmas - 8v	7.50	2015	Battle of Waterloo	7.00
1966	Technology (P)	0.20	1979	COMPLETE YEAR	3.50	1990	Gallantry	1.00	1999	Soldiers	1.50	2007	COMPLETE YEAR	65.00	2015	Bees	8.00
1966	Hastings (O)	0.40	1980	Birds	0.45	1990	Astronomy	1.10	1999	Christians	1.50	2008	James Bond	4.50	2015	Rugby World Cup	

AUSTRALIA

Come home safely

Featuring images from vintage postcards from World War One, the 2022 commemorative Anzac Day stamps from Australia Post are a reminder of the messages of love and support sent by tens of thousands of people to Australians serving overseas.

The postcards chosen for the three base-rate domestic stamps (\$1.10) feature postcard images of Australia's iconic Laughing Kookaburra. The cards represented the naval, infantry and air forces through the different uniform hats the birds are wearing, and also included poignant little verses that expressed hope, support, and warm desire to see the card's recipient safely home. The original images were created by Valentine & Sons Publishing, and are now held in the collection of State Library Victoria. The new stamps were designed by Jo Muré of the Australia Post Design Studio.



More than 100 years after the cards were originally sent, the stamp set celebrates how the postcards are now prized for providing a record of the messages sent by family and friends in anxious times to those serving their country overseas.

'For those fighting or caring for the wounded, postcards were an important way of

connecting with a home half a world away, enabling them to reflect on daily life and share the emotions of the frontline,' said Australia Group Manager Philatelic Michael Zsolt. 'The stamp images also beautifully capture that larrikin nature of the Australians which has long been embraced as part of the Anzac spirit.'

Issue date: 12 April, auspost.com.au/stamps

GUERNSEY

Spellbinding stamps

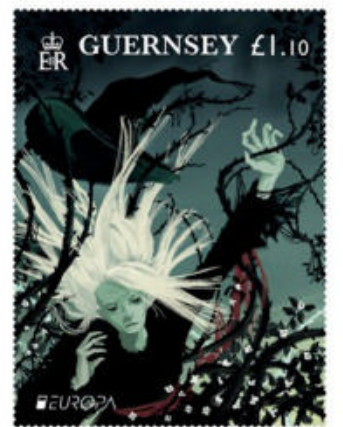
Local witches of the Channel Islands feature on a new set of stamps commemorating local folklore, designed by Keith Robinson. The set gives a Guernsey slant to the PostEurop theme of 'Stories and Myths' and includes a special Europa stamp.

'The intricate illustrations bring to life the stories of witchcraft in Guernsey and the islands' tales of sorcery passed through the generations,' said Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post.

The Bailiwick of Guernsey is rich in witch tales, which are reflected in the darkly enchanting stamp set. The story behind the 52p stamp is the Sabbat de Sorciers ceremony that was reputed to take place at Catoroc, where witches and warlocks would dance and worship the devil in the form of a black goat. Local legend has it that Guernsey witches fly with invisible wings rather than a broomstick, and this is depicted on the 72p stamp, where a group of witches is shown flying home after Le Sabbat.

The 79p stamp is the Europa Stamp, and shows a special feature of Guernsey architecture – the piece of granite sticking out from a chimney, or 'witches' seats' that are seen in many of the island's old cottages. The legend is that witches wouldn't cast spells on houses with these seats – and the 'seat' meant they wouldn't fall down the chimney either!

The £1.10 stamp shows the legend of the witch in the hedge – a sorceress who flew too low on her way home from Le Sabbat and was found stuck in a hedge by a local farmer's wife. The cross witch warned the woman not to tell



a soul, but she couldn't keep her mouth shut, so when the witch found out the woman had told her husband, she cast a spell so the woman was deaf for the rest of her life.

The £1.26 stamp is based on the legend of Jean Falla, an experienced fisherman caught in a storm at sea. He heard the sound of unearthly cackling, and looking up, Jean saw a coven of witches flying overhead. Back safely on dry land, Jean jumped on a cow, which took off across the fields. As it threw him in a ditch, Jean again heard the cackling – and vowed to treat old women with respect from that moment on.

The last stamp in the set offers a reminder of the tragic history that goes hand-in-hand with Guernsey's local witch legends. In the 16th and 17th centuries, 103 people were found guilty of witchcraft in Guernsey, and a plaque in St Peter Port commemorates their burning. The stamp shows one of the narrow passages that are said to be haunted by the spirits of the witches who met their ends in the flames.

Issue date: 21 May 2022, www.guernseystamps.com



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ISLE OF MAN

Animal magic



A Manx-based artist's charming view of the animal world is encapsulated in a new set of stamps from Isle of Man post Office.

Eileen Schaefer was born in Liverpool and is a self-taught, intuitive artist, creating imaginative, uplifting paintings that have a childlike spontaneity and a dreamlike quality that gives them great appeal to collectors. She works in various media, from tiny gouache paintings to large-scale oils, painted sculptures and lino-cuts. For the Animals stamp set, Eileen worked in acrylic on board, in each case extending the picture's imagery over the risen frame of the piece.

Eileen paints to create a sense of joy in her viewers, perfectly exemplified

by the images in Animals. Four of the six stamps display kindly interactions between humans and animals, and in each of the quirky paintings, the focus is on the relationships between the creatures in the frame.

'We can learn so much from animals,' said Eileen. 'They have no ego, live in the moment and can show you so much love. It is such a privilege to experience that connection between yourself and another creature. A relationship on a spiritual level perhaps? Animals can be our best friends, they can be loyal and can be our guardians.'

Issue date: 12 April 2022. www.iompost.com

JERSEY

We're going to Wem-ber-ley!!

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the world's longest running national club competition, Jersey Post has issued 150 Years of the FA Cup Final – Great FA Cup Moments! – a set of eight commemorative stamps illustrating classic moments in FA Cup history.

The stamp set has been created by comic artist David Sque, whose iconic Roy of the Rovers character is known and loved by football fans worldwide. 'I've been involved with illustrating football for most of my career, and I am probably most known for drawing England's famous national football comic hero, Roy of the Rovers,' said David. 'I was both honoured and humbled when Jersey Post kindly commissioned me to illustrate a set of postage stamps together with further illustrations connected with the issue. It was quite daunting to hear that my illustrations had to be approved by the Queen before they could be produced! This project is certainly one of the highlights of my career to date.'

The stamps illustrated by David in his inimitable comic-book style cover the FA Cup Final's history from its humble beginnings in 1872, when Wanderers beat Royal Engineers 1-0. Dramatic moments brought to life in Dave's drawings include the 1956 final between Manchester



City and Birmingham City when City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann broke his neck as he dived to save a ball – and played on regardless of his injury, seeing his team win 3-1.

The 150 Years of the FA Cup Final – Great FA Cup Moments! set is a must for football loving stamp collectors, and a prestige stamp booklet illustrated by Dave is also available, with further illustrations of great FA Cup moments and featuring five exclusive panes of stamps.

'From my point of view as a fan of football, so many of the classic moments of the FA Cup are ingrained in the memory,' said Chriss Elligott, design and production manager for Jersey Stamps. 'One of the hardest tasks was to edit down the highlights to be featured throughout the issue. David Sque has brought each moment to life in his very own classic action-packed style, and I hope that the issue will spark a nostalgic trip for fans of the game.'

Issue date: 10 May. jerseystamps.com



NORWAY

Regal countenances

Norway has released a set of four stamps illustrating royal anniversaries. Illustrated by Trond Bredesen, two domestic 20g stamps commemorate the 85th birthdays of King Harald, the first prince to be born in Norway in 567 years, and his consort Queen Sonja, who has served as Vice President of the Norwegian Red Cross. The two domestic 50g stamps commemorate the 150th anniversary of King Haakon, who oversaw the Norwegian resistance

in London during WW2 after escaping from the German invasion of Norway in 1940, and the 18th birthday of Princess Ingrid Alexandra, who will one day be the Norwegian Queen and who will take on more royal duties after reaching the age of majority. A limited edition (3,000) prestige booklet is available with the stamps in miniature sheets on gummed paper.

Issue date: 22 April. posten.colfrimerker

IN BRIEF

In August 2021, the Liechtenstein bid farewell to its 'mother of the country', Princess Marie. The Post Office are now honouring her life and work with a CHF 6.30 souvenir sheet. In addition to the souvenir sheet, a crypto stamp with 'Blockchain' technology has been issued which gives users the chance to 'puzzle their way through the life of the Princess'. shop.philatelieli

Monaco Post marks the 120th anniversary of the Police on a new stamp featuring the official Monegasque police helmet. According to Monaco Post, the helmet is the most iconic symbol of a police officer in uniform and the Sovereign Prince's monogram capped with a crown 'emphasises the Police Department's commitment to the Prince'. www.oetp-monaco.com

SWITZERLAND

Park likes

Following the success of 2021's set of special stamps on Swiss Parks, Swiss Post has released another set of Swiss Park stamps, designed by Pierre-Abraham Rochat, La Sarraz

The twenty Swiss Parks were created to preserve and promote their unique natural and cultural landscapes, and actively promote the sustainable development of their region. The Swiss Parks stamps not only feature stunning locations, but show the interventions of human beings in the Swiss landscape. The Beverin Nature Park has been working to put new shingle roofs on the region's stables, and that is what its stamp shows. The Doubs Nature Park stamp depicts the Freiburger horses that have been bred in the region for centuries. The Grantrisch Nature Park stamp portrays a region known in Switzerland for the traditional folk song Vreneli ab em Guggisberg, and shows a procession of cattle returning from the meadows. Finally, the fourth stamp in the set, Schaffhausen Nature Park, shows the iconic mountain

church of St Moritz overseeing a foreground of the wine-producing Hallau village's lush vineyards.

Issue date: 28 April. post.ch



Not content with marking Asteroid Day on stamps once, Luxembourg Post are issuing three stamps over three years to mark the United Nations sanctioned day of public awareness of the risks of asteroid impacts. The first stamp in the series is issued on 30 June and has the theme of 'Defence', with 'Discovery' and 'Space Resources' following in 2023 and 2024. www.post.lu

The Faroe Islands remember the visit of William Morris to the Faroe Islands in 1871 on a new stamp. The the leading figure in the Arts and Crafts movement travelled to Iceland and the Faroe Islands in 1871 and 1873. According to Posta Faroe Islands, 'his trip to Iceland and the Faroe Islands was a prolonged version of his search to find a world not destroyed by industrialism, colonialism and greed; he wanted to find communality and kindness.' The new 61 KR stamp recreates the fabric 'Pure Torshavn Weave Fabric' which was designed during the artist's trip. en.stamps.fo

Baseball is Finland's third most popular game and is set to run 100 this year. A four-stamp mini-sheet depicts four typical situations in a 'pesäpallo' game. www.posti.fi/en

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GB STAMPS

Visitors from far-off lands

Royal Mail's 'Migratory Birds' issue explores the spring and summer bird visitors to the UK, from seabirds that migrate along the UK's coastline, such as the Arctic Skua and Arctic Tern, to the exceptionally rare bird of prey, Montagu's Harrier

Birds have regularly landed onto British stamps, with this set being the thirteenth (including the Post & Go stamps of 2010 and 2011) to feature our feathered friends. So this set is certainly nothing new, but this time focuses on those birds that, perhaps wisely, only choose to come to Britain during the warmer months.

The ten featured birds on the ten stamps have been illustrated in detail by Irish ornithologist Killian Mullarney, one of Europe's best-known bird artists. His work has featured in the Collins Bird Guide and on stamps issued in the Republic of Ireland.

Bird migration is the annual, seasonal movement of birds along predefined routes, known as flyways,



between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. It might seem like the ideal way to live, flying from one warm destination to another, but migration is a perilous venture for birds, whatever their size. The numerous hazards to overcome include sea crossings, inclement and extreme weather, food shortages, predators and hunting by humans, to name a few. Migration is a costly behaviour both in terms of the energy needed and also higher risk of mortality that it involves. Arguably, migrant birds are more susceptible to environmental change than their resident counterparts because these arduous migrations and dependence on different sites at different times of the year place them in multiple jeopardy.

So why do these birds risk so much to get here? According to the scientists, the seasonal availability of surplus food at higher latitudes and a favourable climate for breeding prove attractive and advantageous to many species. Migration allows birds to find themselves in their preferred climate and take advantage of seasonally abundant food, while simultaneously escaping the threats of local competition from other animals.

The birds

So which of these determined and intrepid birds appear on the new set

of 1st class stamps? We see the Arctic Skua, a rakish seabird breeding in northern Scotland and migrating around the UK's coasts; the Arctic Tern, a dainty white seabird with buoyant agile flight; the long-winged bird of prey Montagu's Harrier; the Nightjar, an owl-like bird of open woodlands, heathlands and moors, seen at dawn and dusk; and the Pied Flycatcher, which crosses the Sahara to winter in tropical, humid forests of western and central Africa.

WIN THE STAMPS!

We have presentation packs to give away, courtesy of Royal Mail, in our regular competition. For your chance to win just visit the website at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk and answer the following question:

In what year did Great Britain issue four 4d stamps on the subject of 'British Birds'?

Enter now at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/competitions



Closing date: 10 June 2022. Winners will be picked at random from all correct entries. Editor's decision is final. Good luck!

STAMP DETAILS

Migratory Birds

Issue date: 7 April 2022

Design: hat-trick design

Illustrations: Killian Mullarney

Stamp Size: 41mm x 30mm

Printer: International Security

Print Process: lithography

Perforations: 14.5 x 14

1st class - Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

1st class - Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

1st class - Swift *Apus apus*

1st class - Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

1st class - Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1st class - Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

1st class - Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

1st class - Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

1st class - Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

1st class - Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Our line-up concludes with the Stone-curlew; the well known and much-loved Swallow and Swift; the Turtle Dove; and the Yellow Wagtail. As is sadly the case with many of the creatures with which we share the planet, many of the featured animals are facing difficulties thanks to human behaviour, with reduction of habitat meaning numbers are declining.

The stamps

This simple set features ten 1st class stamps and this time we do not have an accompanying miniature sheet. Instead we have the usual range of related products, including the presentation pack which includes Professor Richard Gregory's thoughts on the many reasons behind bird migration and why, even though it's a hazardous venture for many, the evolution benefits still outweigh the costs.

The First Day Cover includes the ten-stamp set and an information card with key details about the stamps, as well as a brief overview on migratory birds. There is a choice of two postmarks for the cover; a Tallent's House postmark with an image of a Nightjar, and an alternative postmark which uses the location Swallownest, Sheffield.



What would Arnold have thought?

In his new, regular column on GB stamps, Richard West reflects on the recent introduction of the 'barcode' stamps and wonders whether the complex nature of our Machin definitives is a good or bad thing for collectors

I wonder what Arnold Machin would have made of the new 'barcode' definitives, the values from 1p to £5 issued on 4 April, that now have a white background? Machin's plaster cast of the Queen was photographed with lighting created specifically to allow the portrait to be shown against a coloured background.

Machin favoured deep colours: it has been well documented that the Queen preferred olive brown with sepia for the 4d value of the new definitives when issued in 1967. While some of the pre-decimal and early decimal values had graduated pastel backgrounds, these were dropped in favour of dark colours throughout with the arrival of the palette of colours developed by Jeffery Matthews.

Machin's design has been universally praised for its simplicity, reminiscent of the beauty of the Penny Black. He was always adamant that the concept should never change. It was after Machin's death that the design was changed to mark the new Millennium, the portrait now appearing in olive-brown against a white background, much to the anger of his son Francis. A white background was also used for the 'overseas' stamps in booklets that first appeared in 2003.

The new 'barcode' NVIs and revised tariff stamps have dark grounds, so why spoil the 'make-up' values by showing the portrait against a white background? Regrettably the impact of the Machin design has been lost.

Interestingly some of the colours being used for the dark background versions are repeated with the white background stamps. Perhaps there is a limit to the colours that can be used for the data matrix code. But why does the code have to be in the same colour as the stamp? Other countries that have introduced such codes have them in black – could not the Machin definitives likewise have had the codes printed in black?

I also question why the £2, £3 and £5 values are still retained. It is known that these are not automatically stocked by post offices: a special request has to be made to obtain these values. These days it is easy to determine when further printings are needed of definitives thanks to the 'date' that appears in the security background. Printings of the values from 1p to £1 have been required almost annually. Yet, since the security background was introduced in 2009, there has been a further printing of the £2 in 2013, and of all three values in 2019. Does the usage of these values justify their continuation?

Thinking of the security background, in most cases this reveals the year of release of the stamps, and the source (counter sheets, booklets, business sheets). However, this information is now included in the data matrix code. So why does it have also to appear as part of the security background? Collecting the Machin definitives remains complex and popular (although collectors can, of course, set their own parameters): would removing the dates and source codes ease the complexity or merely take away some of the enjoyment?



Is there still a need for a £5 stamp?



A white background was used for the Millennium definitive, and later for the 'overseas' stamps, but Francis, Arnold Machin's son, was not happy with the change



Richard West MBE, is a respected philatelist and journalist, having written and edited a range of publications over the years. He has served on the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society London and Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee.

What do you think? Share your views with Richard by emailing the editor at: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk



MARKET INSIGHT

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AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



BURMA OVERPRINTS

'The Libra Collection - Featuring King George V Issues' was recently offered by Spink at an auction held at the Royal Philatelic Society London. One of the highest prices achieved was for a set of 1937 Indian stamps, overprinted 'Burma'. The lot consisted of 3p to 25r values in blocks of four, the 10r, 15r, and 25r, from the top left corner, fresh and fine mint with the lower pair in each unmounted. The lot was said to be 'a rare and stunning set.'

SOLD FOR £6,600



RARE US SPECIMENS

A range of USA 'Specimen' overprints were recently offered by Robert A Siegel, including what was said to be the only recorded example of the 15-cent 1869 pictorial re-issue with any type of 'specimen' overprint. The blue

handstamped overprint can be seen across the bottom of the stamp, and the item boasted original gum, rich colours and detailed impressions, and was well-centred.

SOLD FOR £5,885



BRITISH CLASSICS IN PARIS

Classic GB was also the theme of French auctioneers Pascal Behr's recent auction, with an impressive selection of line engraved stamps on offer. Included was this strip of four horizontal 1840 1d blacks, from plate 6, lettered AG-AJ. Unused with original gum, the strip was described as 'an exceptional top marginal'.

SOLD FOR £202,770



QEII MISSING COLOUR

Grosvenor's recent GB sale included a strip of ten 1961 Post Office Savings Bank 2½d stamps of 1961, with the black omitted from the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth stamp, those from columns six, seven and nine showing some traces of black. According to the London auction house just four examples of the error are known.

SOLD FOR £15,000



PLENTY FOR GB COLLECTORS

The recent Cavendish Philatelic Auctions sale included a vast range of Great Britain stamps and covers, many from the first months and years of the postage stamp era. A cover featuring a Penny Black, plate 11, fetched £600 in the sale. Sent on 18 February 1841 in Dorset, the cover's 1d stamp was tied by a black Maltese Cross cancel, and a 'DORCHESTER' circular date stamp was added below. The lot was described as being 'very scarce'.

SOLD FOR £600



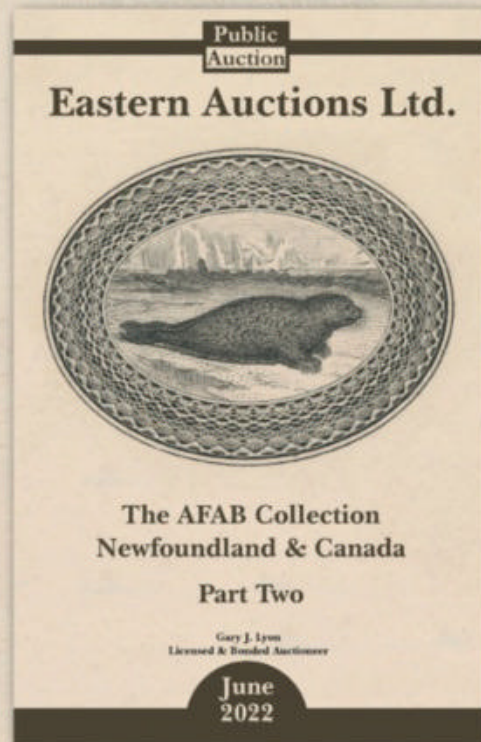
This 1907 5c yellow and dull blue, with the centre inverted and misplaced, was sold for \$5,000 recently by Cherrystone Auctions. Showing parts of the vignette at both right and left, the lot was described as being 'one of the most dramatic errors of this issue' and less than ten copies of this variety are thought to exist, the example on offer being the only known with additionally displaced centre.

SOLD FOR £3,900

Public Auction Announcement - June 2022

The AFAB Collection

Newfoundland & Canada - Part Two



1sh Heraldic die essay
unadopted design



1sh scarlet vermilion,
superb used;
1997 Greene cert.
ex. Dale-Lichtenstein



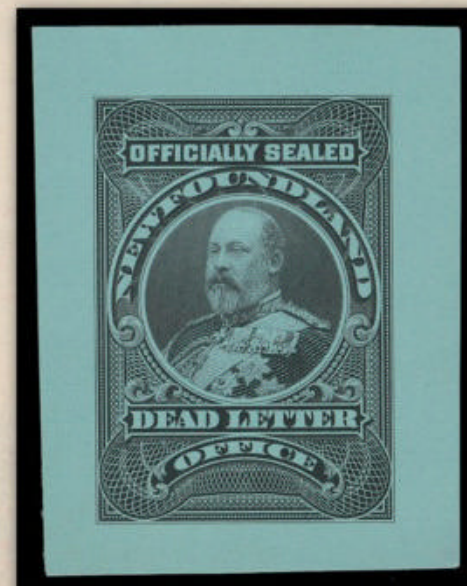
2c dark green
on thin paper, mint NH
2002 Greene cert.



3c blue
superb mint NH;
2005 Greene cert.



Dornier DO-X inverted surcharge, mint NH;
2002 BPA cert.



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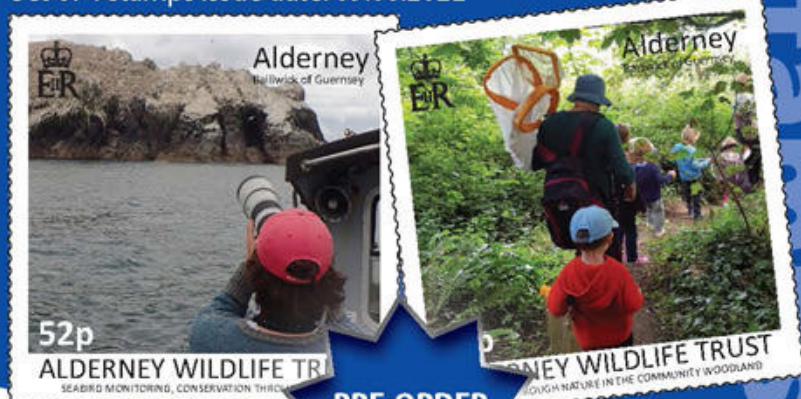
GUERNSEY STAMPS
AND COLLECTABLES
New Issues: 9th & 22nd June 2022

GUERNSEY
POST

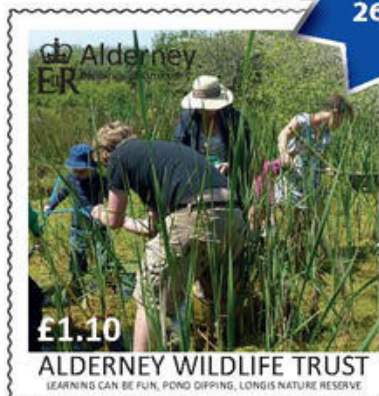
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BEAUTIFUL COMBINATION COVER

This Uruguay cover, sent from Montevideo to Buenos Aires in March 1862, and franked with an 1859 'Thin Figures' 240c vermilion, and a horizontal pair of 1860 'Thick Figures', was sold

by Cherrystone Auctions recently. The stamps on the cover were tied by oval departure postmarks, and the cover was endorsed 'Per Mississippi' (a ship of the River Plata Line Montevideo-Buenos Aires). The lot was said to be 'a beautiful combination cover' and was complete with a 1972 Dena certificate.

SOLD FOR £10,200



SCINDE DAWK DELIGHT

Grosvenor's recent sale of British Commonwealth included a used India 1852 Scinde Dawk 1/2a scarlet. Despite having a 'tiny fault on stamp' and being 'affixed to a piece which it does not belong' the rare Indian stamp quickly surpassed the pre-sale estimate of £8,000 - £10,000.

SOLD FOR £18,500



BACKGROUND MISSING

Grosvenor has a tradition of offering visually appealing errors of colour, and this 1972 Christmas 3p stamp was missing the lavender background, highlighted against a normal stamp for comparison. In unmounted mint condition, the error came with a 2015 B.P.A. certificate.

SOLD FOR £9,000



AFRICAN PROOFS

Spink sold this attractive set of proofs of the South West Africa 1931 pictorial issue. Featuring values from 1/2d to 20/- and the Airmail 3d and 10d, values the set of imperforate proofs were each affixed to individual printer's presentation card, all on gummed unwatermarked paper in colours close to the issued stamp. Spink described the proofs as 'a magnificent lot and a wonderful exhibition group.'

SOLD FOR £7,000

STAMP DETECTIVE

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

US-China relations

There was a time when relations between China and the United States were a lot friendlier than what is the case today. On 4 July 1939, China released a set of four large pictorial stamps marking the 150th anniversary of the constitution of the United States. The stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. using a combination of recess and lithography. The date of 4 July is, of course, significant as it is date when the thirteen original states



declared their independence from Britain in 1776.

It is an attractive set in bold colours featuring the flags of China and the United States along with a map of China and with text in Chinese only. Exactly why the Chinese Post Office decided to honour this important anniversary is unknown but in all probability the idea was to market the set to US stamp collectors.

Over the years this set has slowly increased in value suggesting that available stocks are rather limited. A check of a major online auction site reveals 'Buy It Now' prices of £20 to £25 for an unmounted mint set which seems to be on the high side. Shopping around, it should be possible to obtain an unmounted mint set for £10 to £15.

China is a popular area with worldwide collectors and this particular set can be expected to increase in value regardless of the relations between the two countries. It certainly belongs in a collection of 'Americana on Foreign Stamps' and both maps and flags are popular themes.

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IRELAND CHARITY. On paper. This emanates from convents throughout the Republic, is mostly modern with a wealth of Commems. Price 1 lb £16.50 / lb, 2 lbs £30.00.

JAPAN. An on paper Charity mixture, great variety with many Commems and modern. 1 lb £25.00, 2 lbs £48.00.

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PORTUGAL. A very colourful and modern on paper mixture. 2 oz £13.00, 1/4 lb £25.00.

MIDDLE EAST. A great on paper mixture covering Jordan, U.A.E, Kuwait, Iran, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Lebanon and others. Includes high values and many unusual. 1/4 lb £24.00, 1/2 lb £45.00.

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



Austrian Province Lombardy-Venetia
- 45c dark blue 1857- Fake of Milan
with genuine cancellation 'Milano'

SOLD FOR £1,584



Spain Cantabria, letter
franked 1p and 10c
from Santander 1875 to
Brownsville Texas via French
steamboat, 5c due New York

SOLD FOR £890



Belgian Congo Ruanda-Urundi, 1f
definitive Tombeur issue 1916 cancelled
'POSTES MILITAIRES' (Field post office)

SOLD FOR £623



Denmark, 2s blue 1851 used

SOLD FOR £445



France - Fake 'de Gaulle of Marseilles'
(forgery between two genuine 1f50 Pétain)
1943 MNH (signed + cert.)

SOLD FOR £605



Great Britain, Seahorses 1913 complete set 1913 used

SOLD FOR £479



Italy, Airmail 10L air link Roma-
Mogadiscio 1934 golded overprint
'SERVIZIO DI STATO' MNH

SOLD FOR £410



Greenland cover franked 30c cancelled US A.P.O. July
1958 from the French Expedition 1957-60 from explorer
Paul Emile Victor to Paris

SOLD FOR £445



Greece - 1896 Olympic Games set MH

SOLD FOR £382



China, US Postal Agency in
Shanghai 1919 complete set MH

SOLD FOR £750

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Long-term UK eBay seller lerou.uk2014, from Tewkesbury, recently offered this 1879 ½d olive-yellow, described as mint, no gum, for £14 plus 95p for standard delivery



International seller stampauctionnetwork, from Australia, recently sold this 1875-76 1d blue, described as very fine used with barred numeral postmark, for AU \$60 plus shipping

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

Gold Coast's Colonial Years

Ed Fletcher sketches the colony's history during the years it issued stamps of Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI; then looks at recent offerings from UK sellers and dealers; and one or two from further afield

Shortly before the introduction of Gold Coast's first adhesive stamps in 1875, a February, 1874 report in the *Newcastle Courant* brought readers news of the Ashanti War in distant West Africa. It included a paragraph headed 'DIFFICULTIES WITH BEARERS', which quoted from a letter dated 10 January 1874 carried to Liverpool by the troop ship *Manitoban*. 'The correspondent reported that fevers and vomiting have broken out among British regiments marching towards the front line. No deaths had been reported so far; but their greatest difficulty arises from lack of reliable porters among the Fantee tribesmen from Sierra Leone, hired as carriers at very generous wages ... The 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers discovered that their bearers, carrying arms, ammunition and provisions, had bolted into the bush shortly after the army began its march from the coast.

The troops carried the remaining baggage themselves during the rest of the trek, suffering only a single loss, but one they greatly lamented. Their noble Regimental Goat, which for many years marched at the head of the column, died en route. It is assumed the goat must have eaten a poisonous plant.'

We can say with benefit of hindsight that the Regimental Goat probably fell victim to the viral disease that affected most draught

Long-term eBay seller 1st4stamps1840, from Derby offered this 1789 6d orange, described as lightly hinged, with original gum, and no faults, for £15 BIN, with free standard delivery



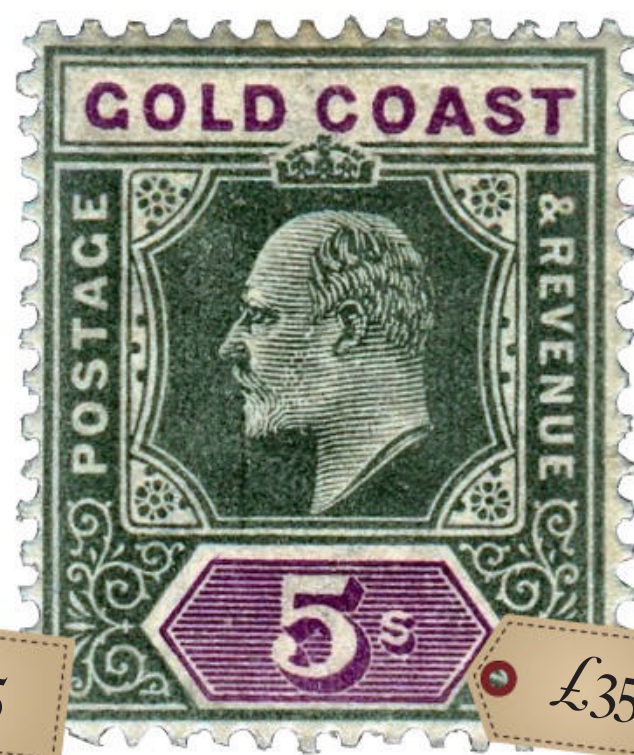
UK eBay seller atticusphilately, from Richmond, Surrey recently offered this BIN lot of two Gold Coast stamps: Queen Victoria 1884 2½d ultramarine & orange, together with an 1884 1s bright mauve; both described as mint very lightly hinged, with full original gum. The price was £112.50 plus £1.10 standard delivery



Empire Philatelists from Henley-On-Thames recently offered this 1888 2s deep brown, described as fine mounted mint for £32, with free shipping



Imperium Stamps from Tamworth, Staffs recently offered this 1902 2d dull mauve and orange-red, described as mounted mint with light gum toning, for £15 plus postage



Imperium Stamps also recently had this Edward VII 1902 green and mauve 5s stamp, described as lightly mounted mint, on sale at £35 plus postage

animals in the region at that time; one that greatly hampered the establishment of mail services in the new colony. Horses, donkeys, bullocks, and camels died off at an alarming rate. Earlier official colonial correspondence from 1854, when ship letter services handled the overseas mails, pointed out that the inland service recently established between Accra and the Cape Coast headquarters of the British authority, had to use relays of native runners, who set off from both offices three times a week.

Despite carrier costs, Gold Coast benefited from the reduced

Colonial Uniform Rate of 6d on letters weighing no more than ½ oz, introduced as early as 1854. The Colony's first three adhesive stamp issues – 1d blue, 4d magenta and 6d orange - came into use in July 1875. Apart from their value and colour, all three appeared superficially identical, with a left-facing profile of young Queen Victoria within a vertical oblong frame carrying the words POSTAGE (above); GOLD (to left) and COAST (to right); and the value below. The same design met Gold Coast's postal needs until as late as 1889. During those fourteen years nine values up to 2s were on sale. In the later years of Victoria's reign (1889 – 1901) key

plate designs, with a smaller portrait, and a larger value plate, became Gold Coast's definitives, now with values up to 20s, though not greatly altered in appearance from the first stamps of 1875. Advanced collectors nevertheless derive a great deal of interest from the colony's stamps by concentrating on watermarks, paper, perforations, bisects, and a wide range of postmarks to add to the colours and values mentioned above.

Also worthy of note, if only because the question of using the definite article The in the title often comes up when this colony's name is mentioned, is the original title used in early official correspondence. The British government called it Her Majesty's



Imperium Stamps from Tamworth, Staffs recently offered this 1913-21 10s green and red/green, described as a fine used example on small piece, at £78 plus postage



UK eBay seller nigelstow, from Watford, Herts recently offered this George V 1913 20s purple/black and red, described as mounted mint, at £57.50, and £2.30 standard delivery



eBay seller nigelstow also recently offered this George V 1921 2/6 black & red, described as a lightly mounted mint stamp from die II, for £24 plus 90p standard delivery



The top three values in eBay seller nigelstow's set of ten (½d to 5s) GV 1928 stamps, described as all mounted mint and priced at £60 for the full set, plus £7 express delivery

Unlike many colonies, Gold Coast remained wedded to its limited number of stamp designs through Edward VII's reign, and into the reign of George V up to 1928 when a stamp no larger than a standard definitive carried an image of Christiansborg Castle. Built by the Danes in the 1600s, the castle had served many purposes – a slave market, a gold trading

bourse, a military garrison, a police office – until, in 1902, it became the colonial seat of government. In 1938 the castle featured twice in a thirteen stamp set with only two designs – both of them depicting different views of the castle. Those stamps were recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. In 1948 Gold Coast's most varied twelve stamp set also had yet another view of Christiansborg Castle. Others in this highly varied, yet typically British Colonial issue, included a mounted policeman, cocoa bean harvesters, a manganese mine, a native drummer, and a map of West Africa's coast showing the location of Gold Coast.

Today that location carries the name Ghana; but there is still worldwide interest in its stamps from the colonial era, with a range of prices to suit every collecting level, as our examples show ...

Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast of West Africa. Newspaper correspondents soon afterwards shortened that name to The Gold Coast; with stamp collectors further abbreviate it to Gold Coast. Although supplies of early off-paper stamps keep collectors relatively well served, advanced collectors complain that only small numbers of covers and entires from the pre-stamp era come on the market. Advanced collectors look for correspondence among auctioned papers of West African missionaries, or in the records of senior military commanders. Letters from explorers and early entrepreneurs often found their way to Europe via private routes, with the help of sea captains whose vessels called at some of those aforementioned West African forts

and early settlements. The economy rapidly evolved to include more than gold and slaves. By the end of Victoria's reign postage stamps from Gold Coast used in connection with mail from managers and entrepreneurs exporting metal ores, cocoa, timber, diamonds, pepper and grain to Britain and beyond had found places in British albums. Edward VII's stamps remained conservative in general style, though the numbers of stamps by then needed to supply a single Gold Coast post office resulted in a change in letter writing habits. The Colony's humid climate took its toll by encouraging mould growth on stamp glue. The response brought a large increase in sales of prepaid postal stationery with stamp designs already printed on each card.



UK eBay seller goodladm, from Alford offered this 5s value from the GVI 1948 set, describing the stamp as mint hinged and offering it at £12 with free economy delivery



UK eBay seller goodladm, from Alford also offered this 10s mint hinged stamp from the GVI 1948 set at £6 with free economy delivery

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The balance of a collection with Palestine (£150) from 1918 (March) inc 1918 (July) to 5pi, O'Print range to 2pi, 5pi (2) etc. Egypt from early Pyramids to 5pu., Later to 200m, China from 1c Dowagers Birthday, (M) later to \$1. Useful Aden (£120) total Cat £450 **£45.00**

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

Many 100's on leaves for Br Guiana 1882-1966 inc KG6 to \$1, useful Burma inc O'Prints on KG5 to 2R, KG6 to 10R's etc. Ghana from 1957 set, 1959 to 5/=, later to 1995, Ireland from O'Prints on G.B St. Patrick 5/= (2) later to 2009, Jamaica from QV to 1/= etc **£135.00**

BRITISH GUIANA

130 from early ship types to 24c (3) 1888 Revenue types to 10c., 1889 most to 72c, 1898 Jubilee set and S'Charges, KG5 to 48c, Pictorials to 72c etc Cat £850 **£90.00**

AUSTRALIA

+ States Many 100's in clean, boxed Senator album, States inc S. Australia long types to 10d (M) Tasmania QV to 10d (M) Victoria to 1/= (M) etc then Australia with Roos to £1, £2 (Sp) Heads to 1/, then covers, blocks of 4 to 1968, AAT from 1957 inc 1966 set (no 5c) etc. Clean, attractive lot **£325.00**

AUSTRIAN P.O's IN TURKEY

About 100 with 1867 to 50Kr (3 different) 1883 to 50 sld, 1886 S'Charge set (M) S'Charges to 20 Piastre (both colours) strong dues with 1902 to 5pi etc Cat £2225 **£250.00**

AUSTRO- HUNGARIAN MILITARY POST

Some 100's inc Felpost O'Prints most to 3K., 5K., 1915 set, 1917 most to 10K., Italian Occ to 4L22, Rumanian Occ inc 1917 set complete, 1918 set Cat £900+ **£120.00**

BURMA

About 200 all mint from 1937 to 12as, then complete to 1947 inc 1938, 1945 and 1946 sets, Officials complete 1939-47. Good lot Cat £940 **£180.00**

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Few 100's from triangular 1d (7) 4d (10) 6d (2) 1/=, strong Rectangulars with range to 5/= inc selection chosen for postmarks, K.Ed to 5/=, mixed mint & used. Enormous Cat value **£235.00**

DENMARK

Few 100's on thick pile of leaves from 1851 RBS, 1854 2Sk (2) 4Sk, 8Sk, 1864 to 16Sk, Posthorns to 100 ore, 1882 small corner figures pair, 1907 set, 1913 to 10Kr inc 3 ore/ 7 ore se-tenant, 1912 and 1915 G.P.O 5K, 1918 Newspaper S'Charge, 1921 Red Cross pair, 1929 Cancer Research, 1934 Airs (M & FU) etc with good coverage to 2014 and back of the book. Cat £7800 **£800.00**

ESTONIA

Few 100's from 1918 set, 1919 to 25Mk, 1920-2 complete inc Red Cross, 1923 100Mk, 300Mk and Air pair, thence fairly complete to 1939 inc 1930 S'Charge high values, 1936 Charity, 1937 and 1938 Charities etc. a good representative range Cat £1000 **£175.00**

FINLAND

Many many 100's on nicely typed up leaves from 40p roulette, 1889 to 1Mk, 10Mk (FU) Russian types, 1917 to 20Mk. 1928 Philex pair, plenty of sets then to 2007. Good lot **£265.00**

GERMANY

Berlin 100's from better O'Prints to 3Mk, 1949 Views to 2Mk, good range Bells, Beethoven, 1950 Olympics (M) then many sets to 1990 **£125.00**

100's from good range Shields to 18Kr., 1875 to 50pf, 1880 set, 1900 Reichspost to 2Mk, further Germania's to 5Mk (3) 1920 re-drawn high value range, Bavaria O'Prints, good inflation issues, 1924 Views, 1928 Zepp, 2 Mk, 1931 Welfare (M) Hindenburg sets complete, 1934 Air set, 1935 Philex set of 4 (FU), later with many sets to 1944. Several pairs, blocks, cancels enhance this good lot Cat £7800 **£750.00**

GREAT BRITAIN

Range Smiler sheets appears complete 2000-2007 including the 2001 Consignia pair. All UNM. BB retail £2370. Apart from anything else 'face' in first class stamps is worthwhile **£935.00**

ICELAND

Many 100's from 1876 with good range posthorns to 25 aur, 1902 to 1Kr and official set, 1907 to 2Kr., And official set, 1911 Sigurdsson set, 1914 W'Mk crosses set, 1920 to 1Kr and 5Hr, S'Charges to 10Kr., 1930 to 40aur, Air set of 5 (M) Zeppelin set, 1931 to 2Kr, 193 Air set, 1939 Thorfinn (both sets) 1950 Views etc to 2016. An excellent basis Cat £8400 **£850.00**

INDIA

200+ from imperf ½ a, 1a, 4as (this cut to shape and not counted) good QV perf'd types to 3R's inc some mint, K.Ed to 2R's, KG5 to 10R's, all the KG5 Commems, KG6 to 10R's etc Cat £1365 **£145.00**

NORWAY

Many 100's from Oscar 4SK (2) 8SK (V.F Used) Posthorn types to 60 ore, 1925 Polar Flight set (FU) 1929 O'Print set, 1931 Hospital (M & FU) then in good number to 2016 with many better. Cat about £4000 **£425.00**

PERU

Some 100's from 1874 mainly unchecked but 1918 set noted inc M/S to 2000 **£65.00**

SILESIA

Good range with Upper Silesia 1920 to 1Mk, 1920 (March) set etc, Eastern with O'Prints on Czecho to 1000h, good dues etc Cat £380 **£50.00**

SUDAN

Very good lot (100's) from O'Prints on Egypt to 10pi, 1898, 1902, 1921, 1927 sets, 1931 Air set, 1941 to 10pi, 1948 set, 1950 Air set, 1951 set, good officials, telegraphs etc Cat £1085 **£150.00**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

About 250 with 1973 set, 1976 to 10d, Traffic Week set 50f S'Charge, later with extensive 1982 Birds to 50d, 1977 Crest to 10d etc Cat £500 **£75.00**

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Seventy years of service

This year, Her Majesty The Queen becomes the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after seventy years of service. Many events and activities will be happening to celebrate the anniversary, and a range of new stamps from Commonwealth countries means collectors can play their part



The celebrations are not confined to these shores. Commonwealth countries have joined

the philatelic celebrations and **Australia** have contributed two new stamps depicting portraits from 1952 and 2019 to emphasise the longevity of the Queen's reign. According to Auspost, both designs emphasise the colour platinum and include a rendition of St Edward's Crown, part of the Queen's cypher. Not sure Australia should be first in our round-up? Australia Post Group Philatelic Manager Michael Zsolt might just disagree: 'Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the most featured person on Australian stamps, and we were the first postal authority in the Commonwealth to produce a stamp for the Queen's Birthday each year,' he says.

auspost.com.au/stamps



Canada's Jubilee stamp will be of great interest to many GB collectors, thanks to the inclusion of the world famous Machin portrait. Since 1935, when then-Princess Elizabeth adorned a stamp for the silver jubilee of her grandfather, King George V, Canada Post has featured Queen Elizabeth II on more than seventy Canadian stamps, but this is the first time Royal Mail's profile of the Queen has appeared on a Canadian stamp.

Doug Ettinger, President and CEO of Canada Post, said: 'Our iconic national stamp program has a long-standing tradition of commemorating The Queen's reign and her connection to Canada. We are proud to continue that tradition by celebrating this historic seventy-year anniversary with a new stamp, and the first of our stamps to feature the Royal Mail's classic 'Machin' profile.' canadapost.ca



Sticking with overseas stamps, Pobjoy Mint have overseen an ambitious collaboration between six postal administrations, namely **The Bahamas, Ascension Island, British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, and Tristan da Cunha**. The sets from each territory feature one stamp showing a photograph of the Queen from the first years of her reign, and a second featuring a more recent image. Meanwhile, stamp sheets from each region show official photographs of Her Majesty, such as the Royal Command portrait, taken by Baron, on the Ascension Island sheet. www.pobjoymintstamps.com





The Queen's Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees were also marked with special stamp issues from **Great Britain**, so it was no surprise that Royal Mail would mark the occasion this year. Each of the eight stamps shows a different facet of the Queen's work, from Trooping the Colour to visits across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the wider world. Simon Thompson, CEO, Royal Mail, said: 'These stamps are a celebration of the second Elizabethan Age and a tribute to a remarkable lifetime of duty and public service.' shop.royalmail.com



A proportion of proceeds from the **Isle of Man's** Platinum Jubilee stamps are being donated to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which invites people from across the United Kingdom to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. The stamps themselves feature portraits of the Queen, including her visits to the Isle of Man, with words from the national anthem in the background. 'During the creation of these stamps, we wanted to convey the nation's appreciation for the service Her Majesty has given so graciously and generously,' an IOM Post spokesperson explained. 'Therefore at the forefront of the designs is the national anthem, God Save the Queen, which is referenced upon the designs and within the stamp borders.'

www.iompost.com/stamps-coins



GUERNSEY'S PLATINUM JUBILEE SET

A unique take on a remarkable occasion

Guernsey's contribution to the Jubilee adds a unique twist to the celebrations, with a clear theme and the addition of collectable black and white versions of the stamps. We spoke to Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post, to find out more about the set

Like many postal authorities with links to Great Britain, Guernsey have issued stamps to mark the Queen's reign since the Silver Jubilee in 1977. Back then, Bridget Yabsley was still at school – like many of us she remembers receiving the Silver Jubilee Crown from her teachers – but now she is directly involved in the celebrations, overseeing the release of a new set to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

'We've covered all the Jubilee celebrations in one form or another, whether it's a stamp set or a miniature

sheet,' she says. 'We actually started planning for this set about two years ago. We didn't want it to be just another set of Jubilee stamps; we wanted to issue something a bit different with a theme behind it.'

Aware of the significance of the Queen's jewellery and of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee necklace, Bridget began researching the subject in more depth and soon discovered that the Queen wears the necklace at many events and ceremonies, such as the opening of parliament. The theme was decided upon and the history of this precious piece is explored in more

In a philatelic first, the bureau has produced 5,000 limited edition stamps comprising black and white versions of the colour mint stamps, which will not be available to purchase as a set. Instead, a single black and white stamp from the set will be placed into the first 4,000 stock set of colour mint stamps



detail in the accompanying prestige stamp booklet.

But it isn't just the theme that sets the stamps apart from others. 'We wanted it to be special,' Bridget explains, 'so we used silver foil on

the stamps and gloss UV on the necklace. I wanted to make the necklace sparkle! We don't often go for additional print techniques, but wanted to for this set.'

Another unique aspect of the stamps, and perhaps the most intriguing for we collectors, is the release of 5,000 limited edition stamps comprising black and white versions of the colour mint stamps. 'I've had this in my mind for a few years, thinking about how we can encourage collectors to research, find, swap and collect stamps,' says Bridget. 'The "Willy Wonka golden ticket" competition was in my mind, and with the Platinum Jubilee stamps I thought it would be really nice to have some black and white stamps, reflecting the history and the length of the reign. We kept the silver foil and the gloss UV but knocked the images back to black and white, to give them that really nice retro feel.'

Keen to not add more expense for regular Guernsey collectors, Bridget decided the black and white versions should be given away rather than sold, and so one black and white stamp was inserted into the first 4,000 sets of the issued stamps. The stamps won't be included in Guernsey's year set and will not be included on album pages.

'We've already got a few customers



Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee necklace is said to be a favourite piece of jewellery of Her Majesty, who has worn it frequently since her accession in 1952

who have managed to collect all six stamps,' Bridget tells us, 'including a collector in France who has claimed the award for the limited-edition replica gold stamp. He bought a couple of extra sets of stamps from us, but he also located them from elsewhere. In fact we have another collector in France who has got the full set and has asked us to use her stamps to produce a cover, which we're happy to do.' The opportunity to create this rare souvenir is open to all, with customers able to send their six black and white stamps to the

bureau for cancelling with the first day of issue cancel.

The chance to add these monotone versions – and commemorative covers – to a collection adds a new appeal to this set, and could give the stamps added value in years to come. 'Yes, we've printed 5,000 sets of these but how many people will have a full set?' Bridget asks. 'So, because of the potential rarity of a full set, they may well become more valuable compared to the usual Guernsey stamps.'

Many of us have kept the souvenirs issued to celebrate previous royal anniversaries, such as that Silver Jubilee Crown issued 45 years ago, and no doubt this unique set of stamps, and the accompanying 'retro' versions' will be treasured by many in years and decades to come as we look back on the remarkable reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

The colour mint stamps, prestige booklet and miniature sheet are available to order at www.guernseystamps.com



WIN THE STAMPS!

We have six Platinum Jubilee presentation packs to give away, each containing a set of six black and white and six colour mint stamps, courtesy of Guernsey Post.

For your chance to win both the coloured, and black and white stamps, just go over to the website and answer the following question:

How is Queen Elizabeth II related to Queen Victoria?

Enter now at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/competitions

Six winners will be chosen from the correct entries. Closing date: 10 June 2022. Editor's decision is final. Be sure to sign up to the free All About Stamps newsletter when entering the competition to receive news of future competitions and offers.



CELEBRATING THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

Essential QEII

Plenty has happened over the past seven decades. From the Swinging Sixties to the new millennium, the Queen has seen it all, and the changes that have occurred during her long reign are, of course, reflected on our stamps. Here are seven examples that capture the people and pride of our ever evolving nation



WILD ABOUT THE WILDING

Since its appearance, the Wilding has been overshadowed by the ubiquitous Machin stamp, but its short life and use of photography mean it is a firm favourite with collectors.

Within a week of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February, 1952, the Post Office was asked about its plans for new stamps. The priority was to find a suitable photograph and a sitting took place at the Dorothy Wilding Studio on 26 February and, after consultation at the Post Office, a further shoot was held in April, after which a photograph to be used for stamps was selected. In all, 75 design ideas were received, with a short-list of nine designs later being cut down to five.

The Wilding definitives provide much of interest, whether from normal counter sheets, booklets or rolls. There is a range of constant varieties and marginal markings. Aside from the technical aspects, the stamps reflect the first years of the Queen's long reign; a young monarch finding her feet during a dramatic decade of innovation, cultural freedom, and change.

Did you know?

Some of the Wilding designs (with decimal denominations) made a re-appearance in 'The Wilding definitives' prestige stamp book issued in March 1998, and the subsequent 'A Gracious Accession' and 'A perfect Coronation' prestige books, and in fiftieth anniversary miniature sheets in 2002 and 2003.

Find out more

The Machin Collectors Club QEII Specialised Definitive Catalogue is the leading reference work for Machins and Wildings: www.suttonstamps.co.uk

Wildings guide: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/wilding-stamps



MAD ABOUT MACHIN

It may just be the most reproduced image in the history of the world. Surely nobody involved in the introduction of the stamp in 1967 would have predicted that the profile portrait would last for so many years, reflecting the simplicity of the design and the long reign of HM.



The Machin series has been admired since first released and widely collected since that time. Arnold Machin's sculpture of the Queen was used for both British coins and stamps, and the design has remained the same for most of its long life; one variation being 'double head' definitives, coupling the Machin portrait with that of Queen Victoria for the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black.

Did you know?

Approximately 320 billion copies of the Machin portrait have been produced. Such is Machin's influence, a minor planet is named after him; whether the many Machin stamps produced over the years could cover the entire surface of this far-off globe... is not known.

Find out more

The Machin Collectors Club (www.machins.org)

A Timeless Classic: the Evolution of Machin's Icon, Douglas Muir (The British Postal Museum & Archive, 2007)

The Machin Collectors Club QEII Specialised Definitive Catalogue is the leading reference work for Machins and Wildings: www.suttonstamps.co.uk

Read more about the Machin definitives and the new 'barcoded' versions, in our new GB stamps opinion column, on page 19.

AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE

This homage to the Scottish Bard was years in the making, and the long campaign to issue a stamp honouring Robert Burns provides us with an intriguing example of how politics and partisanship can influence the subjects chosen.

The first request for an issue of special stamps in honour of Burns can be traced back to a Parliamentary question in October 1955, but according to the official files, the commemoration of individuals was something the GPO wanted to avoid lest it cause a 'proliferation of issues.' Yet, even after the bicentenary of his birth had passed, the calls for a Burns stamp continued.

Two stamps were eventually issued in January 1966. During that time period, Tony Benn had become Postmaster General and his more liberal attitude to what could be depicted on a stamp beside the profile of the Queen meant the commemoration was given the green light. A total of 117 million stamps were printed; 108 million in the 4d value and 9 million of the 1/3d value; the sales totalled 77,905,176 (ordinary) and 8,738,520 (phosphor) for the 4d value, and 5,685,096 (ordinary), 1,226,160 (phosphor) for the 1/3d... proving that the call for a Burns stamp a decade earlier had been justified.



Did you know?

The Post Office agreed that only Scottish designers should be invited to submit designs for the Burns stamps, that meant printing firms of Harrison & Sons (who printed the stamps) and Bradbury Wilkinson both had to decline the offer to submit designs, as they had no Scottish artists on their books.

Find out more

www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/robert-burns-stamps

Postal Museum Burns blog: www.postalmuseum.org/blog/burns-night

NATIONAL HEROES

Philately clashed with pageantry for this patriotic set from 1974, prompted by the 700th anniversary of Robert the Bruce's birth, and representing 'Great Britons' from each of the four home nations.

Choosing the other leaders proved difficult; William Wallace was eventually dropped, the inclusion of the 'Hammer of the Scots' Edward I was bluntly rejected by those north of the border, while any hint of nationalist feelings had to be dealt with carefully amidst the ongoing Troubles in Northern Ireland. Then there was the matter of ensuring each nation was represented. 'Almost inevitably there would be pressure from Wales to include Owen Glendower [sic] in a series which included Robert Bruce,' a member of the Stamp Advisory Committee noted at the time. 'Even though there is no specific anniversary for him, his history is so similar to Bruce's that it would be hard to avoid especially in a programme that had not any other Welsh subjects.'

This delicate balancing of national heritage and pride served as a reminder of the unique make-up of the country, overseen by one monarch but with many cultures, histories and opinions.

Did you know?

Queen Boadicea was eventually dropped from the set as she led her tribe centuries before the other subjects in the set, when the heraldic devices used in the designs were not in use. 'Boadicea lived twelve centuries earlier and cannot, visually, be related to the others,' the records state.



EXHIBITION ISSUE

The London 1980 exhibition at Earl's Court is now considered to be Britain's most successful philatelic event, coming at a time when stamp collecting was at its peak and post offices had plenty of money to spend.

Amongst the visitors to the grand, eight-day event was the Queen herself, keen perhaps to see how trade in her miniature portraits was faring. Of course, Her Majesty had already approved the 'London landmarks' 50p value designed by Jeffery Matthews to promote the show. In 2004, the Queen and Matthews' paths crossed again as he received an MBE 'for services to graphic design, particularly postage stamps'.

The stamp's large format – never to be used again – and the intricate yet somehow clean design, means this is a QEII classic, with collectors having a soft spot for the 50p value thanks to its connection with philately. As the Queen headed into her fourth decade on the throne, this bold stamp heralded a confident, proud nation, and a hobby at its height.

Did you know?

The 1978 Historic Buildings and 1979 Sir Rowland Hill miniature sheets also included the London 1980 logo, as a pre-promotion for the event.



THANK YOU NHS

July 1948 saw the introduction of the new National Health Service across the UK. A leaflet at the time explained: 'Everyone – rich or poor, man, woman or child– can use any part of it ... you are all paying for it, mainly as taxpayers, and it will relieve your money worries in times of illness.'

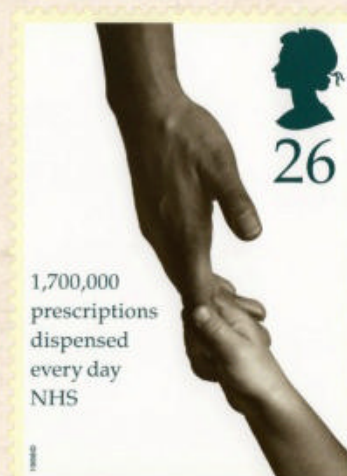
Whilst Princess Elizabeth was just 22 years old at the time, the NHS has grown into a globally respected and nationally loved organisation during her time on the throne; a symbol of Britain under the reign of QEII.

Four simple stamps marked the system's half century, cleverly using hands to capture the communal care open to all. Each stamp also included figures on the daily demands of the service, an ongoing cause for both concern and pride.

Two decades after this stamp set was issued, the NHS was in the spotlight as we fought off the horrible effects of Covid19. The hard-working staff at hospitals up and down the country were rightly compared to super heroes, placards of blue popped up in villages and towns thanking the NHS, and volunteers did what they could to help out. This year's 'Covid Heroes' stamps are a more colourful recognition of this selfless work, but this simpler set from 1998 is just as poignant.

Did you know?

Sylvia Diggory became the very first NHS patient to be treated at the hospital, aged thirteen. Seven decades later, George Diggory, the grandson of that first patient, married Katie Dormon, who happens to be the great granddaughter of Prime Minister Clement Attlee, who launched the NHS!



GOING FOR GOLD

After low-key stamps had been issued to mark London being awarded the 2012 Olympic Games and the handover of the Olympic flag from China to the UK, Royal Mail went into Olympics overdrive with the first of three annual ten-stamp sets counting down to the huge sporting event.

The vibrant designs belied the nation's nervous, occasionally cynical attitude to the Games, depicting sports including weightlifting and basketball. Parts of the nation remained unconvinced but all that changed when the famous Olympic torch began making its way to these shores.

Fast forward to the summer of 2012 and Britain was in celebratory mood, kicked off by a remarkable and memorable opening ceremony (including appearances from Paul McCartney, James Bond, David Beckham... and the Queen herself), and with tickets for almost all the sporting events selling out. After a nervous five-day wait as cyclists and swimmers failed to capitalise on the nation's growing euphoria, rowers Helen Glover and Heather Stanning finally tasted victory, and Royal Mail were soon capturing the excitement with a series of 1st Class stamps, one for every Team GB gold medallist. They had the stamps on sale within hours, while a postbox in each of the medal winners' home towns was



painted gold.

By the time the Olympics flag was handed on to Rio, there were 29 painted postboxes and plenty of new stamps to collect, and the country had played host to one of the most successful Olympic Games in history. The brilliant Paralympics followed, prompting more postal celebrations, and today the venue where all this excitement took place is a 'world-leading destination for sport, entertainment, culture, education and relaxation'... it is rather aptly named Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Did you know?

In total 106 stamps were issued by Royal Mail for the London 2012 Olympic Games, including 29 Olympic gold medal winner stamps, and 34 Paralympic gold medal winner stamps. Paralympian cyclist Sarah Storey earned four gold medals and so has appeared on four British stamps.

Find out more

Official websites: olympics.com/en/olympic-games/london-2012; www.paralympic.org/london-2012

Collecting Olympic stamps: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/collecting-olympics-stamps

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STAMPS OF BRAZIL

Bull's eyes and beyond

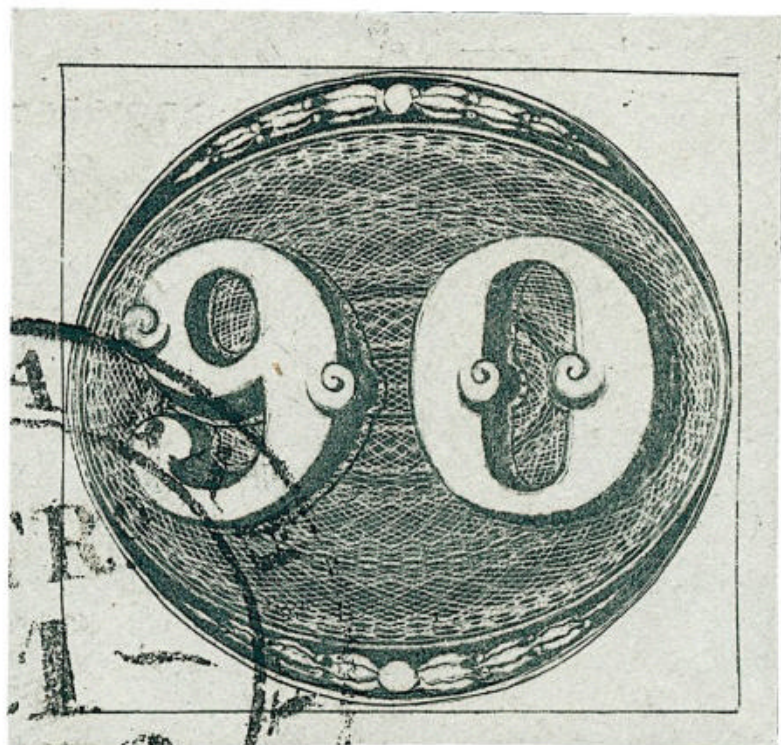
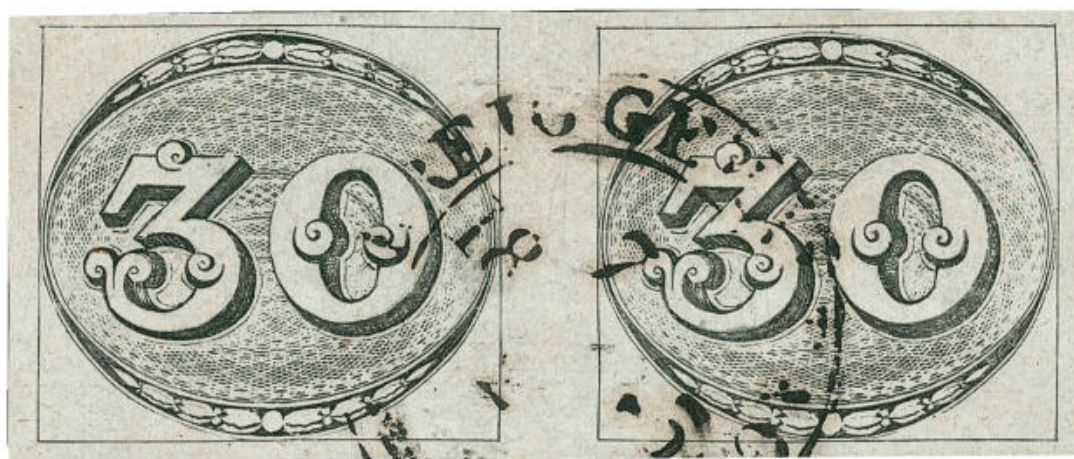
In 1843, Brazil became only the second country in the world to issue postage stamps, giving today's collectors a unique period to explore and a host of intriguing designs to collect.

David Bailey discovers more in this guide to the country's first stamps

At the time of their first stamp issue, Brazil was ruled by the fifteen-year-old Emperor Dom Pedro II, who had inherited the throne nine years previously but had ruled through regents until 1841. So while Pedro II used his 49-year rule to lay the foundations of the modern Brazilian state, it is likely that the drive for

Late impressions of the 30r in a horizontal pair. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries

A fine example of the 1843 top value. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries



postal reform originated amongst Dom Pedro's advisers, who remained a major influence on the young Emperor. In contrast to Britain, where the Penny Post was Rowland Hill's creation, no single name stands out. But the Emperor's court contained a number of highly intelligent, forward-looking people who had worked or studied in Europe and who kept up date with events in Britain, which at the time was Brazil's largest trading partner.

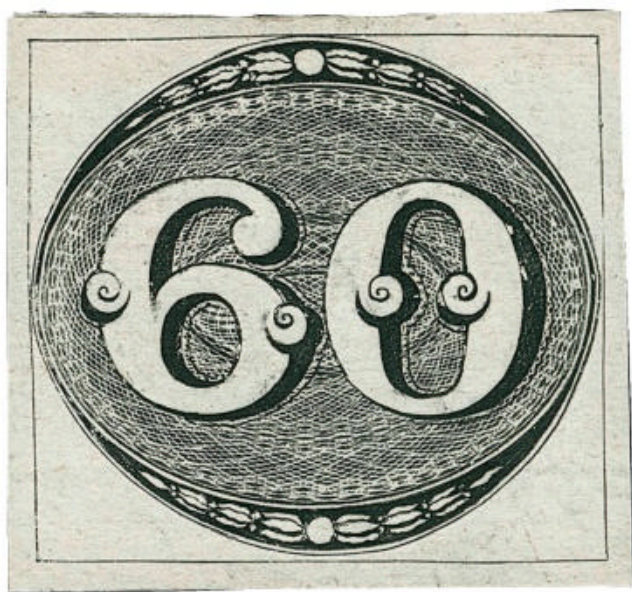
Two decrees were published in 1842; one set the postage rates, the other authorised the production of stamps. Instead of charging by mileage, post would be charged by weight, with two sets of rates. The

lower rates were for letters sent by land. Mail by sea was quicker and therefore more expensive. Mail using both methods paid both rates.

When it came to designing the stamps, the first suggestion was the royal portrait. But the Director of the Mint at Rio de Janeiro thought that the Monarch's head should not appear on such a lowly piece of paper – and defacing his portrait with cancellation would be grossly insulting.

In the event, they settled for the now-famous 'Bull's Eye' numeral, which bears a close resemblance to the silver coinage of the time.

However, it is still not certain how the stamps were produced



A fine, early printing of the 60r in mint condition. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries



An exceptional copy of a scarce stamp: the 300r black of 1845. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries

and by whom. It is known that the copper plates were engraved by Carlos Azvedo and Guintino Faria. But did they make the original die? The detailed engravings are strongly reminiscent of the current Brazilian 5 milreis and 20 milreis banknotes, which were printed by Perkins Bacon. But despite many searches over the years, nothing has emerged from the Perkins Bacon archives to provide proof of their involvement.

The first stamps were printed in sheets of 54 with three panes of 30, 60 and 90 reis. We know this for certain because of one vertical strip of three stamps, with two 30 reis and one 60. Later printings comprise just the two lower values.

The Bull's Eyes were produced for one year, when they were replaced by the slanted numeral stamps. However, they were never demonetised and some were still being used in 1850.

Estimated print runs are 856,617 x 30r, 1,335,865 x 60r, 341,125 x 90r; compare this with 68 million copies of the 1d black and 6.8 million of the 1840 2d blue. But like the 1d black, they were frequently cleaned and re-used. The slanted numeral stamps tackled this problem by being printed on thinner paper with stronger gum, which made them much more difficult to remove from cover. They were also smaller, to get more stamps onto a sheet. The first printing in 1844 consisted of the same three values; specialists note two types of the 30r and 60r and three types of the 90r. Then from 1845, they were joined by a 10r and a 180r, 300r and 600r, for printed matter like newspapers and heavier parcels. But 60r was the most common usage up until the 1860s.

Brazil's third set also consisted of a single numeral in an elaborate frame. But this time, the figure was upright and the set is known as the upright numeral set. These last two sets have also been christened 'Snake's Eyes', 'Goat's Eyes' and 'Cat's Eyes' but none of the names has really stuck.

Colour was introduced in 1854, with shades of blue, vermillion and yellow, but black remained the choice for all the most popular values. Perforations also appear on some of the upright numeral stamps. These were applied at the Post Office in Rio de Janeiro and are some of the rarest of the early issues.

An awful lot of coffee

Coffee has been grown in Brazil since the early 1700s. Early production was for domestic use only, but the mountains surrounding Rio de Janeiro proved the ideal environment for commercial production, while being conveniently near the port.

Encouraged by Dom Pedro, the industry expanded rapidly, displacing sugar and cotton as the country's leading export. This stimulated the opening

up of the interior to cultivation and the construction of railways along the Paraiba Valley and around Sao Paolo

By 1885, Brazil was producing over 50% of the world's coffee. Slavery was not abolished until 1888 but the trade was in decline from the 1860s and coffee was increasingly produced by the paid labour of recent immigrants. Their new spending power gave a further boost to the economy. Educated immigrants also pioneered the development of light industries: textiles and clothing, tobacco and food products.

From the 1860s onwards, Brazil and its people were trading with and writing to the world: they needed stamps to match.

The Large Portrait stamps

Thanks to coffee, the USA was now Brazil's leading trade partner and so became the first place to look for a stamp printer. They settled on the American Banknote Company, who had been producing American stamps since 1858. The first set appeared in 1866 and featured the country name for the first time.

The stamps are recess-printed and bear a strong resemblance to American issues, with the same highly intricate engraving. They use two portraits of the Emperor; one taken when he was 22, the other shows him nearing forty years old.

In another echo of the USA, many are cancelled by carved corks or other fancy cancels. 'Dumb' cancellations, which do not feature a place name, were extensively used on early Brazilian stamps and much philatelic effort has gone into tracing where they were posted.

The first set contained seven values on white or blued paper and was perforated 12. Gibbons notes two types of the



The Upright Numeral 600r stamp; this is a rare mint copy with original gum. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries



An unused example of the 30r blue from 1866. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries



100r, due to variations in the frame line; Portuguese catalogues break this down further to list four.

In 1876, the same set re-appeared with roulettes instead of perforations. This might seem like a backward step, but US Revenue stamps of the time were rouletted, so the two methods were being used in tandem.

A fresh set appeared in 1878. Known as the White Beard set, it used contemporary portraits in the same US-style frames and had 10 values from 10r to 1,000r. The

stamps were, again, rouletted.

Meanwhile back in the USA, the American and the Continental Banknote Companies were frequently in competition with each other and in 1878, their rivalry spilled over to Brazil. The bistre-coloured 300r stamp was replaced by a new design from Continental, with a new portrait, a riot of intricate engraving, a 12-gauge perforation and printed in two colours.

The first military stamps

Dom Pedro II fought three wars during

A Military seal from the War of the Triple Alliance; its user was conducting the blockade of Paraguay. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries

his reign. In the first, in 1845, he faced down the British Empire. In the second, he intervened to contain the effects of a civil war in Uruguay. The third, from 1864, was more protracted. Known as the Paraguayan War and the War of the Triple Alliance. It pitted Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay against Paraguay, and in particular its President, Francisco Solano Lopez. Shocked by Paraguayan atrocities early in the campaign, Dom Pedro insisted on total victory, which embroiled his army in a guerrilla war until Lopez was killed in 1870. Brazilian and Argentine Forces then occupied the country until 1876.

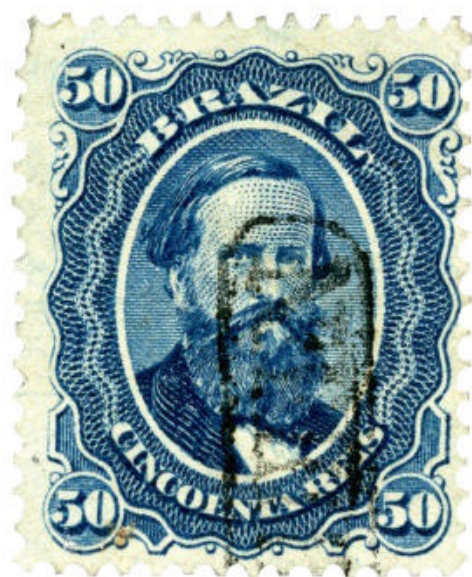
Soldiers are like to write home. And so Pedro 'The Magnanimous', lived up to his name with free postage for his troops, using simply printed military stamps. We do not have a first year of issue for these stamps, but they must pre-date the Turkish Thessalian stamps by twenty years.

The Emperor's last stamps

The long war impacted Brazil's economy and the Emperor's health. Dom Pedro became increasingly detached from the business of government, while the stamps became simpler and more functional. They were produced by Continental but devoid of detailed engraving and with just a profile showing Dom Pedro as a younger man.

Three stamps were issued in 1881, for





Printed in the USA: the 10r vermillion and 50r blue of 1866, used on a letter to Figueira in Portugal and cancelled by a Bahia fancy cancel. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries

Left: a closer look at the 50r, perf 12

50r, 100r and 200r; these were followed in 1882 with a set of five with slightly larger heads. Redrawn plates on both sets provide some challenges for collectors; it's the next set of 1884 that marks a low point for Brazilian stamps; nine values, six of which have purely numerical designs and three have rather sketchy images of the Emperor, the Southern Cross and the entrance to the Bay of Rio de Janeiro. They have little more interest than Brazil's Postage Due and Newspaper stamps that were being lithographed by the American Banknote Company.

In this they reflect the Emperor's state of mind. Both his sons had died but he could not allow his daughter to succeed him. He enjoyed his travels abroad and the resulting freedom from the cares of office but resented them all the more on his return. His health was also deteriorating fast.

Brazil was now a major economic



Many thanks to Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, Rainbow Stamps and Coins, Big Blue Blogspot, John Apfelbaum and Pesquisa Fapesp. br for images and information used in this article

From left: roulettes were used on later printings by the American Banknote Company; this is the 80r of 1879; the bi-coloured 300r stamp from the Continental banknote company

power with a growing presence on the world stage, and elements in parliament, in the army and among the urban middle classes began to think about becoming a republic. Meanwhile former slave owners among the landed gentry resented Dom Pedro's freeing their slaves without compensation. On 15 November 1889, Dom Pedro was deposed in a Coup d'Etat and he and his family went into exile in France.

Stamps of the United States of Brazil appeared in 1890, with a single design featuring the Southern Cross.

Collecting Brazilian stamps

Brazilian stamps have been tipped for take-off many times but have so far failed to do so. Prices across the board remain affordable, especially when compared to the equivalent items from Britain and the Colonies. Prices in Gibbons Part One are sustained by a substantial collector base at home and

overseas. But Brazilians simply don't collect stamps on the same scale and are unlikely to start now.

Once into the republic, the study of perf gauges and watermarks comes to the fore. Brazil was now producing its own stamps and consistency over long print runs was some way down its priorities. The 1894-7 definitives, for instance, have eight different gauges including compound perfs.

Another speciality – and a uniquely Brazilian one – is its private airmail stamps. Brazil is huge and much of it is sparsely populated, so airmail is vital for communication.

During the 1920s, the state went into partnership with four private airlines, who issued their own, semi-official stamps. They only paid for the air part of the journey and had to be accompanied by the regular definitives but remain a fascinating collecting area. Varig (Viacão Aérea Rio Grandense) was the largest of the four and issued the most stamps.

There is one problem for UK collectors: catalogues. Gibbons South America is out of print and collectors need to look to the USA, where Brazilian stamps have a substantial following. The Scott catalogue for classic issues to 1940 is good for the early stamps and there are specialist catalogues for fancy cancels etc. The Scott range of printed albums can also be recommended. Another source of valuable information is the collectors club, which is also based in the USA. Check them out at www.brazilphilatelic.org.



A 10r orange and 20r slate green of 1884-85, used on an uprated 50r postal card and addressed to Springfield Mass. It travelled via Rio de Janeiro and New York. Image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auction Galleries



COLLECTORS' CORNER

CINDERELLAS

A 19th-century Jubilee

In 1897, Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee and, to the disappointment of many, the British Post Office chose not to issue stamps to mark this important event, writes Christer Brunström. The anniversary was marked in Canada by a splendid (and today valuable) set of sixteen showing two portraits of Her Majesty; one as a young woman and one as a widow in her old age.

But the royal event didn't go unnoticed as a number of creatives wanted to pay a philatelic tribute to the Queen and her jubilee. One of those people was W.S. Lincoln who had his shop at 2 Holles Street in London. Lincoln was not only one of the pioneering stamp dealers but also a publisher of picture postcards.

Lincoln arranged for the printing of four commemorative poster



stamps featuring a portrait of the queen along with the inscription 'DIAMOND JUBILEE 1837-1897'. His name and business address are indicated in small letters at the bottom of the stamps. The central part of the design with the Queen's portrait is in black while the frames were printed in blue, green, lilac or red. The set of four was sold in small printed envelopes.

The quality of design and printing leaves a lot to be desired; the Canadians did a much better work than Lincoln. Still it is a most interesting set of classic Cinderellas. A complete mint set including the original envelope (in slightly damaged condition) was recently sold on eBay for a rather amazing £25. The four stamps in pristine unmounted mint condition are rather scarce as most have been hinged and often more than once or sometimes lack gum completely.

STAMP QUIZ

Test your stamp knowledge with our monthly quiz (answers on page 45)

1 What was Roland Hill's first job at the age of twelve; and in which town was he employed?

2 In 1951 Denmark celebrated a century of postage stamp use. What was illustrated on the commemorative stamp?

3 Which was the first country to issue postage stamps for use in Lebanon?

4 Why did Colombia issue triangular stamps in 1865 and 1869?



5 What rare and famous error occurred on the first few printings of the India 4 Annas stamp of 1854?

6 In which monarch's reign were stamp booklets first introduced in Great Britain?

7 Which two animals featured on the St Louis, Missouri, USA stamp of 1845?

8 What word completes the following instruction on sheets of early GB stamps: In wetting the back be careful not to remove the...?

9 What are these Russian local issue stamps called?

10 Who is the man who featured on this 1959 stamp of Ireland?



FIRST DAY COVERS

Lovely jubbly!

Earlier this year, Platinum Jubilee Souvenirs hit the headlines again with the misspelling of Jubilee as 'Jubbly' on thousands of commemorative plates and mugs. When they are offered to collectors, I am sure they will be popular, though I am just that little bit suspicious that it was done deliberately, there is, after all, no such thing as bad publicity!

Putting this to one side, it did make me think of this Royal Doulton Official Cover featuring a Queen Mother's 90th Birthday Commemorative Plate on this 1990 Official First Day Cover in a limited edition of just 1,000. It has a Stoke on Trent special postmark which features one of the Kilns found round the city.



As you would expect this issue was dominated by various special postmarks at her main residences of Clarence House and Glamis Castle, though you can also find Official covers produced by the RNLI and The Royal Wolverhampton School.

These four designs were used again in 2002 for her memorial set, but with black borders on the stamps rather than silver, which makes me think that there may be

double postmarked covers on the market.

My first day in stamps in 1985 I sent out commemorative covers, as there were no new stamps issued, marking her 85th birthday and I remember this 1990 issue being very popular with special postmarks on both the first day of the stamps (2 August) and her actual birthday (4th).

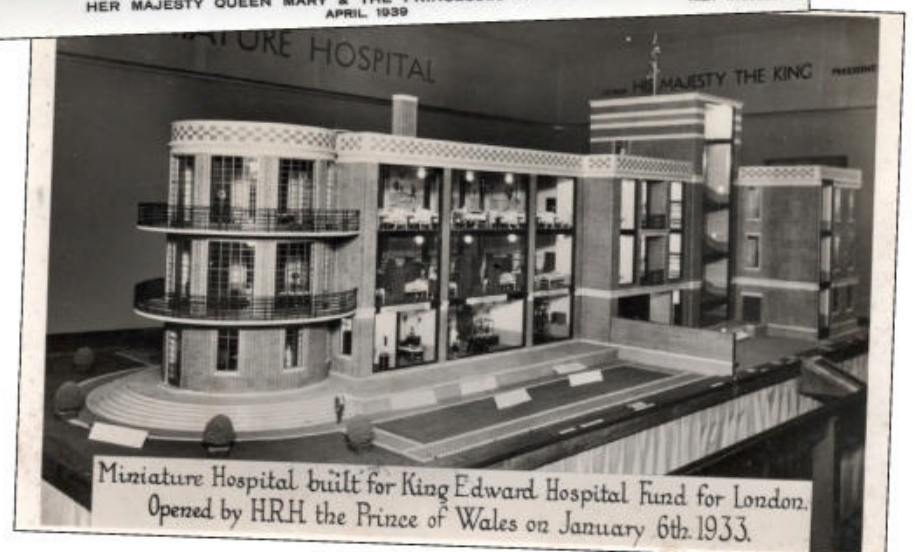
POSTCARDS

Life with a model

Interesting postcards don't always need to be expensive, writes Richard Stenlake. This nice real photo card of the 1 in 100 scale model of Milan Cathedral costs as little as £2.20, including postage! Outside working hours and Sundays, English eccentric Richard Old made 767 scale models and the cases for them, all of which were constructed and housed in his terraced house in Middlesbrough. This five-foot-long model was the star item of his collection.

The miniature hospital by contrast was made for a purpose, that being to show the public the workings of a state-of-the-art modern hospital and raise funds in the cash-strapped 1930s. Made out of various metals, textiles, glass, plastic, wood, paint and paper it housed miniature X-Ray equipment and had a working lift. Queen Mary was so taken with it she donated her lace hankies to be used as tiny bedspreads, although mysteriously these later disappeared.

After being officially 'opened' the hospital went on tour around Britain and in the course of 1933 raised 10% of the running costs of London's hospitals. This art deco treasure ended up in Sir Henry Wellcome's Collection and now resides at his Museum of Medical History and Oddities on Euston Road, London.



Roland Callingham's model village at Bekonscot in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire has raised over £5 million for charity from its 14 million visitors, but perhaps as an antidote to his day job as an accountant Callingham had no desire to make money from the model village he built in his back garden, it was purely to amuse himself and his friends. It is the oldest model village in the world and the inspiration behind many others including more recently, Legoland. Royalty cards are a bit in the doldrums, but this one's a cracker and shows the princesses and Queen Mary, doubtless holding on to her hanky for grim life after her previous experience with the hospital.

Stamps for a Red-letter day

Paul Skinner, Curator, the British Library Philatelic Collections, describes the visit and the 'Red Revenue' stamps that caused a stir

The date that the first messenger services in China began are lost in the mists of time, but certainly message artefacts are known from as far back as the early part of the Zhou Dynasty (1045 BC–256 BC), and perhaps even as far back as the 21st Century BC.

In 1865, in addition to his current duties as the Inspector General of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, Robert Hart (who at the time was a young man of thirty, and who later became Sir Robert Hart) was given the challenging responsibility of running the postal service in China. At the time, mail into and out of China was transmitted via Foreign Post Offices operating out of the Treaty Ports of Shanghai and Hong Kong. Hart was an advocate of establishing a National Postal Service with responsibility for handling both internal and external

mail, however he had to contend with the personalities, trade interests, and politics of the region, which were often opposed to change. In 1878 the first Imperial Customs Post adhesives were issued for payment of internal postage, and by 1882 service for foreign correspondence had been improved by opening post offices in ports north of Wenchow in Fukien Province. This went part of the way to address the problem, however it was not until 1896 that an Imperial Post was officially sanctioned, and it was nearly another year before it started to operate, in February 1897.

Unfortunately Sir Robert was not in a position to order new supplies of stamps until after the Imperial Decree was made on 21 March, 1896, and since the delay in ordering stocks from London was eighteen months to two years, and from Tokyo was twelve months, it was not possible for new stamps to be ready in time. The values of the stamps were to be based on the new monetary unit of the silver dollar. As a temporary measure it was decided to surcharge existing issues of 1885–88 Small Dragon, and 1894 Dowager Empress (with two new printings produced especially for surcharging), and also to surcharge a new stock of 3c Revenue stamps (the so-called 'Red Revenues') that had recently arrived from Waterlow's in London.

The Murray Collection of China at the British Library Philatelic Collections includes a stunning range of these early provisional issues, with some noteworthy rarities of the 'Red Revenue' stamps, a few of which are illustrated here. One of the stamps that is not included in the collection is an example of an unoverprinted 3c Revenue, of which very few have survived, ranking this as one of the rarest revenue stamps in the world.



1897 2c on 3c 'Red Revenue', small surcharge double, both inverted



1897 \$5 on 3c 'Red Revenue' with surcharge inverted



1897 4c on 3c 'Red Revenue', the rare small surcharge



1897 \$1 on 3c 'Red Revenue', large surcharge block of four

SOCIETY NEWS

At the recent Chelmsford And District Philatelic Society meeting, Paul Green gave a detailed presentation covering postal services in Iraq from the era of the Turkish post through to when Iraq was established as a republic. He displayed a wide variety of examples of envelopes with cancellations pre-WW1 from Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, followed by details of services during the Great War including censored post and Field Post Offices run by the British Indian Forces. Following the end of hostilities, Bradbury Wilkinson who had been producing stamps for Turkey reprinted them with 'Under British Occupation', for use in what was then to become Iraq. The League of Nations then mandated the country to Britain. For the second part of the evening Paul displayed a wide variety of postal envelopes, explanatory hand-stamps as well as a fine selection of definitives following the country becoming a kingdom. Stamps bearing the portraits of King Faisal I and Ghazi I were included in the presentation. For details of the Society telephone

Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or email: davideverard@live.com. New members and visitors are always welcome.

'Entertaining and informative ... all have learnt something' was how Hugh Feldman FRPSL, giving the Vote of Thanks, described the presentation by Charles Epting to the members of the **Royal Philatelic Society London** recently. The presentation titled 'Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal 1933-1942: A Philatelic Perspective' proved fascinating and enthralling as Charles unveiled the details of the 'New Deal', a series of relief agencies and public works programmes. He embellished his presentation with a display of fine philatelic material, including the design and usage of the United States 3c stamp issued on 15 August 1933 to herald the National Recovery Administration, essentially a price-fixing scheme to set 'codes of fair competition'. Despite over one billion being printed, it remains one of America's most contentious stamps.

Isle of Man's VVDs

I first came across the Isle of Man stamps back in May 2020, writes Stuart Leigh, when they issued a set featuring acts of kindness and the coming together of communities with help and caring, under the banner of

'#CarryUsThrough' during the Covid19 pandemic. The Isle of Man refer to the stamps as 'Variable Value Definitives' (VVD) from their range of 'Stamps On A Roll' (SOAR)

The first set of these stamps was issued in 2017 and showed the Triskelion, the three-legged symbol of the island. Traditionally they are available in four denominations, corresponding to UK and IOM up to 20g, Europe up to 20g, Worldwide up to 20g, and Europe up to 100g and Rest of the World up to 40g.

In 2018 the theme was the 125th anniversary of the Manx Electric Railway, at the end of that year eight stamps with the four values were issued portraying Dennis & Gnasher in a 'Beano Christmas' on the Isle of Man.

To coincide with Spring Stampex in 2019 a set depicting 'Island Wildlife' was issued, this time the set consisted of ten stamps, again



with the four values, but also on sale at the exhibition was a set of ten with a face value of 40p; it transpires that the aCon printer at the show had a fault on the first day (13 February) and could only dispense £0.40 value stamps, also the date was incorrect '19042' being '11-Feb-19'. A small number of FDCs were produced with 10 x £0.40 stamps, the postmark being 12-Feb-19.

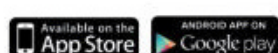
The 2019 Christmas issue consisted of illustrations of ten typical Christmas Cards, with the previously mentioned May 2020 '#CarryUsThrough' set supporting key workers. The Christmas issue in 2020 depicted traditional nativity scenes and a year later the seasonal designs featured Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends at various Isle of Man locations. This year, a set of eight stamps celebrated the Platinum Jubilee were issued on 17 February containing images of the Queen throughout her seventy-year reign.



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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A student-teacher at a school in Kidderminster, Worcs.
2. An 1851 mail coach
3. France
4. To aid mail sorters in identifying letters for which delivery to the addressee's door had been paid. Mail without a triangular stamp was left for collection by the addressee at his/her local post office.
5. Inverted Queen Victoria head. (In a recent sale an example sold for £70,000)
6. In the reign of King Edward VII
7. Two bears
8. Cement
9. Zemstovs
10. Arthur Guinness



British East Africa, 1895. 1 anna 6 pies sepia of India (Queen Victoria) optd British East Africa. Overprinting carried out at offices of the *Zanzibar Gazette* (image courtesy of Wiltshire Stamps and Coins, from Swindon)



British East Africa, 1895. 1 anna plum of India (Queen Victoria) optd British East Africa. Overprinting carried out at offices of the *Zanzibar Gazette* (image courtesy of Wiltshire Stamps and Coins, from Swindon)



British East Africa, 1895-1896 pale brown 6 annas of East India overprinted British East Africa (image courtesy of Imperium Stamps Ltd, from Tamworth)



Queen Victoria Imperial British East Africa 1895 1 anna, blue-green, litho B.W. (image courtesy of lerou.uk2014 from Tewkesbury)

COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

British East Africa

In this Commonwealth stamps guide, Ed Fletcher explains how British East Africa became Kenya Uganda and Tanganyika, and highlights some of the interesting stamps from the region

It gave Germany and Great Britain possession of two huge territories that shared a long border on the eastern side of the continent. The demarcation line ran from the Indian Ocean coast to Lake Victoria; and it divided lands to be henceforth known as Deutsch-Ostafrika (German East Africa) and British East Africa.

Deutsch-Ostafrika's settlers and

administrators knuckled down to organizing their new colony, opening a postal network from 1893 and selling suitably overprinted stamps to customers eager to correspond with the Fatherland. By 1900 they could use issues of Germany's attractive key type Colonial stamps depicting the Imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*, and neatly engraved with the colony's name.

Initially Germany tried to grow all

of its cotton requirements in its African colonies (primarily German East Africa and German South-West Africa). One of the few successes notched up from the entire doomed enterprise was a huge increase in mail between the colonies and German cotton spinners, middlemen, machinery suppliers and administrative staff in Germany. After more than a decade of strenuous endeavour the conclusion amounted to allowing native farmers to grow cotton on their smallholdings, then to provide the transport needed to take the cotton bales to the coast for shipping to Germany. Although never



Queen Victoria Imperial British East Africa 1895 2 anna, vermillion, litho B.W. (image courtesy of lerou.uk2014 from Tewkesbury)



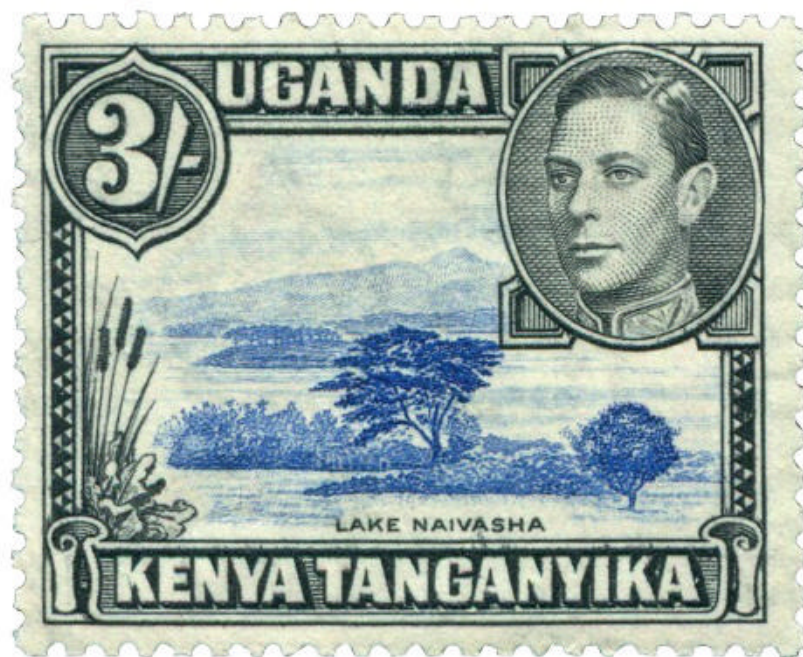
King George V East Africa & Uganda Protectorates, 1912-21, 1c black (image courtesy of my-stamp-place from Columbia, Missouri, USA)



King George V Kenya and Uganda £1 black and orange (image courtesy of timbestamp from Panketal, Germany)



King George V Kenya and Uganda 1927 10c black (image courtesy of superiorstamps from Minnesota, USA)



King George VI Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika 1938 3s blue and dull ultramarine



Queen Victoria British East Africa Protectorate 3r 1897-1903 deep violet. Recess printed by DLR (image courtesy of Imperium Stamps Ltd, from Tamworth)

a resounding commercial success, it provided a welcome boost to German cotton industries.

Britain in the late 1880s had no want of cotton; nor shortage of colonies to finance and administer. Every pound sterling the grey men in London's Colonial Office gathered in as taxes seemed to go out just as speedily to cover the costs of developing gold and diamond mining enterprises in south and west Africa, or in Australia, Canada and other precious pink locations on the world atlas. What the ministries wanted was a means of establishing a new colony that paid for its own postal services, police force, tax gathering and other vital administrative expenditures, out of colonists' pockets. The answer lay in finding private investors to shoulder the white man's burdens.

The Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC) served those

very purposes. It comprised a group of entrepreneurs and adventurers with talents for presenting risks as potentially lucrative opportunities. Here is a contemporary example of the enthusiastic hyperbole used by the company to drum up investors:

Colonies and India Gazette, 22 January 1890: 'At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on January 20, papers relating to East Africa were read by a representative of the British East Africa Company who had explored the Upper Tana river, the Chinde river and the Zambesi delta. They reported that lands around the Upper Tana, but for inter-tribal wars, might support millions of people. The region possesses magnificent pastures where, owing to the insecurity of life and property, no cattle are kept and all villages are behind stockades.

'The Company's explorations on

the East African coast revealed the importance of the vast Zambesi basin as a means of cheap and rapid communication with civilised markets across the world. Quilimane [in Portuguese East Africa] as a port for trade with the interior is altogether inefficient, and strong proof of the indifference of the Portuguese to the great advantages offered by the use of the Zambesi and its delta.'

No doubt swayed by such buoyant enthusiasm, the British Colonial Office authorised the company to assume responsibility for all land stretching from the eastern coast of Uganda to the north western shore of Lake Victoria. As The Imperial British East Africa Company it became the first holding a Royal Charter allowing operation of a postal system for both local and international mail; and the authority to use their company name on their



King Edward VII East Africa and Uganda Protectorates 1r 1907, green (image courtesy of magd-5yjj02 from Heriot, UK)



King George V East Africa And Uganda Protectorates 1912-1922, 6c red, overprinted 4 cents (image courtesy of kellmccartne0 from Horsham UK)



King George VI Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, 1938 20c (image courtesy of coinlover13 from Leeds UK)



King George V Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, 1937 5c black and green (image courtesy of atticusphilately from Richmond, Surrey UK)



German East Africa, 1905, Colonial key type (small); 45 heller value; black and mauve (image courtesy anniefr1 from Brentwood UK)



King George VI Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, 1938, 30c, black and blue (image courtesy of atticusphilately from Richmond, Surrey UK)

stamps. They set up post offices at Mombasa and Lamu in May 1890, and their first stamps, issued on 23 May 1890, were surcharges on British postage stamps with values of ½, 1 and 4 annas, and with 'BRITISH EAST AFRICA' overprinted.

During an acute shortage of stamps in August and September 1890 stamps of India were used. A month later, on 14 October, stamps using a symbolic sun and crown design and inscribed 'IMPERIAL BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY', went on sale, all valued in annas and rupees.

The IBEAC faced bankruptcy in 1895 and the British government took over its administration, as well as many of the company's unsold stamps which were then overprinted with 'BRITISH / EAST/ AFRICA'. Stamps of India were similarly overprinted until 1896 when a series inscribed 'BRITISH EAST

AFRICA' and bearing Queen Victoria's portrait went on sale. In 1901 the British East Africa postal administration merged with that of Uganda. By 1904 the combined administration had its own stamps inscribed 'EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA PROTECTORATES'.

The name 'KENYA' does not appear on the region's stamps during the reign of Queen Victoria; nor in that of King Edward VII. Even King George V's reign ran for a decade before a postage stamp carried 'KENYA'. In official English the land was The British East Africa Protectorate, or British East Africa on documents and on postage stamps. Not until 1920 was it officially named Kenya. Those who study ancient African languages believe that a spoken version of the name given to Mount Kenya sounded like Kinyaa. From 1922 until 1927 King George V's stamps carried the title 'KENYA AND UGANDA'.

King George V Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, 1935, 10c black and yellow, and a Kenya, Uganda 1935-37 1c black and red brown (images courtesy rlburns1949 from Victoria, Australia)



Nyasaland Stamp overprinted for use by troops during the occupation of German East Africa in 1916. The overprinting was botched; it should have read N.F.F. for Nyasaland Field Force. A similar overprint – I.E.F. – abbreviated Indian Expeditionary Forces



10s stamp of Tanganyika from 1922 (image courtesy of stampeagle from Albury, UK)

Similarly 'TANGANYIKA' goes unnoticed on postage stamps until 1922, before the three postal administrations merged. The stamp in question has an attractive depiction of a giraffe's head. The name next appeared when the first 'KENYA UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA' issues went on sale. Long before the age of postage stamps the Swahili tribe called their great lake Tanganyika, which roughly translates as a sail in the wilderness.

'UGANDA' did not appear as a name on a stamp until the establishment of the Uganda Protectorate and the issuing of a 'UGANDA PROTECTORATE' stamp in 1898 during Queen Victoria's reign.

The German East Africa colony (Deutsch-Ostafrika) had fallen apart at the Great War's end in 1918, though it did not surrender until a few days after the official Armistice.

Shortly afterwards German East Africa became a mandated territory of the United Kingdom, taking the name Tanganyika.



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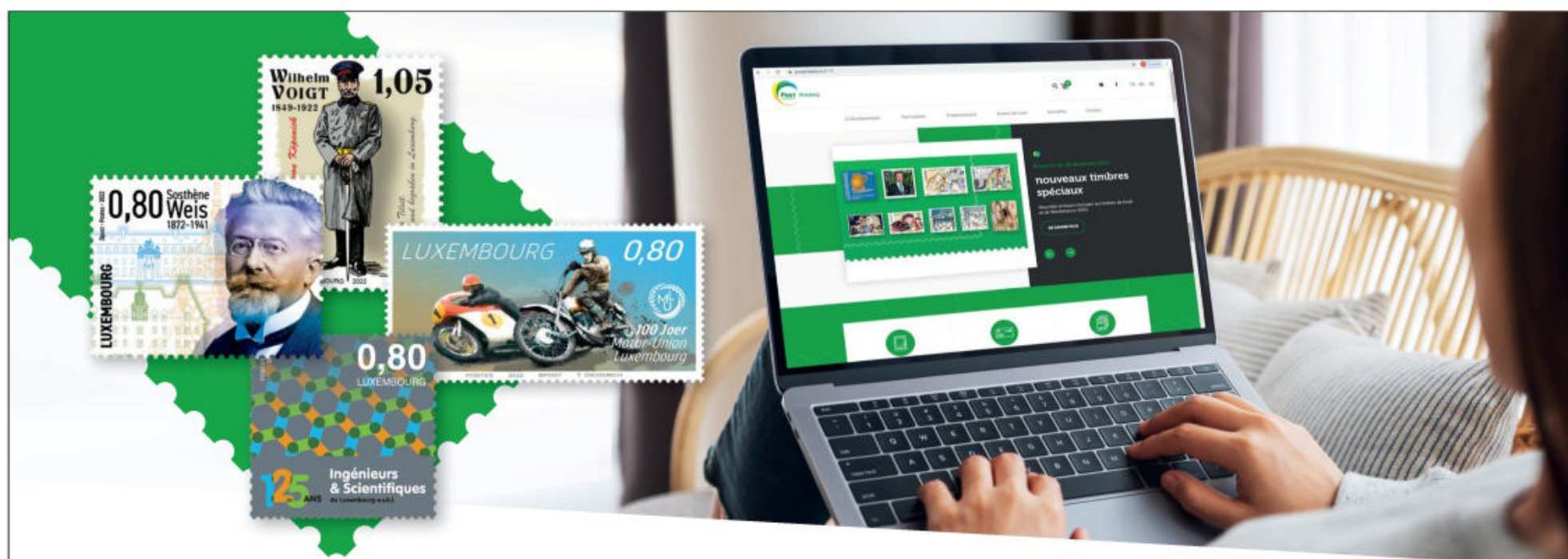
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A nation's first stamps

These five stamps have suddenly acquired great historical significance: they were the first ones to be issued by an independent Ukraine, in 1918. Chris West explores the history of this proud nation

Ukrainian nationality goes back to the 9th century, when Kyiv became the capital of an expanding empire founded by Vikings. By the 10th century, this empire covered much of modern Ukraine, Belarus and parts of Poland and Russia. Its most famous ruler was Prince Volodymyr the Great, who converted to Christianity in 988. The tryzub (trident) featured on the 10, 20 and 40 shahiv stamps illustrated here was his emblem. His son Yaroslav built the St Sophia cathedral that (at time of writing) still stands in Kyiv.

As all empires do, the Kievan one fell apart, with later princes fighting (Svatyopolk the Accursed managed to murder three of his brothers). The arrival of the Mongols administered the death-blow. When they departed, the lands of Ukraine fell first under Polish domination, then that of a new nation to its north-east, Russia.

The 19th century saw a rise in nationalism around Europe, and Ukraine was no exception, led by 'Kozbar' (bard) Taras Shevchenko. Shevchenko was imprisoned by the Russian Tsar Nicholas I – partly because of his Ukrainian nationalism, but also because the poet viciously satirized the Tsar's wife.

Putin has claimed that Ukraine was not a proper country: these stamps, over a century old, give the lie to that

Fast forward to 1917 and the collapse of the old Russian empire. On the 17 March of that year, a collection of politicians, artists, entrepreneurs and soldiers formed the Central Council (Rada) of Ukraine in Kyiv. On the 22 January of the following year, Ukraine officially declared itself independent.

Issuing stamps is one of the first



things that new nations do. The five above came out in July of that year. The two lower-value ones were designed by Antin Sereda, and the three higher ones by Heorhiy Narbut. I can't find anything out about Sereda, but Narbut was one of the founders of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts, designed banknotes and a motif for the new nation, and is still regarded as one of Ukraine's greatest graphic designers.

The 20 shahiv stamp shows both Prince Volodymyr's tryzub and a peasant with corn-stalks in his hat: a reminder that Ukraine is a massive producer of wheat. The wheat theme continues into the 30 shahiv, which features Ceres, the Roman Goddess of agriculture and motherhood. The stamps, which are imperforate, were



The coat of arms of Ukraine is a blue shield with a gold trident. Officially referred to as the 'Emblem of the Royal State of Volodymyr the Great', or, colloquially, the tryzub, the symbol appeared on three of the country's first stamps

policy. In the 1930s, he launched a murderous campaign against Ukraine's peasants that led to a massive famine, known as the Holodomor (which in Ukrainian means 'murder by hunger'). Estimates of the death toll range from 3.5 to 7 million.

The Soviet Union finally collapsed in 1991. On the 24 August of that year, Ukraine declared itself independent once more. Since then, its politics have been a struggle between those who want to keep close ties with Russia and those who look to Europe for inspiration. A look at voting patterns shows that people in the far east of the country fall into the former camp, and most of the rest into the latter. And now, of course, Ukraine has been invaded. Like many bullies, Russia's President Putin underrated the pride and stout-heartedness of his intended victims. He also claimed that Ukraine was not a proper country: these stamps, over a century old, give the lie to that.

printed in sheets of 100.

The new republic did not last long. It was swallowed up by Russia in 1922. Initially, Stalin encouraged outlying parts of his new Soviet Union to celebrate local identity, but he soon became afraid of the strong sense of independent nationhood in some of them (like Ukraine), and reversed the



The Temple of the Tooth appears on the 25c stamps of both George V and VI



In our latest guide to collecting a classic set, David Bailey takes a closer look at a much admired set of definitives and finds out why it took two printers to create it

**CELEBRATED
SETS**

CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

Ceylon definitives, 1935

George V's reign was a busy time for stamp collectors, as territories around the world issued their first pictorial sets. It was a busy time for stamp printers, too, culminating in the Silver Jubilee Omnibus set. This was a massive undertaking; made all the more so by the use of recess-printing for all values. So it was not the ideal time for Ceylon to make the switch to pictorials. And the island's booming economy needed a lot of stamps.

Ceylon's first cash crop was coffee, which grew wild on the slopes of the central hill country. Governor Edward Barnes encouraged the development of plantations and built a network of roads from the coffee areas of Kandy to the Port of Colombo. By the mid 1870s, Ceylon was the world's largest coffee producer. But it didn't last. Just ten years later, Ceylon's plantations had been wiped out by coffee-rust. Its economy crashed and there were runs on the banks.

Meanwhile a Scottish planter, James Taylor, was experimenting with tea, trying to replicate the methods of growers in Assam. Tea proved to be Ceylon's salvation. 300,000 acres of dead and dying coffee plants were cleared and replanted with tea and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) is still a major producer.

Help for the island was also on its



way from Kew Gardens. In August 1875, the Colonial Office sent 1,919 rubber plants to Ceylon to see how well they'd grow. They had been grown from seeds collected in Brazil, but they took to the island's soil and climate, and rubber became another lucrative crop.

Agriculture needed labourers, so the population expanded rapidly in size and diversity. The various groups took a little while to coalesce, but by the First World War, there was a growing sense of nationhood and with it, a drive for independence. Success came in 1931, with a new



constitution which would pave the way to full independence.

Tea, rubber and other export crops had made Ceylon one of the richest countries in Asia, and a prodigious user of stamps. From 1912 onwards, these were the Imperium Key and Duty plates used all round the Empire: Ceylon was the largest customer, taking 40% of production.

But it was time for a change, to a pictorial set with eleven values needed. So two printing firms, De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson, split the job between them. This was unusual to say the least; printers normally fought hard for business. But Bradbury, De La Rue and Waterlow were jointly printing the RSJ set, so co-operation was clearly in the air.

2c tapping rubber

Rubber trees can be tapped when they are five or six years old and have a productive life of around twenty years. A cut is made in the trunk which extends around half its circumference and slopes downwards by thirty degrees, running left to right.

This will yield a cupful of rubber weighing just under 2oz. In two days' time, a second cut is made

below the first and so on. Originally, rubber was of limited usefulness. It softened with heat, hardened with cold and was perishable. All that changed in 1839, when Charles Goodyear discovered Vulcanisation, creating a compound of rubber, white lead, sulphur and subjecting them to a curing process. After that, rubber was indispensable.

3c Adams Peak

This conical mountain stands just over 7,500 foot high and is revered as a holy place by people of four religions. The boulder near the peak has a hollow resembling a footprint. Buddhists believe it was made by the Buddha and Hindus, by Lord Shiva, while Moslems and some Christians believe it was Adam; Sri Lanka is traditionally held to be the site of the Garden of Eden.

6c Colombo Harbour

Ships have been docking here since Roman times but much of today's city was laid out during British rule. The port was made into a sheltered harbour in 1912. Since independence, it has expanded rapidly and today is the largest and busiest container port in South Asia.

9c Plucking tea

The tea we drink is made from young or tender tea shoots which need to be picked at particular intervals depending on the rate of growth and other factors. It is an exacting business, but it can make huge differences in terms of yields per acre and the quality of the tea itself.

10c Hill paddy

Rice is Sri Lanka's staple diet and has been cultivated for 2,000 years. The island is traditionally known

as the 'paddy store of the East' because of its productivity. Paddy rice is produced from flooded fields and over the centuries, much of Sri Lanka's hill country has been terraced to create them

15c River scene

Sri Lanka has long had a reputation for beauty. Marco Polo called it 'the best island for its size in the world'. By the 1930s, the economic benefits of tourism were beginning to be appreciated and the Ceylon Tourist Bureau was set up in 1937. This particular scene could show any one of the island's ten rivers.

20c Coconut palms

The coconut still plays a major role in Sri Lankan life. You'll find coconut milk in its kitchens and see coconuts smashed as offering in the temples. Roadside stalls sell coconut milk and hardware stores sell coconut fibre ropes and brooms. It's also an essential ingredient in Sri Lankan cuisine.





25c Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

The Temple of the Tooth is a shrine in the former capital, Kandy, and stands near the Royal Palace. It houses a sacred relic of the Buddha, his left canine tooth, and is adorned with carvings and statues in bronze, gold, silver and ivory.

30c Ancient irrigation tank

Irrigation tanks, or Vewa, were constructed by Sri Lanka's early kings to provide water for drinking, bathing and irrigating the rice paddies. The hydraulic engineering skills of their builders impressed even the British engineers who encountered them.

50c Wild elephants

Sri Lanka is one of the best places in the world to see elephants. The island has over 6,000 of them, although nowadays, they live in the island's many national parks and no longer roam the countryside.



1r Trincomalee

Situated on the North eastern coast of Sri Lanka, Trincomalee is one of the finest natural harbours in the world and was to serve as a vital British naval base in the Second World War, after the fall of Singapore.

Collecting the 1935 set – or the 1938?

With the accession of George VI, most of the 1935 set was repeated with just a change of portrait and the stamps are printed by both firms as before. But while the early stamps have just two different perforations, the George VI set used many more over its eleven-year life and will be a real challenge to complete. The choice is yours.

Values on right are taken from the Scott catalogue, converted to £ using the current exchange rate, with permission from Amos Media. For more details on Scott catalogues visit: www.amosadvantage.com



THE SET IN DETAIL

2c, 3c, 20c and 50c stamps are printed by De La Rue, the remainder by Bradbury Wilkinson.

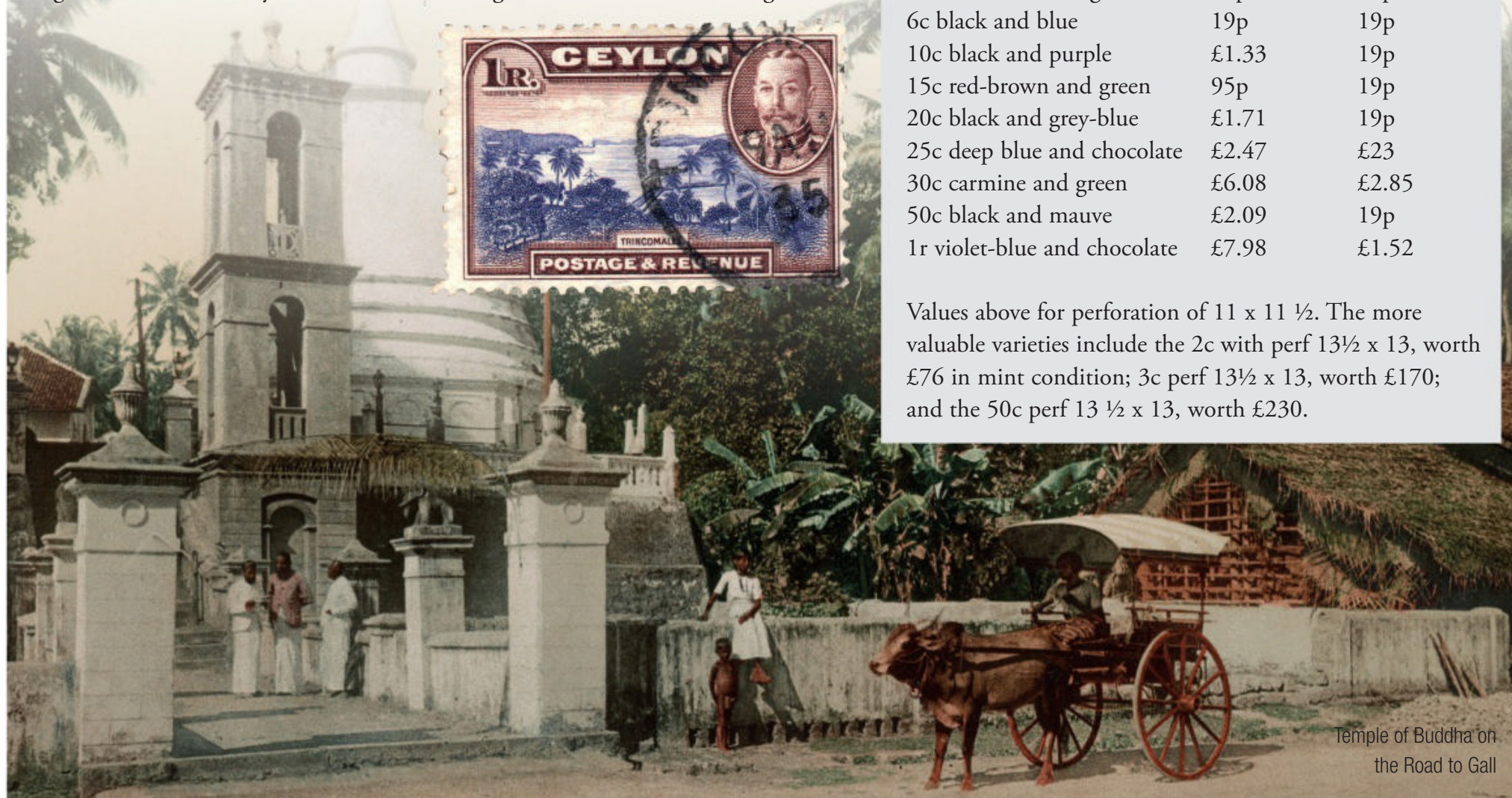
1935 set, featuring portrait of KGV

	MINT	USED
2c black and carmine	35p	40p
3c black and olive-green	£1.05	40p
6c black and blue	35p	30p
9c green and orange	£1.10	75p
10c black and purple	£1.30	£2.50
15c red-brown and green	£1.75	60p
20c black and grey-blue	£2.10	£2.65
25c deep blue and chocolate	£1.50	£1.30
30c carmine and green	£2.30	£3
50c black and mauve	£13.50	£1.75
1r violet-blue and chocolate	£30	£22

1938 set, featuring portrait of KGV

	MINT	USED
2c black and carmine	34p	£1.52
3c black and olive-green	38p	19p
6c black and blue	19p	19p
10c black and purple	£1.33	19p
15c red-brown and green	95p	19p
20c black and grey-blue	£1.71	19p
25c deep blue and chocolate	£2.47	£23
30c carmine and green	£6.08	£2.85
50c black and mauve	£2.09	19p
1r violet-blue and chocolate	£7.98	£1.52

Values above for perforation of 11 x 11 ½. The more valuable varieties include the 2c with perf 13½ x 13, worth £76 in mint condition; 3c perf 13½ x 13, worth £170; and the 50c perf 13 ½ x 13, worth £230.



Temple of Buddha on the Road to Gall

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CURATOR'S PICK

A Gem of the Pontifical States

Anyone keeping a close eye on the international auction scene will have noted one item in particular which caused a gasp or two, writes Devlan Kruck. It was tucked within an Italian States offering, and attracted a winning bid of €146,400. Let's take a closer look at this philatelic gem to see what makes it so highly regarded

The Papal State was one of the major historical states which covered the territories in central Italy where the Pope had sovereignty from 756 to 1870. Broadly the Papal states occupied what are the modern day Italian regions of Lazio (including Rome), Marche, Umbria and Romagna, and parts of Emilia.

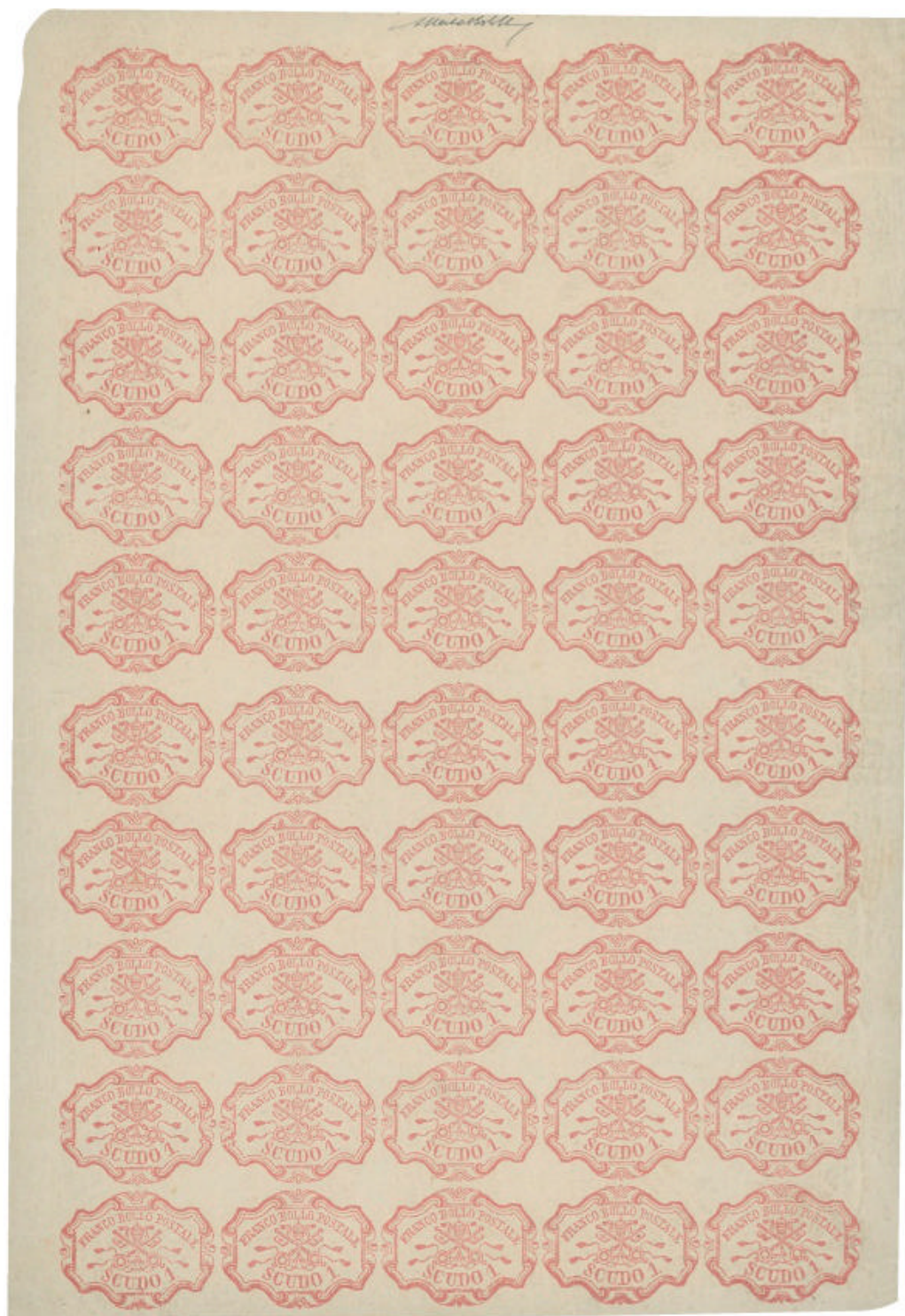
For philatelists the excitement, and stamp story, began in 1852 when the Papal states produced eleven stamps, with the highest denomination being the 1 scudo, imperforate, printed on unwatermarked paper. The other ten lower values are from the 'Bajocchi' (Baj) denomination ranging from the ½b up to the 50b; at the time there were 100 bajocchi to the Roman scudo.

Mint or used examples of the 1 scudo rose-carmine are elusive and the enthusiastic philatelist who cares to devote time in studying the postal offerings from any of the Italian states will recognise the importance of this stamp in any condition. Hence why, when a complete mint sheet of fifty of this 1852 first issue, with full original gum, margins all round, in remarkable condition, was offered for sale it received this remarkable bid of €120,000 (€146,400 with buyers premium at a David Feldman SA auction December 2021, that's around £123,150).

And this was not the first time the full sheet had been under the glare of the auctioneers' lights. During the prestigious sales of the 'Alphonse' collection held by Phillips, the sheet featured on the title page of the Pontifical States and Sicily catalogue (lot 136, 25 October 1990), confirming its importance with a statement within the catalogue from the Italian philately expert, Enzo Diena.

The estimate back then was £150,000-£200,000, and it sold for £200,000, before buyers premium. It came from the world-renowned stamp collection assembled by the Austrian philatelist, Alphonse Mayer von Rothschild, (he'll feature as one of our 'eminent philatelists' soon, so you can find out more about him in that article), and having come from Rothschild's personal study on the Italian states it has philatelic pedigree.

There is very little known about the Austrian's stamp activities, other than when Phillips sold the entire collection it raised almost £7m, which ranks him as one of the all time great philatelists of his time. Material with the Rothschild provenance adds value, which is underpinned by the personal statement made by Enzo Diena on the 1990 certificate which were in English, stating that the sheet of fifty was 'unique' and regarded by Diena as 'the single most valuable item in the entire area of Pontifical States philately'. That is high praise from a decorated expert, who signed the Roll of Distinguished



Philatelists in 1977, won the Lichtenstein Medal in 1978, and also the prestigious American Luff Award in 1981 for his exceptional contributions to philately. Later, in 1984, Diena was awarded the Lindenberg Medal. In essence, this Papal States 1852 1 scudo carmine-rose complete sheet of fifty, has the rarity, the importance, the heritage and is certified and endorsed by a top expert. These features make this wonderful item highly regarded.



Eminent Philatelists Maurice Burrus (1882-1959)

So we've rescued a fellow philatelist from exile and overcome the dearth of stamp-related information on King Carol II, and now we find ourselves profiling a man on whom much has been written. The trick here will be to sort the wheat from the chaff, or in this case the cigarette from the ash, or as I'd prefer to say pluck out the mint from the used.

Because our next legendary collector is Maurice J. M. Burrus, an Alsatian philatelist who, in keeping with our elite set of postage protagonists, was a tobacco millionaire. Like so many great philatelists Burrus lived in Switzerland; we were only recently exploring the life of Alfred E. Lichtenstein, the American who also filled his stamp albums amidst the clean air of the Alps. We often say at David Feldman SA: 'the atmosphere in Switzerland is a very conducive environment for the world's top-flight philatelists,' and these two greats seem to have agreed.

Now, let's get the credentials out of the way so we can move onto some juicy stuff. Maurice Burrus was a mega-star of the stamp world, considered to be one of the greatest ever stamp collectors, having amassed one of the most comprehensive collections in scale and rarities seen in recent times. He was a member of the Académie de Philatélie for over thirty years and like many of our legends he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists which he duly did in 1955. Just like our exiled King Carol II, he featured on some actual postage stamps when he was commemorated by Liechtenstein, though unlike Carol II he didn't get to see them, as they were issued in 1968.

So, let's hear from Burrus himself, which is a rare treat, on his definition of a stamp collector's aim: 'to reassemble the whole of the stamps issued in one country, in a certain part of the world, or if possible, of the whole universe, and not to estimate the value of stamps according to their beauty of engraving or design.'

That came from a 1922 issue of *The Philatelic Magazine* which tells us that Burrus was never satisfied until every space in his stamp album had been filled. That explains a lot about his insatiable appetite for buying stamps. He had the money and the time to be exhaustive, so did he fill every gap? You're going to find out, but be warned, if there is a gap in his collection it might not be for the reason you think (spoiler alert: Burrus didn't buy the British Guiana 1c Magenta, but this rather large hole in his stamp album didn't seem to worry him).

So why did this self-confessed completist not fill the most prestigious gap in his collection? It

had nothing to do with money that's for sure, and nothing to do with opportunity. You see, Burrus was the largest buyer at the Ferrary sales of 1921 to 1925 when the rare British Guiana stamp was there for the taking, and we know Burrus out-bid King George V and his Swiss neighbour Lichtenstein, as well as Hind and Caspary to many of the lots. Burrus even picked up many of the items he didn't win at those Ferrary sales when Arthur Hind's collection was disposed of in 1933, but once again the British Guiana 1c Magenta wasn't on his shopping list. Even when Hind's wife was trying to off-load the stamp in 1935, first via an auctioneer then later by private treaty, Burrus didn't bite.

Actually, long after the 1921 sale, Burrus admitted bidding Hind up to 300,000 French Francs for the stamp, but only because he'd overheard Hind's agent Hugo Griebert boast that he had a limit from Hind of 300,000 Francs. Burrus had no intention of buying the stamp but just pushed the price up, a fact he attested to in later years on more than one occasion.

It would appear that although Burrus who was an affable, likeable and by all accounts a lovely guy, he apparently didn't suffer philatelic philistines gladly, and wanted to make sure Hind paid top whack for it.

Burrus was also unsure of the stamp's apparent rarity or indeed whether it was genuine. He went on record as saying that he thought, after careful inspection under strong magnification, that it was a much cheaper British Guiana 4c Magenta that had been altered. He even got into a publicly printed spat about the authenticity of the world's most expensive stamp with Sir John Wilson, who is best known as the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection (1938-1969) and President of The Royal Philatelic Society London at the time. The disagreement was never really settled between them.

But we are not here to judge such controversial matters, though it is interesting to note what these prestigious collectors thought of the world's most famous stamps. Indeed, we've not even mentioned the Ponzi scheme run by Dr Paul Singer, the Irish-based Shanahan Stamp Auctions which is a philatelic scandal that our Mr Burrus unwittingly got embroiled in. That's for another day.

We are here only to celebrate one of the world's most complete stamp collectors who, even though he left a gap in his collection, could have completed his task to 'reassemble the whole of the stamps issued in... the whole universe'. Maurice Burrus, The Philatelic Completist.

EXHIBITION NEWS

The former Sindelfingen Exhibition will take place in a new venue this autumn, the exhibition hall in Ulm (Messe-Ulm), on the Danube between Stuttgart and Munich. The postal history exhibition Postgeschichte Live will also form part of the event, which is set to take place from 27 to 29 October.

Members of Académie royale de philatélie de Belgique (www.academiebelgium.be) and Académie de philatélie (www.academiedephilatelie.fr) met for a joint session recently in Brussels. Keynote speakers included Daniel Goffin who presented '1870, les ballons montés de la France vers la Belgique'; and Jean-Bernard Parenti's 'Un passeport belge pour apatrides'.

The ALPEN-ADRIA PHILATELIE 2022 Exhibition will be held in Kongresshaus Toscana, Gmunden, Austria, from 26 to 28 August. Seven countries will participate with National Commissioners: Germany, Italy, Croatia, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and Hungary. However, the exhibition is open to all philatelists of the FEPA member countries. Find out more at: www.bmsv-gmunden.at

Swiss Post recently released a second mini sheet to promote the HELVETIA 2022 World Stamp Exhibition, with central theme the Seated Helvetia, who is honoured on her 160th anniversary. The designer added perforations to one side of the sheet, a reminder that in 1862 the seated Helvetia was the first perforated stamp of Switzerland. HELVETIA 2022 will take place in Lugano from 18 to 22 May.



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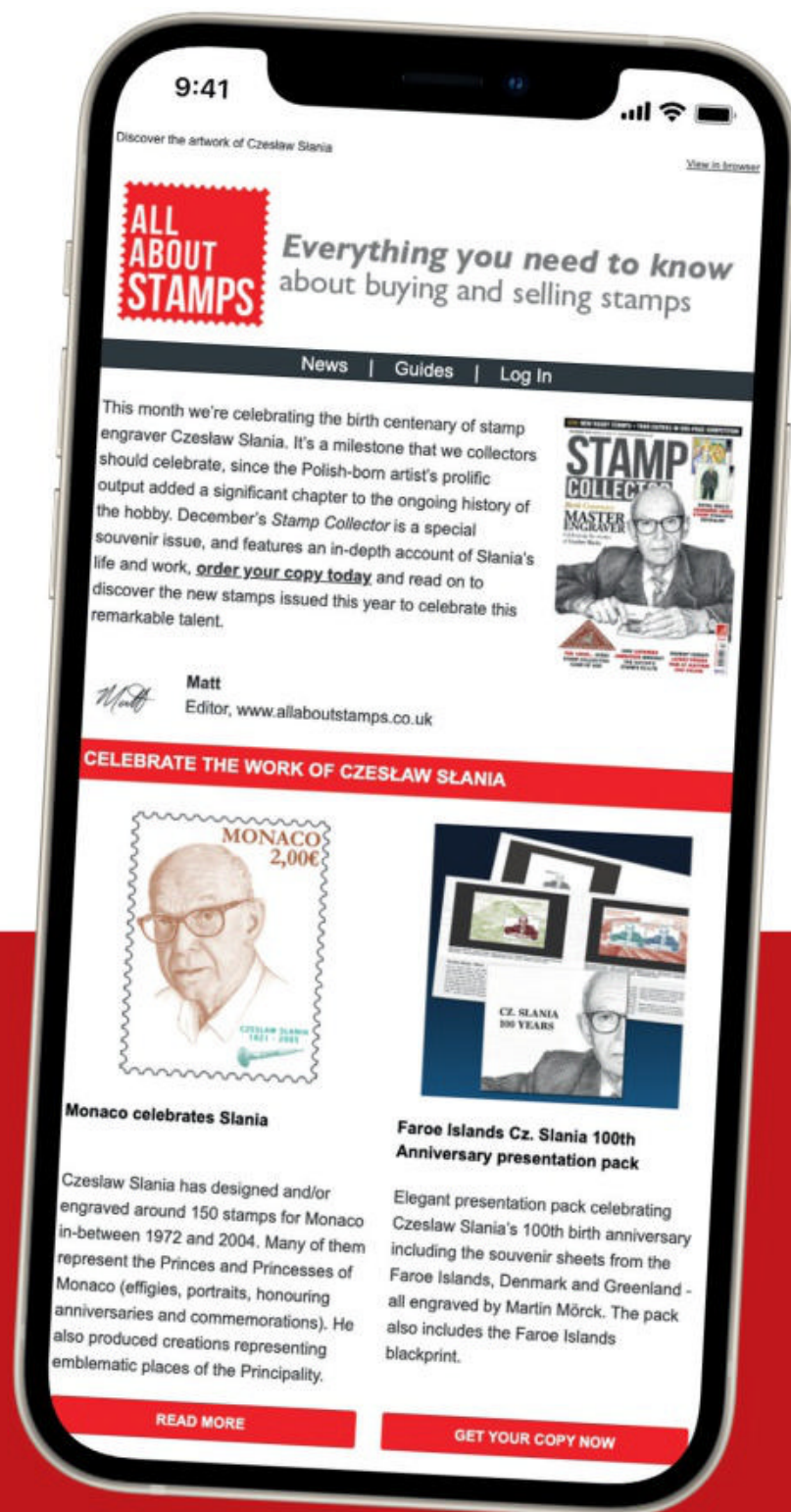
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A-Z THEMATICS

Prophetic philately

Ancient history, myths, and legends are awash with tales of oracles, divination, prophesy, and magic, writes Paula Hammond. And there are many stamps that reflect this mystical theme... but you knew we were going to say that didn't you?

To our ancestors, the world may have seemed wild and unfathomable but, whatever the problem, there was sure to be a mystical solution. From those who claimed to be able to read the future in animal entrails, to practitioners of palmistry and dream-interpretation, fortune-telling was a clearly good gig back in the day. And, while people may not 'believe' as they once did, there's still no shortage of those who enjoy the frisson of having their fortune-told.

The mystic arts have a long and colourful history, with different cultures using different methods to 'see the future'. One of the best documented mystic oracles was at the Greek Temple of Apollo at Delphi. The archaeological site has featured on numerous postage stamps but 1961's Greek Tourism issue is a beautiful example. In contrast, Singapore's 1996 Ancient Civilisations Museum stamp shows a page from a 'magic manuscript'. These were very common in South East Asia and, in addition to horoscopes, would include lucky and unlucky matches of couples, auspicious dates, predictions, and spectacular illustrations of spirits and demons.

The Republic of Djibouti is a country in the Horn of Africa which was previously a French colony. 1997 saw a batch of releases celebrating folklore and traditional cultural practices such as divination.

Divination also forms

an integral part of Romany culture and some of this theme's most appealing stamps reference this tradition. The Ukraine's 2017 set celebrates Roma people as one of the 'National Minorities of Ukraine' with four stamps that show very traditional images of Roma life, including a palm-reader. The USA's Art of Magic Forever Stamp (2018) picks up the theme with crystal balls, rather than palm-reading as the means of divination. Burundi chose Frederic Bazille's 'The Fortune-Teller' as the image for their 2012 issue, with a concerned fortune-teller contemplating the cards she's using to tell unseen sitter's 'fortune'.

Italy's 1982 stamp reproduces Giovanni Piazzetta celebrated rural idyll. Who is the lady in the painting? No one knows but Piazzetta called her the 'Fortune-Teller', perhaps implying that such practices belonged to a simpler, more romantic age.

While it's fun to track down stamps that feature images of fortune-tellers from different cultures, the icons of the 'foretelling' art are so deeply embedded in our psyche that they even appear on stamps that have nothing to do with magic or prophesy. GB's 2003, 68p stamp features a doctor looking into a crystal ball. The topic here is the fiftieth anniversary of Discovery of DNA and what medical 'futures' the discovery might bring. In fact, a fortune-telling theme is more than colourful and diverse, as Paul Daniels so often said, 'it's magic'.



F IS FOR FORTUNE-TELLERS

Why collect?

- A small and potentially 'completable' topic.
- Can be expanded to include sub-themes such as magic, myth and legends.
- Links naturally into larger art and history topics.
- Colourful stamps, with interesting back stories.

Notable Releases

- 1982, Italy, Piazzetta's painting, 'The Fortune-Teller'.
- 2003, GB, 50th Anniversary of Discovery of DNA, 68p medical futures stamp.
- 2012, Burundi, Bazille's 'The Fortune-Teller'.
- 2017, Ukraine, National Minorities of Ukraine Roma fortune-teller.
- 2018, USA, Forever Stamp, Art of Magic.

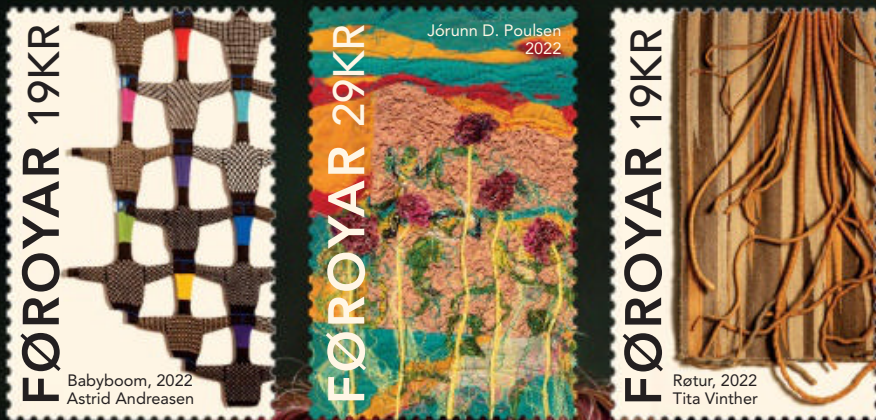
Expand The Theme

Stage-magic and magicians makes a fun expansion to the theme with stamps that include tricks and optical illusions in their design, such as Great Britain's 2005 Centenary of Magic Circle set.

Collecting links

Richard Wheeler's article 'Magic and Magicians on Stamps' is a superb introduction to the topic of magic-themed issues. Read the article at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/magic-on-stamps

Faroe Islands Stamps



Organic art

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

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

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

Buy stamps now:
en.stamps.fo



EUROPA 2022

Myths and legends

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



Date of issue 16.05.2022

Sepac 2022

Local beverages

The old Faroese brewery Føroya Bjór (1888) has for almost a century and a half supplied the Faroese with beverages, be it beer or soft drinks of various kinds - and in recent years, stronger liquors which enjoy great success in the domestic market.



Take the QEII challenge!

The latest All About Stamps Competition challenges readers to create a one-page display using stamps issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Need some inspiration for your entry? Take a look at some of the pages we've received so far, and why not have a go?

The long reign of Queen Elizabeth II means there are countless stamps out there featuring her profile, from a huge range of countries and periods. So for the latest All About Stamps Competition we challenged you to present a one-page display using stamps or postal history issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Following comments from some entrants that they would like more time to create their displays, we have moved the closing date of the competition to 10 June 2022, which gives you the long Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend to get your entry completed.

The overall winner will receive the All About Stamps Medal, a £100 amazon voucher, and a range of stamps issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Since we're celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, displays reflecting any of the following topics are encouraged: the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II; historic moments during the reign; interesting stamps issued during the reign; the development of stamps since 1952.

All entries should be scanned or photographed at a resolution of at least 300 dpi (not sure? don't worry, just drop us an email and we'll be happy to help). Entry is FREE and *Stamp Collector* subscribers can enter twice if desired. Please submit your entry as a PDF or JPG file by emailing: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

QUEEN ELIZABETH II SILVER JUBILEE.

When King George VI died on 6th February 1952, His eldest daughter Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II. The coronation of Elizabeth II took place on 2 June 1953 at Westminster Abbey in London.

1977 marked the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The Royal Mail marked the occasion with the release of a commemorative set of stamps on 11th May 1977, as shown below.



Designed by Richard Guyatt
Size 41mm (h) x 30mm (v)
Printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd
Print Process Photogravure
Number per sheet 100
Perforations 15 x 14
Gum PVA

Richard Gerald Talbot Guyatt, designer.
Born May 8, 1914.
Died October 17, 2007.



On 13th June 1977 the standard postal rate increased to 9d.
So, a new Silver Jubilee stamp was added to the set on 15th June.

A series of 24 souvenir covers were issued to mark The Queen's Silver Jubilee Tour of England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland, dated on the day of each visit.

The tour started with a visit to Glasgow on 17th May & ended with a visit to Londonderry on 11th August. Listed below are the cities and dates visited.

17th May Glasgow.
19th May Dundee.
20th May Aberdeen.
23rd May Edinburgh.
28th May Windsor.
20th June Manchester.

21st June Liverpool.
22nd June Bangor.
23rd June West Glamorgan.
24th June Cardiff.
30th June London.
11th July Norwich.

11th July Ipswich.
12th July Leeds.
13th July York.
14th July Cleveland.
27th July Birmingham.
28th July Derby.

28th July Nottingham.
5th August Plymouth.
6th August Truro.
8th August Bristol.
10th August Belfast.
11th August Londonderry.



Charles J Harris
17 Balmoral Road
SOUTH HARROW
Middlesex
HA2 8TF

STEPHEN BETTERIDGE



British Blooms on Oxford Street



During the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we can reflect on the development of hand stamp cancellations. One milestone, which was implemented during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, is the use of **Self-Inking Counter Date stamps (SICDs)**.

Circular hand stamps have been in use since the beginning of the British postal system, and they continue to be used today. Modern post office counters were equipped with SICDs, which did not carry the time, in the mid-1980s. The SICDs are used for all counter paperwork, including pension books.

CHRONOLOGY: Trials for SICDs were conducted from 1985, and they became operational from 1987. These counter date stamps became generally used where computerisation of counter work had taken place, which was followed by massive countrywide spread from 1993 to 1997.

SIZE and DESIGN: The SICDs are consistently 23 mm in diameter with a fancy "petal-style" edge. This flowering style was largely used from 1987.

POSTAGE STAMP EXAMPLES:



Figure 2. MR MICAWBER – 1.90 GBP – issued June 19th 2012 (magnified size).



Figure 3. Police Horses (Working Horses) – 1.28 GBP – issued February 4th 2014 (magnified size).



Figure 4. Queen Elizabeth II (Royal Portraits) – 1.88 GBP – issued May 30th 2013 (magnified size).

All of the SICD image examples above are derived from the **OXFORD ST SUNDERLAND** Post Office, which was a town sub-office. The city of Sunderland is located in the North East of England. This post office was opened in 1892 and subsequently closed on January 19th 2015.



NOTE: The title starting this display is book-ended by the Royal Cypher for Queen Elizabeth II. Versions of the Royal Cypher are used on Royal Mail post boxes. The **EII R** cypher stands for **Elizabeth II Regina**. The **R** was added to a monarch's cypher from the reign of Henry VIII, and stands for either **Rex** or **Regina**, which is Latin for **King** or **Queen** respectively.

CYPHER

Figure 1. Self-Inking Counter Date stamp (SICD) (magnified size) EXAMPLE:
OXFORD ST SUNDERLAND 09.JL.12 Post Office

ROYAL REGALIA ON POSTAL STATIONERY

1953 Coronation 25 Yrs. - 1978



STATE COACH

Gilded eight horse-drawn coach designed by William Chambers and made by Samuel Butler. Three cherubs on the roof support the Imperial Crown. The body of the coach is slung by braces covered with Morocco leather with gilt buckles. The interior is lined and upholstered with velvet and satin.

THIS SOUVENIR SHEET HAS POSTAL VALIDITY

1953 Coronation 25 Yrs. - 1978



SOVEREIGN'S ORB AND SCEPTRE

The sceptre comprises a gold rod holding the Star of Africa diamond. Enamelled brackets hold emeralds and an amethyst monde is set with rubies, spinels and emeralds. The orb is formed from a hollow gold sphere mounted with clusters of emeralds, rubies and sapphires. The orb is a representation of the Sovereign's power with the cross symbolising the Christian world.

THIS SOUVENIR SHEET HAS POSTAL VALIDITY

1953 Coronation 25 Yrs. - 1978



ST. EDWARD'S CROWN

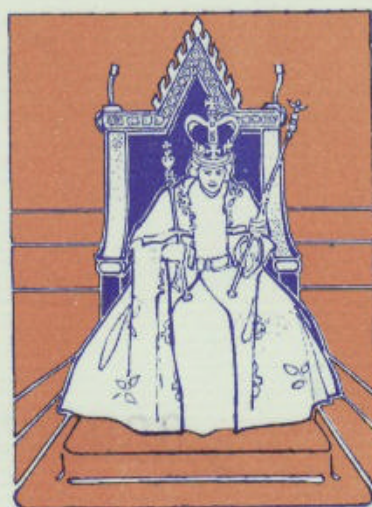
Composed of a solid gold frame set with tourmalines, white and yellow topazes, rubies, amethysts, sapphires, garnet, peridot, zircons, spinel and aquamarines. Finished with a velvet cap and ermine band.

THIS SOUVENIR SHEET HAS POSTAL VALIDITY

CORONATION CHAIR

Magnificent oaken chair painted by Master Walter and decorated with patterns of birds, foliage and animals on a gilt ground. The figure of a King, his feet resting on a lion, is painted on the back.

1953 Coronation 25 Yrs. - 1978



THIS SOUVENIR SHEET HAS POSTAL VALIDITY

JAMES DICKINSON

British/Royal British Legion

The British Legion was formed in 1921 by the joining together of four military charities. It has always had a Royal Patron and in 1952 Queen Elizabeth II accepted this position which had been held by her father. One responsibility of the British Legion is 'Remembrance' and this is represented by the Poppy.

In 1971 stamps were issued by Great Britain and Jersey to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Legion. In May 1971 HM the Queen granted it the title of Royal British Legion.

I am showing a first day cover from Jersey marking the 50th anniversary with an extra cachet recording the new prefix together with stamps celebrating the Legion and the Remembrance Poppy.



H.M. The Queen
awarded prefix 'Royal'
to the British Legion
29th May 1971

Mrs. F.J. ECKETT,
TARANA COTTAGE,
WALTON HEATH,
TADWORTH,
SURREY, KT20 7TS.



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HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH II - THE U.K's LONGEST SERVING MONARCH

The 1953 Coronation and the Family



King George VI

HRH King George VI was on the British throne from 1936 until he passed away on the 6th February 1952. His 25 year old daughter, HRH Princess Elizabeth succeeded him to the throne but was in Kenya with her husband, HRH Prince Philip and their two children, HRH Prince Charles and HRH Princess Anne. When the sad news broke, she immediately flew back to London to take on her duties.



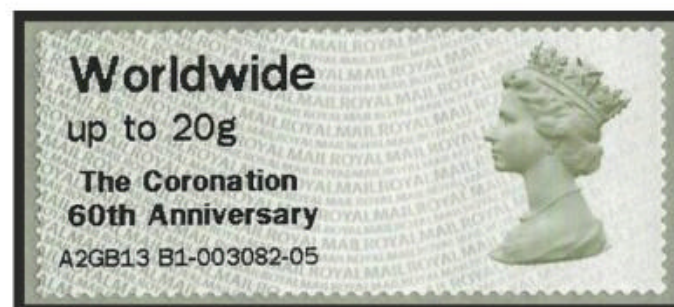
Queen Elizabeth II



Kuwait 12 Annas value.

The Coronation of HRH Queen Elizabeth II

The coronation of HRH Queen Elizabeth II took place on the 2nd June 1953, at Westminster Abbey in London.



The Coronation - 60th Anniversary.

On becoming Queen of the U.K., Elizabeth II also became regnant of Australia, Canada, Ceylon, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa, and the leader of the British Commonwealth.

In November 1953, they started a World Tour of all these countries, which lasted many years.



The 1953 Royal Visit to New Zealand.



HRH Prince Andrew. Their third child.



HRH Prince Edward. Their fourth child.



On the 1st July 1969, HRH Prince Charles was invested as The Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle by HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The special issue and Caernarvon cancel, dated the 1st July 1969.



On the 14th November 1973, HRH Princess Anne married Captain Mark Phillips at Westminster Abbey in London.



On the 29th July 1981, HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Nevis 55c with the "No Watermark" variety and Seychelles R10 with the "SPECIMEN" overprint.



In June 1987, HRH Princess Anne was created HRH The Princess Royal and in 1989, she and Captain Mark Phillips separated and were divorced in 1992. Also in 1992, she married Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence.

Also in 1992, HRH Prince Charles and HRH Princess Diana separated and in 1996, they were divorced. While in Paris on the 31st August 1997, she was involved in a car accident and was unfortunately killed.



HRH Princess Diana, Princess of Wales memorial issue, with the St. Paul's Cathedral special first day of issue "Diana" cancel. Dated the 3rd February 1998.



On the 9th April 2005, HRH Prince Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in a civil ceremony at Windsor Castle.

On the 6th February 2022, HRH Queen Elizabeth II celebrated 70 glorious years as Queen of the U.K. and head of the British Commonwealth.





Madame la Duchesse

Transit from Switzerland to Italy is shown by this letter sheet to a famous Duchess from her son, as researched and explained by Dane Garrod in his latest examination of an intriguing piece of postal history

Over 200 years ago, as now, postal services were disrupted by conflict between states and countries.

Disruption of post during those years of war meant that the length of time for letters and parcels to reach their final destination was often considerably more than peace time. For people, travel became more difficult and could be curtailed, so when Europe had returned to peace after the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte had been defeated and exiled to St. Helena, those with position in society, and more importantly the money to go with it, could again travel leisurely around Europe on their own 'Grand Tour'. Visiting places of interest, correspondence to them often had to be sent 'poste restante', meaning it would wait for their collection at a given place and in a given timescale.

This cover illustrated here was sent 'à la poste restante' to Rome, as well as the additional very small hand-written instruction 'pour être envoyée à Naples si elle n'est tout suite réclamer', meaning to be sent to Naples if it is not immediately claimed. Written on 20 September 1817 in Lausanne, Switzerland, as stated in the letter, someone has later added 'Sept -

1817' above the address, and perhaps by 'Madame la Duchesse' herself or her secretary to readily identify the letter and the time period. There is a manuscript fee charge of '28' which would appear on the reverse when the letter sheet is folded to just the address panel for transmission. The handstamp 'SVIZZERA' refers to the country of origin, the Swiss Confederation, which amazingly has been in independent existence since 1291. The handstamp on the reverse near the '28' is '2OTTOBRE' – 2 October – referring to the date, probably of arrival in Rome. Finally, there is a further manuscript mark that is across the name and address, and appears to be '15', a charge to be paid at some point in the journey.

The letter is very descriptive and gives many names such as Lord Minto and Lady Alice Gordon, Lord Aberdeen's sister, all of whom are enjoying travelling around the now recovering countries of Europe after the turmoil of what we now call 'The Napoleonic Wars'.

The writer, Augustus Foster, served in a variety of diplomatic functions in continental Europe and the United States, so wrote to his mother from various places around the world. Having served in Naples, Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, then the United

Keira Knightley as Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire, and Hayley Atwell as Bess Foster, in the 2008 film *The Duchess* (Moviestore Collection Ltd / Alamy Stock Photo)

States, Stockholm in Sweden and the United States again, he served as British minister plenipotentiary in Copenhagen, Denmark from 1814 to 1824, the period that covers this letter.

So who was this 'Madame la Duchesse' and has she made any mark on history? Most certainly she has, beginning many years before 1817 when in May 1782 Lady Elizabeth Foster, her name and title at that time, met the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in Bath and quickly became Georgiana's closest friend. From this time she lived in a triad with Georgiana and her husband William for about 25 years until Georgiana became ill and died in 1806. Three years later, Bess married the duke and became Elizabeth Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire, but the marriage lasted only two years with the death of the duke in 1808. She retained her title, but is better known to us with her first married name as Bess Foster.

Nine years later in 1817, the date of this letter, the bond between parent and child is well shown in the correspondence between them that has thankfully survived. As for these people themselves, they will continue to be remembered and portrayed in book and film, and most recently the story in the 2008 film *The Duchess*.

1 The cover was sent 'à la poste restante' to Rome, as well as the additional very small hand-written instruction 'pour être envoyée à Naples si elle n'est tout suite reclaimée', meaning to be sent to Naples if it is not immediately claimed.

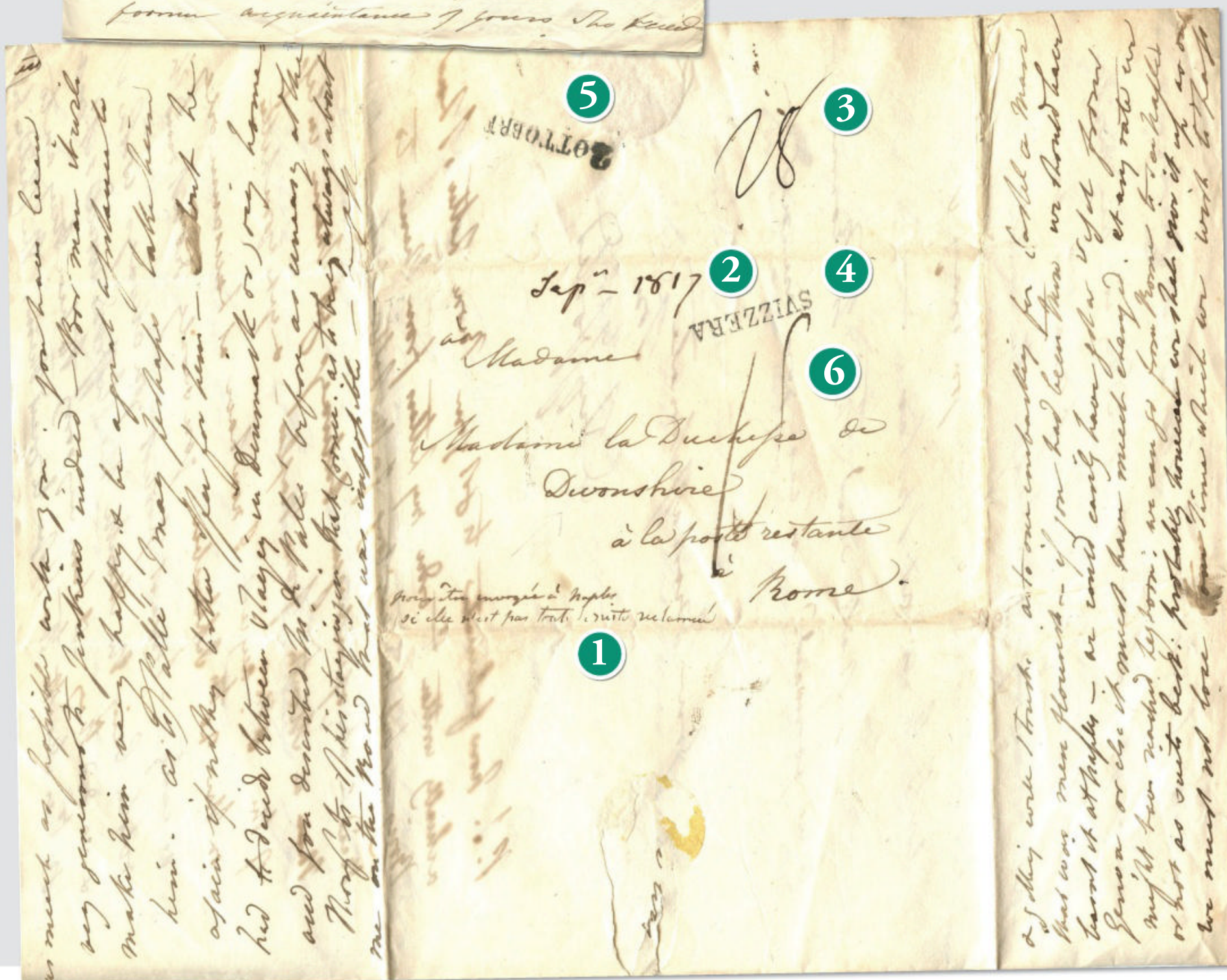
2 Someone has later added 'Sepr - 1817' above the address, perhaps by 'Madame la Duchesse' herself or her secretary to readily identify the letter and the time period.

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6 Finally, there is a further manuscript mark that is across the name and address, and appears to be '15', a charge to be paid at some point in the journey.





A postcard from the Field Post Office, Bulford Camp 1903



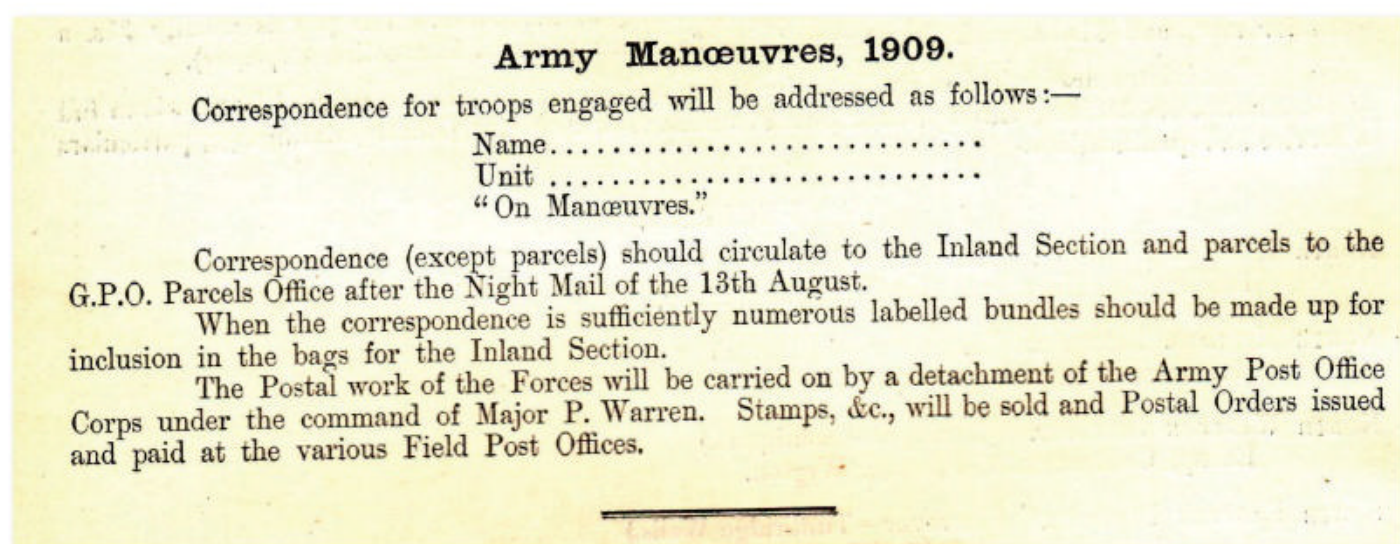
POSTAL HISTORY

Wiltshire

Often referred to as the 'home to the British Army', Wiltshire offers the collector a wealth of postal history and ephemera, much of it relating to the military bases that have been based in the area for centuries, as John Scott explains

With the exception of Salisbury Cathedral, best known for having the tallest spire in England and one of the best preserved copies of Magna Carta, Wiltshire is recognized by many collectors as being one of the principal homes of the British army which consequently provides also many opportunities for building up a thematic collection based on military material.

In his book on the county Dr. John Siggers identifies no fewer than 187 different postmarks used at military camps and units, giving ample scope using such a topic alone. Especially prior to the First World War, the designation 'Field Post Office' was often included which is more usually associated with overseas units and more than twenty different types of postmark were used at Bulford Camp alone. Large



Instructions on writing to troops on Army Manœuvres in 1909 were given in the Post Office Circular of 24 August

numbers of soldiers were engaged in Army Manœuvres each summer, with details of how to write to them and of the Field Post offices included in the Post Office Circular. For example the Circular of 9 August 1910 gave notice that Lark Hill Camp and West Down North Camp would be open from 13 August with mail being transmitted via Bulford Camp.

However there are many other

aspects of military mail which can add a rich variety to a postal history collection, most notably the engraved crests beloved of army regiments since the advent of the envelope in the mid nineteenth century. The Victorians were enthusiastic collectors of crests, even having special albums for their trophies, but sadly their love of scissors also meant separating the crests from their historical and social context. Enough

Lark Hill Camp also known as Hamilton Camp (Salisbury).

The Branch Office which was opened at this Camp on the 1st April last will remain open until the 5th September for the transaction of all classes of Postal and Telegraph business.

The hours of attendance are from 8.0 a.m. to 8.0 p.m. on Week-days, and 8.0 a.m. to 10.0 a.m. on Sundays.

The Transmitting Office is Bulford Camp.

Letters and parcels should circulate via Salisbury.

The same Circular advised of the opening of Lark Hill Camp from 1 April to 5 September

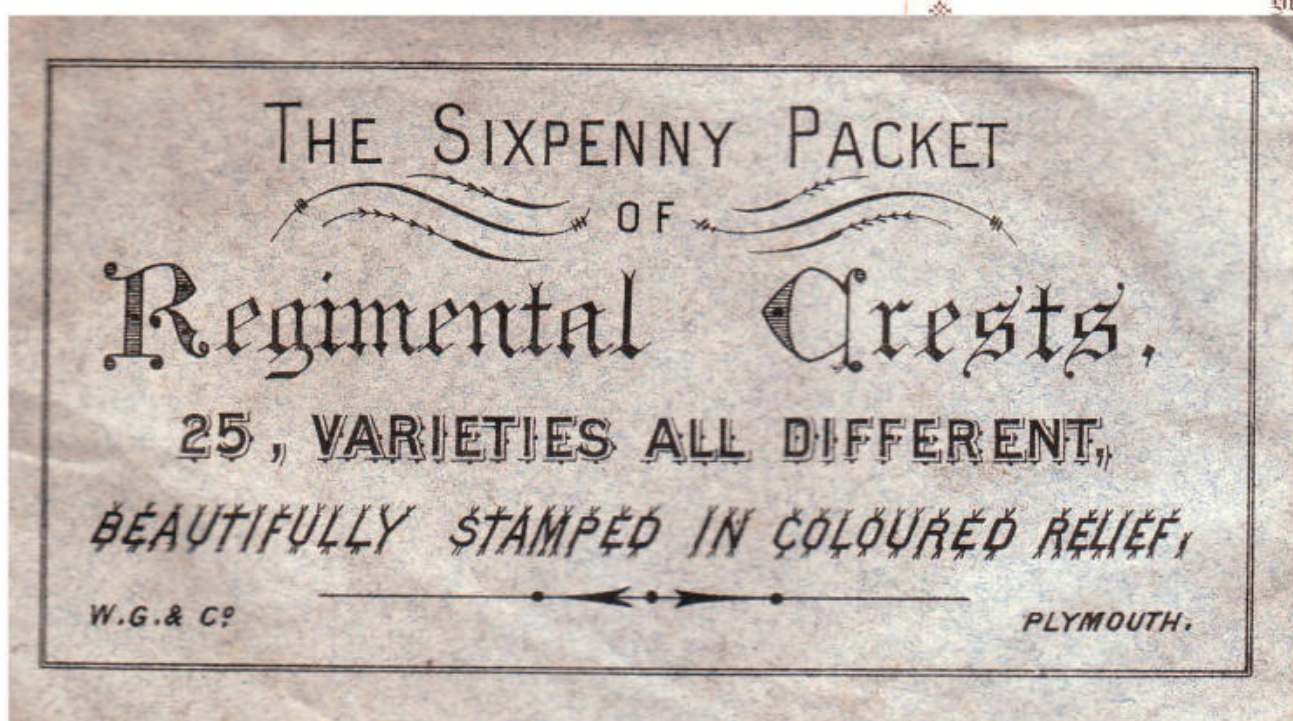
have survived in their entirety, often treasured for generations by the families concerned, for this to be fertile ground for today's generation of collectors and often the absence of valued stamps or postmarks can make this a very affordable area.

Traditionally a letter from an officer would be written on note paper embossed with the crest of his regiment, which would be repeated also on the back flap of the envelope. The crest itself would bear the battle honours of the regiment and, allied to letters from soldiers serving in these far flung parts of the Empire, a fascinating story can be told. The top left crest in red on Jenner's sheet of the Inniskilling Dragoons includes the honours for Waterloo, Balaklava and Sevastopol.

But there still wasn't enough material to satisfy the demands of the Victorian collectors' market. So enterprising publishers produced sheets of crests or cheaper packets such as 'The Sixpenny Packet of Regimental Crests, 25 Varieties all different, beautifully stamped in coloured relief'. To postal historians this is rather akin to collecting a mint

Right: a sheet of military crests published by Jenner and Knewstubb c 1880

A Sixpenny Packet of Regimental Crests published by W.G. & Co., Plymouth



postage stamp which has never served the purpose for which it was made but such examples still form part of the rich pattern of history which extends over so much of our hobby.

FURTHER READING

'Wiltshire and its Postmarks', Dr. John Siggers, Devizes 1982.

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Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS)

The GBPS was founded in 1955. The Society deals with all aspects of GB philately, and has contributed much to the field; this is certain to continue as new members with fresh ideas join. You can join the Society by visiting the website at: www.gbeps.org.uk/join



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Naturally, it may take time – but, generally these stamps can be located, albeit not always in the best condition sought.

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

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

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

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Chronicles of NOELLA BRY

A philatelic distraction based on real events,
by Eva Mealing

CHAPTER TWO THE INTRIGUING CASE OF A MURDER IN PARIS

PART FIFTEEN – THE SECRET PURCHASE

Noella's heart heaved beneath her chest, as she made her way down to the hotel reception. The dream of her being pursued was still fresh in her mind. Why had she recalled the image of the gentleman from the London stamp shop and what was going on in her mind? Why did he chase her? Why did she run? Was it her instinct alluding to something important? Could the two cases be linked? Surely the figure in the back of the Callum Street shop couldn't have anything to do with her task in Paris.

She decided to dismiss the idea and tried to focus on why Dr Legrand would be back so quickly, and secretly hoped he had some kind of lead, for she felt no further forward than when she first arrived on the Roman Express with William Le Queux, courtesy of the Earl of Kingston.

Dr Jacques Legrand was again dressed in a brown suit, with matching bow tie and a white shirt. He looked anxious in his expression, but smiled widely upon seeing Noella. They greeted each other and agreed to find a table in the lounge and order a drink. 'I have some good and some not so good news, Mademoiselle. Rather fortunately the gentleman from Strasbourg I mentioned at our last meeting was in Paris meeting with a client and so we happened to meet, which is rather good because my letter, which I sent to him would only now be getting to him. So, he has furnished me with a list, which he and Monsieur Leroux had corresponded about in recent days.'

He handed over a handwritten note which Noella studied for some minutes without saying a word. The Doctor ordered champagne and waited silently until she had reached a conclusion. 'There is nothing here that I do not recall seeing in the albums, which I have studied today. I have made a list which is upstairs of the rare stamps and I do not see anything missing. Can I take this and check?'

'Of course. Consider it your list. I have some other news which is, I'm afraid, less complete, and not so good. Oscar Berger-Levrault, who is the gentleman who was working with the deceased for many months on a list of new discoveries, advised me that Gaston was making a highly secret purchase of a stamp which was in unique condition and one of just a few copies, and incredibly he was due to collect this stamp on the day he was murdered.'

Noella marvelled at the coincidence. 'What was this stamp? Do you have any indication from your contact whom he was buying this from?'

'Ahh! This is the problem. Because Gaston had become increasingly suspicious of the integrity of certain agents and dealers, following several failed attempts at securing rare stamps in recent months, he refused to say exactly what the stamp was and who he was procuring it from. What he said was that once he had it safely in his grasp he would write and tell Oscar all about it. He did, however, state when he was collecting it and that he had

paid the dealer in question a considerable sum to keep the matter confidential, stating he was a well known figure but who had recently taken to traveling around the world looking for stamps.'

The champagne arrived, the waiter pouring two glasses. 'To your investigations, Mademoiselle Bry.' Noella clinked glasses with the doctor and took a long sip, the cold fluid trickling into her empty stomach. Almost without delay she felt her arms and legs tingle from the alcohol. 'So you see Mademoiselle, we have no clue what the stamp is or who the seller was. All we know is the victim was meeting with this person on the day he was murdered. Too much of a coincidence don't you agree?' Noella nodded and took another gulp from her fluted glass, and an intoxicating wave swept to her head. She almost felt euphoric and an idea came into her mind.

'Dr Legrand, this is an important development and actually this is not so bad. There are a couple of gentlemen I think can help us identify the stamp, and quite possibly the man Gaston Leroux was meeting that day.' Legrand swigged his glass down in one and refilled both glasses, 'Are you thinking our mystery seller has anything to do with the crime?' Noella replied after she savoured another taste of the champagne. 'It crossed my mind, but I dismissed it instantly. No, I think, someone else must have found out about this stamp and possibly the clandestine meeting. If so, this provides motive and opportunity.' I shall write to these two individuals tonight, and appeal for help. One is resident here in Paris, so we may be able to get a reply within hours. The other is in London, so it could be several days before we hear, but I feel sure he may have a good idea.'

The doctor seemed taken aback. 'A man here in Paris, you say? Who can it be that I have not thought of the gentleman myself?' The young reporter from London drained the remnants of her glass and looked at her French ally. 'Philip Ferrari de La Renotière.'

*To be continued.
Find out in the next
episode if Count
Ferrari can help
Noella and who the
second gentleman
she feels sure can
assist in identifying
either the mystery
stamp or the seller.*



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

Dear Very Important Philatelist,

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

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

Here’s the unwritten agenda:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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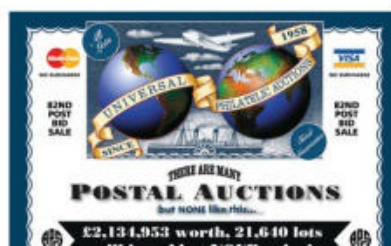
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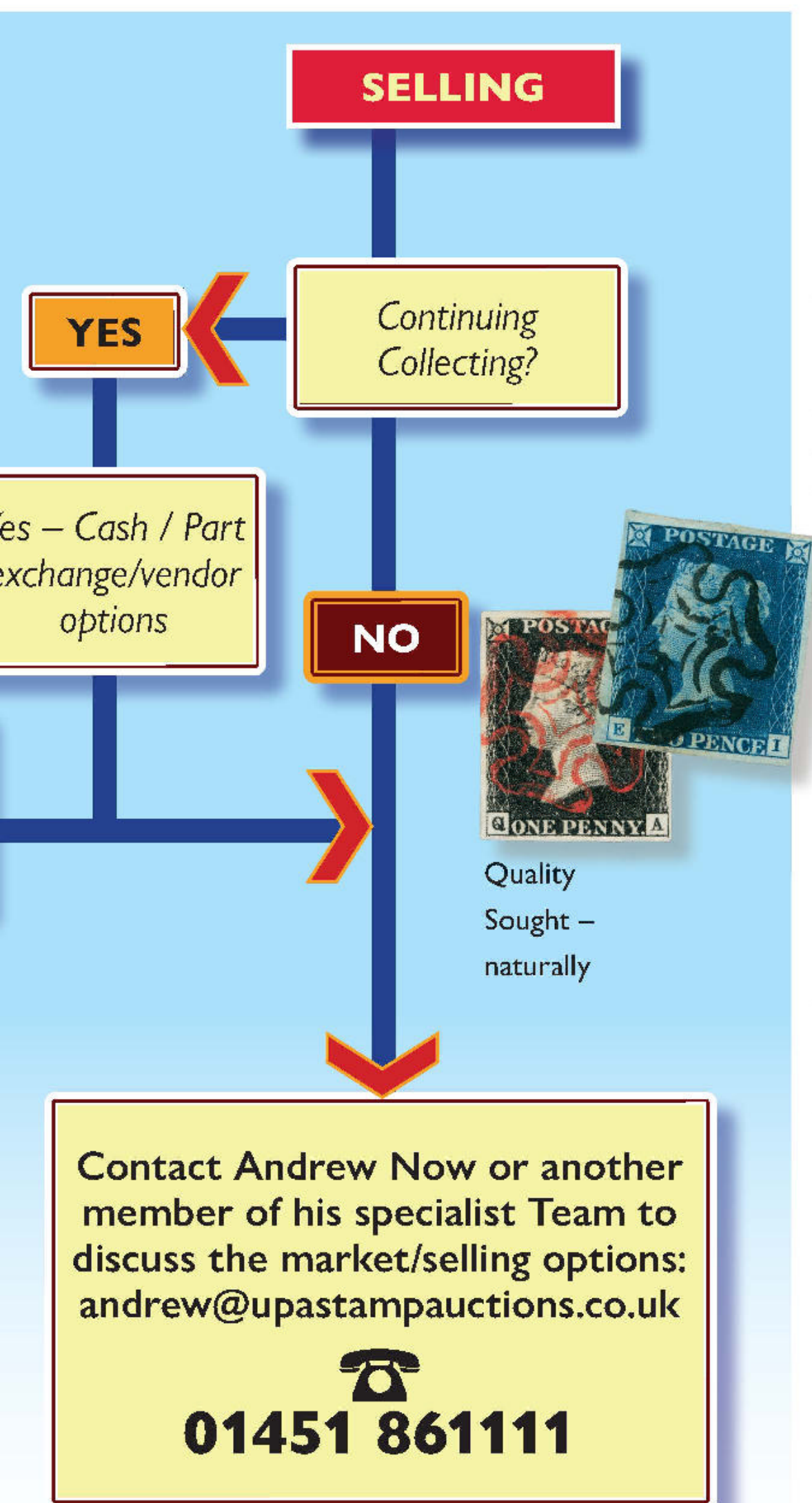
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