

STAMP COLLECTOR

THE MAKING OF A STAMP



CLASSIC PORTUGAL
THE REMARKABLE 1898 VASCO
DA GAMA SET IN DETAIL



**GRENADA'S STAMP
HISTORY, PLUS
PRICE GUIDE**



GB COLLECTOR

Why **collecting
Machins** need not
be daunting



WIN! Women of
World War II stamps

POSTAL HISTORY
1832 Reform Act and
its impact on the post

**HOW TRISTAN DA CUNHA'S
'MARINE LIFE' DEFINITIVES
CAME TO LIFE**

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

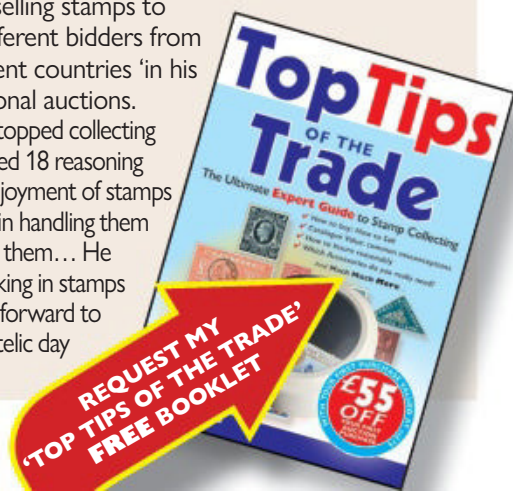
1▶ If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the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

Wrong Offer X Wrong Price X Wrong Place X
(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 X Wrong Place X
therefore Wrong Price X

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 X Wrong Presentation X
Wrong Structure X Wrong Protection of Price X

– **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 you tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?

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

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

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

18▶ What Should I Do Next?

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



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

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

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

Andrew

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

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Portugal's maritime history has been celebrated on a range of stamps, but there are few that recall such a significant moment in both the evolution of the country and the wider world as this set

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Welcome

BRINGING COLLECTORS AND TRADERS TOGETHER



This month I had the pleasure of chatting to Suzanne Rae and Isobel Klempka from the Philatelic Traders' Society, for the recently launched PTS Trade Vlog (you can view it over on the website: www.allaboutstamps.com.news). It was great fun to chat to them and to fellow guest Josh Buchsbayew from Cherrystone Auctions.

It was also a really good opportunity to discuss how the philatelic trade works and how stamp dealers and auction houses reach collectors. Of course we discussed the advertising in *Stamp Collector* and how this is a vital part of the publication. As an editor, I am obviously proud of the many stories, articles and tips included in each issue, but it's fair to say the adverts are equally important, giving readers details of the trusted professionals who are here to help build our collections.

With this in mind, we recently launched the 'Stamps Monthly' email, which lists dealer websites, eBay stores, price lists, the latest stock, and upcoming auctions. It's a simple, quick reference directory to the stamp market and it drops into your in-box once a month. Oh, and it's completely free too, so do make sure you're signed up (just go along to www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/account/register).

This month I'm pleased to introduce a new series which looks behind the making of a stamp, from initial ideas and sketches to the finished product we place in our albums (page 31). There's something about those early versions of the stamp that really appeals to me, so perhaps proofs and essays is my next collecting avenue.

Matt Hill, Editor

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

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STAMP UPDATE

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David McGrath, Jersey Post's Group Marketing Director (right) collects the award for Philatelic Campaign of the Year at the World Post & Parcel Awards 2022



PRESTIGIOUS AWARD WIN FOR JERSEY STAMPS

Jersey Post is celebrating after winning Philatelic Campaign of the Year at the World Post & Parcel Awards 2022.

The company has been recognised for its emotive 'Flockdown' stamps, a set of commemorative stamps designed to lift people's spirits and give people hope during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The winning stamps, which feature eight colourful 'lockdown birds', are the result of a creative collaboration between Jersey Post and Berni Martin, a Jersey resident who set herself a project to paint a bird every day during Jersey's first Covid-19 lockdown, each bird a reflection of her mood on that particular day. Brought to life by Jersey Post's philatelic team, the stamps generated a powerful response, and the story was picked up internationally, with articles appearing in Germany, Italy, China and the US.

David McGrath, Group Marketing Director at Jersey Post, said: 'We are extremely honoured to receive this award. Every year, Jersey Post endeavours to deliver a quality and innovative stamp programme; we're extremely proud of the work that we do and we're thrilled to be recognised at the World Post and Parcel Awards, a leading event in the industry with such a high standard of entries. For us, the Flockdown stamps are a perfect example of the power of philately to connect people. The designs resonated with people around the world, creating a sense of community through our shared experience of the pandemic.'

The World Post & Parcel Awards are a world-renowned programme dedicated to showcasing emerging talents and the latest innovation and best practice within the mail and express services industry. This year, the winners were announced at a presentation evening on 11 May in Dubai.



The two other nominees in the Philatelic Campaign of the Year category were An Post for their Pride campaign and Correios for their commemorative postal issue

marking 150 Years of Free Womb Law.

An Post's two colourful stamps, issued in June 2021, featured the rainbow Pride flag and the words 'Pride' and 'Bród' (as gaeilge) to celebrate Ireland's Pride Movement. Meanwhile, Brazil's September 2021 stamps marked the anniversary of an 1871 law which declared free status to the children of enslaved women.





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OF OUR 2022 CATALOGUE**
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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 KGV1 & 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 KGV1 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 £9.75 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 £9.75 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 £9.75 FOR</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, KGV1 TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1,500 + £179.50 PLUS £9.75 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 £14.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD OR REG POST</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 £59.50 PLUS £4.75 POSTAGE & INSURANCE</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 £59.50 PLUS £4.75 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 £59.50 PLUS £4.75 POSTAGE & INS</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 £59.50 PLUS £4.75 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 £16.00 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 1,000s FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £100+ STATED TO RETAIL £400 £299.50 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 £14.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p> |  <p>REF T622 WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON & OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER £27.50 PLUS £5.00 POSTAGE & INSURANCE</p> | | |

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MORE STAMPS SUPPORT UKRAINE



From left: Orest Sklierenko, President and CEO of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, Major (Retired) Oksana Kuzyshyn, Chief Operating Officer at the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, and Doug Ettinger, President and CEO of Canada Post (photo: Denis Drever)

The philatelic world continues to show its support for Ukraine with the release of more new stamps from countries including Austria, Canada, Luxembourg and Lithuania.

Canada Post has revealed the design of a fundraising stamp, set to be issued on 7 July, marking the first time Canada has issued a stamp in support of a country in need of humanitarian assistance. Funds raised through the purchase of this stamp will be distributed through the

EUROPA THEME CHANGED TO PROMOTE PEACE

Following a recent PostEurop Board of Directors meeting, the 2023 Europa stamp theme has been updated to reflect the troubling situation in Ukraine.

The theme for 2023 will now be 'PEACE – the highest value of humanity', a topic proposed by the Ukrainian post office, Ukrposhta, in order 'to show solidarity with Ukraine and to promote the universal value for all humanity – peace'. The 2023 theme will be based on a common design to be selected via a design competition.

The change of topic means that previously planned theme of 'Underwater Fauna & Flora' will now be celebrated in 2024 and 'National Archaeological Discoveries' has been postponed to 2025.

The PostEurop Board of Directors also decided that Russia and Belarus are allowed to issue their 2022 EUROPA Stamps under the 'Stories & Myths' theme given their membership status at the time of the call for publication and following the existing EUROPA guidelines. However, Russia and Belarus would not be included in the 2022 Most Beautiful EUROPA Stamps competition which invites members of the public to vote for their favourite stamp, with the result set to be announced in September 2022.

Find out more at www.posteurop.org/europa

Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF), which is currently delivering aid wherever it is needed, from heavily shelled areas in Ukraine's north and east, to the displaced Ukrainians to the west and in neighbouring countries. A donation of \$1 from each booklet of ten stamps (and ten cents from each official First Day Cover) will provide much-needed financial assistance to those affected by the war.

The Canadian stamp shows a sunflower, the national flower of Ukraine and now a widely recognised symbol of peace and unity. Canada Post originally issued a stamp with this colourful image in 2011, with the 2022 version featuring the text 'Help for Ukraine' title.

POST Luxembourg have also released a charity stamp, to help Ukrainian refugees. All proceeds from the sale of these stamps will be donated to the organisation ASBL LUKRAINE to support their actions for refugees from Ukraine. The stamp, available in national and international denominations, in sheets of eight, features the colours of the Ukrainian flag with a dove of peace integrated into the design.

Lithuanian Post has also issued a single stamp for 'defenders of freedom in Ukraine'. The simple image on the stamp again features the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag, and shows two figure hugging. The €2 stamp is a semi-postal, with half of the stamp cost being donated to the organisation Mėlyna ir Geltona (Blue / Yellow), a 'non-government organisation' that 'provides Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers with non-lethal supplies to help them battle Russian aggression.'

Other nations to have issued stamps in support of Ukraine include Croatia, with a simple design showing a rapeseed field below blue sky; a €2 semi-postal from Austria which will raise €1 from every sale for the Austrian organisation 'Nachbar in Not' and UNICEF; Latvia, with a stamp showing both countries' flags; and Moldova, whose 'MOLDOVA FOR PEACE' stamp features a cartoon dove carrying a yellow heart.

See the full list of 'Support for Ukraine' stamps at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk



TICKETS SALES LAUNCHED FOR STAMPEX 2022

The Philatelic Traders' Society have announced that tickets for Stampex, the UK's national stamp show taking place from 28 September to 1 October 2022, are now available with an early bird offer.

The event, which is now to be held just once a year, will be held at the familiar venue of the Business Design Centre in Islington and will bring together stamp traders, experts, collectors, and post offices. Suzanne Rae, Managing Director of the

PTS, said: 'We will be announcing new changes and exciting attractions over the coming months... We are constantly working on ideas to help keep the hobby fun and engaging for collectors and for those just starting out on their own philatelic journey.'

The show is set to have a 'new look and feel' with the inclusion of a Stampex Talks Auditorium, a Collectors Lounge, Digital Zone and new Youth Zone all of which were initially showcased at Stampex 2021.

According to the organisers, these features will be enhanced further 'presenting more collector opportunities, more exciting talks and more initiatives to help you make the most of your day (or days!) out.'

Early Bird price: £10 ticket opening day (includes show guide). Free Entry Thursday to Saturday. Find out more about Stampex and the PTS at: www.stampexinternational.com/tickets

CRAWFORD MEDAL NOMINEES

The Royal Philatelic Society London has received more than thirty nominations for the Crawford Medal for books published during the years 2020 and 2021, and has now revealed the short list of eight from which the Crawford Medal Committee will select the 2022 winner.

The shortlisted books are: *Slovensko 1938-1945* by Miroslav Bachratý; *Analysis of worldwide postal wrappers* by John K. Courtis; *Postal stationery of Denmark* by Lars Engelbrecht; *The 19th century issues of El Salvador 1867-1900* by Guillermo F. Gallegos and Joseph D. Hahn; *Ceylon: The Pence Issues* by Kurt Kimmel and Patrick Pearson; *La storia postale della Toscana 1851-1862* by Mario Mentaschi and Vittorio Morani; *Os Correios Portugueses 1853-1900* by Pedro Vaz Pereira; *The inks of De La Rue & Co* by Peter Young.

The Crawford Medal is a silver-gilt medal awarded for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of

philately published in book form during the relevant period. This Medal is open to world-wide competition and has been awarded by the Society on 88 occasions since the first award in 1920.

The medal is named after James Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford, who by the time of his death in 1913 had amassed the greatest philatelic library of his time. The library was bequeathed in its entirety to the British Museum and is today held at the British Library in London.

The medal will be awarded at the end of the newly inaugurated Crawford Festival which will take place on 28 and 29 June 2022 at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, the home of the RPSL. This year's theme will be: 'How to write a book – A practical guide to producing a work of philatelic literature'.

For further information contact the Society at Events@rpsl.org.uk or contact Nicola Davies on tel: 020 7486 1044, select option 2.



STAMP COLLECTOR'S EDITOR APPEARS ON PTS TRADE VLOG

Stamp Collector editor Matt Hill recently appeared on the video blog published by the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), discussing the magazine, email newsletters, and the Auction Partner package on the www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website.

The vlog is hosted by Suzanne Rae and Isobel Klempka of the PTS and also featured Josh Buchsbayew the Vice President of Cherrystone Auctions. The topics covered on the forty-minute video include the different ways in which stamp traders can advertise their products and organisation, how auction houses are embracing the online world and social media to reach new audiences, and the launch of the already popular 'Stamps Monthly' email.

Launched in April, the 'Stamps Monthly' email is sent to the All About Stamps audience each month. Traders can promote their stock, price list, website, or eBay listing on the email and quickly reach thousands of stamp collectors.

The PTS Vlog is a regular video chat with members of the stamp trade and is intended to give traders and collectors an insight into

the world of philately. You can view the video on the 'PTS and Stampex' YouTube channel, or by visiting www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news. To receive the free 'Stamps Monthly' email, just visit www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/account/register and enter your details.



IN BRIEF

Artist Peter Mason, also known as the Post Pop Art Man, is looking for a suitable home for his latest postage stamp creation, a collection of nine portraits of the Queen all made from stamps. Writing on his website, Pete explained: 'Right now I need someone who is in charge of or who owns a large indoor public space to help me display my "Homage to the Queen" in her Jubilee year... it is large being nine times 3ft square and needs to hang on a wall around 12ft by 15ft. A museum, gallery or public foyer would be great. Please contact me if you can help.' You can contact the artist on email: thepostpopartman@btinternet.com

Reports that Poland have issued an official postage stamp showing the face of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are incorrect. The stamps were actually created by Łukasz Wantuch, a councillor based in Kraków, using the Polish postal service's 'My Stamp' service. The councillor is said to be selling the stamps and donating proceeds to help provide humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Royal Mail recently published their financial results for the year ending 27 March 2022, revealing a 1.6% reduction in revenue 'reflecting changing consumer behaviour following removal of lockdown restrictions and lower international volumes'. Operating profit was down 5.6% year-on-year; whilst adjusted operating profit was up 8% due to 'improved profitability in Royal Mail'.

Irish media company RTE recently reported that philately is 'one of the hottest and most fashionable pastimes in the world'. The report advised those looking to invest to 'try to corner a new market and thus push up prices. To do this you need to find an area that is unpopular, esoteric or in some other way neglected. Build up a collection of high quality examples at a relatively low cost, then publish a definitive guide to the subject and – hopefully – watch the prices rise'.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN BIRMINGHAM

The ABPS have revealed that this year's Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Jurys Inn Hotel, Birmingham from Thursday, 8 September to Sunday, 11 September.

The theme of the Congress will be 'Organised Philately' – how our hobby is organised in different ways. During the event there will be input from local societies, specialist societies, national societies, international societies, the philatelic trade and international philatelic organisations demonstrating what each type of society or organisation brings to the hobby, and displaying what is collected.

Amongst the societies taking part will be The Great Britain Philatelic Society, who will be showcasing what they offer members, including their award-winning website, and exhibits on a variety of different GB collecting areas. Other Societies taking part will include: The Royal Philatelic Society London, National Philatelic Society, British West Indies Study Circle, Birmingham Philatelic Society, and the Leeds Philatelic Society.

The Kay Goodman Lecture will be given by Bill



Hedley, the current President of FEPA, who will give an international perspective. There will also be presentations by The Philatelic Traders' Society and others.

Although Congress is spread over four days, it is possible to attend as a day visitor if there are any particular areas of interest. For more information, a copy of the booking form and the draft Congress programme just visit the ABPS website at: www.abps.org.uk/philatelic-congress

CHERRYSTONE OPENS LONDON OFFICE



US auction house Cherrystone Auctions has opened an office located steps from the Royal Philatelic Society London at 60 Cannon Street, and has announced the appointment of Anthony Bard, FPRS as their new European representative.

Cherrystone Auctions brings over \$30 million worth of stamps and postal history to market yearly, and recently became an 'Auction Partner' on the www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website. With the US dollar performing well against both the Pound and Euro, the auction house is now looking to accept

more consignments from the UK. A spokesperson said: 'Based in the United Kingdom, Tony will be able to meet and consult with clients, as well as accept consignment for future Cherrystone sales... now is a great time to consign your philatelic property to Cherrystone. Our frequently held auctions, minimal customs regulations and ability to settle in the currency of your choice makes consigning with Cherrystone a seamless experience. Tony and our other representatives are happy to travel to your home or office, both in the UK and Europe, for all suitable properties.'

Find out more by contacting Tony to schedule an appointment, on email: tonybard@cherrystoneauctions.com; tel: (+44) 07977 989812.

NEW SWISS STAMPS SMELL OF CAMPFIRES

Swiss Post have issued a new stamp, celebrating the Swiss Guide and Scout Movement National Jamboree, which emits an aroma of campfires when rubbed.

Around 30,000 scouts and guides are expected to attend Switzerland's National Jamboree this year between 23 July and 6 August. A huge campsite will be set up in the Goms region of Valais, with the theme of the event being movement.

To mark the Jamboree Swiss Post launched a design competition which was won by the team that had previously designed the jamboree's logo and graphics. The stamp features a rub-off aroma coating and is one of four stamps on the theme of Swiss traditions and icons.





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ISLE OF MAN

100 years of the BBC



The Isle of Man has issued a set of twelve stamps marking 100 years of the BBC. Designed in collaboration with BBC Studios, the stamps celebrate many of the BBC's iconic programmes – from *Doctor Who* and *Match of the Day* to *Blue Peter* and *Strictly Come Dancing*.

The British Broadcasting Company was formed on 18 October 1922 by a group of leading wireless manufacturers including Marconi. Manxman Sir Frank Gill played a vital role in the formation of the BBC, convincing six organisations to form under the British Broadcasting Corporation entity. Daily broadcasting by the BBC began

in Marconi's London studio on 14 November 1922. It is now the world's longest running, continuous public service broadcaster, and the first to mark its centenary.

The topics were selected by Robert Seatter, Head of BBC History and Glazier Design following research into the programmes most popular with Manx residents. They represent a diverse anthology of the BBC's broadcasting with each stamp featuring a brief caption, and include the TARDIS from *Doctor Who*, the longest running sci-fi series in the world; the glitter ball trophy from the light entertainment series *Strictly Come Dancing*, together with Bruce Forsyth's immortal catchphrase: Keep Dancing!; and a Match of the Day logo from the much-loved BBC Sport programme, together with the memorable World Cup 1966 commentary: 'They think it's all over... it is now!'

The Beeb's greatest hits also include a nod to comedy *Blackadder*, *Eastenders* – accompanied by its cliff-hanger theme tune: 'Doof-Doof-Doof-Doof-Doof-Doof-Doof-Doof!' – and *Desert Islands Discs*, the Radio 4 show recently voted the best radio show of all time.

Robert Seatter, Head of BBC History said: 'The BBC is delighted to be marking one hundred years of the BBC with this special set of anniversary stamps for the Isle of Man. Selecting just twelve moments was extremely hard, but we hope we have captured something for everyone – across radio, television and online, and connecting with the range of genres from news and factual programming to comedy, children's, and entertainment.'

Issue date: 24 May 2022, www.iomstamps.com/bbc

JERSEY

Local island delicacies

Six Jersey delicacies feature on a new set of stamps illustrated by Jersey artist Ian Rolls. The stamps celebrate local food and drink including world-famous Jersey Royals, locally produced cider and the traditional baked snacks known as Jersey Wonders.

Jersey has a cuisine which enjoys both British and French influences, with a distinctly island twist added into the mix. Geographically, the Island's location also provides fertile soil and plenty of sun, fuelling Jersey's agricultural industry and resulting in high-quality ingredients.

Artist Ian Rolls is well-known in Jersey for his distinctive colourful and joyful watercolours, usually of Jersey coastlines and landmarks. Rolls says of the project: 'To be asked to create a series of images for Jersey stamps was both a massive honour and something of a challenge. The honour speaks for itself, but the challenge was to create designs that would have impact on such a small scale. I am definitely from the 'more is less' school of painting, so I've taken a playful approach and represented the

various local food and drink components floating around with lots of elbow room and not too much detail. The additional challenge was of course painting something that is essentially meant to be eaten or drunk and not closely observed!'

Featured on the six stamps are: Jersey Wonders, fried dough treats which are traditionally cooked as the tide goes out; world-renowned Jersey Royal potatoes; Jersey cider, which has been made in the Island for over 500 years; Jersey milk and ice cream, products of the famous Jersey cow; Jersey black butter, a traditional apple preserve and Jersey bean crock, which could be described as the Island's national dish.

The stamps have been created as part of a joint issue with SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Co-operations), entitled Locally Made Beverages, and the 91p Jersey cider stamp bears the SEPAC logo.

Issue date: 24 May 2022, www.jerseystamps.com



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FAROE ISLANDS

The first faroese book

The first book in the Faroese language was printed in 1822 when H.C. Lyngbye published the snappily titled *Faroese Heroic Ballads of Sigurd, the Slayer of the Dragon Fafnir and His Kindred*, and now a sheet of two stamps recalls the book's release.

The text was a transcript of a ballad derived from the extensive Faroese oral tradition, where songs are performed by a lead singer in a closed chain of dancers chanting along to the chorus. This Faroese chain dance is a combination of narratives, melodies and bodily expressions, where the lead singer through dramatic interaction with the dancers chants the main lyrics.

The early 1800s saw a growing antiquarian interest among the scholarly elite in the traditions of the common people. Songs and folktales were written down, edited, published and often became the basis for stringent academic studies that were far removed from the colourful folk traditions. Nevertheless, these texts later became crucial to Faroese identity and the main reason for the ancient Faroese chain dance tradition being alive today.

By writing down the oral traditions, publishing it in Faroese and thus reaching larger audiences, attention was drawn to the texts of the Faroese ballad tradition. It also raised an incipient understanding that Faroese could be considered an independent language.

The stamp issue celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first Faroese publication consists of a souvenir sheet with two stamps.



The KR29 stamp (on the left) is based on the ballad of Sigurd and depicts a chain of dancers swaying to the dramatic dragon ballad with the sheet music in the background.

On the second stamp KR43, the chain dancers chant the chorus next to the title page of the original publication. The stamp issue was designed and arranged by visual artist and historian Ole Wich.

Issue date: 16 May 2022, en.stamps.fo

UNITED NATIONS

Missions to Mars

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) recently issued six stamps and three souvenir sheets to celebrate human achievements on planet Mars, covering missions from the Emirate Mars Mission team, CNSA, and NASA.

Mars has been a source of curiosity for mankind since time immemorial and the space community has long strived to uncover the mysteries of the planet. The new UN stamps mark a historic year for exploration, with three missions reaching their destinations on and around the Red Planet during 2021.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mars 2020 mission landed on Mars on 18 February 2021. The Mission includes the Perseverance Rover and the Ingenuity Helicopter. The duration is expected to last at least one Mars year (about 687 Earth days). The objective of the Mission is to seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) mission to Mars launched its Hope Probe to study the Martian atmosphere and climate. It successfully entered Martian orbit on 9 February 2022. The orbiter confirmed the existence of a discrete aurora, a highly localized atmospheric phenomenon on the night side of the planet, and took note of water-bearing clouds that grow and shrink daily.

The China Nations Space Administration (CNSA) launched its first Mars mission *Tianwen-1*, which consisted of an orbiter, two deployable cameras, lander, remote camera, and the Zhurong Rover. The mission landed on the Martian surface on 15 May 2021. The scientific objectives will be achieved by remote and in-situ exploration jointly. The investigations from orbit will focus on the integrated and comprehensive exploration of Mars, for the purpose of establishing an overall scientific context of the planet.

The 58c stamp features Proctor Crater of Mars and the \$1.30 value shows the Mars 2020



Perseverance Rover, meanwhile the two Swiss Franc values show Mars taken by UAE Hope Probe (CHF 1.50) and the Emirates Mars Mission ready to launch (CHF 1.50). Finally, the €0.85 stamp features the pre-selected landing area for Tianwen-1 mission, and the €1 features the Zhurong Rover operating on Mars.

Issue date: 24 April 2022, unstamps.org

MONACO

Bees on the roof!

Bee hives have been installed on the roof of Monaco's Museum of Stamps and Coins as part of an ongoing campaign to protect the region's insects, and now the bees are celebrated on a €1.65 stamp.

Visitors to the famous Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies are usually keen to get inside to see the stamp and coin collections, but those with an interest in nature will also be pleased to see the green roof of the Museum complete with flowers, vegetation and bee hives.

Bee hives were installed on the building's roof over a decade ago, and the insects quickly settled into their new home, enjoying the added protection from a small army of black chickens who fend off the bees' predator, the Asian hornet.

According to the Monaco philatelic bureau, the cohabitation is 'quite appropriate, given that the city is a rampart against the pesticides widely used

in the countryside. In addition, the proximity to schools allows younger generations to be taught about the importance of these tireless and precise workers, with each insect playing a specific and vital role within an astonishing social structure.'

Issue date: 23 June 2022, www.oetp-monaco.com



LUXEMBOURG

Keeping the city green

By 2050, approximately 70% of the world's population will be living in urban areas, making it more and more important to integrate urban and green living spaces and create natural landscapes in towns and cities.

The growing number of urban dwellers increases demand for housing and green spaces shrink as a result. Due to increased development, many residential areas have high concentrations of pollutants, low humidity and extreme temperatures.

'Art can be a powerful instrument to raise awareness for these serious topics in a creative and vivid fashion,' says artist Ben Carter, who lives in Luxembourg and uses his works to foster an appreciation of the natural environment. His design on the L50g 'Villes plus Vertes' stamp reflects this need for a greener urban environment, showing a cityscape on the reverse of a leaf.



Issue date: 27 April 2022, www.postphilately.lu

ALDERNEY

Alderney Wildlife Trust

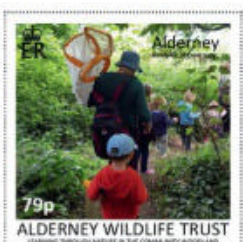
A set of stamps depicting the work of Alderney Wildlife Trust are to be released by Guernsey Post, as the charity marks its twentieth anniversary.

Established in 2002 to champion, study and protect Alderney's wildlife, the Trust aims to conserve the island's landscape, wildlife and its habitats. Its members use their extensive knowledge

to help the people of Alderney enjoy, understand and take positive action for wildlife.

AWT's CEO, Roland Gauvain, said: 'As we reach twenty years of age we are focusing very much on our community. As an organisation we have nature reserves, public access sites and carry out research. The coming year we will be making a big effort on sustainability, reducing carbon use and waste, both within the AWT but also on island.'

Issue date: 9 June 2022, www.guernseystamps.com



IN BRIEF

France recently paid homage to actress and singer Jeanne Moreau, who passed away in 2017. Moreau reached the height of her fame in the 1960s and won many awards and accolades, being described as 'the greatest actress in the world' by director Orson Welles. The €1.43 stamp features a black and white photo of the actress. www.laposte.fr

Latvijas Pasts, the postal service of Latvia, recently released a new stamp and cover to mark the centenary of the Latvian Olympic Committee. The stamp's design shows an athlete running with the Olympic torch, with graphics representing a number of sports in the background. pasts.lv/en

Åland Post's contribution to the Europa theme of 'Stories and Myths' features 'sjörå', a female water spirit similar to a siren, who would give fishermen good luck and protect them from drowning, although she was not so kind to badly behaved men. The €2.30 stamp is illustrated by Lasse Harkkala who explained why he included an array of creatures in the design: 'I think it would be cool to be friends with nature's wild animals, like the sjörå, and to be able to see the world from their perspective.' www.alandpost.com



Hungary have issued three stamps to kick off a series entitled 'Indigenous Hungarian Poultry Breeds' which will feature a different poultry breed each year. For 2022 we see the white Transylvanian naked neck chicken, the speckled Transylvanian naked neck chicken and the black Transylvanian naked neck chicken. www.posta.hu

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GB STAMPS



Paying tribute to the unsung heroes



Ten new stamps and a miniature sheet from Royal Mail illustrate the huge range of work women undertook during the Second World War, from code-breaking to farming, as our stamp review reveals

This new set from Royal Mail tackles the familiar theme of the Second World War – recalled, quite rightly, on a growing range of British stamps – but from a different angle, showing the effects the global conflict had on the female population of Britain, who often found themselves in new roles.

There is a poignant historical feel to this new set. Indeed, Royal Mail worked with Professor Lucy Noakes, Rab Butler Chair in Modern History, Department of History at the University of Essex, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, on the stamp issue, and also, Richard Poad from the Air Transport Auxiliary Museum and Professor Richard Overy, Professor of History at Exeter University.

Until 1941, women's work was voluntary, but the increased demands of a global war meant that female conscription was increasingly seen as necessary by the government. By the



The alternative location of SW1 represents the location of the Memorial to the Women of WWII on Whitehall



middle of 1943, the majority of women in wartime employment, both full and part-time, were working in industry, agriculture and the women's services. The women's auxiliary services were established at the outset of the war: the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1938, and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1939.

To begin with, roles in the ATS were limited to cooks, cleaners, orderlies, store-women, and drivers, but as the war went on these were expanded to include other duties, notably work on the anti-aircraft sites. More roles were open to women in the WAAF and the WRNS,



while the 'Spitfire women' of the civilian Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) delivered planes to airfields around the country.

Among the volunteers were many women from the then British colonies and Dominions, who served in the auxiliary and medical services. Other women worked as nurses, air raid wardens and tube and bus drivers, while over one million women volunteered with the Women's Voluntary Services. At the war's end, many of these roles disappeared, but women's contribution to the war effort is commemorated by the Women of World War II memorial in central London.

David Gold, Director External Affairs & Policy, Royal Mail, said: 'These stamps are a tribute to the millions of women who contributed to the war effort and the Allied victory. Their bravery and sacrifice is often overlooked, but





their work helped to drive some of the post-war social changes that eventually saw equal opportunities and equal pay legislation. We must also remember the women who supported the war effort at home, managing households despite the unceasing demands of total war.'

The stamps in detail

Entitled 'Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II', the main set of ten stamps illustrate the huge range of work women undertook during the war years. Included is a rare photograph showing female codebreakers working at Bletchley, where they translated Axis material and operated the complex cryptographic machinery.

The 1940s-style captions of each of

the ten 1st class stamps gives a brief explanation of the women featured in the photographs, and we see a wide range of roles, some closer to the 'action' than others but all vitally important to the country's war effort. From the secretive office-based work being undertaken at Bletchley Park to the agricultural work of the Women's Land Army, each contribution depicted sees women stepping into roles that before the war would have been considered 'men's work'.

Whether it was working in munitions factories or looking after the public during air raids, maintaining military vehicles or providing essential medical support, the women featured on the stamps bravely volunteered to



help the cause and, despite many of the roles disappearing after the war, helped to challenge the gender-related stereotypes of the time.

STAMP DETAILS

Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II

Issue date: 5 May 2022

Design: Supple Studio

Stamp Format: Square

Number per sheet: 50 / 25

Stamp Size: 35mm x 35mm

Printer: International Security Printers

Print Process: Lithography

Perforations: 14.5 x 14.5

Phosphor bars: as appropriate

Gum: PVA

1st - Protecting Civilians: Air Raid Precautions

1st - Deciphering Enemy Messages: Codebreakers

1st - Nursing on the Front Line: Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

1st - Supplying Military Production: Women's Voluntary Services

1st - Repairing Army Vehicles: Auxiliary Territorial Service

1st - Lighting The Way To Victory: Auxiliary Territorial Service

1st - Arming The Fleet: Women's Royal Naval Service

1st - Maintaining RAF Aircraft: Women's Auxiliary Airforce

1st - Powering The War Effort: Factory Worker

1st - Meeting Britain's Demand: Women's Land Army

Miniature sheet details

Design: Supple Studio

Stamp Format: Landscape

Stamp Size: 41mm x 30mm

Miniature Sheet Size: 192mm x 74mm

Printer: International Security Printers

Print Process: Lithography

Perforations: 14.5 x 14

Phosphor bars: as appropriate

Gum: PVA

1st - Pilots Meet In Their Ferry Pool Briefing Room

1st - Pilot Climbing Into The Cockpit Of A Supermarine Spitfire

£1.85 - Pilot Completing Her Post-Flight Paperwork In A Lockheed Hudson

£1.85 - Pilots Of The No. 5 Ferry Pool Disembarking From An Avro Anson



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:

Bletchley Park, home of the codebreakers during the Second World War, is located in which English county?

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Closing date: 8 July 2022. Winners will be picked at random from all correct entries. Editor's decision is final. Good luck!





Miniature sheet

A further four stamps, presented in a miniature sheet, showcase the brave work of the Ferry Pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary – known as the ‘Spitfire Women’ – another ground-breaking group of women. The photographs of these pilots is just as poignant as the set of ten, the image of a group discussing manoeuvres in the briefing room evoking the type of heroic stoicism often associated with their male counterparts in countless war movies.

Prestige Stamp Book

A 24-page booklet is also available, and is written by Professor Lucy Noakes, Rab Butler Chair in Modern History, Department of History at the University of Essex. The book describes the outbreak of war, looks at the discussions around female conscription and then goes on to explore specific areas such as women in the military, women in industry, women from across the Empire, the Ferry Pilots, the front line, SOE and Home Front.

The book contains all fourteen stamps perforated as ‘panes’ within the book plus an extra pane of definitive stamps which is unique to the stamp issue.

It is interesting to note that this is the first PSB to include the much-discussed barcoded definitive stamps. As such it is a slightly larger size – 4mm taller than previous booklets – to accommodate this barcoded pane. According to Royal Mail, a larger leaf for the PSB album will be needed to accommodate this and was made available to coincide with the stamp set’s release.



COLLECTING GREAT BRITAIN

Machins need not be too daunting

In the last issue Richard West looked at the new definitives with ‘barcodes’, the latest addition to the long long list of Machin stamps issued since 1967.

As he explains in this month’s column, a collection of Machins can be as extensive and challenging as you wish



The ‘barcoded’ definitives are the latest chapter in the Machin story that began on 5 June 1967 and has since resulted in hundreds of different stamps, and about which countless thousands of words have been written. Catalogues and handbooks have studied the various aspects, while the Machin

Collectors Club and Modern British Philatelic Circle keep enthusiasts up to date with developments.

I suspect that there are collectors who can recall the launch of the stamps in pre-decimal currency days: perhaps a few still continue collecting the series. Unravelling the variations can certainly prove complex. For some, the new larger format, barcode versions may come as a blessing: a chance to draw a line under the collection. For others it could provide the opportunity to start on a Machin collection, perhaps embracing the extension of the ‘barcode’ principle to the likes of the Christmas stamps, and the trials to ensure machine cancellations avoid the code.

The very complexity of the Machins means they can appeal to most collectors, whether preferring something straightforward or wishing to delve into the intricacies.

Up till now, for those wanting a beginning and an end, the most obvious choice has been the pre-decimal versions. These provide plenty of variety, with variations in the lighting of the plaster cast created by Arnold Machin and the gum used, plus a range of errors and varieties, booklets including the £1 ‘Stamps for Cooks’, and rolls (and no need to worry about watermarks).

More recently there have been the ‘security background’ versions. Before decimal currency, checking the dates on coins was a popular pastime. Now collectors can look at the security printing behind the Queen’s portrait and determine the year of printing and the source of the stamp (counter sheets, booklets, business sheets). Even the security printing on the backing paper to the stamps provides variations.

Over the years the Machin definitives have provided many opportunities for study without the need to collect everything. Possibilities include the work of particular printers: several have been involved from Harrison and Sons and Bradbury, Wilkinson initially to Cartor Security Printers today. There have been different printing processes starting with photogravure (later using computer etched cylinders) and recess, before lithography was employed. The introduction of self-adhesive stamps heralded a new era.

Colours have ranged from the original pre-decimal selection, to the early decimal results of the experiments conducted at Cambridge University. Then came the Jeffery Matthews’ palette, before a further change in 2013.

What might seem the very straightforward ‘1st’, ‘2nd’ and ‘E’ non-value indicators in fact reveal a complex story, with different printers, processes, colours and sources.

Different sources means not just sheets but also booklets. Here the possibilities range from stitched to the folded booklets with pictorial covers, the current retail books, while not forgetting the Machin panes in Prestige stamp books.

By carefully defining your boundaries, Machins need not be too daunting.



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



AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



IMPERFORATE BLOCK

Spink's recent 'Important Stamps and Covers of the World' sale included a lower left corner block of four of the British Guiana 1934 4c. slate-violet, with missing horizontal perforations. The lot was said to be 'an extremely rare multiple of this variety and unique positional piece' and the catalogue went on to explain the scarcity of the item: 'From the original single sheet of sixty,

yielding some thirty pairs of the variety, 26 or thirty were cut into singles and sold in the normal course of business, eight or twelve were purchased by a local clergymen who complained to the Post Office that he had to separate the stamps with scissors. The remaining quantity were bought over the counter at the Post Office. No example of this variety is present in The Royal Philatelic Collection.'

SOLD FOR £38,000



THE RARE ST LOUIS BEAR

The 'David W. Gorham Collection of Outstanding Used U.S. Stamps' was recently on offer at Robert A Siegel in New York. A range of rare Postmaster Provisionals – the local stamps produced and used by cities before the US postal service was introduced – were on offer to kick off the sale. Highlights included a Baltimore, Maryland, 5c Black on

Bluish on piece; one of just 57 examples of the Brattleboro, Vermont, 5c Black on Buff stamp; and a St Louis, Missouri, 20c Black on Grey Lilac (illustrated), which fetched \$28,000. With large margin, a detailed impression, and a neat pen cancel which leaves the entire design clearly visible, the stamp was described as being 'a fine and very rare sound example'.

SOLD FOR £22,195



EXTRAORDINARY ISABELLA ERROR

An 'extraordinary specimen' of Spain's 1851 5r, printed in the incorrect colour, was one of the highlights of the Soler y Llach SL sale recently held in Barcelona.

The stamp boasted incredibly fresh colour, with original gum and was said to be one of the best examples known.

SOLD FOR £6,735



LONDON TO LONDON... WITH A TRAGIC END

The recent Cherrystone sale featured a wide range of material, including a rare cover from Canada to England, with a tragic story to tell. The star was sent from London, Canada to the Controller of the London Postal Service in London, England in 1927, and featured a 1927 25 cents green and yellow Air Post Semi-Official, along with a 3c Confederation (defective), tied by a boxed 'Air Mail - London, Canada to London, England 1927' three-line handstamp, with corresponding London Aug. 29 1927 cds alongside (both repeated on the back).

The auction house explained: 'This is the cover which was prepared, properly postmarked and not included in the mail bag loaded on the flight. After the scheduled stop at Harbour Grace, on the long stretch to England, the aircraft plunged into the Atlantic Ocean, killing the crew of two. The airplane was never recovered. According to the accompanying 2003 AIEP certificate from Sergio Sismondo "this is, therefore the only surviving cover from the tragic pioneer flight, and is the only used example of "London to London" on cover.'

In 1927, Carling Breweries offered a \$25,000 prize to the first Canadian or British pilot to fly from London, Ontario to London, England. A Stinson SM-1 was christened *Sir John Carling* and attempted the flight starting 29 August 1927, flown by pilot Terrance Tully and navigator James Medcalf. The Canadian Postal authorities approved the printing of a special label to be applied to the envelopes which were to be carried on the flight.

Only 100 labels were printed and approximately 87 were affixed to envelopes. The flight had difficulties with fog and returned. It restarted on 1 September and made a landing in Maine, then later in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. On 7 September the flight set off across the Atlantic, never to be seen again. The special label which was officially approved features portraits of the two aviators.

SOLD FOR £53,200



SCARCE WATERMARK VARIETY

This block of four 1924 King George V 2 1/2d blues, with no watermark, was recently sold by Stanley Gibbons. The unmounted top left marginal corner block featured original gum and was said to be a scarce watermark variety.

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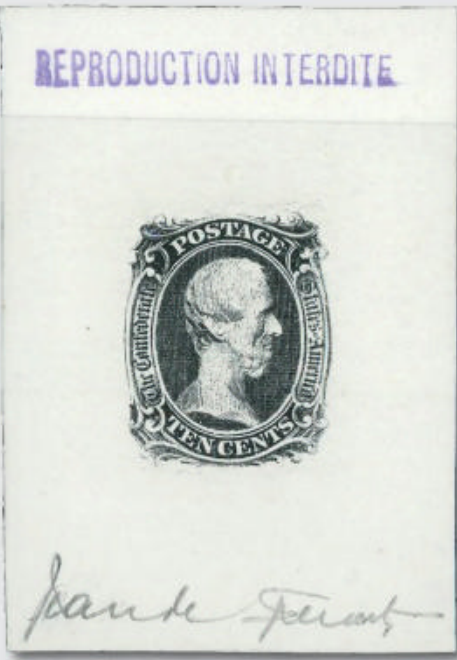
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SUPERB SPERATI

Proofs, trials and essays of the USA and Great Britain were on offer at the recent Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions sale, but it was a forged example that was of particular interest to some, finding a new home for a relatively low price. The 'superb' 1863, 10c black, plate proof on glazed paper, was a forgery created by the renowned Italian stamp forger Jean de Sperati, and featured his signature at the bottom along with a violet handstamp reading 'Reproduction interdite'.

SOLD FOR £275



TRISTAN RELIEF FUND

Harmers International's spring sale included never hinged examples of the 1961 Tristan Relief Fund set. Only 434 complete sets of this unusual issue were sold and far fewer still exist. The fund aimed to raise money to assist with the evacuation of the entire population of Tristan da Cunha following the volcanic eruption of Queen Mary's peak. The stamps were sold for a limited period and a reported £108 was raised. Years later, as this lot proved, the stamps are worth much more.

SOLD FOR £2,970



CHESSBOARD ERROR

This San Marino 200L stamp from 1965 sold for \$7,000 in the recent Cherrystone Auctions sale. The Europa 'Castles on Chessboard' stamp featured the red colour inverted, resulting in three of the red chess pieces being printed upside down and 'falling off' the chessboard. The example was well centred, never hinged.

SOLD FOR £5,733



LOVELY TUPENNY BLUE

Great Britain's iconic line engraved stamps continue to be eagerly collected around the world, and Harmers International recently sold this 1840, 2d blue, plate 1 'LE', for \$11,000. The stamp was described as being a 'magnificent example with four of the cleanest, most balanced margins one could hope to find... A lovely stamp'.

SOLD FOR £8,700

STAMP DETECTIVE

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

Johore stamp getting elusive

Johore is one of several states on the Malayan Peninsula which, along with Sarawak and Sabah, make up today's Malaysia. Johore issued its first stamps in 1876 and it is still an active stamp-issuing country

(albeit mostly low-value definitive stamps and the occasional commemorative issue).

On 15 May 1935, Johore issued an 8-cent commemorative stamp marking the fiftieth anniversary of treaty relations with Great Britain (not mentioned in English on the



stamp). Recess printed by Waterlow, the handsome stamp features Sultan Sir Ibrahim and the Sultana.

The Sultan's personal doctor had brought along his beautiful daughter from Scotland to Johore. Sir Ibrahim fell in love with Miss Helen Wilson and they married in 1930. Only three years after the couple had been depicted on a postage stamp, the Sultan divorced his wife and later remarried, this time to a lady from Romania.

In recent years this stamp has increased in value and dealers tend to charge as much as £4 for a mounted mint copy which seems to be on the high side as collectors tend to favour unmounted mint. When checking online auction sites, there are very few offers of unmounted mint.

So, £4 to £5 is a reasonable price to pay for an UMM copy of the stamp but make sure that the gum is of good quality and not affected by toning. It might even be a good idea to tuck away a few extra copies as this stamp very likely has a good future.

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ESTONIA 2 oz £33.00. **FAROE** 2 oz £42.00, 1/4 lb £78.00.

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France, Airmail 90c Berthelot overprint.
10f 1928 MH (signed with cert.)

SOLD FOR £1,566



Great Britain, 6d mauve (SG58)
1854 used (signed)

SOLD FOR £240



Belgium, potcard 'Hotel Fagne' franked 3x 5c
overprint. 'Malmedy' cancelled ambulant 'Malesherbe-
St-Vith' 1921 to Brussels

SOLD FOR £667



Switzerland, 'Orst Post' 2 1/2r black
& red 1850 regummed stamp

SOLD FOR £551



Mariana Islands, German 5pf green
overprint. 'Marianen' violet cancellation
Saipan 1899 (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £743



Portugal, 1e75 Cathedral of Coimbra
1935 block of 4 with corner MNH

SOLD FOR £400



Italy, local Issue Alessandria complete
set 1944 (signed)

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|----------------------------------|-------|
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INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

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BERMUDA

About 90 from QV to 4d, Dry Docks to 2 ½ d, range Caravelles 1938 to 1/=-, Key Plates 2/=- (3) 5/=-, 1953 to 10/=- 1962 to £1. Mainly FU Cat £300 **£45.00**

BRITISH GUIANA

About 80 from 1863 types to 24c., Later ship types to 48c KG5 to 12c, KG6 and QE to \$1. Mainly FU Cat £320 **£40.00**

About 70 from KG5 to 20c., KG6 to 60c, 1954 set plus some De Le Rue printing etc. Cheap lot **£20.00**

FRANCE

Few 100's virtually complete UNM 1986-9 inc M/S, Pre-cancels (complete) etc., then Council of Europe and 1947-53 'dues' most to 50Fr, 100Fr Cat £725 **£110.00**

Range in large stockbook from Peace and Commerce to 1Fr, Merson inc 1900 2Fr (FU) 1918 Red Cross (FU) then 1926 War Orphans set, 1929 to 20Fr (2) 1936 Air set to 50Fr (scarce) later with much useful inc 1949 Airs the 1000fr in superb CDS pair, 1954 Airs etc **£475.00**

GAMBIA

Many 100's from Cameos to 1/=-, K.Ed to 2/6, 1912 set to 5/=-, 1921 to 4/=-, Elephant and Palm to 5/=-, 1938 set, extensive QE2 fairly complete inc good M/S to 1985. Mainly M, later UNM Cat £2220 **£375.00**

GERMANY

West Berlin many 100's in Lighthouse hingeless album complete from 1948 Black O'Prints to 1988 (ex 1RM Red O'Prints) then complete late 1985 -90. Mixed mint or FU Cat £5400 **£525.00**

GOLD COAST

About 90 from QV to 1/=-, K.Ed to 6d., KG5 to 2/=-, 1928 to 2/=-, KG6 to 2/=- and 5/=-, QE to 5/=- FU Cat £275 **£35.00**

GREAT BRITAIN

100's in hingeless Lindner fairly complete 1952 -69 mainly UNM, then range dues for the sme period (few FU) Good solid lot Cat £760 **£110.00**

GRENADA

Many 100's from good range Chalons in very good condition, 1883 types to 1/=- inc several tete-beche pairs to 8d, 1895 set to 1/=- (M) 'Badge' vals to 1/=-, KG5 to 5/=- (both W'Mks) KG6 to 10/=- and \$2.50 extensive QE to 1976 with M/S etc Cat £2765 **£385.00**

HONG KONG

Few 100's FU mainly FU from QV to 96c, S'Charges K.Ed to \$1 (2) KG5 to \$2 (2) 1935 Jubilee set, KG6 to \$10, Centenary, U.P.U (M) QE fairly complete to 1970. Good lot Cat £1920 **£240.00**

B.P.O'S in China 24 mainly FU with 1917 Crown CA to \$2 inc 50c (3) \$1 (2) 1922 Script CA to 20c & 50c Cat £580 **£85.00**

KENYA UGANDA TANGANYIKA

About 160 from B.E.A 'heads' to 1r, Protectorates with K.Ed 2R, Kenya & Uganda range to 1/=-, Tanganyika Giraffes to 3/=-, K.U.T with 1935 Jubilee, KG6 set to £1, first two QE sets to £1. Mainly FU Cat £765 **£95.00**

LITHUANIA

20 first types with authoritative notes regarding errors, printings etc. Interesting lot **£50.00**

MEXICO

Many 100's FU in slim stock book unchecked in detail but good runs of long Air sets seen among others **£30.00**

MONACO

Some 100's in thick stockbook from 1891 vals to 5Fr., 1921 Baptism set, 1922 most to 2Fr brown, 1924 to 10Fr., 1933 Air (FU) 1937 Charity set (scarce) Dues Surcharges set etc to 1984. Nearly all mint or UNM **£275.00**

NEW BRUNSWICK

22 from imperf 3d (FU) then strong range mint and FU to 17c with shades etc. Good lot Cat £1360 **£200.00**

SPAIN

Colonies Many 100's in stock book from Cuba imperfs, extensive 'baby face' types, Philippines Cape Juby, Ifni, useful Morocco from O'Prints, Tangier etc. duplication in places but much of interest **£55.00**

TRIESTE/ VENEZIA GIULIA

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Port St George in the early 19th century

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

Stamps and covers from Grenada's Classics era

In his regular price guide, Ed Fletcher looks at the early history of Grenada, and examines some of its stamps and covers dating from the colonial years during the reigns of Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI

On his third expedition to the New World in 1498 Christopher Columbus, exploring the Caribbean Sea to the north-east of Venezuela, sighted a group of three islands with a combined area about equal to the

Spanish island of Ibiza. Although he did not venture ashore, he took possession of them on behalf of the Spanish crown, and named the largest Concepcion, after his flagship.

During the next century several bands of Europeans – Spanish, French, and English – landed and traded with various Carib and American natives; but no permanent settlement was attempted until 1609 when a substantial party of English arrived and began to construct a fortified stronghold. For reasons unrecorded, a larger party of natives attacked the settlement a few months later and massacred all Europeans.

There matters rested until a well-armed French force more than two hundred strong arrived from the island of Martinique in 1649. Intermittent skirmishes took place until 1654 when the French won a major battle that wiped out all resistance, with surviving natives fleeing to other Caribbean

worldstamps4u from Beverley, UK recently offered this 1886 1d on 1s orange, described as mint lightly hinged, with a selling price of £20 BIN, plus £0.85 economy delivery



QV 1861 bluish green 1d; described by seller Nowallp Stamp Store, Nebraska, USA as: mint lightly hinged; exceptional centring for the era; rough perfs as expected, with an asking price of U.S. \$2,625 (£2,094) plus shipping.



Atticus Philately from Surrey UK recently offered this QV 1883 1d, with inverted wmark; describing it as fine, lightly mounted mint, with gum lightly toned. The BIN price was £49.99 plus postage



islands. Within a year the French had renamed the island La Grenade and built a substantial stronghold overlooking a deep natural harbour where the French navy stationed a flotilla of warship while the civilians got down to the business of growing sugar cane and indigo using slave labour from French jails and from mainland Africa.

France named the stronghold Fort Royale. Its natural harbour motivated



Britain to capture the entire island during the Seven Years War, with British possession finally confirmed much later by the 1783 Treaty of Versailles. The stronghold took the name Fort George, and the town that grew around it became St George. Sugar plantations soon sprang up, worked by slaves brought from Africa. Emancipation had freed them all by 1838 and many returned to Africa, replaced by indentured labourers from India. Unexpectedly a more profitable commodity came to Grenada in 1843 when a merchant ship called and accidentally left a sack of nutmegs at St George. Local landowners tried planting them, and Grenada shortly afterwards became one of the world's leading nutmeg exporters.

In the 19th century no major economy could survive without good long distance postal communications. Grenada took advantage of them from 1858, using stamps of Great Britain supplied by London to a post office at St George until the island's own

stamps arrived in 1861 and 1862: the famous Chalon Heads, recess printed by Perkins, Bacon in 1d and 6d values. They were used on all mail, including the local postal services which commenced in 1861. The same strikingly beautiful Victoria portrait served on Grenada's stamps for more than twenty years, with alterations to colours, perforations, values, watermarks, and use of overprints, meeting all requirements.

In 1883 a switch from recess to typo printing methods came with the awarding of the contract to De La Rue. The seven values in their first set (½d to 1s) had a standard design very similar to contemporary GB stamps of that year: a left-facing profile of Victoria in a square frame with 'GRENADA POSTAGE' above and the value in lettering ('HALFPENNY' for example) beneath. 1886 to 1894 brought a return to Chalon Heads when recess printed revenue stamps were pressed into service to meet a need for more low values. The revenues,





GV 1934 black/violet 5 s.; perf 12.5; mint. Asking £25 with 95p standard delivery. Seller: wilsonedward2011 from Evesham



WorldwideStampsOnline from Canada recently offered this GVI 2s from the 1938 set, describing it as mint never hinged and asking \$22.99 (£18.30) plus shipping



1937 Grenada First Day Cover: King George VI Coronation, to Westminster, London. Seller: aztec-collectables from Florida USA, asking U.S. \$19.99 (£15.95) plus \$3 postage

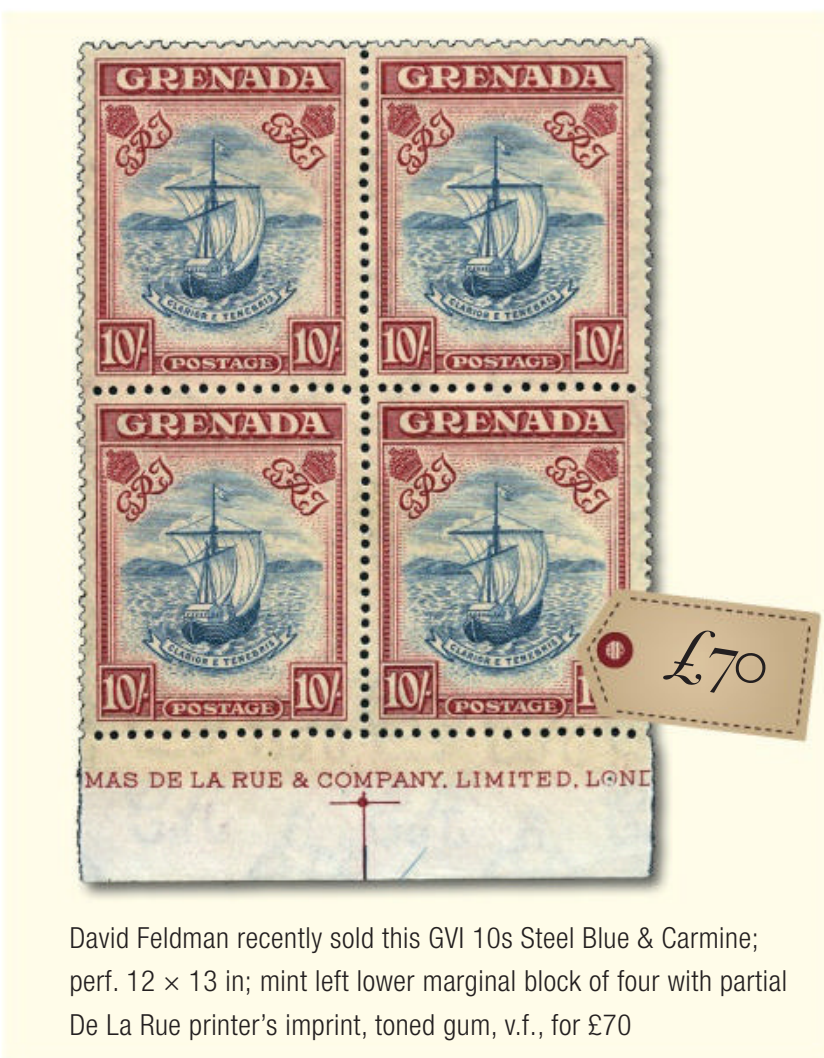
which carried no denominations, were overprinted POSTAGE together with a required value. For the last definitives of Victoria's reign De La Rue produced a typographed set of eight values in 1895. They displayed a left facing portrait, with numeral value tablets replacing lettering. A solitary commemorative stamp, a 2½d ultramarine showing Columbus's flagship; recess printed by DLR and issued in 1898, celebrated the 400th anniversary of the island's discovery. It named the flagship, thus placing the original name of the island (Concepcion), together with the British name (Grenada), on the same stamp.

Edward VII's first two issues appeared in 1902 and intermittently during 1904 to 1906. Very similar in design to his mother's stamps of 1895, Edward's two sets were identical to each other, apart from their watermarks: Crown CA in 1902; Multiple Crown CA in 1904. From 1906, however, the monarch's head issues gave way to stamps depicting

Grenada's Badge of the Colony, which featured Columbus's flagship in a circular frame. The reign of George V brought a return to monarch's head designs, which appeared on all stamps until 1934, though the issues of 1916 carried 'WAR TAX' overprints.

A dramatic change occurred in 1934 when Grenada issued a pictorial set of ten large stamps that included three different views of coastal scenes around the island, as well as a large Badge of the Colony design. Values in the set ranged from ½d to 5s. A GV Silver Jubilee set of four rounded off the reign.

George VI's Grenada issues commenced in 1937 with a three-stamp Coronation set (1d, 1½d and 2½d) in violet, carmine and blue. They were followed in the same year by a ¼d stamp, reissued over several years to 1950. (I presume that, like most other colonial farthing stamps, it found use on newspaper deliveries.) The pictorials of the previous reign were re-issued,



David Feldman recently sold this GVI 10s Steel Blue & Carmine; perf. 12 × 13 in; mint left lower marginal block of four with partial De La Rue printer's imprint, toned gum, v.f., for £70



UK dealer 1st 4 Stamps Ltd from Derby, East Midlands, recently offered this GVI 1s black & brown, at £20 plus postage, describing the stamp as never hinged, original gum, no faults



worldstamps4u from Beverley, UK recently offered this GVI 1938 10s unmounted mint for £40 plus 50p economy delivery

with George VI portraits in 1938; and the reign also participated in the Victory stamp issue of 1946; the Royal Silver Wedding issue of 1948; and the UPU 75th Anniversary issue of 1949. The UPU stamps carried values using a new currency (100 cents = 1 West Indian dollar). New currency issues of the Badge of the Colony stamp rounded off the reign in 1951.

Readers considering Grenada collecting may be pleasantly surprised to find that stamps of all four reigns discussed above sell at attractive prices for newcomers. In general, only the higher denominations in the sets mentioned have prices that might marginally raise an eyebrow. Illustrated are some that give an idea of Grenada's pricier offerings, with well-centred, neatly perforated examples always topping the rankings...

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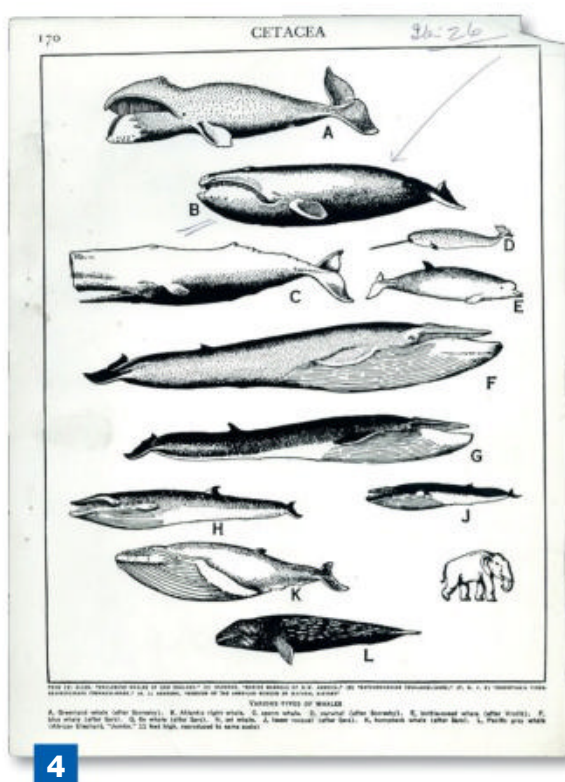
THE MAKING OF A STAMP

Marine Life in the South Atlantic

In the first of a new series, Richard Scott Morel FRPSL, Curator, the British Library Philatelic Collections, examines the design and production process behind Tristan da Cunha's 1960-1961 'Marine Life' definitive stamp issue

A volcanic island archipelago situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, Tristan da Cunha is renowned for its remoteness, flora, fauna and stamps! Appointed in April 1957 as Colonial Administrator for Tristan, Godfrey Francis Harris spent several years in post, overseeing the production of the 1 February 1960 'Marine Life' definitive stamp issues prior to his relocation to Nigeria in April 1959.

The issue's theme was logical enough given the dominant economic role fishing played within the archipelago. To develop each design; Harris sought inspiration from several different sources. The Crawfish vignette on the artwork of the 3d derives from H. Elliot's design on the Tristan da Cunha 2 January 1954 definitive issue 1/2d stamp, recess printed by Thomas De La Rue and Company (figures 1 and 2). Meanwhile, the vignette



The illustrations of the marine animals were taken from a number of sources including, for the 10/- whale, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*

illustrating an Atlantic Right Whale on the 10/- was taken from a plate published within the fourteenth edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (figures 3 and 4).

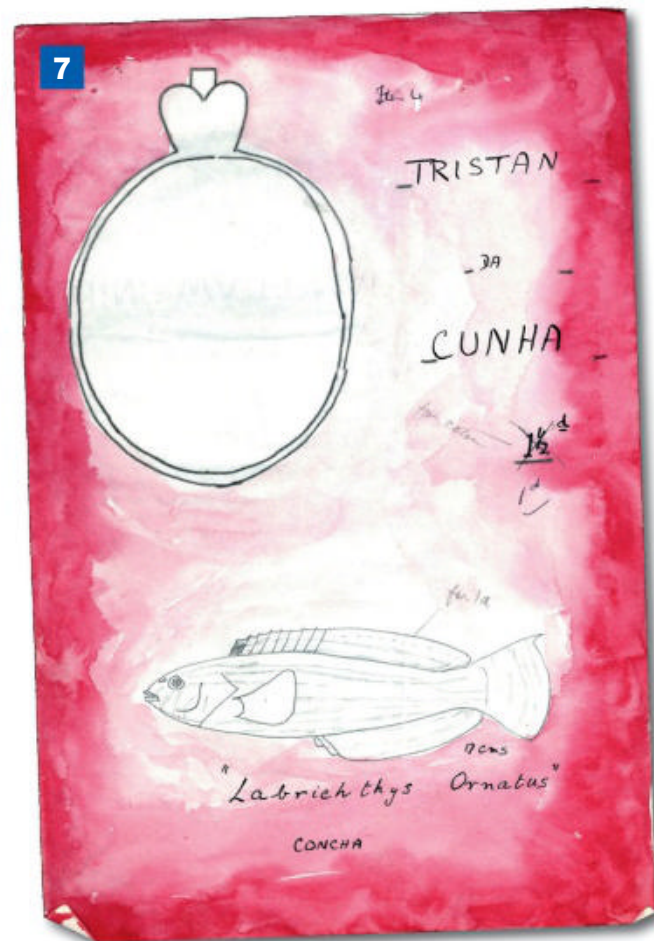
In contrast, the bulk of the vignette designs for the remaining artwork all originated from the historic Norwegian Scientific and



5



6



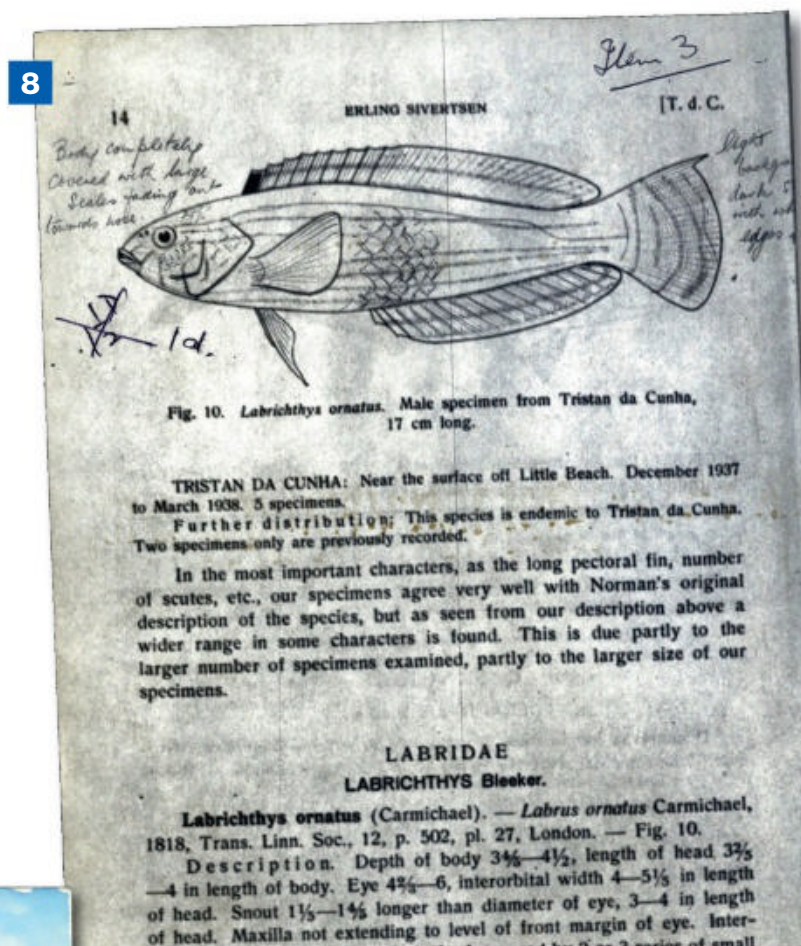
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Cultural Expedition to Tristan led by Erling Christophersen (1898-1994) between December 1937 and March 1938. One of the thirteen scientists participating in the expedition was the marine biologist Erling Siversten (1904-1989), who published 'Fishes of Tristan da Cunha' within *Results of the Norwegian Scientific Expedition to Tristan da Cunha, 1937-1938* (Oslo: Norske videnskaps-akademi, 1946). Aware of this monograph, Harris sourced twelve scientific illustrations from Siversten's work depicting Star, Concha, Klip, Heron, Sword, Soldier, Five Finger, Mackerel, Stumpnose, Blue, Snoke and Shark Fishes, tracing each one on paper to form vignettes for the 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d,

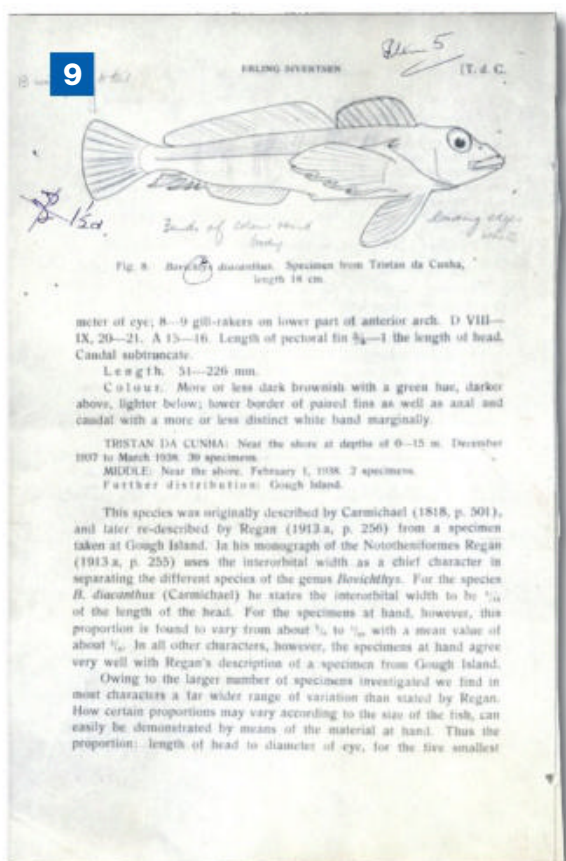
2d, 2 1/2d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values (figures 5-10).

Overall, the artwork possesses a rudimentary quality yet remains aesthetically balanced. Situated immediately above each vignette, on the top left hand side of the design is an oval frame, surmounted by a crown to bear Queen Elizabeth II's portrait. The space remains blank since the choice of portrait remained undecided, situated to its right, written plainly in biro pen, is the name of the postal authority and denomination.

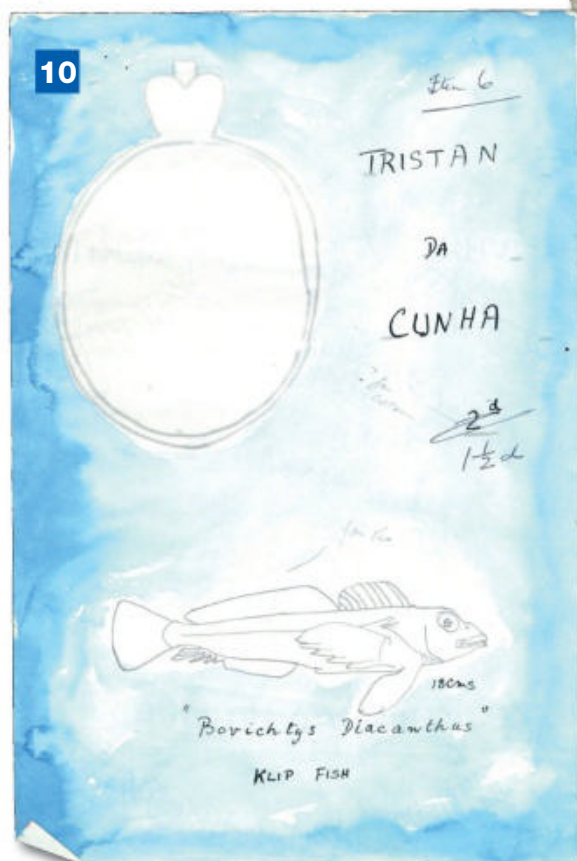
Immediately beneath every vignette, again written in biro, is the scientific name for each fish species in italics followed by vernacular



8



9



10

1960 DEFINITIVES

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| 1/2d. | 11,367 | 682,020 |
| 1d. | 5,117 | 307,020 |
| 1 1/2d. | 5,117 | 307,020 |
| 2d. | 4,534 | 272,040 |
| 2 1/2d. | 4,534 | 272,040 |
| 3d. | 5,117 | 307,020 |
| 4d. | 3,117 | 187,020 |
| 5d. | 2,534 | 152,040 |
| 6d. | 2,534 | 152,040 |
| 9d. | 2,534 | 152,040 |
| 1/- | 2,534 | 152,040 |
| 2/6 | 1,134 | 68,040 |
| 5/- | 1,134 | 68,040 |
| 10/- | 634 | 39,040 |

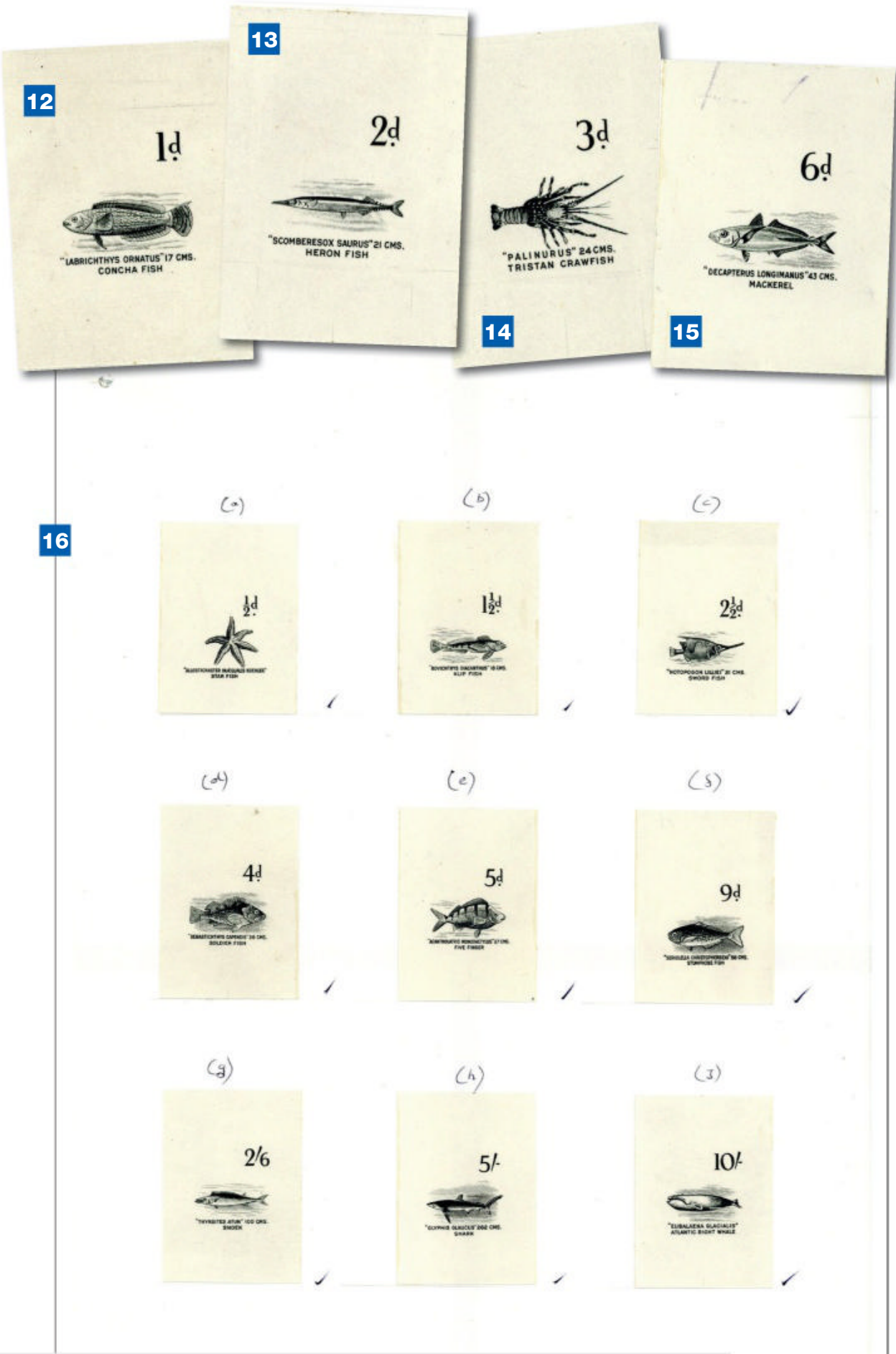


names and the recorded size of each species in centimetres on eleven of the fourteen designs.

Making them more eye-catching and bringing a touch of elegance to her husband's designs, Mrs Harris finally added watercolour borders to each one. Fully developed, these designs, along with Photostats of the relevant source materials, were forwarded by Harris to the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations tasked with overseeing the production and distribution of the new definitive stamp issue. They in turn sent the pre-production artwork and research materials on to the British security-printing firm Waterlow & Sons, contracted to recess print the stamps.

With Dorothy Wilding's (1893-1976) official portrait of Elizabeth II selected; house engravers at Waterlow developed the frame and vignette plates. Submitting black proofs of these to the Crown Agents, they rejected the vignette proofs of the ½d, 1½d, 2½d, 4d, 5d, 9d, 2/6 and 5/- (figures 11-15) on 15 October 1958. Amended as instructed, the previously rejected proofs received approval on 19 November 1958 upon resubmission (figure 16).

The submission of colour proofs for each stamp denomination to the Crown Agents followed, with all of them except the 2d value approved on 10 December 1958 (figures 17-20). The amended colour proof of the 2d being approved on 30



| 1961 DECIMAL DEFINITIVES | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Value | No. of Sheets | No. of Stamps | Date Dispatched |
| ½c. | 8,000 | 400,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 1c. | 3,600 | 180,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 1½c. | 3,700 | 185,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 2c. | 3,600 | 180,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 2½c. | 4,200 | 210,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 3c. | 3,800 | 190,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 4c. | 2,200 | 110,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 5c. | 2,600 | 130,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 7½c. | 2,200 | 110,000 | 8 February 1961 |
| 10c. | 2,200 | 110,000 | 16 February 1961 |
| 25c. | 1,600 | 80,000 | 16 February 1961 |
| 50c. | 1,500 | 75,000 | 16 February 1961 |
| 1r. | 900 | 45,000 | 16 February 1961 |



December 1958 enabled (figure 21) the stamp printing processes to begin in earnest. Recess printed in sheets of sixty, table one illustrates the initial quantities of stamps manufactured and distributed to Tristan da Cunha, St Helena and the Stamp Bureau on 1 June 1959. Out of the total sheets printed, 800 for the 1/2d and 400 sheets of the respective 1d, 1 1/2d, 3d and 4d values were set aside for the production of stamp booklets.

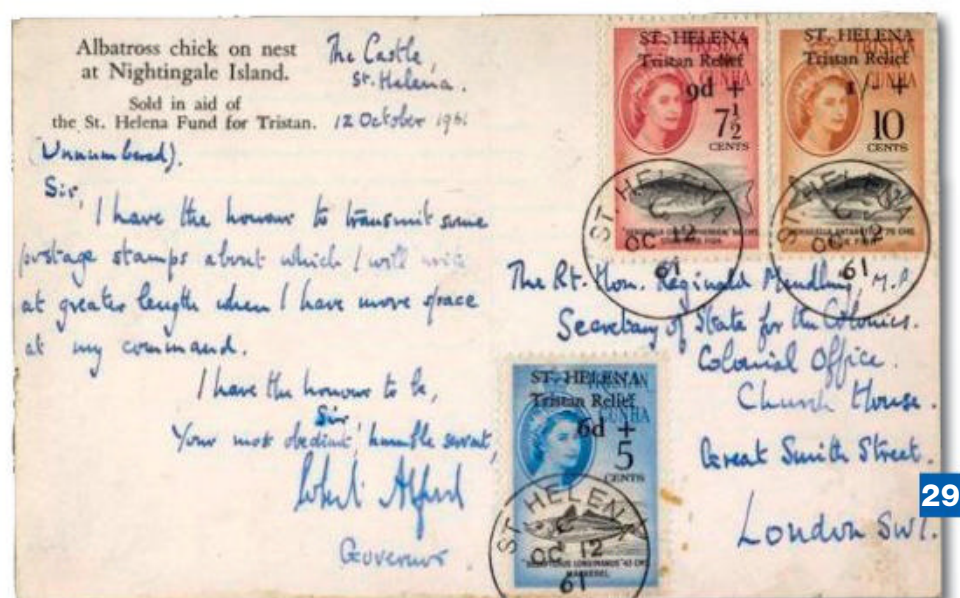
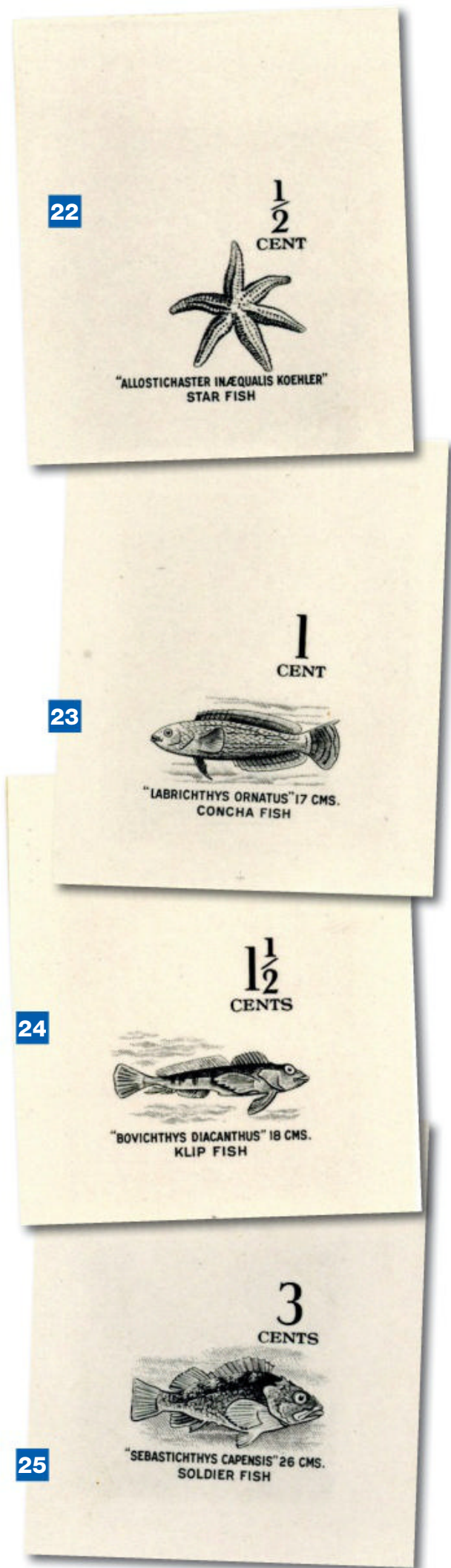
These 'marine life' stamps first went on sale on 1 February 1960, yet almost a year later Tristan da Cunha adopted South Africa's decimal currency system necessitating the creation of new vignettes for each definitive stamp.

Black vignette proofs for the 1/2c, 1c, 1 1/2c, 2c, 2 1/2c, 4c, 5c, 7 1/2c and 50c values submitted to the Crown Agents received approval on 8 September 1960 (figures 23 and 24). Those for the 3c, 10c, 25c and 1 rand denominations (figures 25-28) in turn received approval on 13 September 1960. Recess printed in sheets of fifty, table 2 records the

quantities of stamps printed and dispatched to Tristan da Cunha, St Helena and the Stamp Bureau between 8 February 1961 and 16 February 1961.

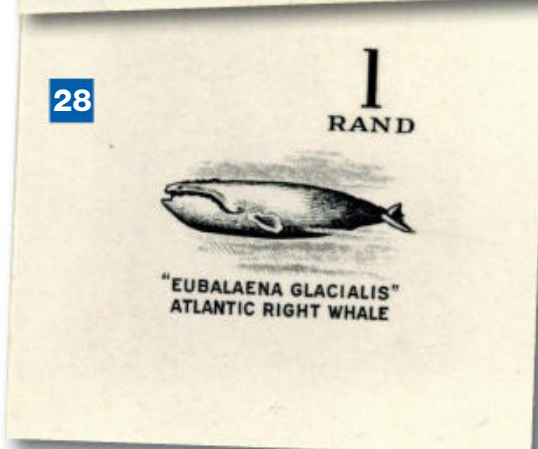
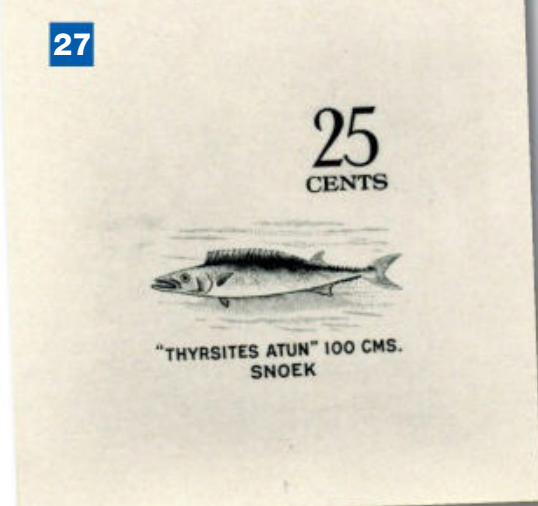
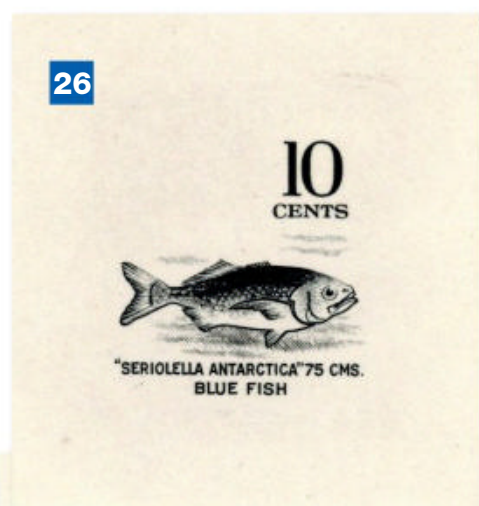
Finally, this amended definitive issue went on sale on 15 April 1961 just months prior to the evacuation of Tristan following a major volcanic eruption. The authorities on the neighbouring island of St Helena wishing to create a 'Relief Fund' for the assistance of Tristan's displaced community ordered sets of Tristan amended 'Marine Life' definitive stamps to be locally overprinted with 'ST HELENA Tristan Relief' alongside a surcharge value ring-fenced for the fund.

The Governor of St Helena, the Right Honourable Reginald Maudling writing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies informing him of this fact received instructions to withdraw them since only the Colonial Office in London could authorise the production of new stamp issues. With only 434 sets ever sold, these overprinted stamps are now included amongst some of the



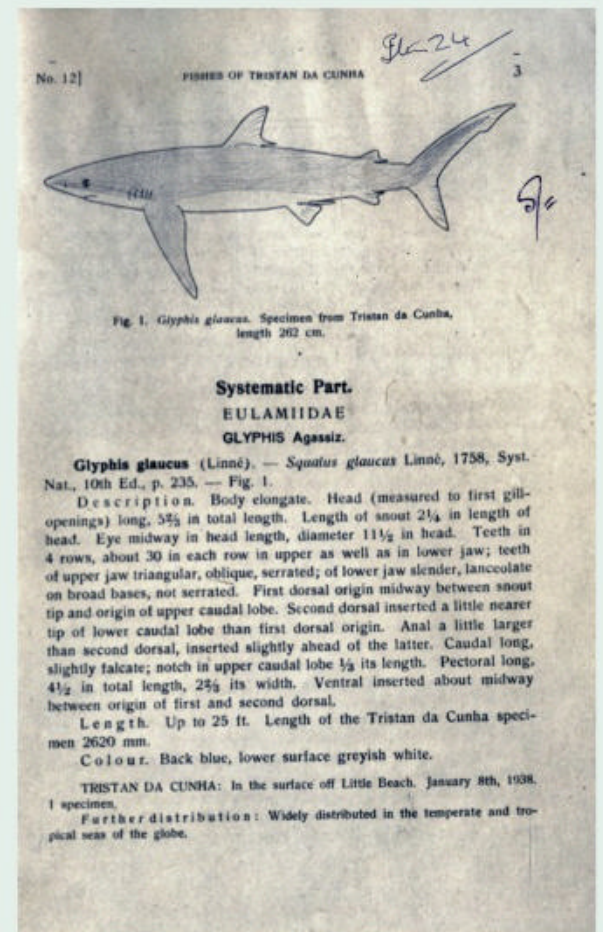
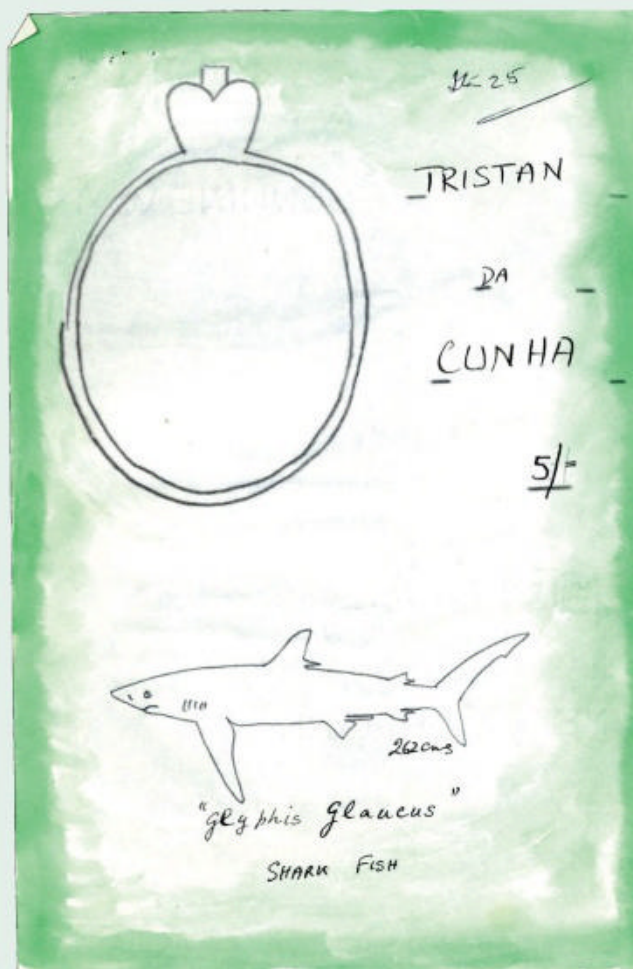
world's rarest modern stamps. The British Library's Philatelic Collections is fortunate enough to possess a postcard bearing three of the four values from the set (figure 29).

Tristan da Cunha's 1960 and 1961 'Marine Life' definitives are worthy of collecting for several reasons. They record Tristan's transition from a sterling to decimal currency system, whilst also providing a prologue to the historic volcanic eruption and evacuation of the archipelago directly leading to their use in the creation of major modern philatelic rarities. Aesthetically pleasing designs, each one also stands testament to Waterlow's fantastic recess printing techniques, whilst culturally demonstrating how scientific research, artistic creativity and industrial endeavour can combine for innovative purposes.

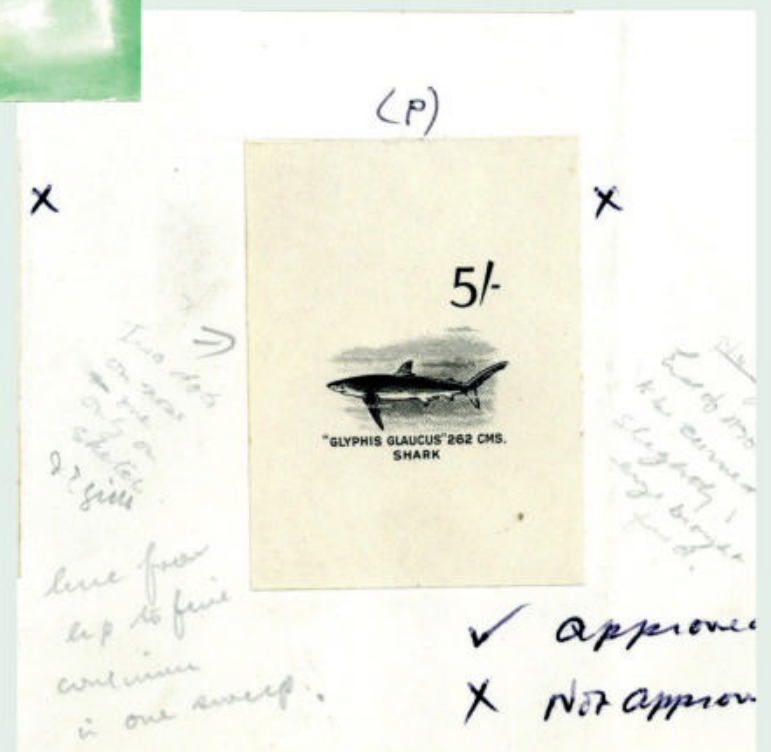


THE DESIGN EVOLUTION

The essays and records in the British Library Philatelic Collections helps to show the evolution of the stamps, from basic sketched design to final product. Here we see the scientific illustration of the shark from the paper 'Fishes of Tristan da Cunha', produced in 1946 following a Norwegian scientific expedition to Tristan da Cunha



The essay below shows how the basic scientific illustration was embellished with shading and background, and the caption and value added, before the design was added to the stamp design



The British Library Philatelic Collections are the National Philatelic Collections of the United Kingdom. The collections were established in 1891 with the bequest of the Tapling Collection, and now about 50 important collections or archives are held, all of which have been acquired by bequest, or transfer from Government departments. Find out more at: www.bl.uk/collection-guides/philatelic-collections

Letter from Andropov

This stamp was issued by the Soviet Union in 1985, writes Chris West. The story behind it takes us back to the Cold War, and has both a positive edge and overtones of sadness

The girl featured is Samantha Smith from the US state of Maine. She was ten years old in 1982, when relations between the Soviet bloc and the West were deteriorating at a terrifying speed. She decided to do something about this, and wrote to the newly elected General Secretary of the Communist Party (i.e. the Soviet Union's premier), Yuri Andropov, asking what he was going to do to prevent global war or, if he wasn't, why he wanted to have such a conflict.

The letter was published in the party newspaper, *Pravda* – but Samantha received no reply. Not a quitter, she contacted the Soviet ambassador in Washington. In March 1983, Andropov wrote back.

The reply makes interesting reading. Andropov expresses his hatred of war, citing the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Russia in 1942. He claims that his country wants to 'live in peace, to trade and cooperate with all our neighbours on this earth' and abolish nuclear weapons. He invited Samantha to visit Russia, an invitation she and her family took up in June of that year. She did not get to meet Andropov, as he had become seriously ill with the liver complaint that would shortly kill him.

Needless to say, the story generated a great deal of cynicism. People were reminded of Lenin's quote about the need for 'useful idiots'. A few months after Smith's visit, the world would come closer to nuclear war than it had done for two decades, when a malfunction in Soviet monitoring technology gave a false warning of an American attack (it was only due to the intelligence and bravery of a Russian officer, Stanislav Petrov, that a response was not launched).

Andropov's own track record was also examined. He had been Soviet ambassador to Hungary during the brutal putting down of the 1956 uprising in that country. He ended up a KGB General. His brief reign was notable for its suppression of internal dissent. Yet I wonder if he, like some senior figures in the Soviet leadership at that time, wasn't aware of the writing on the wall for his sclerotic, cruel system. Two years after he wrote that letter, the young Mikhail Gorbachev would be in power, attempting finally to reform the creaking Union and dismantle its weapons. I sense sadness in Andropov's reply. Is a dying old man hinting to a sparky young girl that his generation has failed to live up to its ideals and hoping the next one will do better? Or is it just well-crafted propaganda?

A greater sadness in the story is that Samantha did not live much longer than Andropov. She became a 'goodwill ambassador', inspiring young



Samantha Smith attracted worldwide attention as a 'Goodwill Ambassador' and even wrote the book *Journey to the Soviet Union* about her visit to the country. The Soviet Union issued this stamp in 1985 following her tragic death; other acts of remembrance included a new variety of Lithuanian violets being named in her honour, whilst a 32.7-carat diamond cut for the state Kremlin collection and a street in the Uzbekistan city of Chirchik were also given her name

people in other nations to work for peace. In a speech at the Children's International Symposium in Japan she suggested that the leaders of Russia and America swap granddaughters for two weeks a year. But in August 1985, she and her father were killed in a plane crash. This stamp was issued in her memory that December. It was designed by the prolific Yuri Artsimenev, who, ironically, also designed the first stamp of the new Russia that emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Perhaps an even bigger sadness is the dismal failure, so far, of that new Russia to evolve into the kind of nation that, in his letter to Samantha, Secretary Andropov (or whoever wrote it) said he hoped it would.



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Aspects of Monaco

Monaco is a tiny state with a population of just over 38,000, yet has issued over 3,500 stamps. That has sometimes led to criticism that it has little that is unique to the country that can be displayed on their stamps. The counter argument is the fact that Monaco produces stamps of the highest quality and with international interest. Richard Tarrant explains how an 'Aspects of...' approach can highlight the best of Monégasque stamps

Royalty

There have been many stamps issued featuring royalty past and present. Collectors can aim for a complete royalty collection or perhaps concentrate on the 27 superb large-format stamps issued between 1967-1981 that illustrated princes and princesses of Monaco and/or around thirty stamps issued from 1956 that illustrated Princess Grace, the former American film star Grace Kelly.



One of the 1942 National Relief Fund fifteen-stamp set of royal personages, this portrayed Princess Marie-Victoire



One of the Princes and Princesses of Monaco series, this 1968 stamp featured Prince Charles II



1928 stamp issued for the International Philatelic Exhibition in Monte Carlo and depicting Prince Charles III, Louis II and Albert I

One of the Princes and Princesses of Monaco series, this 1979 stamp is illustrated by Antoinette de Mérode. The stamp was engraved by Czeslaw Slania



1958 stamp issued to mark the birth of Prince Albert. The stamp depicted Princess Grace with Prince Caroline



Czeslaw Slania



Often claimed to be the foremost stamp engraver, Slania engraved no fewer than 235 Monaco stamps between 1974 and 2002. A collection of his work for Monaco is a superb aspect.

1994 stamp, one of a set of four stamps depicting mechanical toys. Czeslaw Slania both designed and engraved the stamp



1983 stamp from the Princess Grace commemoration sheet. The stamp was designed and engraved by Czeslaw Slania



1993 stamp issued to mark the tenth anniversary in 1992 of the death of Princess Grace. The stamp was designed and engraved by Czeslaw Slania

Monte Carlo Rally

First run in 1911, Monte Carlo Rally is a now a hugely popular and world famous annual event. At one time, competitors would set off from different parts of Europe and meet up in Monaco. These days, the rally takes place along the French Riviera in Monaco and southeast France. Monaco issued stamps to celebrate the rally in between 1955 and 1966, which form an interesting collection.



1966 stamp to mark the 35th Monte Carlo Rally. It showed the route map from London and so may also be of interest to collectors of the 'London' theme

International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo

Monaco has held the festival every year since 1974, with the 45th due to take place in January 2023. The stamps issued most years to celebrate the festival form an excellent collection.



1974 stamp, one of a set of seven to mark the first International Circus Festival in Monaco



1983 stamp to mark the ninth anniversary of the International Circus Festival

Red Cross

Monaco's first Red Cross issue was in 1914, since when there have been seventy stamps in support of the Red Cross. They include some interesting series that make Red Cross stamps well worth collecting, including saints (1969-1979), the twelve labours of Hercules (1981-1986) and Saint Devote (1987-1992).



1970 Red Cross stamp depicting 'St Louis', King of France



1983 stamp, one of the series of Red Cross stamps depicting the twelve Labours of Hercules. This stamp illustrated Hercules cleaning the Augean stables

Monaco International Dog Show

The show was founded in 1927 by Princess Charlotte and is still being held each year. There has been a single stamp (occasionally two) to mark every year's event since 1970. That has led to just over fifty stamps to collect, each featuring one or more breed of dog.



1971 International Dog Show stamp depicting a cocker spaniel

1976 International Dog Show stamp depicting six dachshunds

Pierre Gandon

The French illustrator and engraver, Pierre Gandon, contributed to the design or engraving of Monaco stamps from 1942 to 1996 and is regarded as among the best at both skills. A collection of his work is well worth pursuing.



1980 Europa stamp featuring the novelist 'Colette'. The stamp was designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon



1970 stamp designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon to mark the birth bicentenary of Beethoven



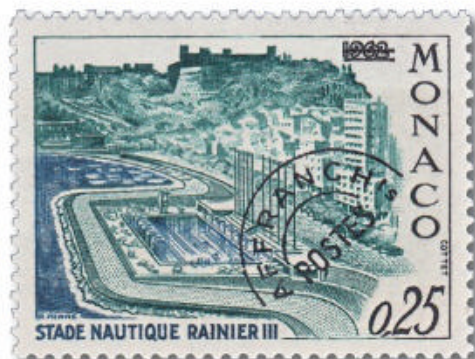
One of a set of 13 stamps issued in 1958 to mark the centenary of the apparition of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes. The 3f stamp, designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon, depicted St Bernadette at Bartres

1947 15f air stamp designed by Pierre Gandon, one of six stamps issued to mark participation in the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in New York



Pre-cancels

Precancelled stamps were issued to make mass mailing easier. Monaco overprinted existing stamps to indicate precancellation before issuing its first stamps specifically for precancel use in 1954. It ceased issuing such stamps in 1992, only to resume with four stamps between 2007 and 2018. In total, Monaco has issued 117 precancelled stamps, making a most attractive collection.



1965 precancel stamp depicting the Aquatic Stadium

Air

Monaco issued a single airmail stamp in 1933. Then, from 1941, it issued just over 100 such stamps until ceasing issuing airmail stamps in 1984. Many airmail stamps were part of sets of stamps where the airmails were the high values specifically for airmail.



1946 10f air stamp, part of a set of nine President Roosevelt commemoration stamps. This stamp was designed by Pierre Gandon



1966 air stamp to mark Princess Stéphanie's first birthday. Princess Grace is pictured with her children



1963 air stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of the first aerial crossing of the Mediterranean Sea, which was achieved by Roland Garros

Bygone Monaco

Hubert Clériss was a Monaco artist who lived from 1923 to 2000. His paintings included some illustrating Monaco during the Belle Epoque ('Beautiful Epoch'), a period of French and Western history conventionally dated from the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 to the outbreak of the First World War. Sixteen of Clériss's paintings on stamps were issued between 1982 and 1989. Each was engraved by Czeslaw Slania.



1982 stamp from the first Belle Epoch series, this depicting Hubert Clérissi's painting of the Royal Palace in 1893. The stamp was engraved by Czeslaw Slania



1983 stamp from the second Belle Epoch series, this depicting Hubert Clérissi's painting of "Café de Paris" in 1905. The stamp was engraved by Czeslaw Slania



One of the first series of Bygone Monaco stamps issued between 1984 and 1986. They illustrated paintings by Hubert Clérissi and were engraved by Czeslaw Slania. This 50c stamp depicted sailing ships in harbour

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

CINDERELLAS

New York's beautiful Cinderella

In the past poster stamps were often designed and printed in a bid to publicise (and help finance) stamp exhibitions, writes Christer Brunström. The 1926 International Stamp Exhibition in New York was celebrated in grand style on a set of four poster stamps.

The promoters went to great lengths to produce what must be one of the most beautiful designs ever seen for a stamp exhibition. The stamps were recess printed by the American Bank Note Company and the design features the two hemispheres with four different means of transportation (Pony Express, Steamship, Railway and Airplane). The result is simply superb!

The exhibition opened on 16 October 1926 at the Grand Central Palace in New York. It had 800 frames of exhibits. The famous British



Guiana 1c Magenta was shown by Arthur Hind (this stamp is now owned by Stanley Gibbons, as well as many of their collector and investors). There were also some fifty dealer booths and exhibits provided by the postal administrations of the United States, Canada, Austria and Sweden.

The US Post Office produced a large souvenir sheet for the exhibition. It comprised 25 stamps issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of White Plains which ended in victory for the British Army. At the time the souvenir sheet was not particularly popular and many have been broken up resulting in good quality sheets being quite scarce today.

When the exhibition closed on 23 October 1926 it had been a huge success according to contemporary reports in the philatelic press. It should be possible to acquire the poster stamp set for less than £10.

STAMP QUIZ

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

- 1 In the early decades of postage stamps, which country introduced an obliterating mark that did not deface the monarch's image?
- 2 In which year were letter delivery slots in front doors made a legal requirement in Great Britain?
- 3 Which country first issued a stamp portraying a British monarch in civilian clothing?
- 4 Which German state was first to issue postage stamps; and in which year?
- 5 Where were the first postage stamps of Greece printed; and in which year?
- 6 What was the name of the collector who first uncovered the Stock Exchange stamp fraud of 1872?
- 7 What were the pictorial elements seen on the first postage stamp issued by Newfoundland in 1857?
- 8 What was the pictorial element featured on the first stamp of Peru?
- 9 Whose portrait featured on the first stamp of Hungary?
- 10 What type of postage stamps did Portugal use as its first issues?



Q2



Q4



Q5



Q6



Q7

FIRST DAY COVERS

Wish you were here!

The centenary of the picture postcard was celebrated in 1994 and so it only seems right to feature this cover postmarked in the 'picture-postcard' seaside town of Scarborough to mark the event, though there may be more to this cover than that.

Official cover producer Adrian Bradbury always does his research and discovered the first British company to produce postcards was based in sunny Scarborough, indeed this was also where the earliest known picture postcard was posted from. The cover was produced in a limited edition of 250 and for those collectors who prefer the famous resort on the other side of the Pennines, his other cover featured Blackpool Tower.

At the time I was working at Benham and comedian Ronnie Barker



signed our covers, which I always rather liked. You could of course argue that his comedy, especially as part of the Two Ronnies, was seaside humour, but he was also a postcard collector so it fitted perfectly.

That year we were rather surprised that there was no issue to mark the centenary of Tower Bridge so, although rather unusual, we did this as an alternative cover for this issue.

Regular readers will know by now I like the unusual CDS postmarks and for this issue, you can find South and North Shire, Seaside and Seaview plus The Beach and The Pier to name a few, but for something really special, how about a Butlins postmark? If you were holidaying at Butlins in August 1994 and happened to use their post office this cover would be worth around £50.

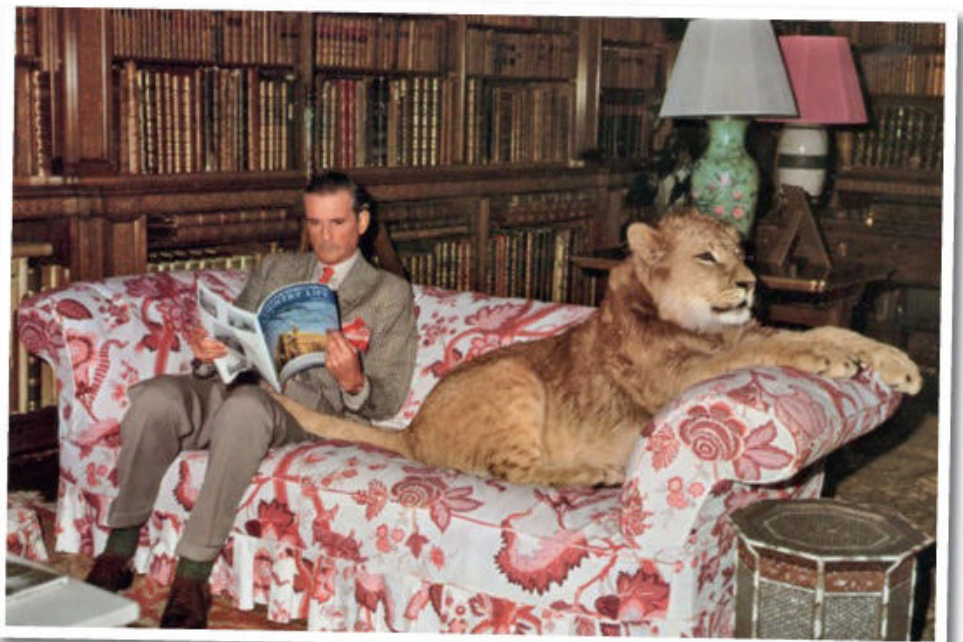
POSTCARDS

Life with the lions

Longleat House has been the seat of the Thynne family, later the Marquesses of Bath, since 1541, writes Richard Stenlake. The sixth Marquess had been MP for Frome in the 1930s but after the war to avoid financial ruin in 1949 he opened Longleat to the public. This allowed the Marquess to develop and add to his collection of paintings, including examples by one Adolf Hitler!

By the 1960s, however, other stately home owners had jumped on the bandwagon of opening their estates. Cue Jimmy Chipperfield of circus fame who in the 1950s had left the family big top to train and provide animals for movie work, then in the 1960s went into the safari park business at Longleat. Our first illustration shows the two partners around the time of the park opening in the spring of 1966 and is a scarce card published by the local Warminster Press.

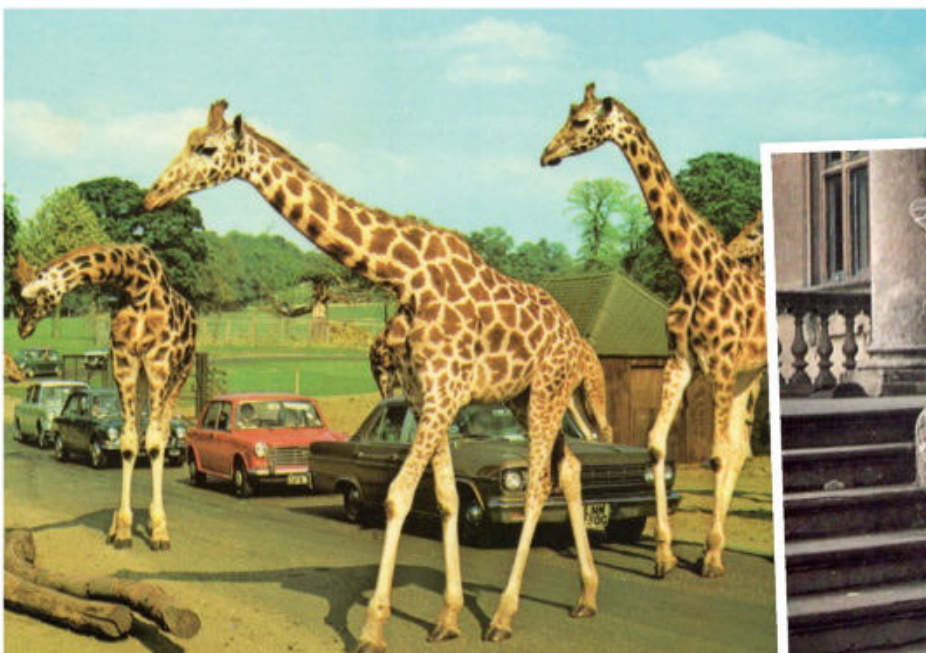
The opening caused a furore with questions in Parliament around fears that the lions would escape, but they were kept in their 100 acres by a fence frugally made from army surplus that had previously



been used for P.O.W. Camps in Korea. To keep costs down and for the photo opportunity too the Marquess happily greeted visitors personally and took their entrance money. After a hard shift he's seen relaxing with Marquis the lion. Not the size of cat you want scratching the furniture. This John Hinde image has to be one of my all-time favourites.

Jimmy quickly rolled out the safari park concept at Johannesburg

and over the next ten years was instrumental in the openings of parks at Windsor, Woburn, Blair Drummond, Knowsley, Lambton and West Midland, some of which subsequently closed. The giraffes are holding up the traffic at Woburn Wild Animal Kingdom on a postcard published by Jarrold of Norwich.



SOCIETY NEWS

Michael Musgrave was guest speaker at the recent **Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society** meeting, presenting his display on Australia. This was far from the usual presentation of the country and contained a wealth of material including triangular-shaped stamps, cable telegraph stamps from Tasmania, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel stamps as well as a wide selection of airmail and sea mail labels. In addition Michael displayed more specialist labels and a variety of strange postmarks, as well as stamps issued for exhibitions. For the second part of the evening the 'unusual' theme continued with a range of Frama labels, personalised 'My Stamps', trial labels as well as a selection of special postmarks. For details of the Society telephone Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or email: daveeverard@live.com. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Ron Goodfellow entertained fellow members of the **Dundee and District Philatelic Society** with his fourth display of 'Commerce in the Post'. Again his display contained commercial covers relating to retail and wholesale businesses along with printed matter from across the world. Also included was a sheet of Pink Stamps (Stir any memories?) and *Readers Digest* strips of stamps. The second half was devoted to hotels across the globe. The detailed information on each page showed the research that went into the display and gave it added interest.

Francis Podger was recently appointed chairman of Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) for 2022-23. The appointment took place at the 2022 ASPS Congress held in Perth.

Guildford & District Philatelic Society are seeking new members and welcome experts and beginners alike. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May in the Quaker Friends' Meeting House opposite the library in North Street, Guildford (GU1 4LH). Meetings are at 7pm for 7.30pm and typically finish by 9.15pm. The annual programme includes talks about stamp collecting



Francis Podger receiving ASPS President's chain of office from outgoing President, Colin Caskie

by expert speakers; 'bring and buy' sales; an informal club competition; and a Christmas social evening. A 'packet' of stamp approval books is circulated amongst the membership several times a year. The programme and further details can be found on the website: www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub

SHARE YOUR SOCIETY NEWS!

Send your society news and events to us and we will include them in a future issue of *Stamp Collector* ...or why not become a **Featured Society** and enjoy coverage on our website and in the Classifieds pages of every issue? Just email: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk to submit your updates or to find out more.

READERS' RESPONSE

Dear *Stamp Collector*,

As usual I have read Dane Garrod's 'Cover Explained' with interest. With the cover featured in the June issue of *Stamp Collector* he mentions the charge of '15' on the front.

From my experience with mail from Austria at this time the sender paid the cost of transmission to the border and this was entered on the back with any further charges noted on the front which had to be paid by the addressee. I think the system from Switzerland would have been the same so with this example the sender paid 28 and Madame la Duchesse, or her secretary, would have had to pay 15 when collecting it.

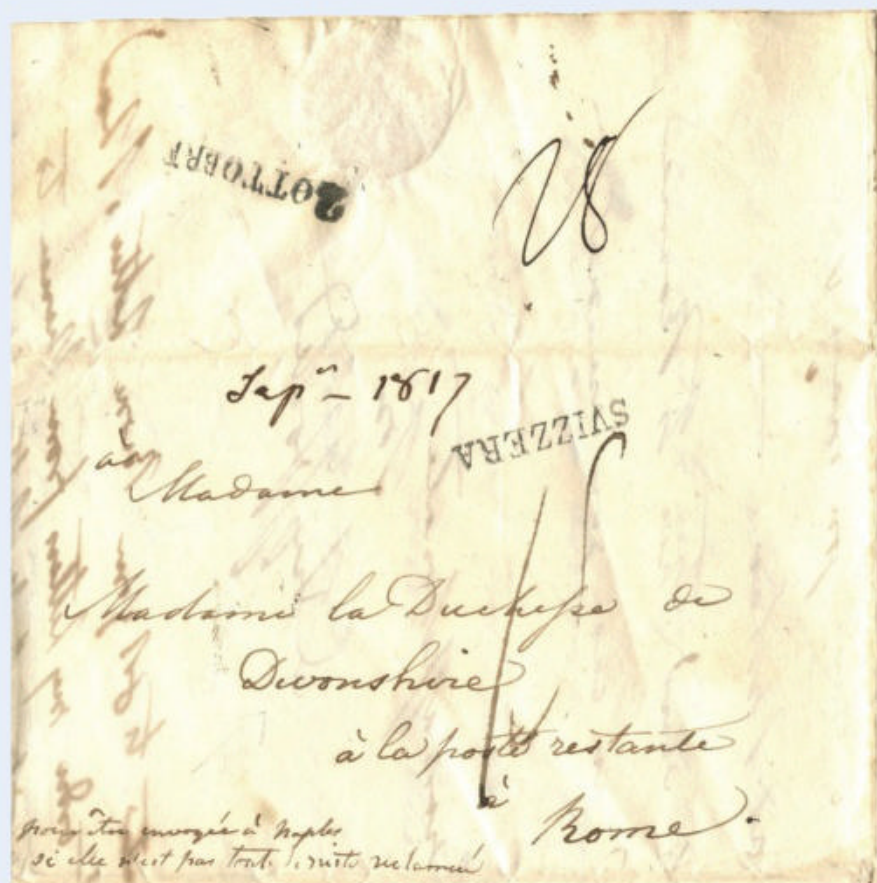
Joyce Boyer, via e-mail

Dear *Stamp Collector*,

Thank you for putting readers' questions to Royal Mail, to clarify some of the points raised from the seemingly complicated 'swap-out scheme'. I have a further question which you may be able to help me with. Like many collectors, I have many books of definitive stamps, some of which feature mixed denominations. Should we split these stamps up and sort them into different values, or can we simply send the book in, since the cover shows the swap value?

Stephen Dart, Bristol

Stamp Collector replies: Stamp booklets should be sent in as a whole, rather than being broken down, but do let us know how you get on.



The manuscript mark across the name and address, and appears to be '15', may have been paid by the recipient upon arrival. An earlier '28' charge can also be seen

IOM, the structure behind the stamps

Last month we looked at the stamps issued by the Isle of Man, writes Stuart Leigh, this time we'll explore how these stamps are produced and numbered

Similar to Royal Mail stamps, those issued in presentation packs, used on official First Day Covers and sent out from the philatelic bureau are pre-printed by CCL Label Ireland Ltd in lithography, including the service indicator, datastring and the images.

There are kiosks at various retail outlets, such as shops and stores, the Sea Terminal, the Douglas Sorting Office and the Main Post Office. These kiosks go under the banner 'Pay & Post' and are powered with Fujitsu printers, which have the value of the stamp without a border.



A smaller counter machine almost a hand held unit; an aCon Printer is used at the philatelic bureau and at exhibitions, producing similar stamps to the pre-printed stamps but with a different font. Post Offices use a desktop printer from Epson, producing stamps similar to those from the 'Pay & Post' kiosks but with a different font.

All the stamps carry a date of printing, using the Julian Calendar, the first two digits are the year and the following three being the actual date; '1-Jan-22' being '22001' and '31-Dec-22' being '22365' except for a

leap year when it would be '**366'.

The next string of numbers are the stamp identifier. The first three or four digits identify exactly where on the Isle of Man the stamps have been issued and the remaining numbers are sequential.

The final number, printed perpendicular to the others in the bottom right-hand corner, is the sequential stamp number pre-printed at the same time as the image from 1 to 600 on rolls of stock for the aCon unit and 1- 2,000 on rolls for the Pay & Post kiosks and Epson printers.



QUIZ ANSWERS

How well did you do?

1. Spain
2. 1923
3. Canada, in 1937
4. Bavaria; in 1849
5. In Paris, France; in 1861
6. Charles Nissen
7. Crown and heraldic flowers
8. Sailing ship
9. King Francis Joseph I
10. Embossed stamps



The first stamp of Greece was known as the 'large Hermes head' due to the profile portrait of the herald of the gods. It was engraved and printed at the Mint of France in Paris

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Ceres, Roman goddess of harvests, graced all imperforate postage stamps of France's Second Republic (1849 to 1852) in a range of denominations and colours

STAMPS OF THE FRENCH COLONIES

Collecting *France's Empire*

In the first of a two-part guide, Ed Fletcher describes how France acquired enough overseas possessions to match Great Britain as an empire builder, created an impressive postal communications network, and bequeathed to us numerous stamps from her round-the-world territories, protectorates, overseas post offices and colonies. You can still obtain many of them at surprisingly tempting prices

It has become de rigueur when writing about French Colonies stamps for the popular collecting press in Britain or North America nowadays to begin with a reminiscence on the pleasures of a juvenile treat. The delight came from opening and rummaging through a half-crown envelope or a \$1 bulk pack of those colourful French memory-joggers back in the late-Forties to early Sixties.

Allow me to uphold the tradition by recalling the thrill of thrusting my own stamp tweezers into an eagerly opened bargain package and withdrawing an all-action image of a pair of Togolese archers bringing down a full-grown water buffalo that had charged them with horns as deadly as their arrows.

Or perhaps the tweezers extracted an Ivory Coast specimen depicting

a camel train plodding a native trail through sparse landscape as a twin-engine cargo plane zoomed overhead. On a third dip my younger self might have discovered a French Polynesian stamp with a hair-raising view of twin-hulled canoes racing through South Sea waves. Or – to encompass the fourth point – what about an icy scene from the frozen north as two sled mushers hitched up their husky team for a trek across an ice field?

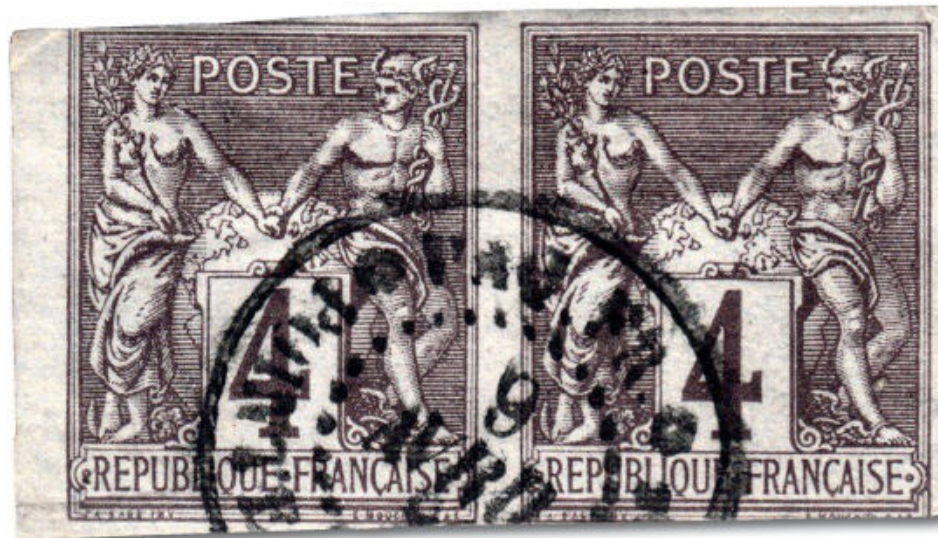
Surprising numbers boasted the pedigree of recess printing in Paris, with some carrying the names of renowned stamp designers and engravers who worked in the French capital (more about them in part two). The large format of the majority also caught my eye, as did the striking combinations of ink colours used to

Louis Napoleon rose from President of the Second Republic to Emperor of the Second Empire. He then suffered defeat and capture in the Franco-Prussian War; followed by exile to Britain where he died in 1873



During Napoleon III's reign stamps displaying an eagle and imperial crown carried the Empire's colonial mail

print many of the pictorials; together with the often exotic and evocative colony names some carried. The overall experience chimed in harmony with my junior schoolboy world of illustrations in *Rover*, *Hotspur* and *Wizard* comics; and with my weekly



participation in the adventures of boy press reporter Tintin whose hectic life played out in immaculately drawn cartoon frames serialized in those days on the inside pages of early 1950s *Eagle* comics.

Tintin's creator, Belgian cartoonist Hergé, had published his first comic strip in a Belgian magazine in 1929. I recall reading in a 1970s British newspaper interview that Hergé thought his work was 'influenced by Art Deco style'. As a junior schoolboy I had not come across the term; but if Art Deco included a way of drawing with solid lines and using strong colours, then I certainly saw Art Deco influence in some of the French Colonials in my album, especially on stamps that depicted an aircraft, or a wild animal, or people busy with their everyday lives. Let me add that almost all the stamps in my packet could have been bought as singles for a fraction of the cost of a British Colonial pictorial from a similar year. Now for a present-day look at some earlier French Colonials that appeared less frequently in my schoolboy packets.

France's first stamps

French press and public had expressed admiration for Great Britain's Penny

Allegorical depictions of Peace and Commerce appeared on imperforate colonial stamps in a range of colours from 1877 to 1880

Black adhesive postage stamp and the low cost letter delivery service it introduced from May 1840 for letter writers across the Channel. A similar scheme throughout France had become a popular clamour; yet nothing answered the strident demands during the next nine years. Lack of progress stemmed from the beheading, 47 years earlier, of the French monarch, and the difficulties experienced in deciding on a stamp design equally acceptable to Republican and any remaining Royalist sympathizers. Eventually the competing factions settled upon a brilliant compromise: an image of Ceres, Roman goddess of harvests, as the allegorical representation of the still largely agricultural French Republic. In fact, the choice placed France at the forefront of a group of nations who later almost totally freed themselves from the convention of displaying heads of rulers alongside heraldic symbols. They would prefer naturalistic subjects in future pictorial designs. Meanwhile, the head of Ceres graced all the imperforate stamps of France's Second Republic from 1849 to 1852 in a range of denominations and colours.

When Louis Napoleon became President of the Republic in 1852 he



Ceres made a brief appearance from 1871 to 1876 on the Third Republic's colonial mail

replaced the Ceres portrait with his own image. A few months later he seized power and declared himself Napoleon III and Emperor of the Second Empire. The inscription above his image on the stamps altered from 'REPUB FRANC' to 'EMPIRE FRANCAIS'.

Seven years later the Second Empire launched a new series of stamps specifically for use in the Colonies. The first of these General Issues were imperforates in six values from 1c to 80c; and all engraved and printed in Paris. They were small square stamps displaying, within a round frame, an eagle beneath a crown, and with the inscription 'COLONIES DE L'EMPIRE FRANCAIS' around.



Examples of the perforate Colonies Postes stamp issued in 1881. Depicting the figure of Commerce alongside the inscription, it was the last of the General Issues to serve the needs of all colonies



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CURATOR'S PICK

Italy's Wiley Post



The year 1933 saw the world endure a turbulent twelve months. The Great Depression affected most countries on the planet, unemployment was at an all time high, and in Germany, which was particularly affected, Adolf Hitler was appointed the Chancellor and promptly banned all other political parties, turning Germany into a One Party State; we all know how that played out.

On a more positive note in that same year the rather aptly named Wiley Post became the first pilot to fly solo around the world, and coincidentally the Italian Air Cruise took off and connected Italy with the Netherlands, Iceland, Canada, the United States and Newfoundland, and also Great Britain and Ireland, Portugal and France.

This exciting progress is all expertly illustrated in the Luca Restaino exhibit, 'ITALY: 1933 La Crociera Di Balbo Del'. The three-time Large Gold medal winning collection provides an historic insight into this specialised area of collecting, putting on display rare stamps, tied to airmail covers, including registered use, posted to unusual destinations and cancelled by rare cachets and postmarks. And what is surprising is the locations the flights and mail passed through or received a dispatch or arrival mark, such as: Begasi, Reykjavik, Shediak, Tripoli, Shoal Harbour, Ponta Delgada, and amazingly Vatican City.

One of the more extraordinary examples, and indeed now very rare, is the 1933 set of stamps issued in Italy to commemorate a special transatlantic flight led by General Italo Bilbao who commanded an aerial armada of 24 flying boats that went from Rome to Chicago. The Italian postal authorities created two three-part airmail stamps, which are scarce mint or used. Several examples of these are illustrated in the exhibit, including unused and on covers, all rare, and the most notable is an envelope, which is the only known cover with two se-tenant postage stamps with the *I-Bian* and *I-Balb* overprints, and one of the seven known airmail covers from the return flight.

Another rarity is an envelope, again sent in 1933, which is the only known cover with Vatican postage carried on-board the Balbo flying boats sent to Shediak. It also bears the autograph of Lt. Col. Ugo Longo, commander of the *I-Long* aircraft. It also has another rather special feature in that it has three expert certificates spanning fifty years in philately. The first one issued in 1966 by the legendary Italian expert Giulio Bolaffi, then in 1982 another eminent Italian philatelist Emilio Diena put his seal of approval on the envelope. More recently, in 2016, Dr Giorigio Colla issued the third certificate in what is a divine trinity of expert opinion adding an additional layer of historical interest to what is already a captivating topic. The certificates are on display with the collection on the Museum of Philately website.

There is also a Newfoundland envelope which was transported on board an aircraft from the Balbo Cruise on the America to Europe return flight, and bears the associated cachet and arrival postmark at Lido di Roma and crucially is the first airmail flight to England via Italy. Incidentally, it also has an Emilio Diena expert certificate (1989), again loaded on the Museum of Philately website for your information.

Undoubtedly, General Italo Bilbao encountered some turbulence during his escapades in 1933, but the flying boats united, rather than isolated, a number of nations and continents on both sides of the Atlantic, and his armada of 24 planes might not get the plaudits aviator Wiley Post receives for his around the world feat. You can certainly argue the Italians were wily in getting post delivered to some far-flung places. Today, ironically, it's the philatelist who needs to be a tad wily to obtain post from the 1933 Italian Air Cruise Mail.

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MUSEUM OF
PHILATELY

Eminent Philatelists



William Byam (1882-1963)

Philatelically speaking Maurice Burrus is a tough act to follow, which is an understatement given his financial clout and completist mentality. But the show must go on, or more pertinently the surgery, and anyway, like most things in life there's always another way you can cut things, and our next legendary collector is a man you'd trust to cut it; he brings a lifetime of heroics and some Arab spice to the affray.

Oh, and if that isn't enough to convince you, then he also enables us to mention three famous authors; J.R.R. Tolkien, A.A. Milne, and C.S. Lewis, *and* he had all his philatelic medals stolen by the Nazis during WWII. If nothing else you're going to be entertained and learn a thing or two.

Let us introduce Lieutenant-Colonel William Byam a British philatelist and Harley Street physician who saw active service in the First World War and later, during the Second World War, had his philatelic medals and trophies stolen from his Guernsey home by the Nazis; as you'll discover, a not insubstantial haul.

Despite being a decorated philatelist Byam isn't a household name if compared to some of our postage protagonists, but his achievements and honours are heroic and rank him higher than a Major. The Royal Philatelic Society London agreed and awarded Byam the Tapling Medal in 1931 for his research on postage due stamps of Egypt, then in 1956 the Tilleard Medal, for his display on 'Egypt Postage Stamps 1872 to 1875', and he is of course a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists signing it in 1949. Byam won an apt 'Doctors Orders' nine gold medals at international philatelic exhibitions for his exhibits on Egypt. Understandably, with all this medal winning when flying the Egyptian flag the Societe Philatelique d'Egypte made Byam the first foreigner to be appointed a Member of Honour.

Byam was active in the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and served on their executive committee, he was the President of the Herts Philatelic Society, and also the founder of the 'Egypt Study Circle' in 1935, the first philatelic 'study circle' anywhere in the world. Following its success and a paper he presented to the Philatelic Congress in 1938, selling the benefits of such a group, many other such circles began to form, and today they are a fundamental aspect of our hobby. We can raise a glass to Byam for that little gem.

Now I promised you a link with our physician and the holy trinity of literary genius mentioned above. Did you know that all three suffered from 'trench fever' during the Great War? Our man not only treated this horrendous condition he was an expert on it. In fact, he wrote the chapter on the causes. Byam wasn't just a philatelic legend, he was as decorated a physician as he was as a philatelist and the sort of man you'd want in your trench, or study circle.

It would appear that our Philatelic Physician coped admirably with philatelic surgery and, despite not being as well known as some of his colleagues, he's going to be a tough act to follow.

EXHIBITION NEWS

In order to promote philately among the younger ages, the organisers of the HELVETIA 2022 event in Switzerland launched 'Philamovie', a video competition with a philatelic theme. Participation was open to people aged under thirty and the only limits set were 300 MB file size and a one-minute video duration. The videos are now live on the exhibition website: www.helvetia2022.ch/en/philamovie

The conference 'Public and private allies for the protection of the heritage of postal history' took place recently in Rome. All the major Italian philatelic associations were present: FSFI, ISPP, 'Aldo Cecchi', ANPF as patrons, and AISP, AICAM, ANCAI, ASPoT, CIFO, Gruppo di Modena, Il Postalista, Post Horn, and USFI as supporters. The Italian authorities have applied pressure to postal historians, collectors and traders in recent years regarding postal history documents. Many consider postal history items to be part of the nation's legacy and the authorities have even taken action to confiscate some pieces. During the conference, collectors argued that it is they who protect and promote the national heritage of postal history by collecting the material and studying it.

During the weekend 6-8 May, LATINPHIL 2022 took place at the Museo Piana delle Orme, in the town Cisterna di Latina near Rome, organised by the Italian National Federation and the Circolo Filatelico Tres Tabernae. The exhibition was divided into two parts: National and Qualification. Accepted exhibits belonged either to Traditional Philately or Postal History, multi-frame or one-frame, further classified under Modern (1900-1945) or Contemporary era (1945-present). Detailed results, pdf files of all the exhibits, and much more can be found on the exhibition website at: expo.fsfi.it

The International Philatelic Federation (FIP) has clarified a few points for exhibits that had achieved Large Vermeil or Large Gold medals. A Large Vermeil exhibit may have the option to show in five, six or seven frames for a period of three years after its qualification to eight frames. A Large Gold exhibit remains in competition for ten years after receiving its first Large Gold medal. If the exhibit receives three Large Gold medals during the ten-year period, it is promoted to the Championship Class. If not, it remains in competition but only as a new exhibit. You can read the FIP announcement here: <https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/LV-and-LG-clarification.pdf>

ANTVERPIA 2022, the National Philatelic Exhibition in Belgium will take place at the Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, between 10 and 12 June. In addition to the regular competition classes, there will be eight exhibits in the Championship Class, five exhibits in the Court of Honour (all related to the 1920 Antwerp Olympics), and eighteen exhibits from Belgian Academy members. Find out more at: antverpia2022.be



Exhibition news kindly provided by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). Find out more about the organisation by visiting the website: fepanews.com

Vasco da Gama returns from India (Library of Congress)



CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

CELEBRATED SETS

Portugal 1898 *Vasco da Gama's discovery of the route to India*

In the late 19th century, Portugal issued three justly celebrated sets. In 1894 came a set celebrating Henry the Navigator; as featured in *Stamp Collector* back in 2019. In 1895, they commemorated the 700th anniversary of the birth of St Anthony; Portugal's patron saint. This article will look at the third set, from 1898, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the route to India.

The discovery was almost as momentous as Columbus' landing in America six years earlier. It opened the sea-lanes to India, providing a direct link between Europe and Asia. And en route, it enabled Portugal to create the first maritime empire.

The St Anthony set had fifteen

Portugal's maritime history has been celebrated on a range of stamps, but there are few that recall such a significant moment in both the evolution of the country and the wider world as this set, as David Bailey explains

values with a top value of 1,000r. The Vasco da Gama set has eight values with a top value of 150r: a more affordable proposition all round for the growing numbers of stamp collectors. And as well as Portugal, there were adaptations for the Azores, Madeira, Portuguese Africa, Macau, Timor and Portuguese India.

The stamps were printed by Waterlow in London, who had been printing stamps by lithography since 1852 and were keen to demonstrate their expertise in the more exacting





process of recess printing. The designs, however, were created by six Portuguese artists, who had access to a wider range of visual reference material

The stamps appeared on 1 April 1898, but were withdrawn only three months later at the end of June. They re-appeared in 1911, when King Manoel II was assassinated in Lisbon and Portugal became a Republic. The Portuguese set and four of the original colonial sets were overprinted 'Republica' and some values were changed. The existing colonials were also overprinted for four new territories: Angola, Guinea, Mozambique and Tete.

The stamps had yet another re-incarnation in the world's first miniature sheets, produced by Waterlow. Eight sheets were produced,



Vasco da Gama in India
(Library of Congress)

2½ r. Departure of the Fleet

Since the early 15th century, Portuguese explorers has been probing further and further down the West African coast. The pace of exploration slowed after 1460, when Henry the Navigator died, but it picked up again under John II. The West African trade in gold, pepper, ivory and slaves was boosting the royal treasury and lessening his dependence on the Barons. Now John had his eyes on the lucrative spice trade and sought to break the Venetian monopoly by finding a direct sea route to India. A Portuguese captain, Bartholomew Diaz, had rounded the Cape and glimpsed land to the North East. Now, the challenge was to make it all the way.



The discovery was almost as momentous as Columbus' landing in America six years earlier. It opened the sea-lanes to India, providing a direct link between Europe and Asia. And en route, it enabled Portugal to create the first maritime empire.

each having eight stamps with the same value: one of each of the original colonial sets plus two Portuguese. The stamps are invalidated by tiny holes and overprinted 'Waterlow Bros' and 'Specimen'. Evidently, Waterlow were using them as a calling card, to show off their printing and platemaking skills.

The miniature sheets are extremely rare, but the original stamps are not, and the set remains affordable and available in all conditions: a fine set to add to any collection.

Vasco da Gama set sail on 8 July 1497 with a fleet of four ships and 170 men. The *Sao Gabriel*, commanded by Vasco da Gama: this was a three-masted carrack of 178 tons, carrying 20 cannon. The *Sao Raphael*, commanded by Vasco's brother Paulo – a ship of similar size. The *Sao Miguel* (known as the *Berrio*) a caravel commanded by Nicolau Coelho. An un-named supply ship, commanded by Goncalo Nunes. It was scuttled in South Africa on the outbound journey.





5r Arrival at Calicut

It was an eventful voyage, down the west coast of Africa and then up past the largely Muslim ports on the eastern side. The small fleet was run out of Mozambique and resorted to piracy in what is now Kenyan waters, looting unarmed Arab trading vessels. In Malindi, da Gama first met Indian traders and recruited an experienced navigator to get them across the Indian Ocean and on 20 May 1498, they landed in Calicut (now Kozhikode in Kerala).

After a lavish welcome, negotiations with the king did not go well. He was not impressed by da Gama's gifts and local Arab merchants branded him a pirate, not a Royal Ambassador. He left in a hurry, taking a few local people as hostages and sailing into the summer monsoon winds. The journey east had taken 23 days to cross the Indian Ocean. The journey west took 132 and da Gama eventually reached Malindi on 7 January 1499. Around half of his crew had died, and so many others were suffering from scurvy, there were not enough to sail the ships. So da Gama had to scuttle the Sao Rafael and redistribute the crew to the other two ships. The going was easier now and by 25 April 1499, they were sailing up the west coast of Africa where the party split up. The Berrio continued to Lisbon, arriving on 10 July 1499. Meanwhile, da Gama stayed behind to nurse his sick brother and the Sao Gabriel made it home without him sometime in July or August.



10r Embarkation at Rastello

Now part of Belem, this was in the docklands area of Lisbon. The stamp depicts a scene from the epic poem by Luis de Camoes, in which an old man cries out against the greed of the explorers for fame and money and warns they will bring disaster on the country. In this context, he stands for those in Portugal who opposed the programme of exploration.

25r Muse of History

Clio is one of the nine muses who inspire individuals to discover and create. She presides over history and also the guitar.

50r Da Gama, Camoes and the Sao Gabriel

The poet Luis de Camoes wrote the epic poem *Os Lusíadas* about Vasco da Gama and his voyages to India. It is still regarded as Portugal's national epic and is as important to Portuguese literature as Virgil's *Aeneid* is to that of ancient Rome.

75r Archangel Gabriel

The Archangel Gabriel was the patron saint of the expedition. When he appears in scripture it is usually as a messenger from God.

100r The Sao Gabriel

The *Sao Gabriel* and its sister ship were designed with input from Bartholemew Diaz. It was a Carrack – a forerunner of the Galleon – and is usually portrayed as here, with a



In 1911, stamps from the Madeira version of the set were overprinted for use in Portugal

square-rigged mainmast. Compare this with the two lateen sails shown on the 50r.

150r Vasco da Gama

Vasco da Gama made three voyages to India. He died on the third voyage in 1524 when aged in his mid fifties. His body was repatriated and he is now buried in Lisbon. His exploits had earned him the titles of Viceroy of India and Count of Vidigueira and he remains a national hero, commemorated on many Portuguese stamps. However, he was no saint. And the darker side of his legacy – his treatment of other races and religions – comes under increasing scrutiny today.

THE SET IN DETAIL

| | Print run | Mint | Used |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| 2½ r blue-green | 4,166,199 | £1.20 | 20p |
| 5r vermillion | 2,011, 692 | £1.20 | 20p |
| 10r dull purple | 632,032 | £6 | £1.20 |
| 25r yellow-green | 4,258,145 | £3.60 | 30p |
| 50r deep blue | 344,414 | £8 | £2.20 |
| 75r red-brown | 111,214 | £32 | £7.65 |
| 100r bistre-brown | 225,862 | £22 | £7.65 |
| 150 yellow-brown | 71,413 | £50 | £21 |

Values 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

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| Finland | Poland |
| France | Portugal |
| German States | Romania |
| Germany | Russia |
| German Zones | San Marino |
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| West Berlin | Sweden |
| DDR Greece | Switzerland |
| Greenland | Vatican |
| Hungary | Yugoslavia |
| Iceland | |
| Ireland | |
| Italy | |

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| British Guiana | Gilbert + Ellice | Norfolk Island | South West Africa |
| British Honduras | Gold Coast | North Borneo | Sudan |
| British Levant | Great Britain | Northern Rhodesia | Swaziland |
| Ex Italian Colonies | Grenada | Nyasaland | Tonga |
| British Solomons | Hong Kong | Pakistan | Trinidad + Tobago |
| British Virgins | India + States | Papua + New Guinea | Tristan da Cunha |
| Brunei | Isle of Man | Pitcairn | Turks + Caicos |
| Burma | Jamaica | Rhodesia | Zanzibar |
| Canada | KUT | St Helena | |
| Caymans | Kuwait | | |
| Ceylon | | | |

REST OF WORLD

| |
|----------------------|
| Algeria |
| Belgian Congo |
| Brazil |
| Egypt |
| French Colonies |
| Honduras |
| Italian Colonies |
| Japan |
| Korea North |
| Lebanon |
| Morocco |
| Netherlands Colonies |
| Portuguese Colonies |
| Somalia |
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| Tunisia |
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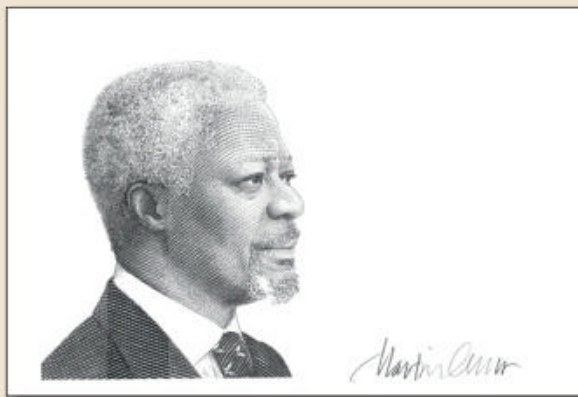


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Mother Theresa, limited edition of 100, signed - £50

As seen on United Nations \$1.80 definitive stamp, issued August 2021

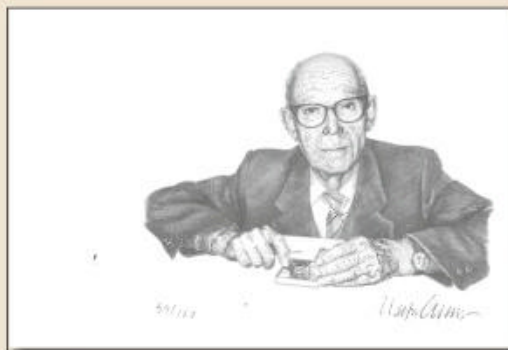


Kofi Annan, signed - £30

As seen on United Nations \$1.80 definitive stamp, issued May 2019

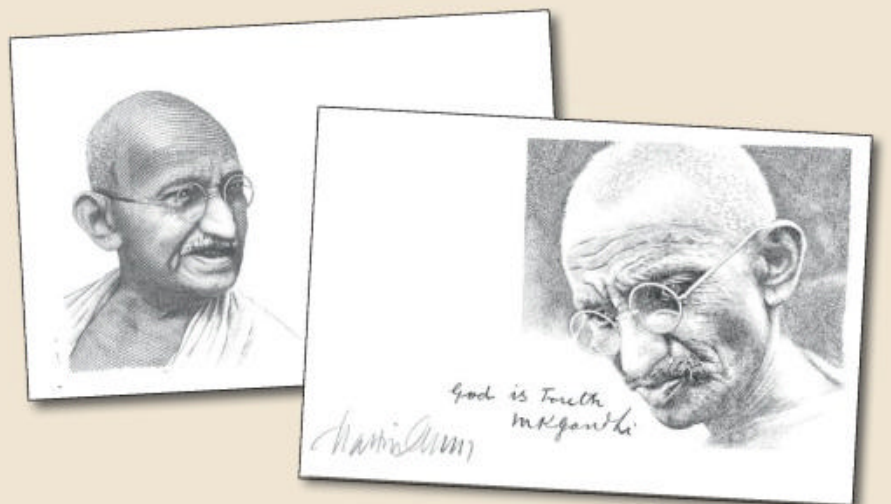
Czeslaw Slania, limited edition of 100, signed - £50

As seen on Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark miniature sheets, issued August 2021 to mark birth centenary of Slania



Mahatma Gandhi, signed - £30

As seen on United Nations \$2.75 definitive stamp, issued October 2019



Florence Nightingale, signed - £30

As seen on United Nations €1.35 definitive stamp, issued May 2020

Mahatma Gandhi 'God is Truth', signed - £30

As seen on Principality of Monaco €2.10 stamp, issued October 2019

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A-Z THEMATICS

An odds-on favourite

According to surveys, around 33% of the population regularly gamble. That rises to 70% when it comes to big-prize events like the National Lottery. So, when it comes to thematics, gambling is a sure-fire winner. By Paula Hammond

Worldwide there are over 90 National Lotteries. The oldest continuous state lottery was established in Puerto Rico in 1934 and some have been used to provide funds for everything from health services to the arts. Many national lotteries have been celebrated on stamps and Upper Volta's 1972 and 1977 issues (celebrating the 5th and 10th anniversaries of their lottery) are lovely examples, with the 1977 stamp showing images of emergency vehicles and bank notes emerging from a lottery-funded pot of plenty.

Gambling on sporting events makes around \$220 billion every year. The so-called Sport of Kings, horse-racing, is also one of the biggest money-makers. In the UK, horse-racing brings in around £1 billion annually, with high-profile events like the Grand National often persuading even non-gamblers to 'have a punt'. Thanks to this, there's a wealth of choice when it comes to horse-racing stamps but GB's 2017 Racehorse Legends set is a fabulous celebration of horses in their athletic glory.

Greyhound-racing is often viewed as the poor relation to horse-racing. While the punters may

spend less at the bookies, the stamps issued to commemorate such doggy dashes are every bit as varied and appealing. Ireland's 1977, 17p stamp celebrates the country's golden jubilee of greyhound track racing with a fantastic image of a greyhound in motion, its feet off the ground and its body arching towards the finish line. GB's 1994 Classic Album Covers also features an image of greyhounds from Romford Stadium in Essex. The photograph featured on Blur's iconic *Parklife* album.

'Going to the dogs' may be considered low-brow, but casino gambling is definitely high-brow. And one of the world's most famous casinos is Casino de Monte Carlo in Monaco. Monaco celebrated its contribution to upper-crust gambling in 1982, with a pair of engraved stamps that evoke all the style and sophistication of the La Belle Époque, with a view of the Casino in 1880.

While some of us never bet, others will bet on almost anything, from poker, to craps (shown on Macau's 1987 Casino Games stamps), from e-sports, to the Super Bowl. Deciding exactly how to handle such a large theme can be tricky, but like Luke Rhinehart's famous Dice Man, there can be a thrill in letting Lady Luck make the decision for you. Why not roll a die and see how it falls?



G IS FOR GAMBLING

Why collect?

- Both commemorative and annual stamps.
- Worldwide issues.
- Includes sports, architecture, tourism, and the arts.
- Large and varied theme.
- Opportunities to create sub-themes or focus in one larger topic, such as horse-racing.

Notable releases

1972 & 1977, Upper Volta, 5th and 10th anniversary of the national lottery.
1977, Ireland, Golden Jubilee of greyhound track racing.
1987, Macau, Casino Games.
1996, GB, 1st class Greetings stamp 'Dear Lottery Prize Winner'.
2017, GB, Racehorse Legends.

Expand the theme

Betting Tax revenue and duty stamps can be hand-stamped directly onto betting tickets or affixed, like postage stamps, to show that tax has been paid on the bet. These often rare collectables make an interesting addition to the theme.

Collecting links

Sports Philatelists International specialises in advice for the novice and experienced Olympic and sport stamp collectors. Visit to find out more <https://sportstamps.org>





1832, London to the Overseer of Elton (Lancashire), charged 1s single sheet rate for 230-300 miles (see below right)



1838 free wrapper from London to the Returning Officer for Shrewsbury (a borough that had returned members from 1290). Endorsed as from Lord John Russell, the Home Secretary

POSTAL HISTORY

Elections and the Post in the Great Reform Act Era

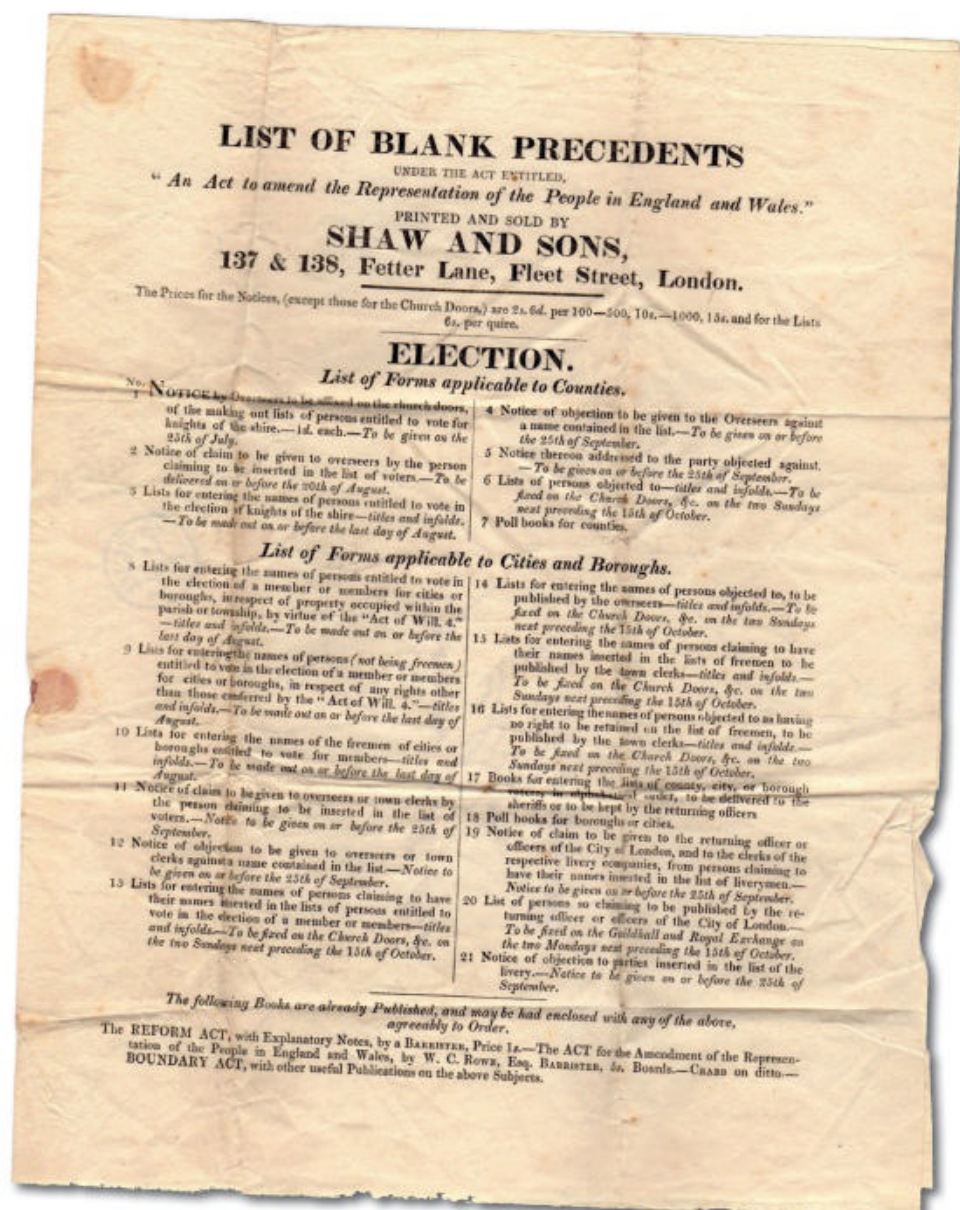
The 'Great Reform Act' of 1832 is a key document in British parliamentary history, writes Maurice Buxton, and its introduction meant a greater role for the mails in the business of organising elections, as this in-depth postal history guide reveals

Doubtless many readers will remember the Great Reform Act from history lessons at school (which is after all the main thing, at least according to '1066 And All That'). The changes it introduced meant a greater role for the mails in the business of organising elections (and of getting elected), and this article will take a brief look at some interesting historical items that were produced as a result.

The new election laws mandated the use of a great many forms ('twas ever thus). The responsibility of drawing up and maintaining a list of eligible voters in a parish was placed upon its unpaid and overworked Overseers of the Poor. Figure 1 is a circular of July 1832 from a law publisher, which lists 21 distinct pieces of documentation that an overseer might need! Similar advertisements were doubtless sent out to parishes throughout the country. Borough Returning Officers were generally to be appointed by the Sheriff of the county, serving for one year,

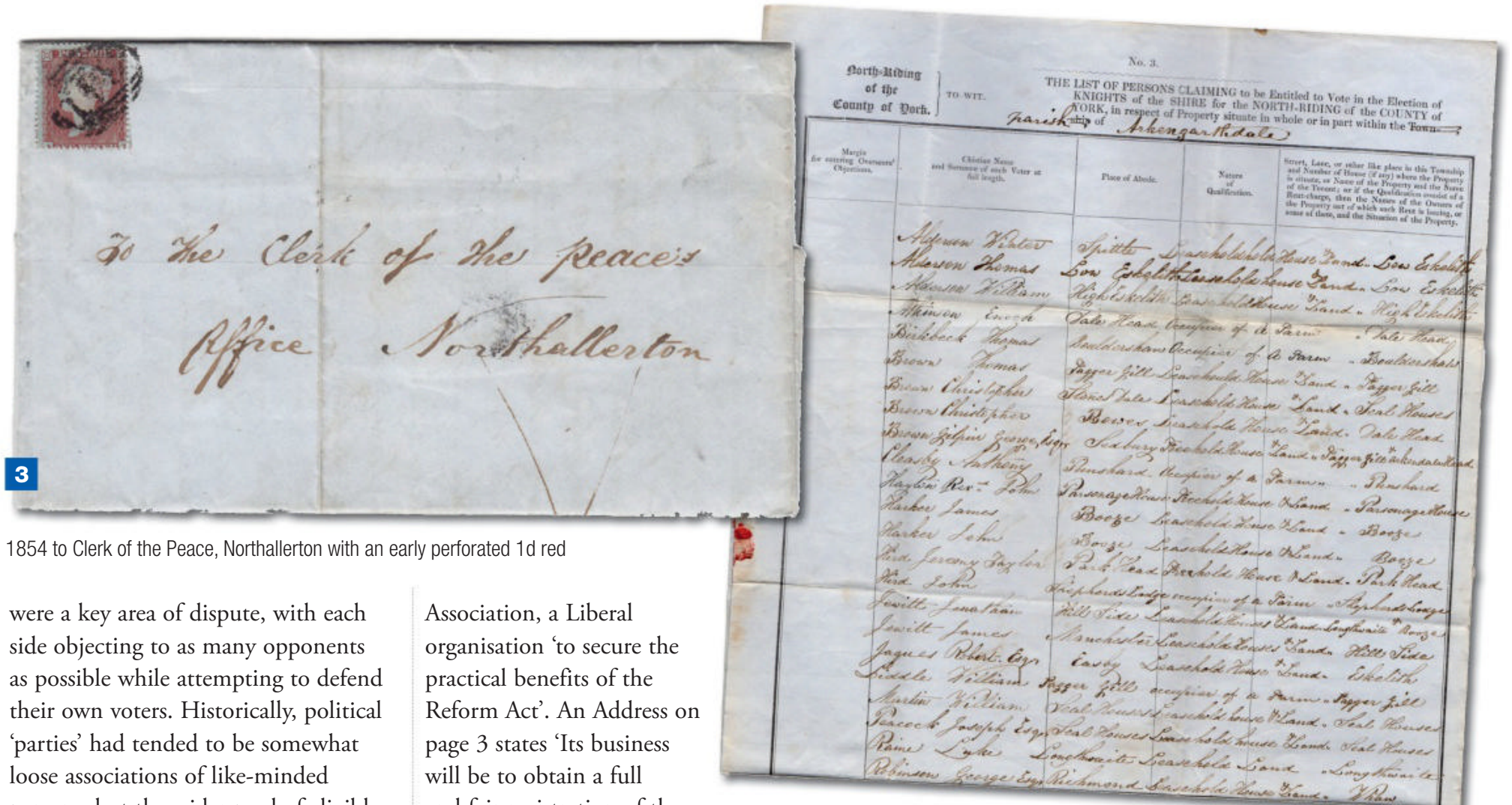
and were responsible for collating the lists and creating a register of voters. Figure 2 shows an O.H.M.S. wrapper of 1838 from the Secretary of State's Office to the officer for the borough of Shrewsbury, which requested a 'Return of Names of Parishes the Overseers of which prepare Lists of Electors'.

Copies of this data were supplied to various parties, such as the Clerks of the Peace, although their main role was as legal advisors to JPs, they were also allocated other miscellaneous duties. One such was to receive the lists of voters from the overseers, together with any objections to names on the list, and assemble an abstract of the latter for the election courts. Figure 3 is a list of those who had made a claim to vote in a county seat based on property in the parish of Arkengarthdale in Yorkshire, together with their qualifications. It was signed on behalf of the parish overseers, and sent to the



Clerk of the Peace in Northallerton.

These 'Courts of Revision' were a major factor in the elections of the time. Voting was carried out in public (the secret ballot was not introduced until 1872), and so likely supporters and opponents were already known. Battles over the validity of qualifications



1854 to Clerk of the Peace, Northallerton with an early perforated 1d red

were a key area of dispute, with each side objecting to as many opponents as possible while attempting to defend their own voters. Historically, political 'parties' had tended to be somewhat loose associations of like-minded persons, but the wider pool of eligible voters made proper organisation imperative in the seats that were now open to contest.

Figure 4, for example, is a prospectus of 1836 for the Scottish Reform

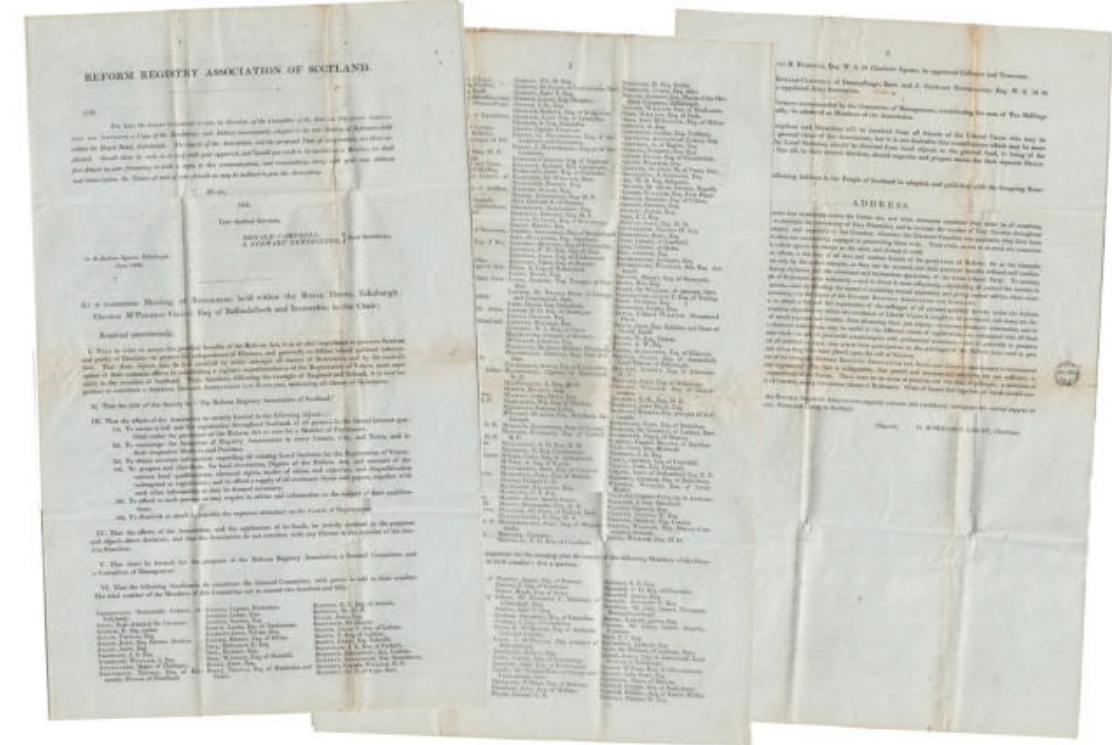
Association, a Liberal organisation 'to secure the practical benefits of the Reform Act'. An Address on page 3 states 'Its business will be to obtain a full and fair registration of the suffrages of all persons qualified to vote' by supporting their voters in the courts. This was prepaid; quite unusual at the time, but doubtless recipients would not have been impressed if asked to pay

to receive a subscription appeal!

Figure 5 comes from the other side, a printed circular of 1837 from the Middlesex Conservative Registration Committee, informing the addressee



4



1838 Scottish Reform Association circular, prepaid at Edinburgh

THE GREAT REFORM ACT

The 'Representation of the People Act 1832', 2 & 3 Will. IV c.45, aka 'Great Reform Act', together with linked Scottish and Irish reforms, was the first of a series of 19th-century Acts that reformed the electoral system of the UK to make it more democratic in character.

Before 1832, most MPs nominally represented either counties or 'Parliamentary boroughs' to which the right to return MPs had been granted over the years (often for obscure reasons). The electorates were often small, the qualifications to vote were variable, and voting was in public, which meant many seats were subject to bribery, influence by notables, or outright nomination. No new boroughs had been added since the early Restoration era in 1661, and many towns that had grown greatly in importance due to the Industrial Revolution lacked representation.

While the 1832 Act did not, in itself, sweep away the old system, it heavily modified it – removing the franchise from many boroughs with small electorates and allocating their MPs to counties and unrepresented towns, and also establishing a set of uniform (property-based) qualifications to vote. This increased the size of the electorate by some 60%, most of whom came from the middle classes. The old abuses of bribery and influence were by no means eliminated, but they were significantly weakened.



5 1837 Conservative circular – it concerned Middlesex voters, but was sent free franked to Leicestershire (presumably to a voter who owned property in Middlesex)

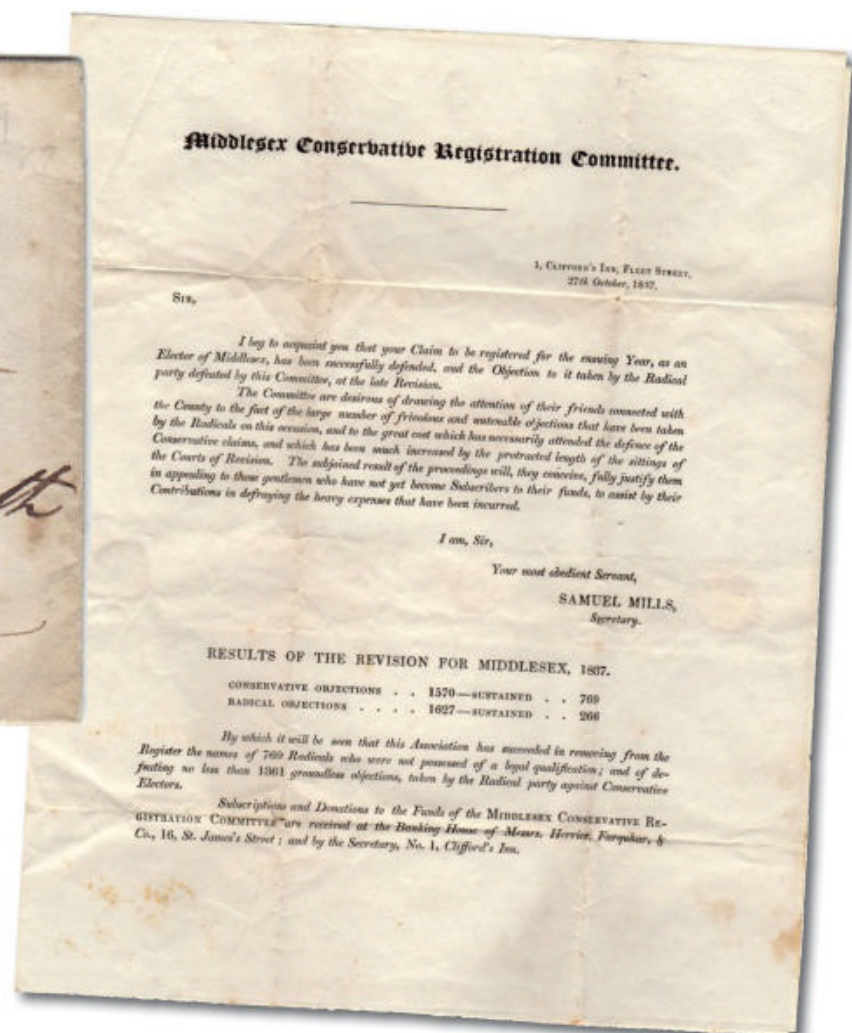
that their registration (and many others) had been successfully defended in court. In the election held in July that year, only 9,260 voted in the constituency, with one Liberal and one Conservative elected – the latter with a lead of just 202 over Radical opponent Joseph Hume (the sitting MP).

The Parliamentary Voters Registration Act 1843 regularised the process by laying down standard rules for the compilation and maintenance of voting rolls. It also had postal implications, as it specified a concessionary registration rate of 2d for 'notices of objection' to names on the roll (at a time when the normal fee was 1s). These Notices were usually assembled and posted by an election

agent (typically a local solicitor), as thousands were sent out every year as the new rolls were compiled.

Figure 6 shows a typical example, sent in 1846, an objection to a name on the list for the Southern Division of the County of Northampton. This was probably successful, as it proved undeliverable – the addressee had gone away. Some larger offices where the notices were posted in bulk and paid in cash even had postmarks specifically for this purpose – figure 7 shows two examples used in 1853 and 1859 at Charing Cross.

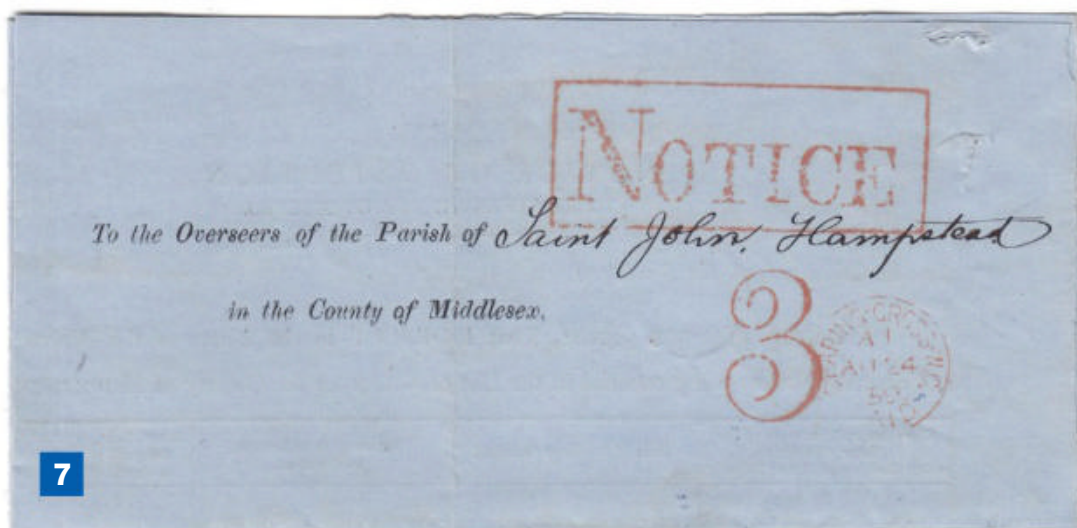
The rules required that the objections be sent both to the overseers and to the person objected to, and that duplicate copies be presented to the Postmaster



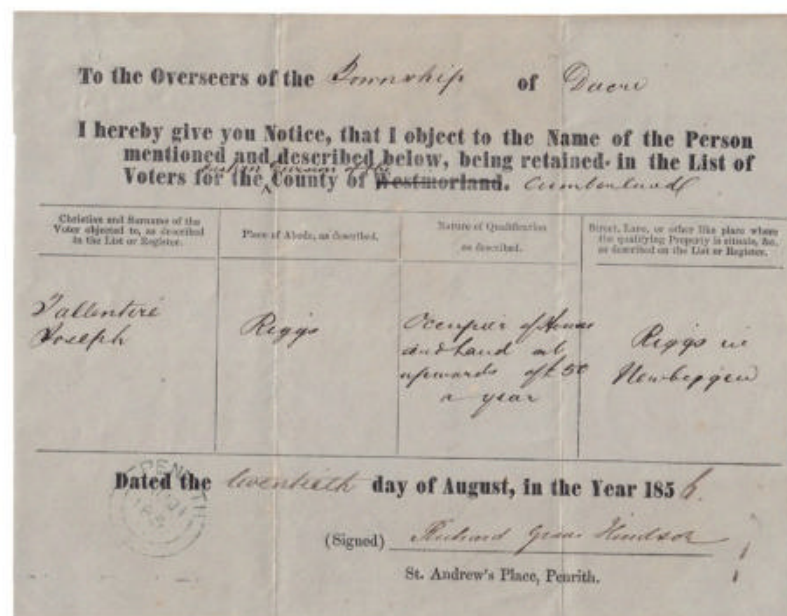
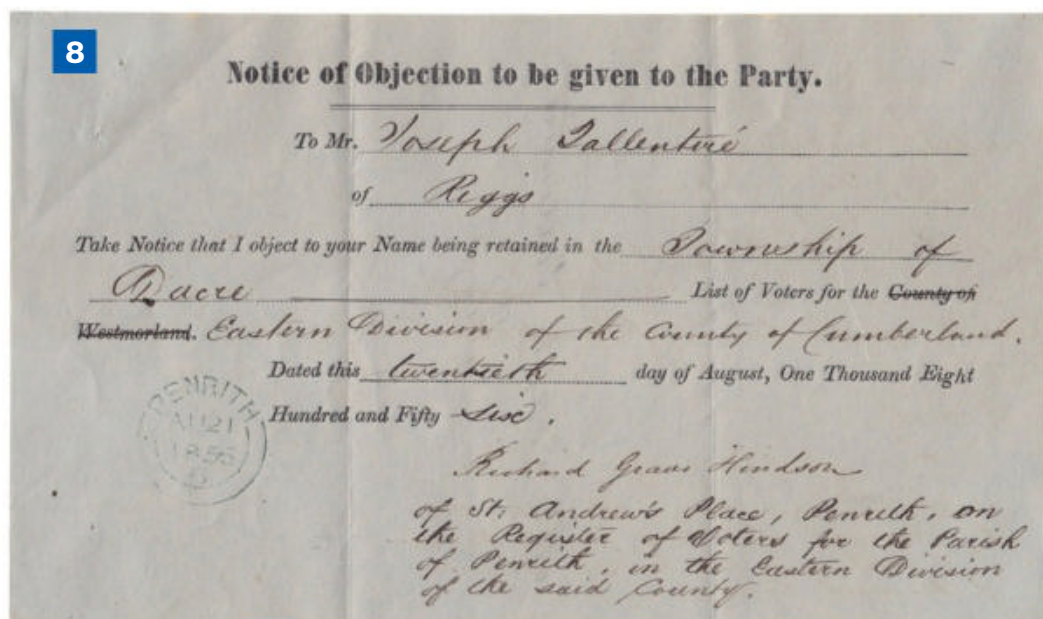
Above: 1846 Notice paid 3d (1d postage + 2d special 'registration'). Backstamped with Northampton 'traveller' skeletons three weeks apart

for inspection – one was sent, the other stamped to be retained by the sender as proof of posting. Figure 8 shows a matched pair of these 'receipts' for an objection to a party in East Cumberland in 1856, filled out by hand on partly printed forms.

The Penny Post of 1840 made it much cheaper to send letters, and thus



1853 and 1859 Notice rate covers – 3d charge handstamps for 1d postage + 2d Notice fee



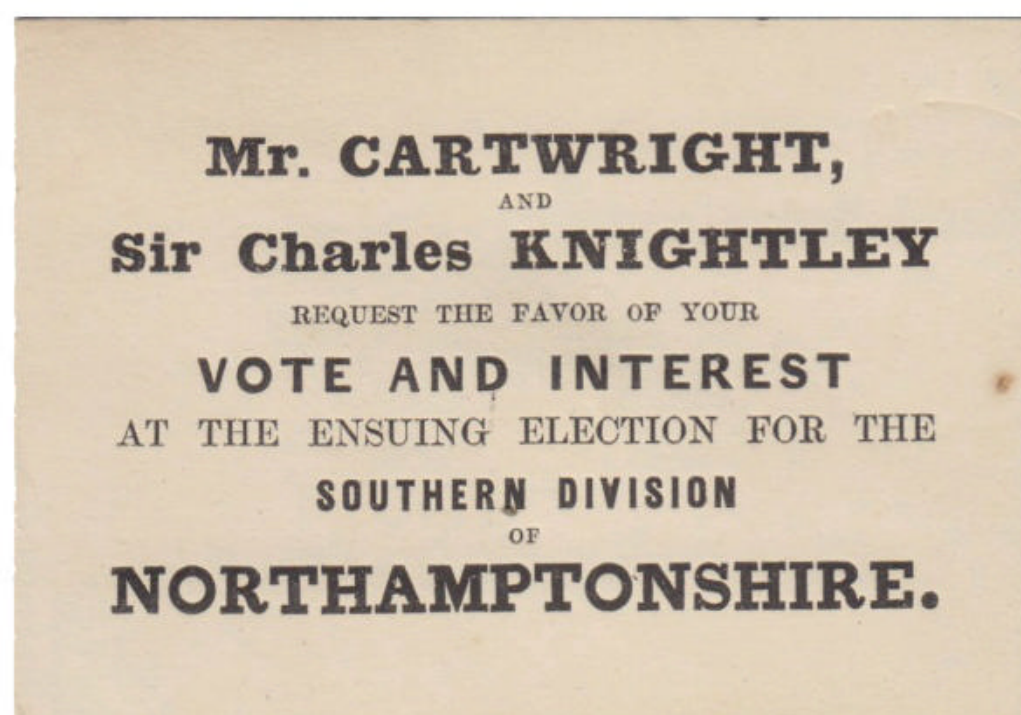
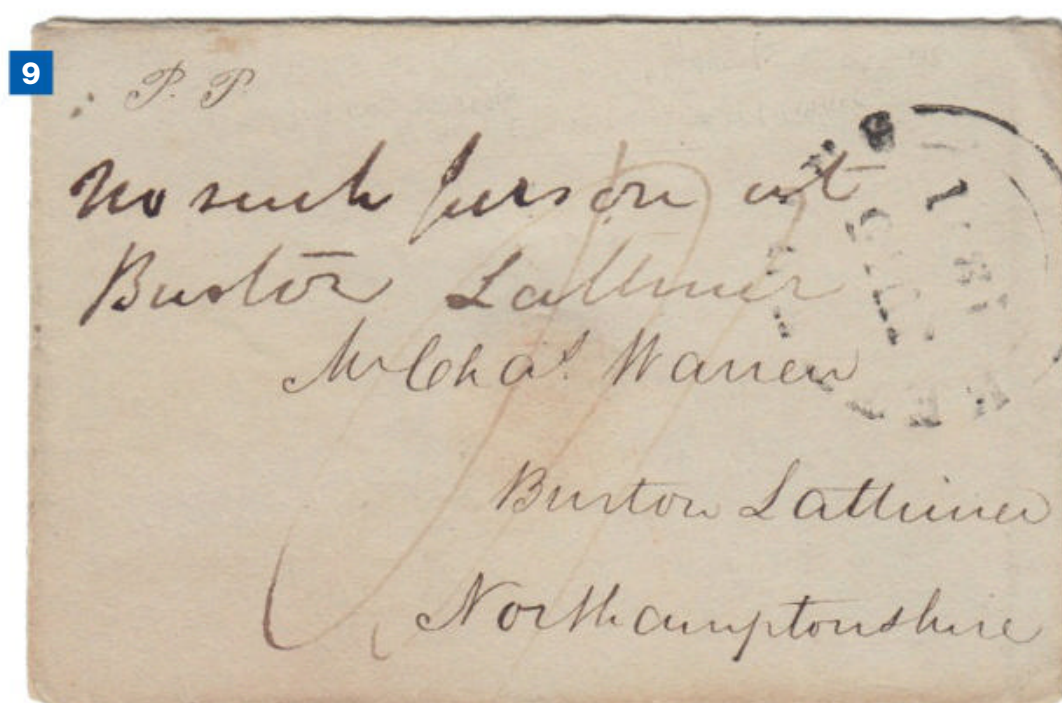
more practical to use the post for actual political canvassing. Figure 9 takes us back to the South Northamptonshire constituency; it's a small envelope with a card enclosed, sent out to voters on behalf of the two Conservative candidates for the election of 1841. This one didn't help, as it came back marked 'no such person', although in the event that wouldn't have mattered; both candidates were elected, with second-placed Knightley having a majority of 1,399 over the Whig candidate (on a 2,843 turnout).

You may be thinking 'hang on, that's a remarkably small number for half a county' – and indeed it was, but it represented 62% of the electorate. Despite the changes voting rolls were still restricted to the better off, but the campaign for an extended franchise continued. The actual text of the 1844 letter in Figure 10 is unconnected with politics, but the sender took the opportunity to show

Above: 1856 receipts for Notices – printed originally for Westmoreland, but altered by hand

Right: 1841 canvass for votes, prepaid 1d in cash

Below: 1844 letter with Chartist seal from Markinch in Fife. Stamp cancelled with Maltese Cross – Scotland did not begin to make the switch to numeral cancellations until late June



their support for the working class Chartist movement of the 1830s/40s with a wafer seal reading 'The Six Points and No Mistake / Complete Suffrage'. Although the movement was unsuccessful at the time, its aims were gradually realised. The next wide-ranging electoral reform Act in 1867 substantially increased the franchise again and further reduced the landed interest in elections, and can be said to have brought the 'Great Reform Act Era' to a close.

THE 'SIX POINTS' OF THE CHARTISTS

The People's Charter of 1838 called for six reforms to make the political system more democratic: (1) manhood suffrage, (2) secret ballot, (3) no property qualification for MPs, (4) payment of Members, (5) equal constituencies, and (6) annual Parliaments. Only the sixth point has remained fully unrealised.

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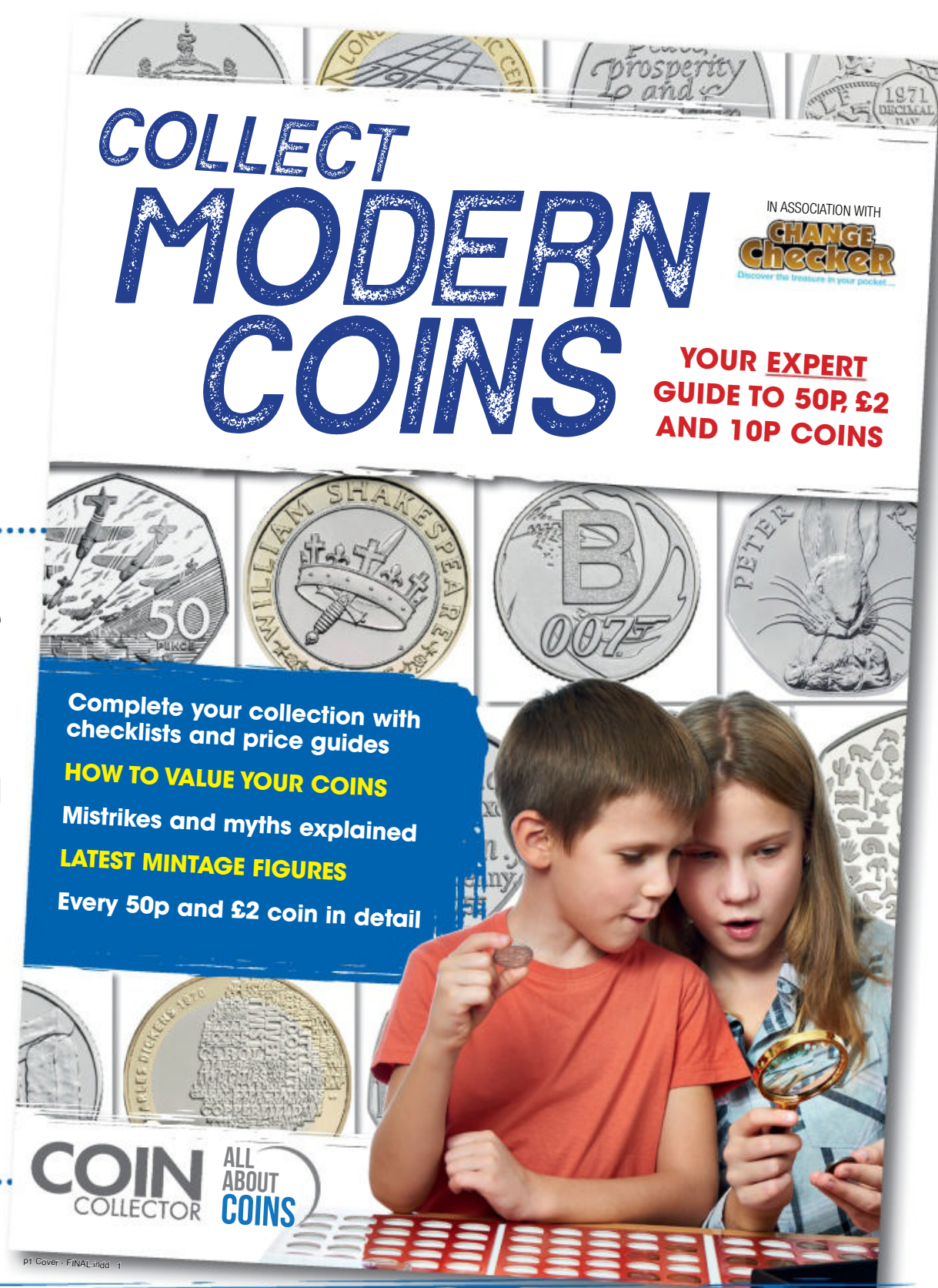
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Caryl and the Anglo-Boer War

From the battlefields of southern Africa in the winter of 1900 a young man writes home to his mother, describing his life in the conflict, as explained by historian Dane Garrod

Being cut off from your family and far away is most unwelcome at any time, but should you also be subject to possible injury or worse due to military service, then regular contact is paramount to peace of mind. Over one hundred years ago, contact at a distance was only possible by letter, with delay of transit, receipt and reply. During the first few months of war, many men, both young and older, felt a duty to volunteer, resulting in their parents and family having pride in their son's decision but horrified with fear about the possibility that their offspring might not return alive.

For the soldier at a military camp in the UK or many thousands of miles away in a hostile country with an enemy forever near, the letter from home was a most important event looked forward to. For the parent, a letter received from a son would confirm his well being and give some meaning to the reason for his long term absence from home.

A number of interrelated factors led to the Second Anglo-Boer War. These included the conflicting political ideologies of imperialism, discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand, tension between political leaders and the Uitlander franchise. The conflict began in October 1899 and lasted until May 1902, being generally known as the Second Boer War. It was into this campaign that our letter writer, a 23-year-old youngest son, was thrust, and wrote home when he could to apprise his mother of his life far away.

The cover for the letter is an Army Form C.398, as printed at the top left of the small envelope. There is also the words 'Despatched' and 'Received' which enable details of the date, together with the time, to be hand-written, although this did not occur this time. Instead, the sender wrote 'England' underlined, to ensure that 'S.Wales' was not misunderstood as to its whereabouts far away in the Northern Hemisphere. 'No stamps available' and 'Active Service' have also been written to ensure that this envelope with letter inside could continue onwards without undue delay. Over the imprint 'Ordinary Quick Speed', denoting how this post should travel, is a circular handstamp for the Field Post Office of the British Army S. Africa and the date of 27 October 1900.

The single sheet has been torn from a notebook, as evidenced by the two tears at the top, and written in pencil both on the cover and the two-page letter, Caryl Clifton gives a very detailed description of what was going on at the time. To quote it in full is illuminating:

My Darling Mum,

For the last six days we have been practically besieged here, yesterday we had a big fight, 24 Boers killed 22 wounded & 26 prisoners, we have lost 2 officers killed & 4 wounded. We were relieved by another column yesterday. I am at present on patrol and have halted here & will give this scribble to someone in the train as it passes, I am now patrolling the line. I

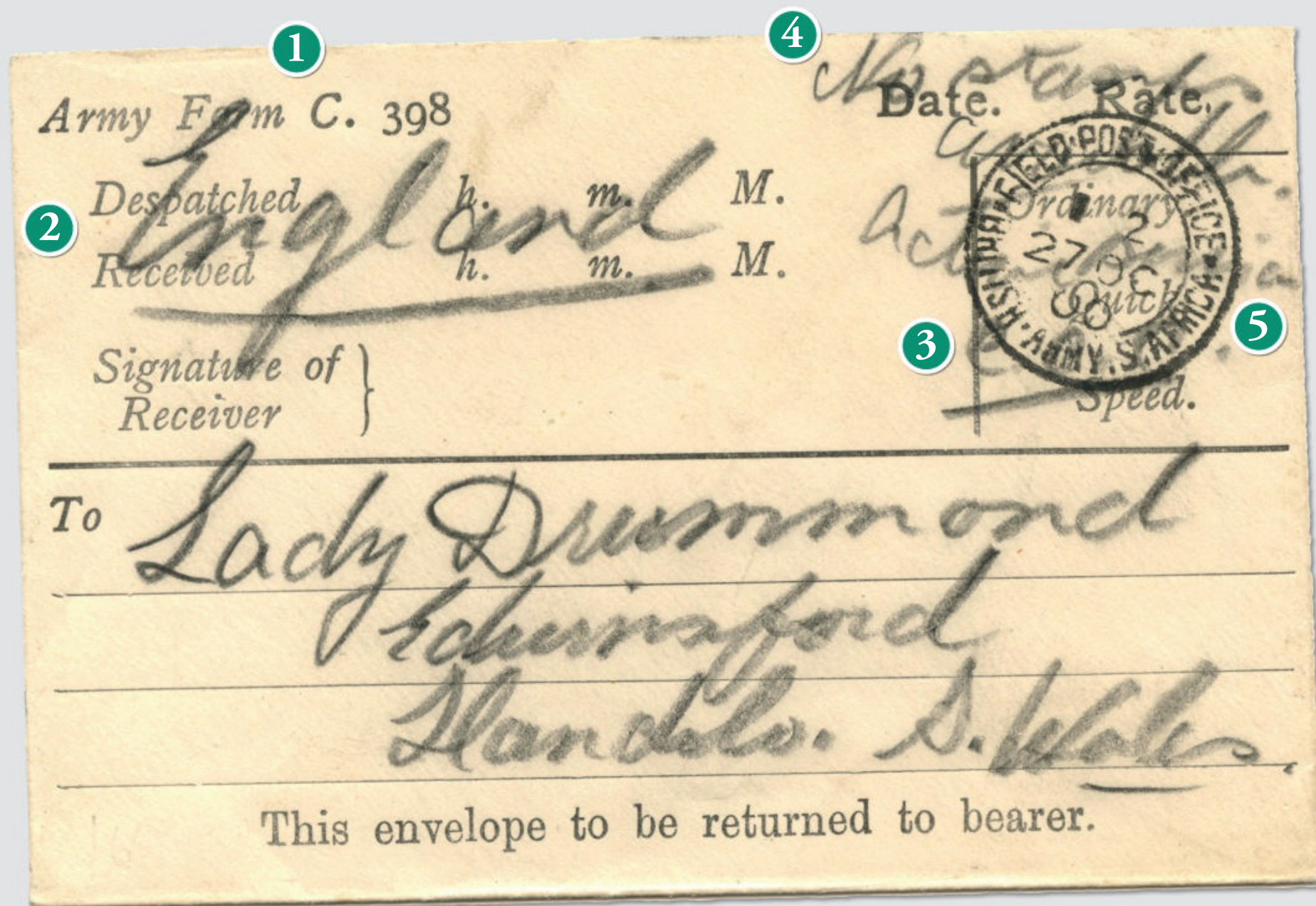


The addressee of our letter, Madeline, Lady Drummond

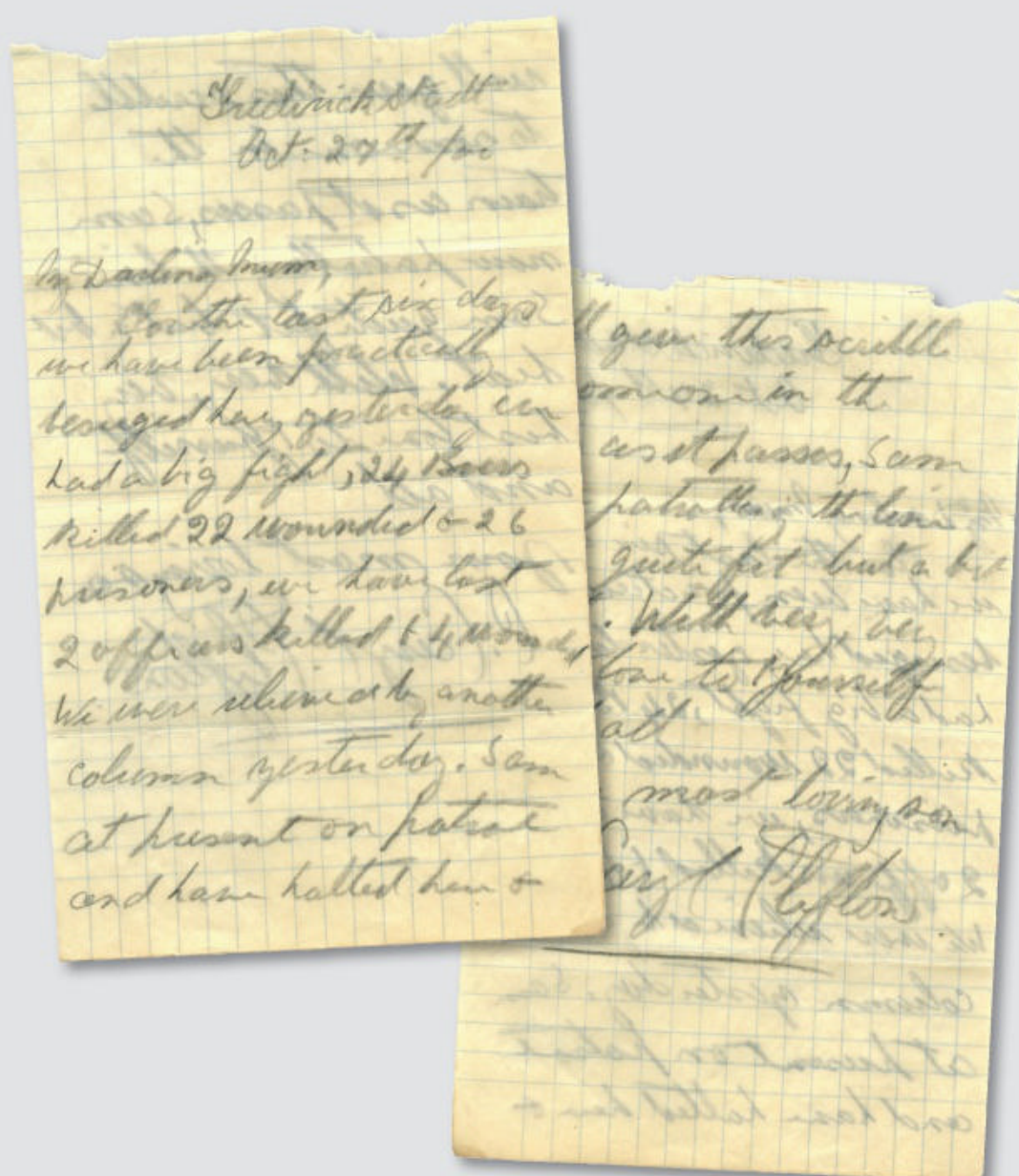
am quite fit but a bit beat. With very, very best love to yourself and all

*Your most loving son
C. Caryl Clifton*

The 'Mum' in question had been widowed when Caryl, youngest of seven, was aged two in 1880, but a re-marriage brought a step-father from 1889. Born in the Westminster area of London, he had served in Mashonaland in southern Africa in the conflicts in 1897. Becoming a Major in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and also serving in the First World War, he remained unmarried until his death in February 1932. This cover and letter is fortunately just one of a number written by Caryl and his brothers and sisters to their mother Madeline, Lady Drummond, that were kept safe, no doubt treasured, and later dispersed on the death of all direct family members.



- 1** The cover for the letter is an Army Form C.398, as printed at the top left of the small envelope.
- 2** There is also the words 'Despatched' and 'Received' which enable details of the date, together with the time, to be hand-written, although this did not occur this time.
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POSTAL HISTORY

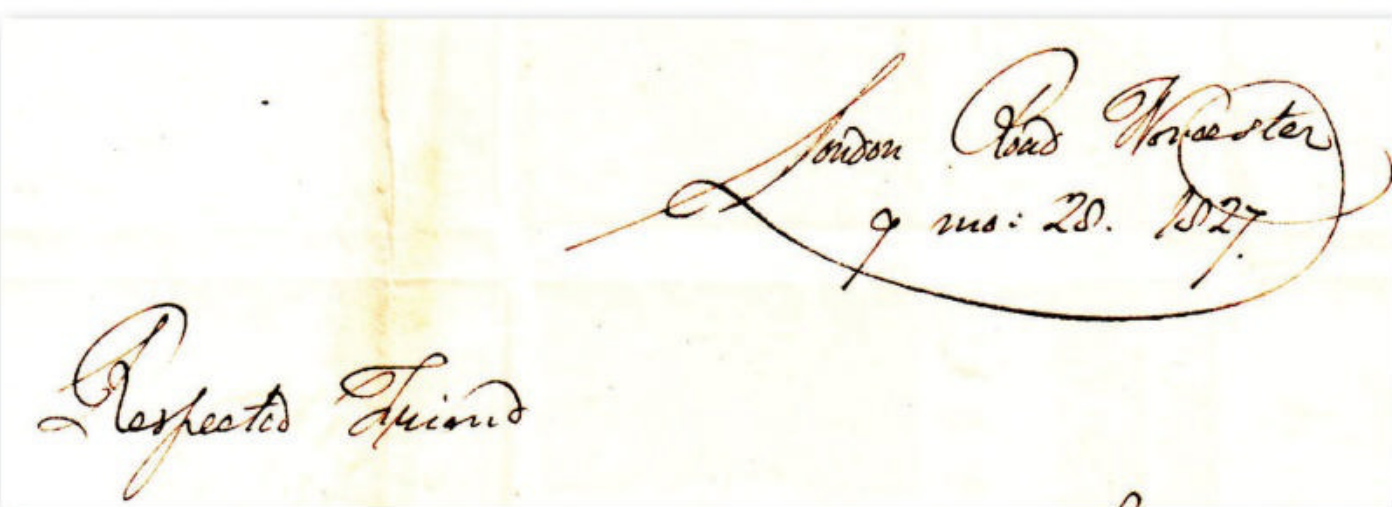
Worcestershire

If you are to understand fully the postal history of a county, writes John Scott, it helps to know what went on in a particular place which underpinned the need for written communication. As our grand postal history tour comes towards its end, we discover the history and trades of Worcestershire

Exploring these byways of a particular county can be more challenging than collecting the postmarks themselves and requires a degree of curiosity – looking inside the letters and even under the flaps of envelopes in search of the elusive.

Worcestershire was renowned in Victorian times for its climate and scenery which induced ‘multitudes of loungers to make the villages of Great and Little Malvern ...the temporary theatres of their gaieties’. But taking the waters was a serious matter and, writing to his grandmother in 1848 from Malvern, one such masochist records that ‘I have laid in the wet sheet for more than 100 following mornings during time varying from three hours to one hour and with all this I have gained ten pounds so it has not quite killed me’. Unsurprisingly there was a popular line in comic stationery poking fun at such behaviour.

Sometimes reading a letter can reveal unexpected secrets. For example Samuel Rigg was a solicitor in Worcester who wrote to a colleague in Evesham in 1827, expressing the date as ‘9 mo: 28



1827’. From this we can deduce that the writer was a Quaker as they wrote dates in this format to avoid using months whose names derived from pagan origins.

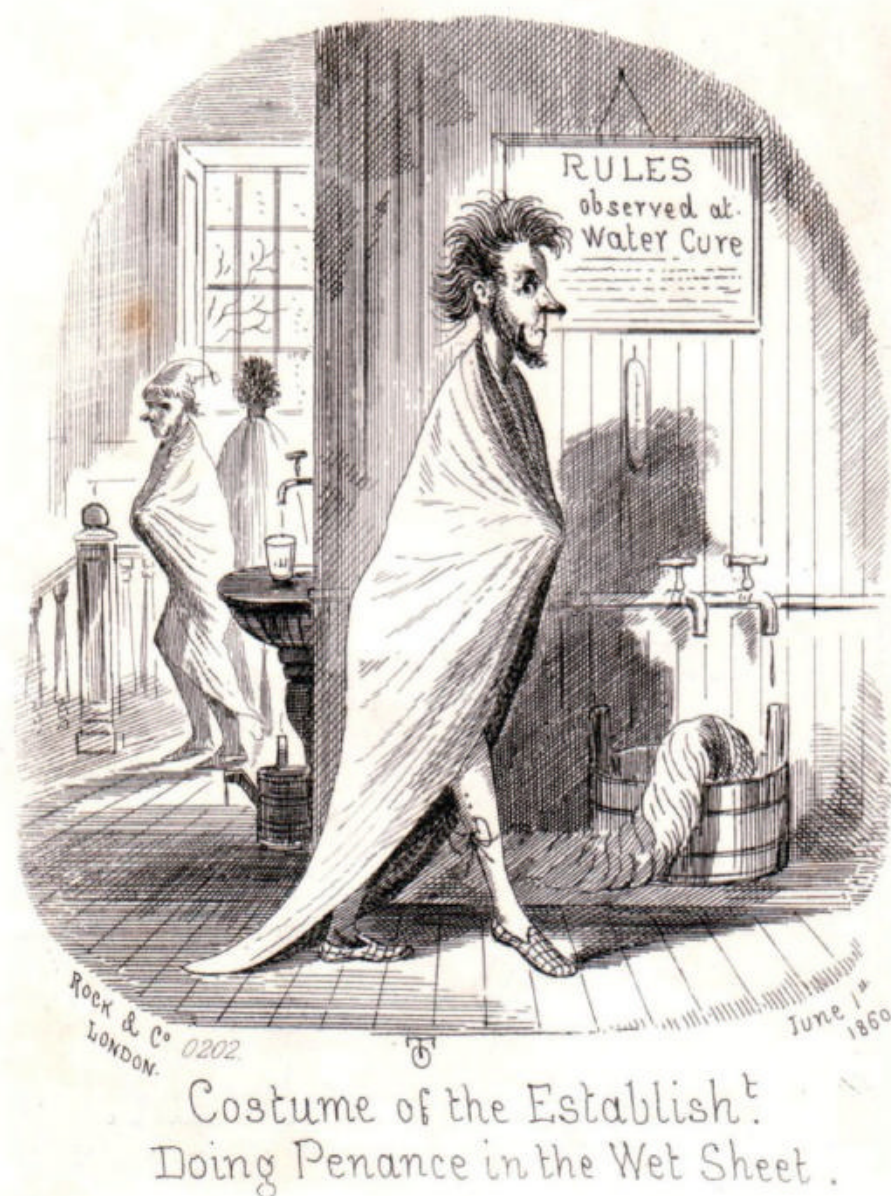
While postal historians tend to focus on the front of an envelope, the back can be just as interesting. By the 1840s the use of wax to seal letters was diminishing but old habits die hard and stationers continued to emboss devices onto the rear flaps, either commercial or personal, until the arrival of the mass-produced printed envelope in the 1850s. De

‘Doing Penance in the Wet Sheet’ drawn by Thomas Onwhyn and published as writing paper by Rock & Co. of London on 1st June 1860 with plate number 0202

The format of the date and the preamble ‘Respected Friend’ betrays the Quaker faith of the Worcester solicitor writing in 1827

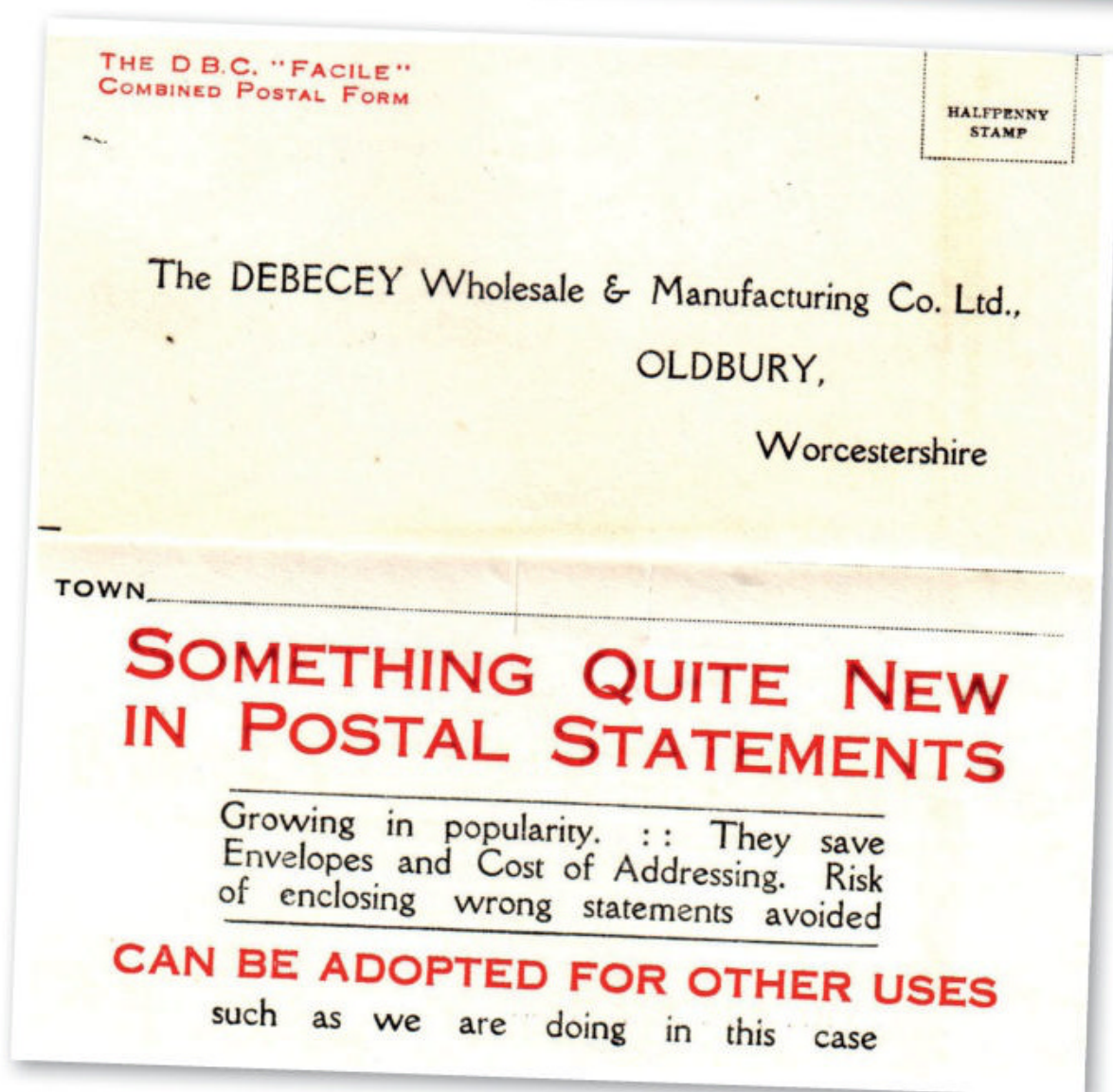
La Rue also registered a design with Queen Victoria’s head below an elliptical row of perforations, enabling the envelope to be opened without mutilating the monarch.

Business stationery may not be the most visually attractive collecting area but Victorian entrepreneurs were nothing if not inventive. Cannon’s Book Post Envelopes and ‘The Dagonet Locking Book Post Envelope’ patented by Beechings of London are among the products which can be identified from the colourless embossing on the reverse which can be easily overlooked. Others,





The embossed device of Bell & Hall, Ironmongers, High Street, Worcester, on an envelope of 1850 to Broadway



The row of perforations above the Queen's head embossed by De La Rue enabled this envelope from Worcester in 1853 to be opened without defacing Her Majesty



Worcester Cathedral embossed on an envelope from the city in 1850



'The D.B.C. "Facile" Combined Postal Form' manufactured in Oldbury and exhibited at The British Industries Fair in 1918/19

such as 'The Rapid' ½d Post Circular Envelope patented by Drake, Driver & Leaver of London, show their origin more clearly but still do not attract the attention which they deserve.

Paper shortages in the First World War accelerated the use of invoices with an integral address panel which collectors tend to take for granted without appreciating the reason for their development. The Debecey company in Oldbury manufactured 'The D.B.C. "Facile" Combined Postal Form' intended for business statements which they exhibited at

the British Industries Fair at The London Dock. Although inaugurated in 1915, the Fair only took place at that venue in 1918 and 1919, enabling this unused sheet to be dated with certainty. It is but one quick step from there to move into the publicity labels produced for the multiplicity of trade fairs which can be collected either as single items, just as you might collect a postage stamp, or on the covers and invoices for which they were intended. Either way, have fun yourself and enthuse your friends and family.

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The Association of Great Britain First Day Cover Collectors (GBFDC)

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

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

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

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

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Chronicles of NOELLA BRY

A philatelic distraction based on real events,
by Eva Mealing



PART SIXTEEN THE MISSION FOR A MISSIONARY

Dr Jacques Legrand recommended the salmon soufflé starter, followed by the chicken with morels and cream, which to Noella's delight was served with a side of sautéed potatoes and a bowl of chestnuts and spinach.

The Frenchman insisted on treating her before she retired to her room to write her two letters. She happily agreed, having eaten very little that day, also feeling the effects of the champagne, and wanting very much to sample the French cuisine on offer at the hotel, but not knowing what to order as the menu was entirely in French. Being unfamiliar to such fine quality excesses she declined a dessert, although much to the doctor's delight, and amazement at her constitution for wine, Noella sampled the Chambertin Burgundy ordered to accompany their chicken.

The stamp scholar had room for a sweet and devoured peaches flambéed with Kirsch, which were theatrically ignited at the side of their table by a waiter dressed in a crisp white button-up shirt, black waistcoat and dress pants. Le Grand chatted amiably about the timbromania in France and how this had led him to invent the perforation gauge, this, he said, had become a widespread tool used by collectors across the continent, and noticing the genuine interest from his dinner guest he confided in her that he was accustomed to writing technical articles in stamp journals under the pseudonym 'Dr Magnus'.

Inquisitive, she enquired, 'What made you choose 'Magnus', if you don't mind me asking, isn't that Latin for great?' Smiling, and to Noella's surprise, he replied quite openly, 'Well, it is in fact after the Roman general and statesman, who the English call Pompey. I studied the transformation of the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire as a student and recall being fascinated by the man's thoroughness, a trait I like to exhibit myself. There is in fact a bust of Pompey, at the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, which is in Maincy, about thirty or so miles southeast of Paris. I've seen it. It was lovingly restored in the 17th century, which in itself is quite an honour for a foreign leader, his legacy undoubtedly an inspiration for other reformers subsequently.'

Up in her room in the moments after departing from Dr Legrand, Noella thought what an inspiration he was. His energy and passion for his scientific approach to the hobby of stamp collecting was infectious and it made her wish she had her own collection with her.

Settling down to write her two letters she decided to write to Count Ferrari and she swiftly penned a letter, reminding him of their encounter in London at the Cullum Street shop and explaining she was herself now in Paris and wished to meet on a stamp-related matter. She felt it best to keep it vague. She then wrote a more detailed letter to Charles Phillips, outlining her reason for being in Paris and a summary of matters, not holding back on detail, as she was sure he would have heard of Gaston Leroux's unfortunate ending. But she was specific in asking if he could furnish her with any details of a valuable stamp which had come onto the market, and one which would interest Leroux, and if he had any ideas who might have been the mystery person the victim met on that fateful day.

At reception there was a regular dispatch of mail for the guest and the

clerk said that the letter for the Count at Paris Hôtel Matignon, Rue de Varenne, would be taken by their private courier immediately. The other mailing to London would be taken to the main post office in Paris and would be sent that evening if their attendant could make it in time, otherwise tomorrow.

When Noella asked the costs the clerk smiled and said; 'Mademoiselle, it is OK. Monsieur Le Queux advised that all your expenditure was to go on the bill. He has many letters going to London, many times a day.'

Noella again wondered at what arrangement her fellow reporter had with the hotel and more importantly with their editor Mr Armstrong, but decided to bow to the budding authors' experience in such matters.

She retired for the night and although fatigued was unable to sleep. The disappointment at not establishing any clear motive, but the excitement of Legrand's revelation about Leroux having met someone the day of his murder, to collect a rare stamp, created an agitation within her which increased due to her vivid dream of a mystery pursuer.

At some point she must have drifted off because she woke to the clatter of carriages outside and could see that it was already morning, the sun sneaking in through the gaps in the shutters against the window. There was no word at the reception of a reply from Count Ferrari when she checked after breakfast and having brought William Le Queux up to speed with her discussions with Dr Legrand, and the letters sent the previous evening, they both sat in one of the furnished sitting rooms and discussed what might be the best way forward.

'The doctor informed me last that the Paris Philatelic Society, which Gaston Leroux was a member, had a meeting the next day. It's a regular occurrence, or routine as he said, but I thought I might go along and see what I can find out.' Le Queux agreed it was indeed an excellent proposition and said he'd very much like to go and assist just in case there were any language barriers to overcome, if the good doctor was unable to attend. 'Oh. He is picking me up at 5pm. It isn't far apparently and he said he knows everyone. He suggested we use the cover story that I'm a collector from England, on a social visit and a personal friend of the doctor's sister.'

Le Queux nodded vigorously and said, 'He's a marvellous chap this Legrand. His tactics will put everyone at ease, so if there is anything to be noted it will provide the best opportunity for you.' At that moment a hotel porter came into the drawing room with a silver tray and stepped over to Noella, bending down and presenting the tray at her eye line. Noella noted that positioned perfectly in the centre of the silver plate was an ornate envelope with an embossed pattern around the edges and upon taking the envelope Noella saw a coat of arms on the back. She recognised the distinctive French heraldry of the Ferrari name. 'It's from him, William. I am invited to lunch at the Hôtel Matignon, to discuss philatelic matters!' William Le Queux exclaimed; 'Voilà, my dear!'

To be continued. Find out in the next episode what Noella finds out from the legendary Count Ferrari, and will her attendance at the Paris Philatelic Society provide any leads?

Philatelic Feelings ...

Sometimes Collectors get a raw deal, don't they ? For example, whilst on holiday, I remember my wife (a keen plant collector), once spent an extraordinary amount in the sum of £200 for some plants. She paid the bill and was just about to leave when she spotted the company's catalogue (price/stock list) which she hadn't seen. Being 200 miles away from home she asked if she might have one so that she could use their mail-order next time? Incredibly she was told the price of the company's pricelist was £5.

Naturally, she didn't buy one, nor did she ever do business with that company again – ALL for the sake of just £5 – that company lost the goodwill of a client who spent £200 on just one *first* visit ...

Similarly, some stamp companies are *extraordinarily* mean. Sometimes auction catalogues are not supplied free, or buyer's premiums run at 20%+ levels *even upon company's own stock*, postage, packing and insurance may be added, scans/ photocopies cost, moreover ... not all auctions guarantee their lots – which is hard to understand when these days, so few collectors physically attend auctions in person.

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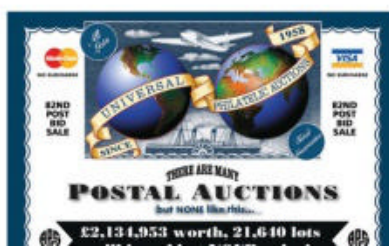
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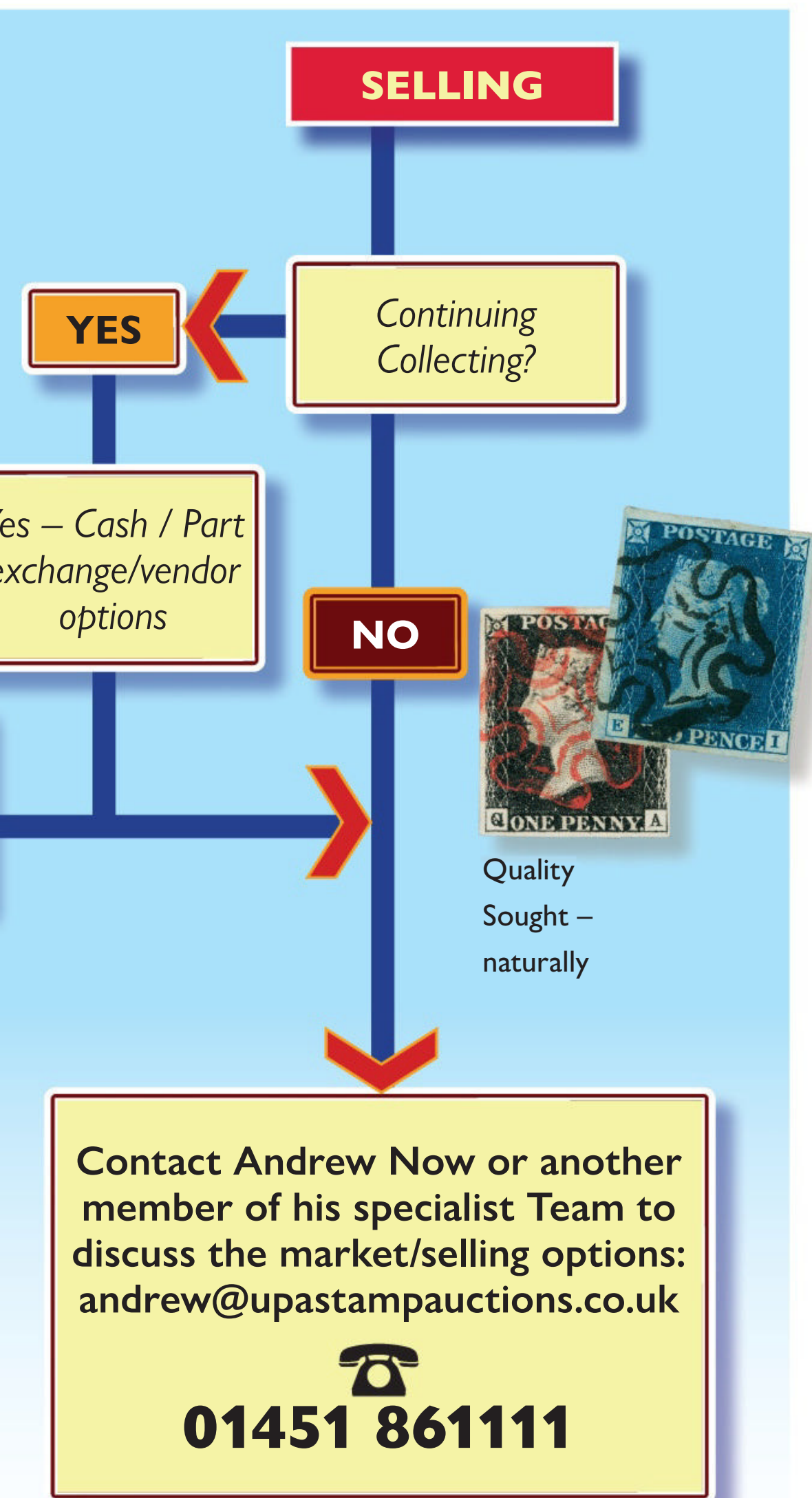
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