OPINION: THE DEMISE OF SMILERS • YORK STAMP FAIR GUIDE • WIN! CAT STAMPS!

AUGUST 2022 Volume 4, Issue 8 www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

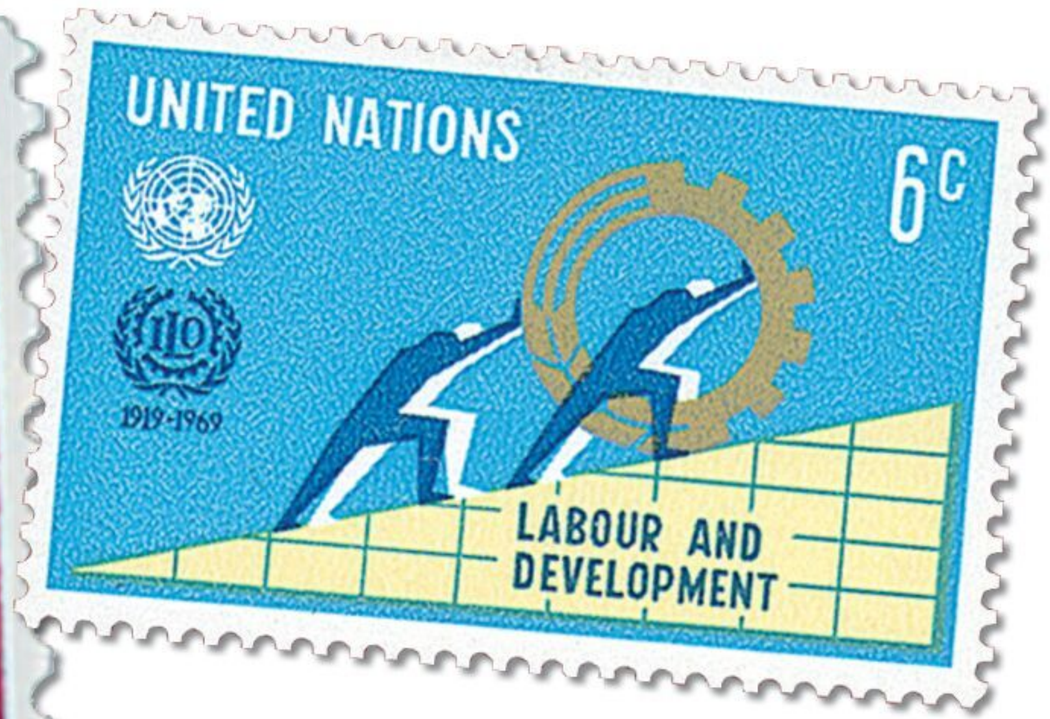
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ATTENTION OWNERS OF LARGE/ VALUABLE COLLECTIONS –

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

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

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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

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

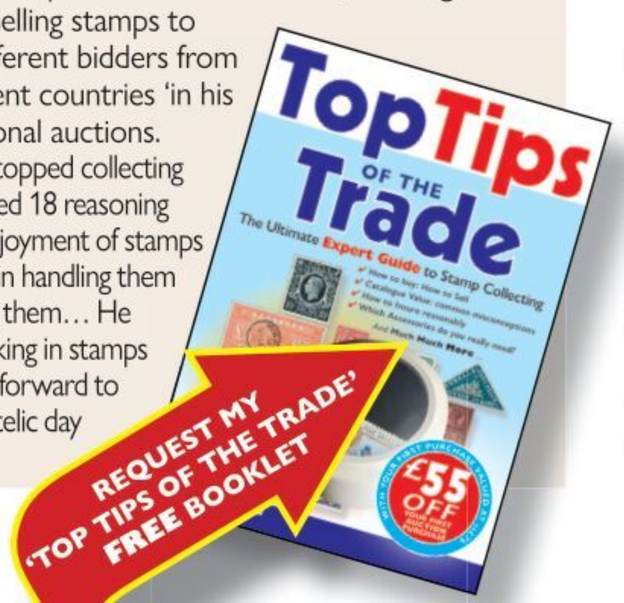
Wrong Offer ✗ ***Wrong Price*** ✗ ***Wrong Place*** ✗

(naïve seller) ✔ = ☹ ***me but I was only 15 at the time!***



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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



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

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

Wrong Presentation ✗ ***Wrong Place*** ✗

therefore Wrong Price ✗

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

Wrong Estimate ✗ ***Wrong Presentation*** ✗

Wrong Structure ✗ ***Wrong Protection of Price*** ✗

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

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

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

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation ✔ **Place** ✔ **and Price** ✔

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

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

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

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – **I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction**

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

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

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

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

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

7 ▶ **Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers: Sell to Collectors instead?**

In our example with buyer's premium, sellers commission, lotting fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance - you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, **to the wrong person**.

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

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

a). 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

b). 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…

c). **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…

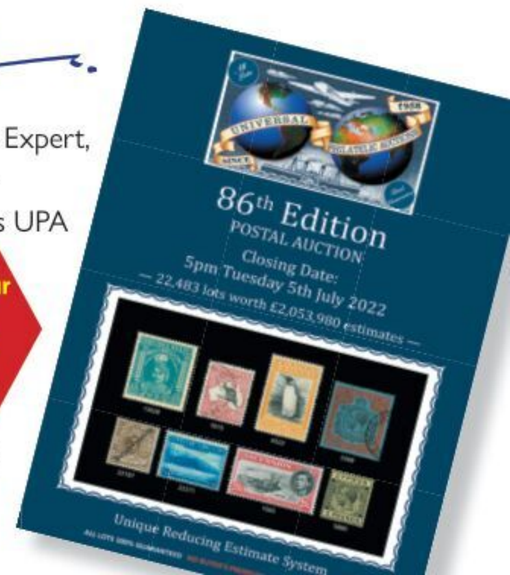


19 ▶ Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing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



Request Your Next FREE Catalogue NOW

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STAMP COLLECTOR

ALL ABOUT STAMPS

www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

Published by Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, Bourne, PE10 9PH

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PRINTED BY
Warners (Midlands) plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

DISTRIBUTION BY
Warners Group Publications plc
West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

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Welcome

STAMP SUBJECTS AND THE STORIES BEHIND THEM



The choice of subject for a stamp issue is usually met with cynicism from some quarters. Certain collectors ask, does that person or event really deserve the honour of appearing on a stamp? Is this the right time to be highlighting that particular issue? How is that subject relevant to that stamp-issuing nation? All fair points.

This final question could be directed at the 1971 definitive set from Ascension Island, indeed in his latest 'Making of the Stamp' article (page 32) Richard Morel asks why the tiny volcanic island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean selected the 'Space Race' as a subject for its stamps? But as Richard goes on to explain the 88km^2 island played a vital part in the USA's efforts to explore space. Take a closer look at the story behind the stamps and we often discover fascinating facts that can shed new light on the subject.

One stamp set that is certainly relevant to the country from which it originates, is Greece's recent 'Sculptures of the Parthenon' stamps (page 6), which highlight the ongoing calls for the so-called 'Marbles of Elgin' to be taken from the British Museum and returned to Athens. Along with the growing range of stamps reflecting the fighting in Ukraine, and the colourful Pride stamps recently revealed by Royal Mail, the Greek set reminds us just how powerful and pertinent stamps continue to be.

Finally, it may come as a surprise to learn that Muhammad Ali has yet to appear on a USA stamp – surely a wholly appropriate subject for his home nation to celebrate. Now a campaign is hoping to put that right. As the great boxer said himself: 'I should be a postage stamp, because that's the only way I'll ever get licked.'



Matt Hill, Editor

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

PS: Have you signed up to the All About Stamps newsletter yet? It's simple to do and means you'll receive exclusive updates from me and the team, including the latest stamp news, price updates, offers and more. It's completely free too and, of course, we'll never share your details with anyone else.

As regular newsletter recipients will know, we recently launched the already popular 'Stamps Monthly' email, a simple listing of the latest stock, offers and price lists from trusted dealers and auction houses. Along with attending shows, browsing the internet, or going into a stamp shop, the email is another way to interact with dealers and build your collection.

To sign up to the email, just visit the website at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/account/register and complete the form.

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ROYAL MAIL REVEAL PRIDE STAMPS

Royal Mail have revealed the design of eight new stamps exactly fifty years to the day that the UK's first Pride rally took place in London.

The stamps, specially commissioned by Royal Mail, were art directed by NB Studio and illustrated by award-winning artist Sofie Birkin. Journalist and author Amelia Abraham was also consulted for the stamp issue as was Royal Mail's internal LGBT & Friends Network.

Beginning in 1972, the stamps tell a story of Pride over time. They depict the first 'Gay Pride rally' and early Pride events where participants shouted slogans such as, 'Gay is fun! Gay is proud! Gay is beautiful!', to the more recent update on the traditional rainbow flag, its design encompassing the flags of trans and intersex people, while also referencing the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people of colour.

David Gold, Director External Affairs & Policy, Royal Mail said: 'The vibrant, colourful Pride events that take place in towns and cities across the UK today trace their origins to a small number of people who marched through central London half a century ago to raise awareness of discrimination and inequality. There have been huge changes in laws and social attitudes, but Pride events continue to play a key role in raising awareness of discrimination, as well as celebrating diversity and individualism.'

Alan Dye, Creative Director at and owner of NB Studio, added: 'It was a real honour to be asked to design this iconic series for The Royal Mail, as they represent such an important part of British LGBTQ+ history. It was an absolute joy to work with Sofie Birkin who's work we've admired for some time. Watching these beautiful illustrations come to life you could easily imagine yourself as part of the March Through Time.'

Read more about the stamps in next month's Stamp Collector.



GREECE STAMPS URGE RETURN OF PARTHENON MARBLES



Greece have issued a set of four stamps which has been described as conveying 'the most important message in the long history of Greek stamps', with an appeal for the Marbles of the Parthenon to be returned to Greece.

The 'Sculptures of the Parthenon' stamps, issued on 19 May, depict sections of the famous sculptures which were removed from the Parthenon in Athens by Lord Elgin between 1801 and 1812. These artefacts, sometimes referred to as the 'Elgin Marbles' were later sold to The British Museum in London, where they have been on display for decades, despite ongoing calls for them to be returned to Athens.

Polychronis Griveas, Chairman of BoD of Hellenic Post, said: 'True to its social role, Hellenic Post has marked every form of cultural expression of our country over the last two centuries with a wealth of philatelic works, reflecting Greece's entire history from ancient times to the present through stamps that have made their own history. Key points in this history, people who have marked its development, works by world famous artists, events that have defined the nation's dream, all these – and much more – comprise the journey taken by Greek stamps as they have taken our homeland around the whole world. And on this journey, the time has come to add the pressing demand of so many decades, the return of the Parthenon sculptures.'

To accompany the stamps, the Greece postal service has also launched a mini website (at www.parthenonstamps.gr/en) which details the set and sheds more light on the call for the sculptures to be returned to Athens.

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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

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REF T503



CAT £900

FREE GENUINE 1840 2d BLUE WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE

INCLUDING ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER 6 REIGNS. A BAG CONTAINING 500 DIFFERENT GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER AND FDC's. ALSO SINGLE ITEMS 1855 1d & 2d QV TO 1/- 1887 GREEN AND RED KEVII TO 10d, KGV TO 5/- SEAHORSE, KGVI TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1,500 +

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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

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

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

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

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

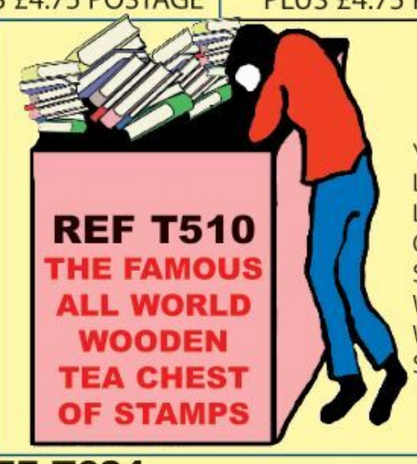


REF T602

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.



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

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

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

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

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



REF T607

ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN ½ 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



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

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





AUCTION DATES

2022: 10th Aug, 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec 2023: 11th Jan

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CALLS FOR MUHAMMAD ALI STAMP

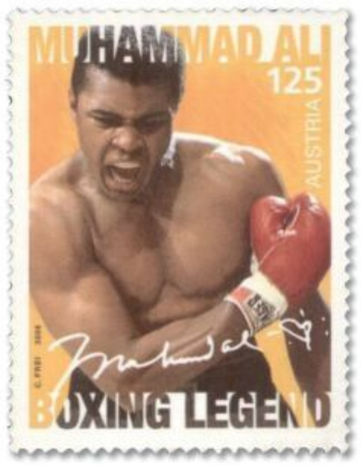
He may have been the self-titled 'greatest', but it may come as a surprise to hear that the USA has yet to issue a stamp celebrating the life of boxer Muhammad Ali. Now his widow and prominent politicians are calling on the US Postal Service to 'give the champ the stamp'.

Muhammad Ali, who passed away in June 2016, is considered by many to be the greatest boxer of all time and was named Personality of the Century by the BBC in 1999. His views on race and politics, perhaps most notably his opposition to the war in Vietnam, meant he was banned from boxing for four years at the peak of his powers and, according to reports, was closely monitored by the FBI.

The 'give the champ the stamp' campaign is being backed by Ali's widow Lonnie Ali and Louisville Mayor Greg Fisher, and is set to use social media to spread the message. The Louiseville-based website Courier Journal quoted Fisher as saying: 'The U.S. Postal Service stamp program honours members, extraordinary individuals who have contributed to American Society, history, culture and environment. Muhammad Ali more than meets the criteria in place.'

Any person depicted on a US stamp must have died at least three years prior to the stamp being issued, and with Ali having passed away in 2016 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease, a stamp could no wbe issued. Such is the influence of the outspoken sportman, he has already appeared on stamps from countries including Austria and a host of African nations.

So why hasn't Ali been honoured on a US stamp already? Does it come down to politics and his views which many thought were controversial? Is there a more innocent reason for his absence from US letters? Perhaps it's appropraite for us to leave the final word to the great man himself, who once said: 'I should be a postage stamp, because that's the only way I'll ever get licked. I'm beautiful. I'm fast. I'm so mean I make medicine sick. I can't possibly be beat.'



Austria issued a stamp for Muhammad Ali in January 2006, but the USA have yet to issue a stamp for the boxer, six years after his passing. Rules state that only people who have died at least three years ago are allowed to be honoured on US stamps

NEW UAE STAMPS COST OVER £600

The United Arab Emirates have issued a set of four postage stamps with a total face value of approximately £613, with one of the 'Golden Jubilee' stamps containing a 1g fine gold bar.

A closer inspection of the 'stamps' reveals they are not quite the same as the standard postage stamps you would pick up at your local post office, since they are the latest in a growing list of non-fungible token (NFT) stamps. The set comes as four physical 'stamp cards' but each has a 'digital twin' that can be collected in a digital crypto wallet.

The description on the Emirates Post website explains: 'The NFT stamp card is a high-quality credit card-sized plastic card comprised of 5 PVC layers and the gold bar is laminated into the card itself. The Golden Jubilee NFT stamp pack also includes a regular physical stamp of the same design without the gold bar… The design is of the UAE desert landscape and invokes the journey of the founding fathers, starting from meetings in the desert to forming the country of the future.'

A crypto-stamp consists of two parts: a traditional physical stamp which can be used to post your mail – though it is unlikely any are being used for this purpose – or collected just like any other stamp and, crucially, a digital image of a stamp which is stored on a blockchain – a digital ledger – and can be viewed, collected, sold or traded. Many post offices are issuing the digital stamps, including Austria, Gibraltar, USA, and Switzerland, and many of these crypto-stamps have gone up in value since they were issued.



Read more about crypto-stamps in our special guide at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides

WESSEX COLLECTORS EXHIBIT AT THE ROYAL

Members from the Wessex Region of the Royal Philatelic Society London recently provided the displays at the Society's meeting.

Filling over forty frames, no fewer than 24 members the afternoon with displays. Some unusual subjects were featured including the Railway Freight stamps of the Colony of Victoria, Barbed Wire, Great Britain Unemployment Revenues, The Liberation of the Channel Islands, the Art of the Valentine, Christmas Island Atomic Tests and the Early Postal Markings of Sark.

Steve Harrison FRPSL gave the vote of thanks at the meeting, saying: 'I always look forward to these meetings, as they provide a broad range with such variety of material.' The President of the Society, Peter Cockburn FRPSL, thanked those who had co-ordinated the displays, Julian Jones FRPSL, Robin Pizer FRPSL, David Winnie, and Claire Scott FRPSL (all pictured), and, in addition to presenting a certificate to all who had contributed.



NEW UKRAINE STAMP REFLECTS CIVILIAN RESISTANCE

Ukraine are set to issue a second postage stamp showing defiance against the Russian invasion of the country, following another stamp design competition.

The second competition run by Ukrposhta, invited Ukrainians to design a stamp with the title 'Good evening, we are from Ukraine!' Entries included an image a soldier and a local in traditional dress side by side, and a drawing of Russian leader Vladimir Putin looking at a map with a Ukrainian soldier placing his hand on his shoulder. However, the winning design shows a Ukrainian farmer's tractor towing away a Russian tank. Since the war began, tractors have become another symbol of the civilian resistance to the Russians.





Before the vote, the Ukraine Post facebook page explained the rules: 'In total, we received more than 1,500 works and selected five that best meet the philatelic requirements and illustrate the theme of the brand. One of the five sketches to get the most likes across all platforms, we'll recreate in a new postage stamp in July!'

The stamp is set to be issued in July and follows the release earlier this year of a provocative stamp showing a soldier making a defiant gesture toward a Russian warship. The stamp proved hugely popular with both Ukrainian locals, who queued to purchase the stamp, and collectors around the world, with many examples now selling online for inflated prices.

Meanwhile, Spain has become the latest country to issue a stamp in support of Ukraine. The 'Spain with Ukraine' stamp shows the Ukraine flag with a heart in the middle. A total of 640,000 copies of the stamp are said to have been issued, with the set reported to be sold out on the Correos website.

POSTMASTERS AND POSTMISTRESSES JOIN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Postmasters and Postmistresses across the UK joined members of the public to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Olive Norris MBE, aged 92, the UK's oldest postmistress decorated the Thompson Post Office in Norfolk with bunting and handed out a Platinum Jubilee 50p coin to every child in the village. Olive said: 'We always have parties in Thompson to mark special Royal occasions. I think the Queen is amazing. She is a great role model. We are nearly the same age and we are both still working. My father bought a television especially so that we could watch the Coronation. The day that I was presented an MBE for services to the community was unforgettable day and one that I will always cherish.'

Meanwhile, Valerie Johnson, Postmistress for Baltasound, the UK's most northern Post Office decorated her branch with bunting and flags to mark the milestone. Valerie whose family also keep sheep and Shetland ponies on the remote Shetland Island, are currently busy with the lambing and foaling season but wanted to make sure that the



branch was decorated for the Jubilee.

Valerie, who has been the Postmistress for 24 years, said: 'I do like the Royal Family especially the Queen, so I wanted to make sure I decorated my branch. This Jubilee is extra special as it marks the Queen's 70 years reign. The Queen is a great figurehead, she has seen so much change in her life and she has always been there for us.'

IN BRIEF

Royal Mail has launched an ambitious new environment plan, which includes a long-term target to reduce its average carbon emissions per parcel it delivers in the UK from 205gCO2e today to 50gCO2e. According to Royal Mail, that's about the same carbon emissions as making a cup of tea with milk. Details of the campaign can be found at: www.royalmail.com/sustainability/stepstozero

Collector David Wolfersberger was recently named the 2022 Distinguished Topical Philatelist by members of the American Topical Association (ATA). The award ceremony is set to take place at the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento, California in August.

The USA have issued a single stamps to celebrate the centennial of former First Lady Nancy Reagan's birth. The stamp was unveiled by First Lady Jill Biden during a special ceremony held at The White House in Washington DC. Nancy Davis Reagan (1921-2016), wife of the 40th president Ronald Reagan, was First Lady of the United States from 1981 to 1989.

The American Philatelic Society recently announced the results of the officers' elections for the APS Board of Directors and the American Philatelic Research Library Board of Trustees. Robert Zeigler, who became President in 2018, was elected to his second full term as APS President. Mark Banchik, Cheryl Ganz, and Yamil Kouri was elected as the Board of Vice Presidents; Dr. Peter P. McCann, past President of the APS and completing his second term as Director-at-Large, will replace Steve Schumann as Secretary in the upcoming term; and Kathryn Johnson, who served as APS Treasurer from 2011 to 2013 and as Director-at-Large from 2009 to 2011, returns as Treasurer.

IN BRIEF

The ABPS Awards of Merit 2022 have been awarded to Frank Dickens and John Poulson, two philatelists who, between them, boast over 100 years of service to Matlock Philatelic Society. John Poulson was a founder member of the Society in 1971; he was appointed Treasurer that year and is still in that office. Frank Dickens joined the following year combining the offices of Secretary and Programme Secretary for 18 years before becoming Vice-Chairman from 1999 to 2019.

Canada Post recently issued three stamps, to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, in recognition of the contributions each Indigenous leader has made to their communities. The stamps feature politician, activist, writer and actor Harry Daniels, who served as an outspoken advocate for his people for more than 40 years; Jose Kusugak, an Inuit activist, linguist and award-winning broadcaster, who played a critical role in efforts that led to the creation of the Nunavut territory in 1999; and Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier, former leader of the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan, who served the most consecutive terms ever by an elected First Nations chief in Canada.

Entries are now open for collectors wishing to exhibit at Stampex 2022, the national stamp exhibition which takes place at the Business Design Centre from 28 September to 1 October. The ABPS confirmed that the London show will feature a competitive exhibition, with entries invited for all classes. Exhibitors should visit the website **exhibitions.abps.org.uk** where they will need to register with the ABPS to submit details. The closing date for entries is 31 July 2022 and collectors should email Nick Martin if they have further queries, on email: exhibiting@abps.org.uk

FEPA REVEALS AWARD WINNERS

The Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) have revealed the winners of the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to Philately, the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and research, and the Certificate of Appreciation, which included a special mention for the Southampton and District Philatelic Society.

The FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to Philately in 2021 has been awarded to Bernard Jimenez, who has been involved in all national and international exhibitions in France including PHILEXFRANCE 1999 and Salon du Timbre 2012 and 2014, both with FEPA Recognition. He has been very active in international organised philately, first as Secretary of the FIP Thematic Commission and later as a Member of the Board of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) since 2006 and its Vice-President since 2016.

The FEPA Board was unable to agree on an outright winner for the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research and so decided to award the medal to Lars Engelbrecht and Pedro Vaz Pereira as joint winners, for their studies 'Postal Stationery of Denmark – The Bi-Coloured Issue 1871-1905' and 'The Portuguese Post 1853-1900', respectively.

The FEPA Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to four groups, including the UK's Southampton and District Philatelic Society. 'The Society is currently the largest affiliated society in Great Britain and has actively promoted philately throughout the past two years during the COVID 19 pandemic,' the FEPA website explains. 'The Southampton and District Philatelic Society was one of the first in the UK to introduce video presentations in place of face-to-face meetings and it has continued to augment its calendar of events with this type of technology. It has strong ties, both locally and within the general philatelic world in Great Britain.'

Other societies to receive the award included the KOSMOS Specialised Society, founded January 1971, one of the oldest specialised groups in Europe aiming at promoting and supporting collecting focused on astronautics and space research; the Frankfurt am Main Philatelic Society 1878 of Germany, one of the country's oldest stamp groups; and the Subalpine Philatelic Union of Italy, described as 'one of those most engaged in supporting both local and national activities'.

SWITZERLAND ISSUE 'LIVING' STAMP

Last month we reported on a new set of stamps celebrating the Swiss Guide and Scout Movement which emit the aroma of campfires when rubbed, now Swiss Post have released a 'living' stamp, featuring chlorophyll pigments.

The 'Art in the Periphery' stamp celebrates a series of temporary, curated art events held outside urban hubs throughout the country, with artists encouraged to reinterpret their environment and place works of art in unexpected places.

Designer Monica Ursina Jäger wanted to combine art and nature in her stamp artwork, and so the design shows a green meadow. The stamp is the first to be printed with chlorophyll pigments, in other words, the substance responsible for the green colour of plants. 'The artist believes this design perfectly illustrates the overlap between natural habitat and cultural achievement. Meadows are usually created thanks to people and only continue to exist with their help. Art projects have also often been created on meadows in peripheral regions, continuing the dialogue between natural processes and cultural achievement. This means,' the statement from Swiss Post adds, 'the stamp is completely natural and living. The green will change over time, depending on the effect of light.'

Find out more at: www.post.ch/en



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AUSTRALIA

Country Women commemorated

Australia Post is celebrating the centenary of the Country Women's Association with a commemorative stamp. Designed by Stacey Zass, the $1.10 value shows the CWA's foundation president, Grace Emily Monro MBE (1879-1964).

For the last hundred years, the CWA's advocacy and community work has helped improve the lives of rural and regional Australian woman, children and communities.

Formed in New South Wales in 1922, the CWA is a non-profit organisation with than more 1,100 branches and over 21,000 members. Reflecting its motto 'Service to the Country, Through Country Women, For Country Women, By Country Women,' the CWA offers a support and social network for women, especially those in remote areas. Its key advocacy areas include access to medical and education services, and it raises funds through sales of scones and cookbooks.

'The celebration of our centenary is an important milestone for our association and our members, marking 100 years of advocacy on behalf of NSW country communities and the provision of assistance across a wide variety of programs and initiatives,' said CWA of NSW President Stephanie Stanhope.

The $1.10 stamp issue is accompanied by associated collectables.



Issue date: 26 April 2022, auspost.com.au/stamps

CANADA

Save the whales

A new set of stamps from Canada Post shows an eco-conscious aspect of philately as it raises awareness of the plight of five endangered whale species.

Canadian waters are home to more than 30 species, some of whom have been particularly threatened by ship strikes, entanglement in fishing gear and debris, pollution, climate change and ocean noise. Whale species whose populations have been assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada are:

- Beluga whale. These social creatures live in pods of up to several hundred members, and are at risk in the St Lawrence Estuary, Cumberland Sound and Ungava Bay.
- Blue whale. The largest mammal on Earth, it's now estimated that they number less than 10,000.
- Killer whale: The population of Canada's southern resident population of these highly social creatures is estimated at around 75.
- North Atlantic right whale: With only around 350 of these whales now in existence, it's projected they'll be extinct in 30 years.
- Northern bottlenose whale. These are toothed mammals about the size of an orca, who live in deep underwater such as the Scotian Shelf, where the whale population is estimated at 164.

'It's really important to have these whales recognised as endangered,' said Dr. Hal Whitehead, a biologist and professor at Dalhousie University and co-chair of the COSEWIC Marine Mammals Specialist Subcommittee. 'This recognition can lead to legal protection. It can also lead organizations and people to act voluntarily to stop activities that harm the whales. Thirdly, it raises awareness that we have a problem here, and we need to do something about it.'



The stamps feature illustrations by artist David Miller, which capture the magnificence of these threatened creatures swimming in their marine habitats in all their grace and beauty. The stamp issue is cancelled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which is the home to many whale rescue, stewardship and research efforts.

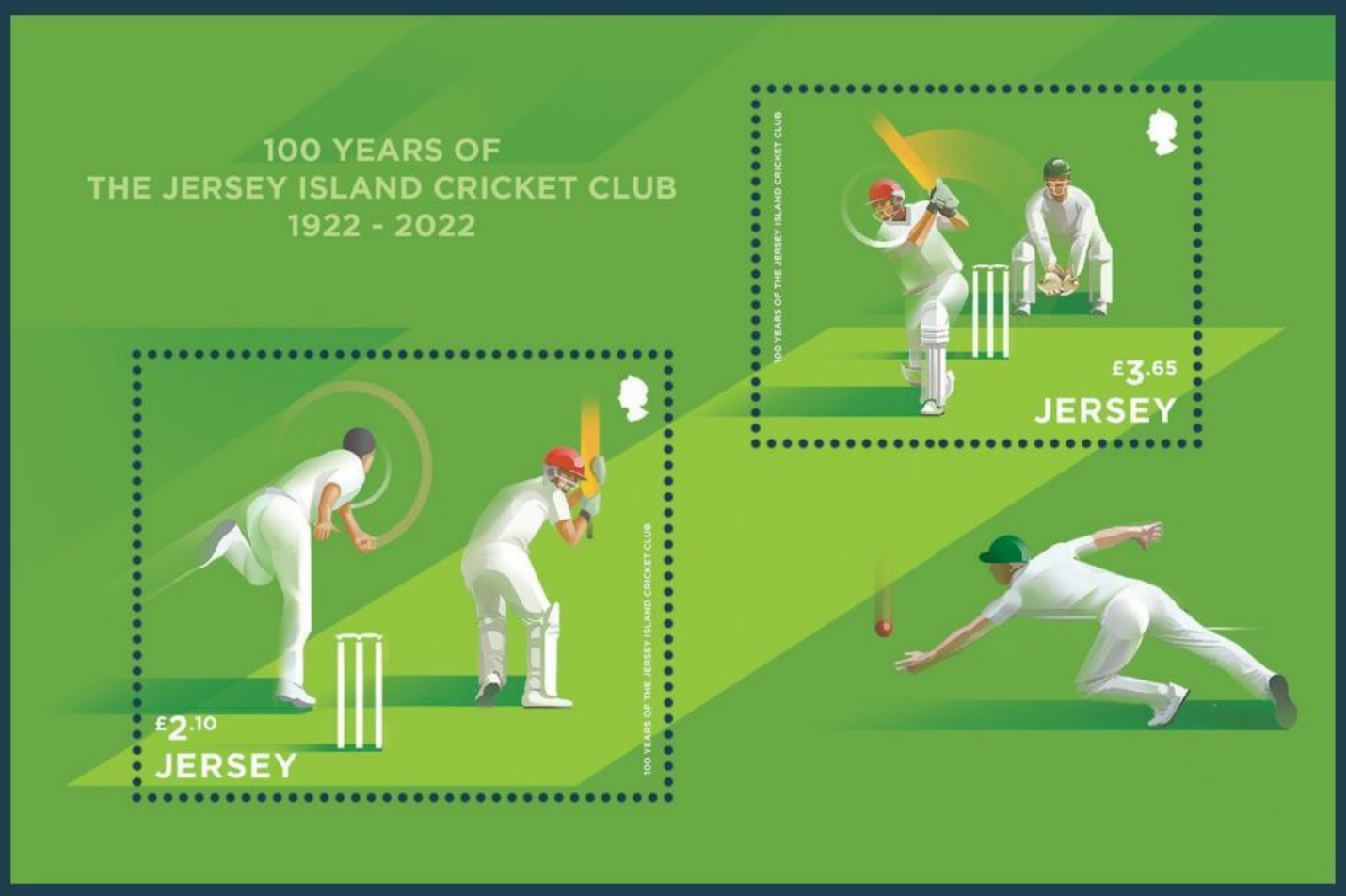
The stamp issue is printed by Lowe Martin and includes a booklet of ten permanent domestic-rate stamps, an official first day cover, a souvenir sheet of five stamps, an uncut press sheet of 25 stamps and a framed uncut press sheet.

Issue date: 20 May 2022, canadapost.ca

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Jersey Post Group

JERSEY

Public art goes postal







Landmark sculptures and statues around Jersey are being celebrated in a new set of six commemorative stamps featuring images by photographer Andy Le Gresley.

As a Jersey photographer, Andy specialises in clean, vibrant images and the stunning local landscape is one of his favourite subjects. The stamps in his set have the sculptures as a focal point, but each is set against a beautiful scenic backdrop.

The 56p stamp shows St Helier's *Le Traveilleux d'Cauchie*, or the *Docker*, a 1994 sculpture by Colin Miller. Set outside Jersey Museum, it reminds passers-by that of the island's maritime heritage –and that dockers used to haul in the fishing boats by hand.

The statue on the 82p stamp is of King George ll. Lording it over Royal Square in St Helier in Roman dress, it's one of the UK's best surviving examples of lead sculpture. Also in St Helier and on a Classical theme, the *Centaur & Cupid* statue on the 91p stamp is a copy of a Greco-Roman antiquity in the Louvre that was discovered in the grounds of Chateau des Roches in St Brelade in 1995.



Moving to a more modern age, the £1.20 stamp shows the granite *St Malo* sculpture, which was commissioned from Derek Tristram to commemorate the 1995 Channiland rescue when more than 300 people were saved from drowning after a catamaran ferry hit a rock.

The £1.37 stamp shows one of St Helier's most idiosyncratic sculptures – *Le Crapaud*, a response to the historical French habit of referring to Jersey inhabitants as toads. The toad has become an island symbol, and this warty amphibian, who squats one top of a nine-foot column in an area that was originally marshland, was created by Gordon Young in 2004.

The final stamp in the set (1.75) shows Swimmers ll, an exhilarating fountain and group sculpture of two humans and two dolphins by Philip Jackson situated in St Helier's Jardin de la Mer.





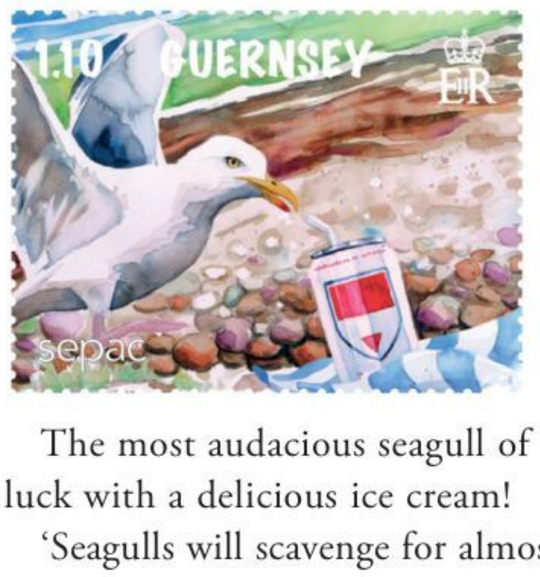
Issue date: 16 July, www.jerseystamps.com

GUERNSEY

Seagull snacks

Guernsey Post has released a set of stamps showing naughty seagulls snaffling local delicacies.

The stamps have been designed by Guernsey artist James Colmer. As many seaside visitors learn to their cost, mischievous seagulls always have an eye for a tasty snack, and the seagulls in James' light-hearted images are taking advantage of some of Guernsey's tastiest tidbits. The 52p stamps shows a generous bird offering a stolen slice of Guernsey Gâche – the local fruit loaf – to his partner-in-crime. The bird on the 79p stamp has nicked a mackerel from a fisherman, and the seagull on the £1.10 stamp has gone a step further and is trying to drink from a sunbather's can of pop.









The most audacious seagull of all is on the £1.35 stamp – trying its luck with a delicious ice cream!

'Seagulls will scavenge for almost anything they can get their beaks on,' said Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post. 'They are a common sight in Guernsey but an unwelcome addition to anyone's picnic! Artist James Colmer has injected good humour into the stamps whilst drawing inspiration from typical Guernsey coastal scenes.'

The stamps form part of a of a joint issue with SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation) for its 2022 theme Local Beverages.

Issue date: 22 June 2022 , www.guernseystamps.com

FAROE ISLES

Skál (that's cheers) for the beers!

The theme for SEPAC 2022 being Local Breweries, the new Faroe Islands' stamp designed by Anker Eli Petersen celebrates the Föroya Bjór brewery which has supplied the Faroese with beer and soft drinks for almost 150 years.

The famous local brewery began in 1888, when baker Simun î Vági started brewing beer in his basement at home in Vági (now Klaksvig. It must have tasted good because the home brew shortly developed into the Föroya Bjór brewery! Simun's original logo of the Faroese ram is included on the new stamp.



Föroya Bjór has weathered changes, including the post-referendum ruling in 1907 banning beer with an alcohol content over 2.7%, which meant Faroese breweries were only able to produce light lager beer and white beer – although stronger beers were allowed to be imported from Denmark!

Föroya Bjór began producing soft drinks in the 1930s, which enabled the company's development from small brewer to modern industrial establishment. In the 1980s, the peculiar Faroese legislation surrounding the brewing of strong drink on the Islands came to an end, and Föroya Bjór was again able to brew strong beers and real lagers. The brewery is now responsible for 65% of Faroese beer sales and 45% of soft drink sales. A recent move has been the production of distilled alcohol products – initially Faroese specialities such as aquavit, vodka, gin, bitters and rhubarb liqueur. In November 2020, going from strength to strength, it launched its first Single Malt Whisky. Skál!

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

SERBIA

Celebrating a princely rarity

A new stamp designed by Jaksa Vlahovic and released for Serbian Stamp Day recreates a rare 150-year-old stamp.

With a nominal value of one Serbian penny when it was released in 1872, the Milanče tête-bêche is a world-class rarity. There is only a single example in existence and the last time it was sold at auction it was for 70,000 Swiss Francs.



Stamps with the image of Prince Milan – the 'Milančići' – were published between 1869 and 1880.

The existence of this pair in tête-bêche form was pointed out by the famous Serbian philatelists Evžen Deroko and Mirko Rašić. Although they speculated on the exact circumstances of how this particular pair came to be formulated, the accepted view is that it happened by incorrectly inserting clichés during the printing process. The error was spotted and corrected, but one pair remained in existence.

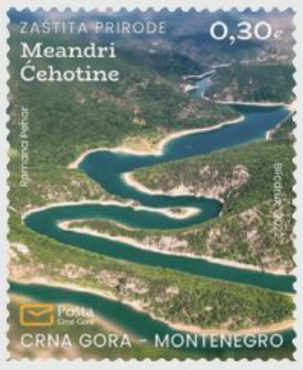
The Milanče tête-bêche was originally part of the renowned Ferrary collection. The French stamp collector Philipp Ferrari de la Renotière (1850-1917), who assembled perhaps the most extensive worldwide collection of rare stamps in existence, was a personal friend and guest of Prince Milan. It's believed that the Prince, knowing Ferrari's passion for philately, gave him this rare stamp as a gift.

Nothing was known about the stamp until the publication of Mirko Rašić's book *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Serbia* in 1979, which brought it to the attention of a wider public.

The motif on the First Day Cover comes from a letter in the collection of Predrag Antíc, Belgrade, and shows a block of fourteen and two strips of three of the 1 para yellow, perforated, on a cover sent by Slivjanic to Paracín – the largest known multiple of the original design on a cover.

Issue date: 13 May 2022, www.posta.rs

IN BRIEF



Montenegro has produced a 2022 Nature Protection stamp set called *The Meanders of the Cehotina River*. Designed by Romana Pehar and printed by Blickdruck in Sarajevo, the €0.30 stamp shows the spectacular meanders of the 125km river as it enters the Pljevlja Valley. ***https://postacg.me***



Scientist Ardem Patapoulian is the new addition to the 'About World Famous Armenians' stamp series. Molecular biologist Patapoulian, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 2021, features with his Nobel Prize on a stamp with a nominal value of 350 AMD. ***www.stamps.am***

Belgian Egyptologist Jean Capart, who died 75 years ago, is commemorated with a new miniature sheet designed by Sven Ballanger that can be folded into the shape of a pyramid. The sheetlet includes Capart's notes, his signature and photographs as well as information about the objects on the stamps. ***www.bpost.be***

In 2022, it will be 50 years since homosexual conduct was decriminalised in Norway; in that time expectations of gender expression and sexuality have changed radically, and a new stamp from Norway celebrates this relaxation of attitudes with a simple stamp featuring the rainbow flag and a heart with the text 'LOVE IS LOVE', a common slogan of the Price movement. ***posten.no/frimerker***





The cat's whiskers

Dog lovers look away! Royal Mail has created the purrfect set of stamps for fans of felines

Anyone who's ever been owned by a cat knows the deep pleasure of Cat TV – ie, watching them just… being cats. Stretching, washing, playing, sleeping, eating. This is the theme for *Cats*, Royal Mail's new set of eight stamps, which shows some of the UK's most popular types of kittens doing what they're best at. Graceful, playful, quirky and curious, the cats on the new stamps show the characteristic and charming behaviour that has made them such popular pets that it's estimated one in every four households in the UK is under the paw.

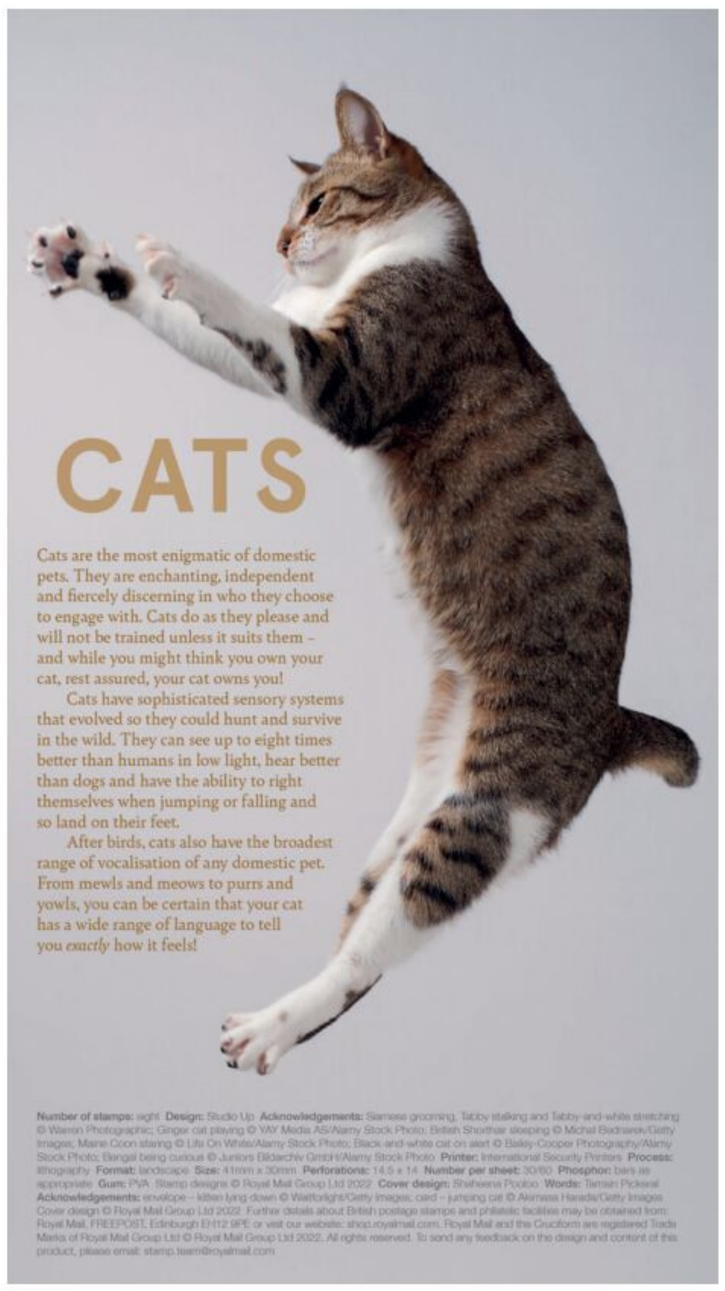
With a feline population of around 10.2 million, the British may be a nation of cat-lovers but we're not snobby in our affections. The new stamps show this, including a mix of pedigrees and moggies to show the most popular owned cats: Siamese; Tabby; Ginger; British Shorthair; Maine Coon; Black-and-white; Bengal; Tabby-and-white.

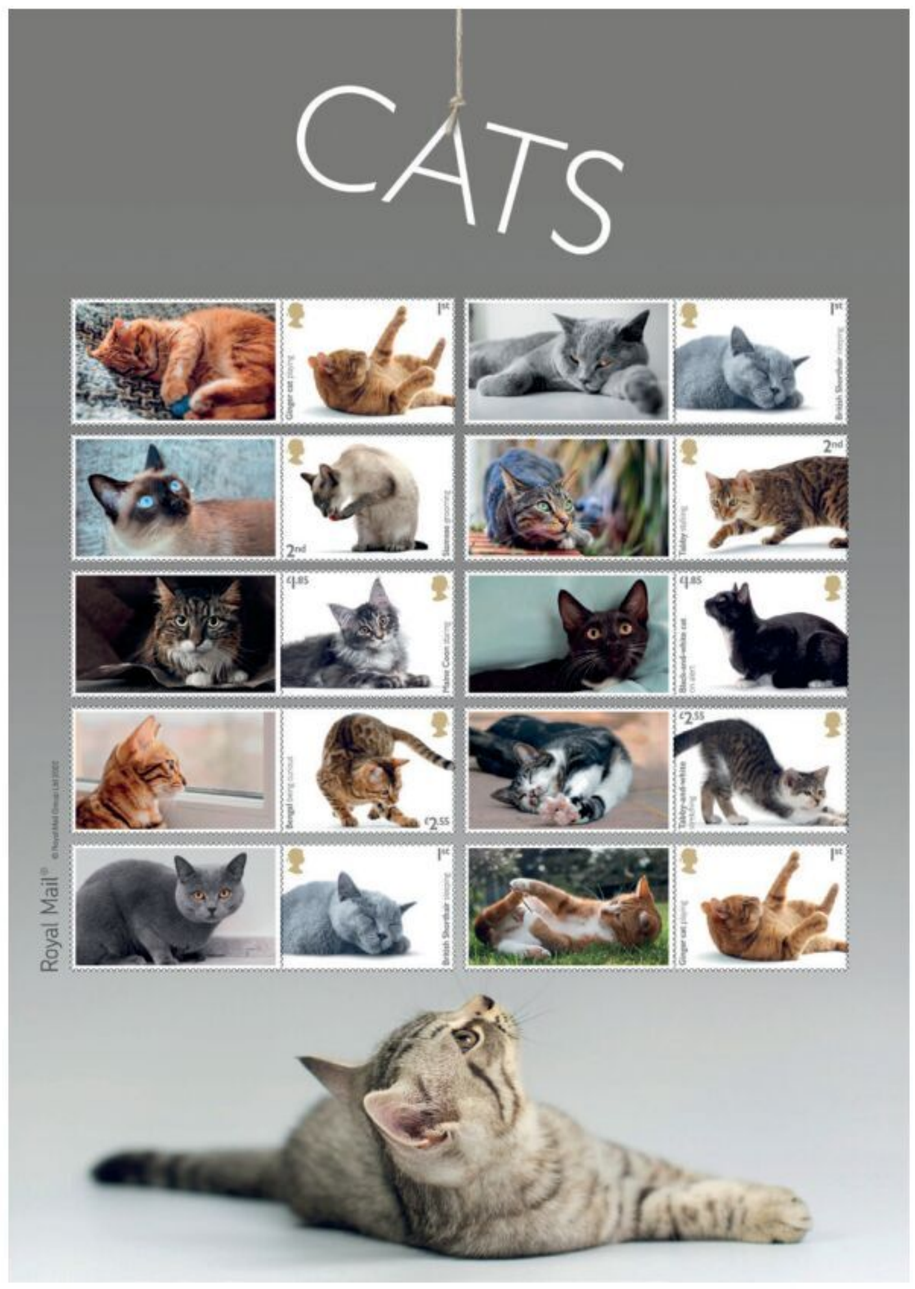
The Royal Mail worked on the set with animal expert Tamsin Pickeral, author of *The Grace of the Cat: An Illustrated History*. The set's presentation pack includes information written by Tamsin about the history of the domesticated cat, popular cat breeds, and cat behaviour. It even includes a guide to what a cat's tail indicates – held high suggests 'friendly and content', but a bottle-brush tail warns that the cat is fearful or angry.



It's believed that cats, originally descended from African wildcats, first became domestic pets around 10,000 years ago in the Middle East, at a time when farming and settlements were being established – which coincided with the rise of the rat population! Cats were transported on grain ships to protect the cargo from mice, and as the Roman Empire expanded, made their way across Europe and to the British Isles.

Royal Mail's relationship with cats has historically involved their pest control skills as well as the fact that they look lovely on stamps. Keeping down rodents became an official cat job when the Post Office employed them, at a salary of a shilling a week, as official mouse catchers. Three cats were initially employed in 1868 at the Money Order Office in London, which was experiencing an infestation of mice. The cats were given six



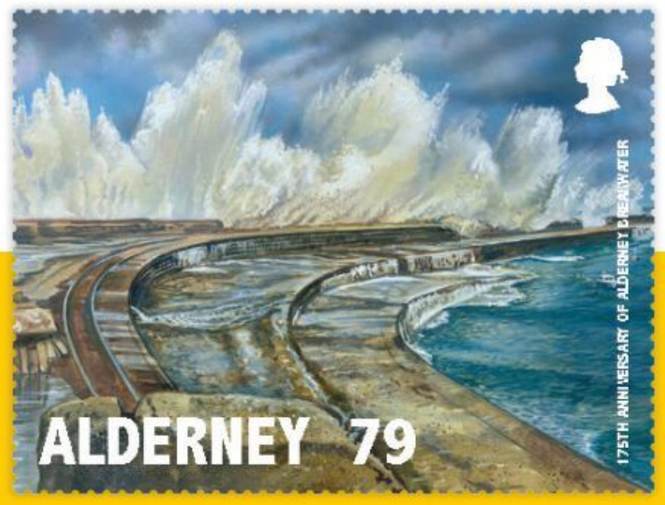


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months to deal with the mouse problem, and performed so effectively that five years later they got a salary increase of sixpence a week. At this point, cats began to be employed in other post offices around the UK. In 1952, though, outrage was sparked, and questions asked in the House of Commons, when it emerged that the cats hadn't had a raise for 80 years.

The best-known British Post Office cat was Tibs, known as Tibs the Great and the 'number one cat'. Tibs was born in November 1950 and kept the Post Office HQ in London rodent-free for 14 years. Tibs, whose portrait was featured in a 1953 book called *Cockney Cats*, worked in the basement at a salary of 2s 6d a week. He weighed a whopping 23lbs by the time he died in 1964, and was so famous that his obituary featured in several newspapers. The last cat to be employed at Post Office HQ was Blackie, who was paid £1 a week and appeared on BBC's *Nationwide* programme. He got a 100% pay rise on his £1 salary in 1983, but his death in 1984 coincided with the decline in use of cloth mail bags – mice were less keen on eating the replacement plastic mail sacks, making the cats redundant.

The relationship between humans and cats goes far beyond what they can do for us in practical terms though. In the Ancient Egyptian period, 4,000 years ago, cats were believed to be magical creatures capable of bestowing good luck on people who took care of them. More than one Egyptian deity was depicted with a feline head or a cat-like form, including Mafdet, whose head was that of a cheetah or serval, Bastet, the best known-cat-goddess, and lion-headed Sekhmet. Mut, the Mother Goddess, was sometimes depicted either as a cat or in the company of cats. The cat cult in Ancient Egypt included the creation of cat cemeteries, and pet cats were sometimes mummified to ensure that they would keep their human company in the afterlife.

Cats haven't always been seen as deities, a practical solution to a rodent problem or beloved companions, though. During the Middle Ages cats were regarded with fear and suspicion, as the companions of witches, and culled. As a result, rodent-based plagues such as the Black Death spread, killing an estimated 60% of Europe's population.

These days, we don't depend on cats to keep the rodent population down, and in the recent Covid plague, cats provided countless people with affection and companionship in lockdown. We love cats now for their companionship and their enigmatic, entertaining natures, beautifully encapsulated on the new Royal Mail stamps.

As the last full set of stamps devoted to cats appeared in January 1995, it's been a while since Royal Mail paid homage to the coolness of cats. The 1995 stamps were designed by Scottish painter and printmaker Elizabeth Blackadder OBE, and consisted of a series of beautiful drawings of named cats, each of which was known to the artist in her Edinburgh neighbourhood. A *Cats and Dogs* set was produced in 2001, designed by Johnson Banks, which showed sepia-tinted photographic images.

Feline-loving philatelists will be delighted with the crowd-pleasing new images in the *Cats* set. 'These beautiful stamps showing cats being



By Unknown - Original publication: Tute, Warren, & Felix Fonteyn. (1953) Cockney cats. London: Museum Press.Immediate source: http://500years.royalmailgroup.com/gallery/tibs-the-great-is-no-more/, Fair use, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49332579

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:

What was the salary paid to Tibs when he worked for the Post Office?

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

Closing date: 12 August 2022. Winners will be picked at random from all correct entries. Editor's decision is final. Good luck!



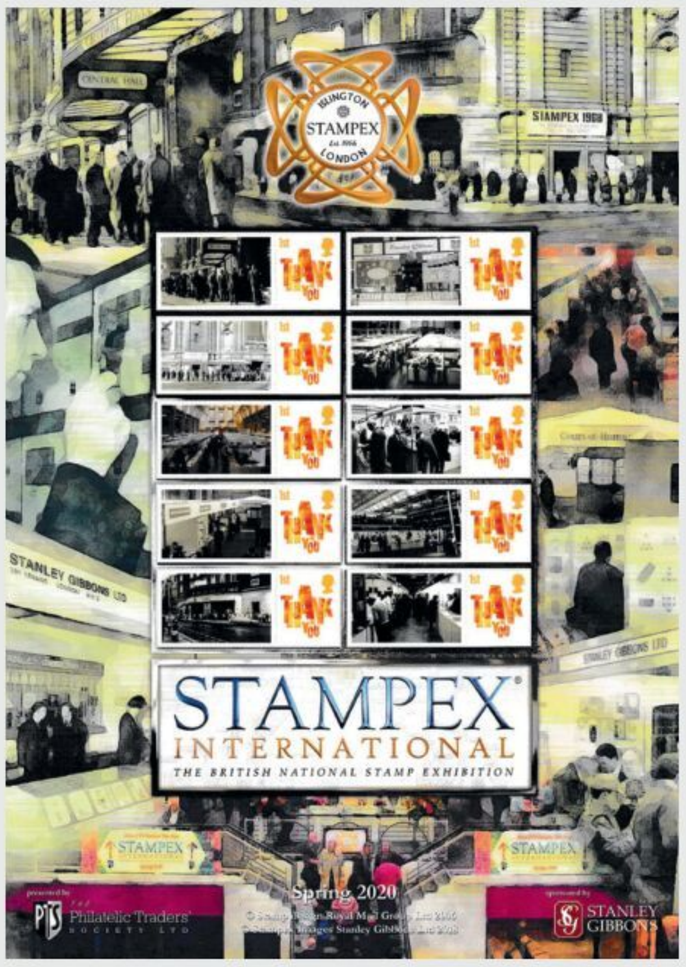
STAMP DETAILS

Issue date: 9 June 2022
Printers: International Security Printers
Process: Lithography
Format: Landscape
Size: 41mm x 30mm
Perforations: 14.5 x 14
Phosphar Bars: as appropriate
Gum: PVA
2nd: Siamese grooming
2nd: Tabby stalking
1st: Ginger cat playing
1st: British shorthair sleeping
£1.85: Maine Coon staring
£1.85: Black-and-white cat on alert
£2.55: Bengal being curious
£2.55: Tabby-and-white stretching



cats, show why as a nation, we are besotted with them,' said David Gold, director external affairs and policy at Royal Mail. 'Their enchanting, independent and quirky ways are perfectly captured in these images that all animal lovers will adore.'

The First Day Cover can be personalised to an address and has a choice of a 'Meow' or a 'Purrrr' handstamped postmark. Presentation Packs, Stamp Souvenirs, First Day Envelopes, collectors' sheets, framed stamps, framed collectors' sheets and a set of postcards featuring enlargements of each of the stamps in the collection are all available.



The rise and fall of Smilers sheets

When Royal Mail introduces a new product, collectors are often at first sceptical, and it can take years before the feasibility of the item becomes clear. In his latest column on GB stamps, Richard West reflects on the introduction and gradual disappearance of Smilers sheets

The very first presentation packs (excluding the 'definitive' packs produced in 1960) were hardly a hit when first released. The first pack in 1964 for Shakespeare Festival sold relatively well, but the subsequent packs that year – Geographical Congress, Botanical Congress and Forth Road Bridge – sold in far smaller quantities, reflected by current market prices.

In similar vein, the first stamp (PHQ) cards – those that reproduce the design of stamps, introduced for the 3½p value of the County Cricket set in 1973 – did not initially enthuse collectors and prices rose, although have since stabilised.

It seems it is only once a product has become established and seems here to stay, that collectors take note, and then want to fill the earlier gaps.

The same could also be said of the so-called Smilers sheets. These were introduced by Royal Mail at The Stamp Show 2000, based on an idea that had been launched by Australia Post the previous year. The concept was straightforward: the chance to have a personal photograph printed on labels attached to standard stamps, the stamps chosen being those issued for special occasions or Christmas. It provided the opportunity to make Christmas cards, or announcements such as the arrival of a new baby or a change of address, more personal.

It was not essential to have the labels 'customised'. The Smilers sheets were also available in 'generic' form, having a related design printed on the labels. It was the scope of what could appear on the labels that was broadened: Business Smilers resulted. Some did indeed promote business, and charities. A number were used to publicise philatelic events, the most notable being those produced in conjunction with the Stampex event.

However, it must be admitted that some possibly took the idea too far. Numerous sheets were produced for a multitude of occasions, whether current events or anniversaries, individuals or teams. While it is true that Royal Mail charged a premium to produce such sheets, in some cases they were sold far above the face value of the stamps.

Royal Mail did not help – it also extended the boundaries by producing Commemorative Sheets, aimed at marking events that did not justify an issue of stamps. Such sheets were sold within a descriptive folder, but at a significant premium over face value, so much so that the Gibbons stamp catalogue does not credit them with a full listing.

Customised sheets and Business Smilers (and the Commemorative Sheets) are now no more. Is it that the production run each time did not justify the production costs? Did the 'personal' touch simply not catch on? Did some overplay the Business Smilers concept simply by producing too many such sheets and selling them at too high a price?

The idea has not completely disappeared. Several special issues each year are now accompanied by a 'Collectors Sheet', virtually identical to generic Smilers sheets. They have to all intents and purposes become an 'alternative' form of miniature sheet.



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

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

MARKET INSIGHT

Quick Links

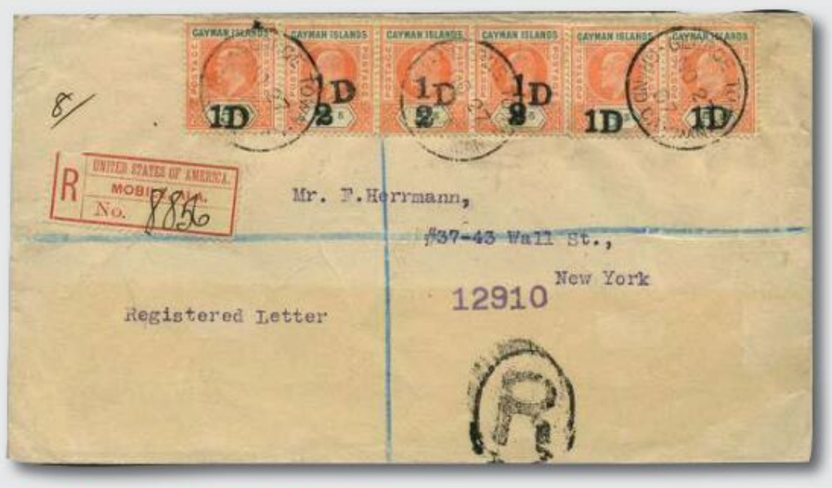
Page 22 Stamp detective

Page 24 Latest online sales

Page 26 Burma price guide

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



CAYMAN ISLANDS COVER

The Graham Booth Collection of Cayman Islands Postal History went under the hammer at Stanley Gibbons recently, and included this 'important item of Cayman Islands postal history'. The 1907 Registered cover to New York featured a horizontal strip of three '½D' on 5/- salmon and green as well as a single and pair of '1D' on 5/- salmon and green, all neatly cancelled with Georgetown circular date stamp reading '27 NO 1907'. An oval 'R' handstamp and Mobile registration label on face can be seen on the front of the cover, with US transit and arrival markings on reverse.

SOLD FOR £6,000



BROKEN 'F' VARIETY

Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions recently held their 'British Empire and Foreign Countries' with just under 1,200 lots on offer. Amongst the highlights was this Bechuanaland 1888 3d pale reddish lilac and black featuring the overprint 'One/Half/ Penny' with the 'f' in 'half' broken. This variety has a catalogue value of £17,000 and the mint stamp boasted 'large part original gum'.

SOLD FOR £6,000



'I.R. OFFICIAL' RAISES TEMPERATURES

The recent five-day sale at David Feldman in Geneva, Switzerland was said to have been 'very hot and busy' with more than 5,000 lots going under the hammer amidst an 'un-springlike temperature of more than 30 degrees'. The final day was dedicated to GB and Commonwealth and included a mint 1902 King Edward VII 10s I.R. Official which was described as being 'a magnificent rarity and one of the key stamps of Great Britain philately'.

SOLD FOR £36,600

EXTREMELY FINE FRANKLIN

Classic USA was the order of the day at the latest Robert A Siegel auction, with an 'extremely fine' example of the 1857 1c blue, type 1, which features a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, on offer. The auction house explained that the stamp was 'probably the finest mint never-hinged example of the 1857 perforated one-cent type i, which comes only from plate 12… this is the only graded mint never-hinged stamp in the p.s.e. population report, and this is the highest grade awarded in any category'. The lot description continued: 'The defining characteristic of Type I is that the entire design is printed, including the scrolls and plumes at bottom. Among the plates used to print imperforate stamps, only one position out of 1,000 can claim that honour.'

SOLD FOR £9,400



FROM ONTARIO TO OZ

What was described as a 'magnificent pair of covers' sent from Canada to Australia, were recently offered by R Maresch & Son during the CAPEX22 event which took place in Toronto last month. The mourning cover, complete with large black border, paid the 23c postal rate with a 2c Green, 6c Dark Brown, and 15c Reddish Purple, and was sent from from Brantford in 1868 to Melbourne via London. Whilst the second cover paid the 22c rate with a 1c Brown Red, a 6c Dark Brown, and a 15.

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KENTUCKY PRISONER MAIL



The Galen Harrison Collection of Prisoners' Mail of the American Civil War excited both philatelists and collectors of US history. One of the many highlights of the Daniel F Kelleher Auctions sale was a 'Flag of Truce' cover sent by a Confederate prisoner at the Paducah Prison, Kentucky. The cover features a vertical pair of US 3c rose tied by a light Paducah, Ky target duplex, and a C.S.A. 10c blue type I tied by a Richmondcircular date stamp, the 29 February (leap year) date said to be extremely rare on such mail. The cover is said to be the only recorded P.O.W. cover from Paducah Prison.

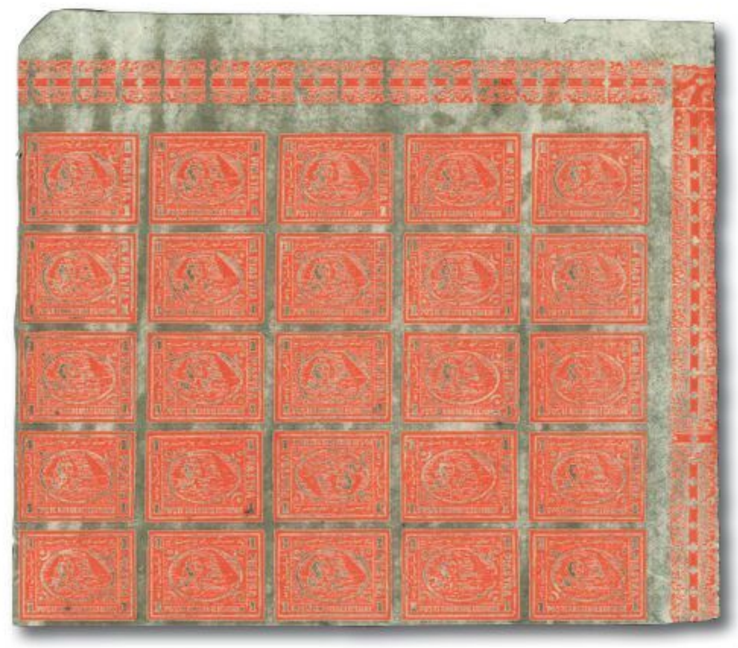
SOLD FOR £2,200



TRISTAN RELIEF FUND SET

A set of the 1961 Tristan Relief Fund overprints, as featured in detail in the July 2022 issue of *Stamp Collector*, was recently offered by Grosvenor in London. The 2½c.+3d. to 10c.+1s. set, featured unmounted mint marginal examples of each stamp along with a 2014 B.P.A. certificate.

SOLD FOR £2,700



A BLOCK OF PYRAMIDS

The David Feldman sale also featured this imperforate block of 25 Egypt 1pi vermilion stamps of 1874. According to the auction house, position 48 on the corner sheet shows the inverted cliché resulting in a tete-beche pair. The 'outstanding showpiece' was once held in the Royal Philatelic Collection.

SOLD FOR £7,725



SHANGHAI LOCAL

Spink's recent Philatelic Collector's Series sale in Hong Kong included this 1865 2ca black on laid paper from the Municipal posts of Shanghai. From printing 25, and with small but clear margins, the stamp was in fine unused condition and said to be rare.

SOLD FOR £2,600

STAMP DETECTIVE

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

Iraq Army Day

For years, political and religious unrest, armed conflicts and outright wars have forced many Iraqi citizens to leave their homeland in search of a better future in Europe or North America. It seems many of these refugees now take a strong interest in the stamps of their former homeland. Recently the 6 January 1958 Army Day set in mounted mint condition sold for almost £15 in an online auction.

It is quite an attractive set featuring tanks, planes and marching soldiers with an inserted portrait of King Faisal II. The king is also featured on the 30 fils top value. The set was recess printed by Bradbury in England.

This set had a rather short life due to the proclamation of the Republic of Iraq on 14 July 1958 which resulted in a plethora of overprinted stamps marking the change. The Iraqi postal service continued to mark Army Day with new stamps on a regular basis.



Highly variable asking prices have been noted for the 1958 Army Day set in unmounted mint condition ranging from a low £3 to as much as £10. The remarkable realisation mentioned in the first paragraph was probably due to two Iraqi expatriates badly wanting to add the set to their collections.

Tucking away a few mint sets might very well prove to be profitable in the long run. About £4 is a reasonable price to pay but make sure that the stamps are unmounted mint and free from blemishes.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH II	❒	QUEEN ELIZABETH II	❒
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GREAT BRITAIN ON PAPER MIXTURES

GB COMMEMS NO XMAS. Wide ranging on paper mix includes h.v's & modern to 2018 issues. ½ lb £16.00, 1 lb £30.00.

GB HIGH VALUE DEFINS. On paper, many from registered & recorded mail so good cancellations, a clean mix. Includes modern security issues which will become very rare with all the gold labels used on mail. ½ lb £18.00, 1 lb £35.00.

GB MULTIPLES ISSUES. Try to keep up with the recent multiple issues. Increasing variety, right up to the latest 2018 Harry Potter, Owls, Game of Thrones, 2017 Droids & Aliens, Classic Toys, Landmark Buildings, Songbirds, 2016 Mr Men, Shakespeare Quotes, Star Wars, Comedy Greats, Bridges, 2014 Sustainable Fish, Buckingham Palace etc. Try and complete those difficult sets. ¼ lb £24.00, ½ lb £45.00.

GB MODERN COMMEMS NO XMAS ONLY. While Stocks Last! This sells for a small fortune on auction sites as they are so hard to find these days, we can supply very small amounts. Mostly 2012/2019 issues only with the odd high value and multiple issues. Limited range as so modern but very sought after. 2 oz £15.00.

GB SPECIAL CHARITY MIX. A well balanced on paper Charity mix covering Defins, Commems, H.Value Commems, H.Value Defins, Pre-decimal, Wildings & Pre QEII. Covers all periods. 1 lb £12.00, 2 lbs £22.00.

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GREAT BRITAIN Off paper mixture. The tedious washing of this modern mix has been done for you already by charity supporters! There are over 500 basic machins to collect. One of each in good nick can cost over £1,000.00. We can't guarantee all in there but you'll have great fun sorting, includes commems, h.v commems & defins, worth the price on their own. Guaranteed totally unpicked. At least 10,000 stamps / 1 lb. 1 lb £19.00, 2 lbs £37.00.

GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER COMMEMS NO XMAS. Previously included Xmas, we can now supply without so the rarer Commems only. Wealth of variety from KGVI to date, includes some high values. Approx 5000 stamps to 1 lb weight. ¼ lb £22.00, ½ lb £42.00, 1 lb £80.00.

GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER COLLECTIONS

GREAT BRITAIN over 1,100 different stamps off paper all **in complete sets including many high values from 1972 up to 2018 issues.** A very comprehensive collection. **List price £250.**

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NEW! We can also supply 2000 different. Very comprehensive including even more very modern 2018 H.V commems. **List price £120.00.**

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GB COMMEMS ONLY. A very nice clean collection including rarer high values, multiple sets and issues up to 2018. **500** different, **list price £21.00. 1000 different, list price £99.00.**

GB complete 1st class sets all used on paper.

2012 Comics £4.00, 2012 A-Z UK complete set Part 1 & 2 £10.00, 2012 Britons of Distinction £4, 2013 Famous Britons £4.00, 2013 Football Heroes £5.00, 2013 Doctor Who £5.00, 2013 Butterfly £4.00, 2013 Dinosaurs £4.00, 2014 Children's TV £5.00, 2014 Remarkable Lives £5.00, 2014 Buckingham Palace £3, 2014 Sustainable Fish £4.00, 2015 Bridges £5.00, 2015 Comedy Greats £5.00, 2015 Star Wars £5, 2016 Shakespeare Quotes £5, 2016 Mr Men £5, 2017 Songbirds £5, 2017 Landmark Buildings £5, 2017 Classic Toys £5, 2017 Droids & Aliens £5, 2018 Game of Thrones £5, 2018 Owls £5, 2018 Harry Potter £5, Leonardo Da Vinci £5.
Buy the lot, 25 complete sets for £113. List price £128.
GB Olympics complete set of all 29 Gold Medal winners, individual stamps. Used on paper. £21.00.

Post & Go Labels: All 1st class sets of 6 used on paper. Birds 3 £4, Birds 4 £4, Sheep £4, Pigs £4, Cows £4, Freshwater Fish Part 1 £4, Freshwater Fish Part 2 £4.00, Feshwater Fish Part 3 £4.00. Flowers Part 1 £4, Flowers Part 2 £4, Boats £4, Heraldic Beasts £4, Sea Travel £4, History in Motion £4, Ladybirds £4, Mail by Rail £4, Machin Anniversary £4, Mail by Air £4, Mail by Sea £4, Mail by Bike £4. **Buy the lot, 20 sets for £70.** List price £80.

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LATEST INTERNET SALES

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



France, 50c carmine red International Exhibition of Paris 1937 unissued stamp MNH (signed + cert.)

SOLD FOR £3,791



Italian former state Naples, Letter franked 87gr (5 different stamps!) from Naples to Marseille France 1858

SOLD FOR £2,769



India, Letter franked 7a from Pondichery 1857 to Marseille by steamer via Madras

SOLD FOR £2,472



Ruanda Urundi, 5f orange Belgian Congo 1915 overprint. (type 'Tombeur') 'RUANDA' cancelled 'POSTES MILITAIRES' (signed Willy Balasse)

SOLD FOR £2,225



Iceland, Airmail commemoration of the Reykjavik-Chicago flight by the Balbo squadron 1933 MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £2,225



Iran, 10R brown & ultramarine Reza Schah Pahlavi 1936-37 in block of 4 MNH

SOLD FOR £492



Portugal, 10 Rs. Lilac-pink Carlos I 1892-93 issue MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £1,780



Vatican, Defintive Pius XI 1929 stamps overprinted 1934 (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £534



Belgium, Phone stamps 3,75F brown & blue Leopold II 1899 MNH

SOLD FOR £902



USA, 30c black A. Hamilton 1870-71 perf.12 used

SOLD FOR £574

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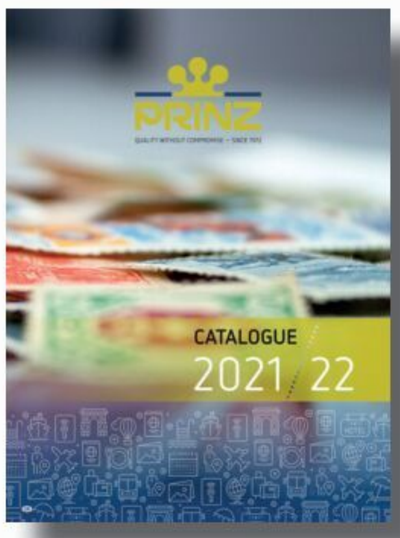


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INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH
100's in 4 old exercise types books laid out as approvals, wide range with very useful Malaya, Sudan (Camel Postmen to 10pi-M) Seychelles (KG6 mint) India & States, Egypt etc Good lot **£185.00**

CANADA
100's from 1852 3d,. Large Head2c,. 6c,. small heads to 10c, then good ranges M and / or FU to QE followed by useful dues, Officials, then range blocks of 4 or more FU. Good lot Cat £2570 **£250.00**

FRANCE
Superb all mint (much UNM) range from 1914 inc 1917 Orphans to 1Fr,. 1918 Red Cross, 1922 Orphans set, 1923 Pasteur set most Sinking Funds inc 1930 Sourire, 1931 Provinces, 1929 High values, 1927 Air pair, 1936 Air set to 50Fr plus Burelee (this UNM – rare) S. America flight pair, most Intellectuals, 1940's – 50's Famous Men complete, 1954 Airs etc to 1960. A wonderful array. Cat £12500 **£1550.00**

GERMANY
West 100's in Lighthouse album fairly complete 1949 (all the good earlies present) -1980 inc a rare 1959 Beethoven sheet still in its original folder (the first we have seen) cat £3100 **£325.00**

LABUAN
40 from QV 'heads' to 40c (2) Pictorials to 12c, 1902 to 25c etc Mainly FU No CTO's Cat £800+ **£95.00**

MALTA
Many 100's from ½ d buff (7 one is no W'Mk) 1885 set (M) 1886 5/= (M) 1903 and 1904 – 14 sets (M) KG5 with 1914 to 5/=, Self Govt O'Prints to 2/6, 5/= 1922 to 5/=, KG6 with 1938 set, QE to 1980 with much UNM. All mentioned are mint. A lovely lot Cat £4200 **£625.00**

NEW FOUNDLAND
100+ from 1866 inc 1911 Caribou set (M – Scarce) 1923 mint to 15c,. 1932 to 8c etc to 1947 Cat £950 **£140.00**

NEW HEBRIDES
100+ from K.Ed to 1/= (2) 1911, 1921, 1925 1938,1953 , 1957 sets complete range Surcharges and dues. All mint, some UNM Cat £700 **£125.00**

NICARAGUA
Many 100' in Stockbook from 1862 to 25c (perf & roul) 1890 to 10p, further early sets and part sets several Airs inc S'Charges, 1947 Airs to 25 Cor,. Later on good number to 1980's Good lot **£75.00**

NOVA SCOTIA
22 from imperf 3d (2) 6d, perf'd types with both papers to 12 ½ c M & FU Cat £775 **£110.00**

PALESTINE
9 mint 1920 S'Charge types. At a glance we notice the 5M, 2pi and 9pi with Palestin B variety but further research would reveal more of interest **£120.00**

RHODESIA
South 40 from 1924 most to 2/6, 1931 to 2/=, 1932 Falls pair, KG6 to 5/= FU Cat £220 **£35.00**

60+ from first types to 2/= (FU) 8d (M) Arms types to 4/= and 2/6, few double heads, Admirals to 1/= etc. Mainly FU Cat £660 **£85.00**

RUSSIA AND AREA
Few 100's in slim stockbook with mint ranges from Arm to 1990 inc some set, better FU 1930's range, then Republic inc Armenia, Georgia etc. Needs sorting **£45.00**

SAN MARINO
Some 100's on a variety of leaves from first types to 45c, Numeral types to 1L, Views inc scarce to 140L, later with many sets to 1970 Cat £1250 **£130.00**

ST. VINCENT
Many 100's from 1861 1d 6d,. Further very good QV (70+) inc 1/= vals, 1899 to 1/=, 1909 and 1909-11 Badge sets, KG5 to 5/=, 1938 set, extensive QE in sets to 1980 mainly UNM with M/S, booklets etc Exceptional lot Cat £4200 **£585.00**

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

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£1.50

India GV 1937, 2 annas, vermilion; described as f.u.; sold by Scott Philatelics from UK for £1.50 plus postage



£52

Burma cover to India; with 2 prs of India GV stamps, 1 anna and 3 pies; opd BURMA. Sold for $65 plus shipping by amazingcollectables1 from Florida, USA



£35

UK dealer North Staffs Stamps recently sold this India 1937 GV 1r, chocolate and green; overprinted BURMA; described as fine mounted mint, for £35 with free UK shipping

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

Burma British Dominion stamps 1937-1946

Ed Fletcher summarizes the history of Great Britain's action-packed involvement in Burma; and looks at some selling prices for Burma issues from the reigns of George V and George VI

Burma endured a turbulent 19th century that witnessed border encroachments, local retaliations, punitive expeditions, and three brief and bloody wars (1824–1826, 1852 -1853, 1885-1887). They were fought against a backdrop of vast teak forests; ruby, sapphire, jade and gold mines, and an abundance of rare spices irresistible to British palates growing in fertile plantations. The first war pitted Burmese royal regiments against the private armies of the East India Company. The EIC had British officers leading well-equipped and trained Indian sepoys. Their superior weapons and fire-power forced the Burmese King to cede one-third of his kingdom. Three decades later the EIC made dubious claims that Burmese forces had crossed defined borders to encroach on EIC territory. The outcome of the brief battles brought further territorial losses for the Burmese King and valuable gains for the East India Company.

More than twenty years prior to the third war Britain deprived the EIC of its monopoly on commercial, political and military control throughout the Indian sub-continent, largely as a consequence of mismanagement and endemic EIC corruption. The British Indian Army became the military force putting pressure on Burma's shrinking borders. In 1885 princes of the Burmese royal family made secret contact with French diplomats in hope of gaining assistance and weapons for an attempt to regain lost lands. Rumours of possible French interference in the region alarmed the British Government and precipitated an immediate declaration of war against Burma. Following a brief campaign Britain gained a major victory that resulted in the total annexation of Burma into the British Empire; but not as a new British colony. Instead, Burma found



£5.00

Burma GVI 1938 2a 6p, claret; with Royal Barge vignette; described as m.h. Sold for £5 with free UK shipping by goodladm from Alford, UK



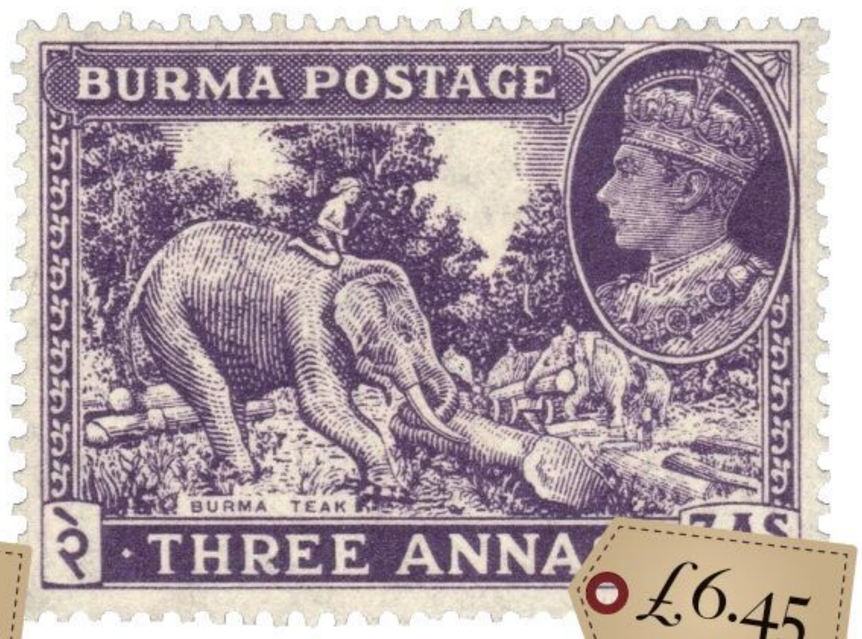
£4.80

Burma GVI 1938 3a 6p, light blue and blue; with Burma Rice vignette; described as f.u. Sold for US $6 plus shipping. The seller was Stamps101 from Hong Kong



£10.00

GVI 1938-40 2r brown and purple; with Peacock design; described as m.n.h. Sold by eBay dealer rainyday12 from Durham UK for £10 plus £1.50 standard delivery



£6.45

Burma GVI 1938-40 3 annas, dull violet; with Elephants and Teak Logs design; described as v.f. unused. Offered by US dealer eosteraa from California for US $7.95 plus US $2.50 first class international mailing



£19.95

Burma GVI 1939, 8 annas, myrtle-green; with SERVICE opt; depicting a sailboat on the river Irrawaddy. Described as m.n.h., with slight gum bend, it was recently sold by lerou.uk2014 from Tewkesbury,UK for £19.95 plus £1.05 standard delivery

itself ranked as a mere province of India. The humiliation would cause rumblings of discontent for the next half century.

Prior to the British annexation, Burma's postal needs had been met by a system of local messengers and parcel carriers who handled Burma's internal mail without need for postage stamps. British officials administering Burma after annexation extended the Indian postal system across the borders and used India's stamps which were, of course, valued in Indian currency. When Burma became a self-governing British colony in 1937 the then-current stamps of India were George V India definitives of 1926-1936 inscribed 'INDIA POSTAGE' and with values in rupees and annas. For sale and use in Burma those stamps now received a 'BURMA' overprint, and their issue date of 1st April 1937 marked the day when Burma and India separated, both officially and administratively. The following year brought George VI to the British throne. His new stamp issues provided the opportunity to engrave 'BURMA POSTAGE' in a tablet above the king's head.

The first day of issue for those fully fledged stamps of the British colony of Burma was 15 November 1938. The complete set of sixteen included several large formats which, alongside the King's left-facing bust, displayed vignettes illustrating scenes from Burmese everyday life. The purple (3 annas) was destined to become one of the most popular British Empire colonials, eagerly sought by junior collectors worldwide in the 1950s. Its design showed what appeared to be a very young boy sitting on the neck of a Burmese elephant and directing it to move heavy teak logs with its trunk. In fact, the stamp's designer later commented that the elephant handler (mahout) he drew from life had been a very young-looking adult. From the same set the 2a 6p stamp (Royal Barge) was also issued overprinted to commemorate the 6th May 1840



£202

AztecCollectables from Florida USA recently offered this 1940 Rangoon Burma fdc, locally used with a 1938 2a 6p Royal Barge stamp opd COMMEMORATION POSTAGE STAMP 6TH MAY 1840; cancelled Rangoon. The asking price was US $249.99 plus shipping



£3.20

This lot (two fine used Irrawaddy and Peacock stamps) from the Burma 1946 Civil Administration colour changed issues) was recently offered by abbotstamps from Andover UK for £3.20 plus £1.20 standard delivery



UK eBay dealer scott_philatelics from Leicester recently offered this GVI Burma 2 annas carmine, fine used, from the 1946 Victory set, with a BIN price of £1.50 plus £1 standard delivery



cbeal-uk8 from Dereham UK recently offered this Burma 1946 3a 6p Elephant stamp from the 1946 Victory set, with a BIN price of £1.25 plus postage



cbeal-uk8 from Dereham UK recently offered this Burma 1946 1½ annas Burmese Woman stamp from the 1946 Victory set, with a BIN price of £1.25 plus postage

Anniversary of the Postage Stamp.

During April and May 1942 a humiliating blow fell when divisions of the Imperial Japanese Army invaded Burma to destroy, drive out, or capture Britons fleeing for their lives to get across the Indian border. Many indigenous Burmese, recalling the defeats Britain had inflicted upon them in the 19th century, readily collaborated with the Japanese who, in return for Burmese auxiliary support, promised to assist in establishing a self-ruling Burmese state. Visible markers of that independence would have included postage stamps carrying Burmese emblems; but plans for the stamps stumbled over the question of raw materials for their manufacture. A compromise saved face and satisfied the Japanese. Stocks of redundant British Burma issues languishing in post office stockrooms were recycled by striking their images of GV and GVI with a heavily applied obliterator which left an overprint in the shape of a peacock – a Burmese national symbol.



Pair of GVI Burma 9 pies turquoise-green, described as m.n.h., offered at £5.15 plus postage, by cbeal-uk8 from Dereham UK

We can gauge Japanese and Burmese confidence in their ultimate victory from the following report put out by the Japanese News Agency in August 1943. It was copied a few days later in British newspapers, including the *Liverpool Daily Post*:

INDEPENDENT BURMA DECLARES WAR.

The Japanese News Agency said yesterday that the Burmese State assembly has announced: "Burma has declared war on the U.S.A. and Great Britain." The Agency also reported that the Axis Powers and neutral countries have been notified of Burmese independence. Japan has concluded a treaty of alliance with Burma, mutually pledging with her to co-operate in the war and in the common construction of Greater East Asia.

In late 1944 British and Indian forces began a long, bitter and bloody comeback: over the India-Burma border, then battle-by-battle all the way to Rangoon. Japanese defeats, battle-by-battle, paved the way for an issue of Victory stamps, issued in May 1946.

In addition to GVI's crowned head, the four-stamp set depicted Burmese scenes and people. Relevant stamps, with selling and asking prices, issued from 1937 to 1946, and culled from recent sales and dealers' lists, accompany this feature.



Californian US eBayer sellinghisstamp recently offered this block of four Burma 1p red-orange of 1945; with MILY ADMN overprint, for US$15.99 plus shipping. The stamps were described as early CTOs with full gum; lightly hinged at top centre



Above: the Badge of Burma used to obliterate images of KGV and KGVI; right: the Badge of Burma 1939-1948



GB 1924-2016 COMMEMORATIVES UM

DATE	SET	U/M
1924	Wembley	11.50
1925	Wembley	33.00
1929	P.U.C.	12.50
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	140.00
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	40.00
1935	Jubilee	3.00
1935	Jubilee Inv.	18.00
1937	Coronation	0.10
1940	Centenary	2.50
1946	Victory	0.10
1948	Wedding	11.50
1948	Liberation	0.10
1948	Olympics	1.25
1949	U.P.U.	0.30
1951	Festival	0.10
1953	Coronation	8.50
1957	Scouts	2.00
1957	Parliament	0.20
1958	Games	0.50
1960	G.L.O.	1.20
1960	Europa	1.25
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.50
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10
1961	Parliament	0.70
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.50
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	8.25
1963	F.F.H. (O)	0.50
1963	F.F.H. (P)	8.25
1963	Paris (O)	0.10
1963	Paris (P)	1.50
1963	Nature (O)	0.10
1963	Nature (P)	0.75
1963	Lifeboat (O)	0.75
1963	Lifeboat (P)	14.50
1963	Red Cross (O)	1.50
1963	Red Cross (P)	19.00
1963	Cable (O)	0.50
1963	Cable (P)	4.00
1964	Shakes (O)	1.20
1964	Shakes (P)	3.25
1964	Geog (O)	0.90
1964	Geog (P)	7.50
1964	Bot (O)	0.90
1964	Bot (P)	7.50
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.10
1964	F.R.B. (P)	1.60
1965	Churchill (O)	0.15
1965	Churchill (P)	0.50
1965	Parliament (O)	0.30
1965	Parliament (P)	0.20
1965	Army (O)	0.25
1965	Army (P)	0.50
1965	Lister (O)	0.25
1965	Lister (P)	0.50
1965	Arts (O)	0.25
1965	Arts (P)	0.70
1965	B.O.B. (O)	2.50
1965	B.O.B. (P)	3.25
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.10
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.10
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.25
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.50
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.25
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.40
1966	Burns (O)	0.15
1966	Burns (P)	0.50
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20
1966	Abbey (P)	0.05
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.20
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.20
1966	W. Cup (O)	0.15
1966	W.Cup (P)	0.15
1966	Birds (O)	0.15
1966	Birds (P)	0.15
1966	Winners	0.05
1966	Technology (O)	0.15
1966	Technology (P)	0.20
1966	Hastings (O)	0.40
1966	Hastings (P)	0.40
1966	Xmas (O)	0.05
1966	Xmas (P)	0.05
1967	E.F.T.A. (O)	0.05
1967	E.F.T.A. (P)	0.05
1967	Flowers (O)	0.30
1967	Flowers (P)	0.25
1967	Paintings	0.05
1967	Chichester	0.05
1967	Discoveries	0.10
1967	Christmas	0.05
1968	Bridges	0.10
1968	Anniversaries	0.10
1968	Paintings	0.10
1968	Christmas	0.10
1968	COMPLETE YEAR	0.35
1969	Ships	0.35
1969	Concorde	0.20
1969	Anniversaries	0.25
1969	Cathedrals	0.35
1969	Investiture	0.25
1969	Gandhi	0.20
1969	Technology	0.20
1969	Christmas	0.10
1969	COMPLETE YEAR	1.50
1970	Cottages	0.20
1970	Anniversaries	0.30
1970	Dickens	0.40
1970	Games	0.30
1970	Philympia	0.30
1970	Christmas	0.20
1970	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00
1971	Ulster	0.20
1971	Literary	0.20
1971	Gen. Annivs	0.25
1971	Universities	0.30
1971	Christmas	0.20
1971	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00
1972	Explorers	0.30
1972	Gen. Annivs	0.25
1972	Churches	0.40
1972	BBC	0.30
1972	Christmas	0.20
1972	S. Wedding	0.30
1972	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60
1973	E.E.C.	0.30
1973	Tree	0.10
1973	Explorers	0.45
1973	Cricket	0.30
1973	Paintings	0.35
1973	Inigo Jones	0.30
1973	Parliament	0.25
1973	Wedding	0.25
1973	Christmas	0.70
1973	COMPLETE YEAR	2.80
1974	Tree	0.10
1974	Fire	0.35
1974	UPU	0.30
1974	Britons	0.35
1974	Churchill	0.35
1974	Christmas	0.30
1974	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60
1975	Charity	0.05
1975	Turner	0.30
1975	Architecture	0.40
1975	Sailing	0.35
1975	Railway	0.35
1975	Parliament	0.15
1975	Austen	0.40
1975	Christmas	0.40
1975	COMPLETE YEAR	2.20
1976	Telephone	0.45
1976	Reformers	0.45
1976	USA	0.10
1976	Roses	0.45
1976	Culture	0.45
1976	Caxton	0.45
1976	Christmas	0.40
1976	COMPLETE YEAR	2.60
1977	Sports	0.45
1977	Chemistry	0.45
1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.55
1977	Government	0.15
1977	Wildlife	0.50
1977	Christmas	0.50
1977	COMPLETE YEAR	2.40
1978	Energy	0.45
1978	Buildings	0.45
1978	Coronation	0.45
1978	Horses	0.45
1978	Cycling	0.45
1978	Christmas	0.45
1978	COMPLETE YEAR	2.50
1979	Dogs	0.45
1979	Flowers	0.45
1979	Elections	0.45
1979	Racing	0.45
1979	Year Of Child	0.45
1979	Rowland Hill	0.45
1979	Police	0.50
1979	Christmas	0.55
1979	COMPLETE YEAR	3.50
1980	Birds	0.45
1980	Railways	0.60
1980	London	0.50
1980	Landmarks	0.60
1980	Famous Women	0.55
1980	Q.Mother	0.10
1980	Music	0.55
1980	Sports	0.55
1980	Christmas	0.65
1980	COMPLETE YEAR	4.00
1981	Folklore	0.75
1981	Disabled	0.75
1981	Butterflies	0.75
1981	National Trust	1.00
1981	Royal Wedding	0.35
1981	D. Of Edinburgh	0.75
1981	Fishing	0.75
1981	Christmas	0.90
1981	COMPLETE YEAR	5.50
1982	Darwin	0.90
1982	Youth	0.90
1982	Theatre	0.90
1982	Maritime	1.15
1982	Textiles	0.90
1982	Technology	0.40
1982	Cars	0.90
1982	Christmas	1.00
1982	COMPLETE YEAR	6.25
1983	Fishes	0.90
1983	Commonwealth	0.90
1983	Engineering	0.65
1983	Uniforms	1.10
1983	Gardens	0.95
1983	Fairs	0.95
1983	Christmas	1.00
1983	COMPLETE YEAR	5.80
1984	Heraldry	0.95
1984	Cattle	1.10
1984	Urban Renewal	0.95
1984	Europa	0.75
1984	Summit	0.30
1984	Meridian	0.95
1984	Royal Mail	0.80
1984	Council	1.00
1984	Christmas	1.15
1984	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25
1985	Trains	1.30
1985	Insects	1.30
1985	Composers	1.00
1985	Safety at Sea	1.00
1985	Royal Mail	1.00
1985	Legends	1.00
1985	Film Stars	1.30
1985	Christmas	1.00
1985	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00
1986	Industry	1.00
1986	Comet	1.00
1986	Birthday	1.00
1986	Nature	1.00
1986	Medieval Life	1.00
1986	Sports	1.30
1986	Royal Wedding	0.30
1986	Parliament	0.35
1986	R.A.F.	1.30
1986	Christmas 6v	1.10
1986	COMPLETE YEAR	8.50
1987	Flowers	1.00
1987	Newton	1.00
1987	Architecture	1.00
1987	St. Johns	1.00
1987	Heraldry	1.00
1987	Victorian Britain	1.00
1987	Pottery	1.00
1987	Christmas	1.20
1987	COMPLETE YEAR	7.50
1988	Linnean Society	1.10
1988	Welsh Bible	1.10
1988	Sports	1.10
1988	Transport	1.10
1988	Australia	1.00
1988	Armada	0.90
1988	Lear	1.10
1988	Christmas	1.25
1988	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00
1989	Birds	1.10
1989	Greetings	4.00
1989	Food	1.10
1989	Anniversaries	1.10
1989	Toys	1.10
1989	Ind. Arch.	1.10
1989	Microscopes	1.10
1989	Mayor	1.00
1989	Christmas	1.20
1989	COMPLETE YEAR	11.50
1990	150th Anniv.	1.50
1990	RSPCA	1.20
1990	Greetings	4.00
1990	Europa	1.00
1990	Queens Award	1.00
1990	Gardens	1.20
1990	Hardy	0.20
1990	Birthday	1.20
1990	Gallantry	1.00
1990	Astronomy	1.10
1990	Christmas	1.30
1990	COMPLETE YEAR	13.50
1991	Dogs	1.40
1991	Greetings "Luck"	9.50
1991	Science	1.10
1991	Greetings "Smile"	9.50
1991	Space	1.10
1991	Sports	1.10
1991	Roses	1.50
1991	Dinosaurs	1.50
1991	Maps	1.20
1991	Christmas	1.40
1991	COMPLETE YEAR	26.00
1992	Wintertime	1.40
1992	Greetings	9.50
1992	Accession	1.20
1992	Tennyson	1.20
1992	Olympics	1.50
1992	Civil War	1.20
1992	G. & Sullivan	1.40
1992	Green	1.20
1992	Euro-Market	0.20
1992	Christmas	1.40
1992	COMPLETE YEAR	18.00
1993	Swans	1.40
1993	Greetings	9.50
1993	Clocks	1.20
1993	Orchids	1.40
1993	Art	1.20
1993	Roman	1.20
1993	Canals	1.20
1993	Autumn	1.40
1993	Holmes	1.20
1993	Christmas	1.50
1993	COMPLETE YEAR	19.00
1994	Railway	1.50
1994	Greetings	9.50
1994	Paintings	1.50
1994	Postcards	1.50
1994	Tunnel	1.20
1994	D-Day	1.25
1994	Golf	1.50
1994	Four Seasons	1.50
1994	Medical	1.30
1994	Christmas	1.50
1994	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50
1995	Cats	1.50
1995	Springtime	1.50
1995	Greetings	9.50
1995	N.Trust	1.50
1995	Europa/Peace	1.20
1995	Science Fiction	1.30
1995	Shakespeare	1.25
1995	Communications	1.40
1995	Rugby League	1.50
1995	Christmas	1.75
1995	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50
1996	Burns	1.40
1996	Greetings	9.50
1996	Greetings (Phos)	17.00
1996	Wildfowl	1.50
1996	Cinema	1.50
1996	Football	1.80
1996	Olympics	1.30
1996	Women/Europa	1.50
1996	Childrens TV	1.50
1996	Cars	1.80
1996	Christmas	2.85
1996	COMPLETE YEAR	38.00
1997	Greetings	9.50
1997	Tudor	1.90
1997	Faith	1.70
1997	Terror Legends	1.40
1997	Architects of the Air	1.90
1997	Horse	1.50
1997	Post Offices	1.50
1997	Enid Blyton	1.85
1997	Christmas	2.85
1997	Golden Wedding	1.60
1997	COMPLETE YEAR	22.50
1998	Endangered	2.20
1998	Diana	1.30
1998	Queens Beasts	1.30
1998	Lighthouses	1.90
1998	Comedians	1.90
1998	Health	1.50
1998	Fantasy	1.90
1998	Carnival	1.50
1998	Speed	1.80
1998	Christmas	1.70
1998	COMPLETE YEAR	15.50
1999	Inventors	1.50
1999	Travellers	1.50
1999	Patients	1.50
1999	Settlers	1.50
1999	Workers	1.50
1999	Entertainers	1.50
1999	Royal Wedding	0.85
1999	Citizens	1.50
1999	Scientists	1.50
1999	Farmers	1.50
1999	Soldiers	1.50
1999	Christians	1.50
1999	Artists	1.50
1999	COMPLETE YEAR	17.00
2000	Above and Beyond	1.50
2000	Fire and Light	1.50
2000	Water and Coast	1.50
2000	Life and Earth	2.70
2000	Art and Craft	2.70
2000	People and Place	2.70
2000	Stone and Soil	2.70
2000	Tree and Leaf	2.70
2000	Mind and Matter	2.70
2000	Body and Bone	2.70
2000	Spirit and Faith	2.70
2000	Sound and Vision	2.70
2000	COMPLETE YEAR	26.00
2001	Hopes for the Future	2.70
2001	Occasions	4.75
2001	Cats and Dogs	9.50
2001	Weather	1.50
2001	Navy Submarines	2.70
2001	Double-Deckers	4.75
2001	Fabulous Hats	3.90
2001	Pond Life/Europa	3.90
2001	Punch & Judy	5.70
2001	Nobel Prizes	5.00
2001	Christmas	4.50
2001	COMPLETE YEAR	44.00
2002	Kipling Stories	9.50
2002	Golden Jubilee	4.50
2002	Occasions	4.75
2002	Coastlines	2.70
2002	Queen Mother	3.90
2002	Circus	4.50
2002	Aircraft	4.50
2002	C.wealth Games	4.60
2002	Peter Pan	4.60
2002	London Bridges	4.60
2002	Pillar Boxes	4.60
2002	Christmas	4.60
2002	COMPLETE YEAR	52.50
2003	Birds of Prey	9.50
2003	Occasions	5.70
2003	The Secret of Life	4.60
2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	9.50
2003	Endeavours	5.00
2003	The Coronation	9.50
2003	Prince William	3.20
2003	Scotland	5.00
2003	Pub Signs	4.25
2003	Transport Toys	4.25
2003	British Museum	5.00
2003	Christmas	5.75
2003	COMPLETE YEAR	62.50
2004	Locomotives	3.90
2004	Occasions	4.75
2004	Lord of the Rings	9.50
2004	Northern Ireland	5.00
2004	Entente Cordiale	0.85
2004	Ocean Liners	5.00
2004	Horticultural	5.00
2004	Wales	3.60
2004	Society of Arts	3.50
2004	Woodland Animals	9.50
2004	The Crimean War	4.40
2004	Christmas	4.40
2004	COMPLETE YEAR	54.00
2005	Farm Animals	9.50
2005	S. West England	3.70
2005	Jane Eyre	4.40
2005	Magic	3.60
2005	World Heritage	5.50
2005	Trooping The Colour	4.40
2005	Motorcycles	3.50
2005	Tastes in Britain	3.80
2005	Classic ITV	3.80
2005	Smilers	7.00
2005	Battle of Trafalgar	4.00
2005	Christmas	4.40
2005	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00
2006	Animal Tales	5.50
2006	England	9.50
2006	Brunel	3.50
2006	Ice Age Animals	3.60
2006	Queen's Birthday	5.50
2006	World Cup Winners	3.60
2006	Architecture	3.60
2006	Portrait Gallery	9.50
2006	Victoria Cross	4.60
2006	Sounds of Britain	3.70
2006	Smilers	6.00
2006	Christmas	6.00
2006	COMPLETE YEAR	57.50
2007	Beatles	4.60
2007	Sea Life	9.50
2007	Sky At Night	4.30
2007	Inventions	4.60
2007	Slave Trade	4.30
2007	Seaside	3.90
2007	Grand Prix	4.50
2007	Harry Potter	6.50
2007	Scouts	3.90
2007	Birds	9.50
2007	Uniforms	5.00
2007	Diamond Wedding	4.50
2007	Christmas - 8v	7.50
2007	COMPLETE YEAR	65.00
2008	James Bond	4.50
2008	Working Dogs	3.90
2008	King & Queens	4.30
2008	Smilers	18.00
2008	Mayday	3.90
2008	Insects	9.50
2008	Cathedrals	4.00
2008	Carry On	4.00
2008	Airshows	4.00
2008	R.A.F. Uniforms	5.25
2008	Women	4.00
2008	Christmas	5.50
2008	COMPLETE YEAR	65.00
2009	Design Classics	9.50
2009	Darwin	4.50
2009	Industrial	5.50
2009	Kings & Queens	5.00
2009	Endangered Plants	9.50
2009	Mythical Creatures	5.00
2009	Fire and Rescue	4.50
2009	Navy Uniforms	5.50
2009	Eminent Britons	9.50
2009	Olympics	9.50
2009	Christmas	7.00
2009	COMPLETE YEAR	67.50
2010	Album Covers	9.50
2010	Royal Society	9.50
2010	Dogs and Cats	9.50
2010	Stewart	5.75
2010	Mammals	9.50
2010	LONDON 2010(6v)	9.00
2010	Britain Alone	6.50
2010	Stuart	5.50
2010	Olympics	9.50
2010	Railways	5.00
2010	Medical	4.75
2010	Pooh	4.75
2010	Christmas	7.00
2010	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
2011	Gerry Anderson	6.00
2011	Musicals	7.50
2011	Magical Realms	7.00
2011	WWF	9.50
2011	Shakespeare	5.25
2011	Morris	5.50
2011	Thomas	5.25
2011	Olympics	9.50
2011	Crown Jewels	7.00
2011	Hanover	6.00
2011	UK A-Z Part 1	11.50
2011	Christmas	7.50
2011	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
2012	Olympics - 4v	9.00
2012	Roald Dahl	5.25
2012	Windsor	4.50
2012	Britons	9.50
2012	Comics	9.50
2012	UK A-Z Part 2	13.25
2012	Fashion	9.50
2012	Diamond Jubilee	8.00
2012	Dickens	6.50
2012	Space Science	6.00
2012	Lest - Poppy	1.20
2012	Christmas	8.50
2012	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
2013	London Underground	6.00
2013	Jane Austen	6.00
2013	Doctor Who	10.50
2013	Great Britons	9.50
2013	Football Heroes	10.50
2013	Coronation Anniversary	6.50
2013	Butterflies	9.50
2013	Auto Legends	7.00
2013	Merchant Navy	7.00
2013	Dinosaurs	9.50
2013	Christmas	8.00
2013	Childrens Christmas (2v)	2.50
2013	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
2014	Childrens TV	12.00
2014	Working Horses	6.50
2014	Remarkable Lives	9.50
2014	Buckingham Palace	6.00
2014	Great British Film	7.00
2014	Sustainable Fish	9.50
2014	Commonwealth Games	7.50
2014	The Great War	7.50
2014	Seaside Architecture	7.00
2014	Prime Ministers	8.00
2014	Christmas	9.50
2014	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
2015	Alice In Wonderland	11.00
2015	Smilers	13.50
2015	Inventive Britain	9.50
2015	Bridges	9.50
2015	Comedy Greats	9.50
2015	Great War	8.00
2015	Magna Carta	8.00
2015	Battle of Waterloo	7.00
2015	Bees	8.00
2015	Rugby World Cup	9.00
2015	Star Wars	11.50
2015	Christmas	11.00
2015	COMPLETE YEAR	105.00
2016	Shackleton	10.00
2016	Royal Mail 500	7.50
2016	Humanitarians	7.50
2016	Shakespeare	9.50
2016	90th Birthday	8.00
2016	Great War	8.00
2016	Pink Floyd	8.00
2016	Beatrix Potter	8.00
2016	Gardens	8.50
2016	Great Fire of London	8.00
2016	Agatha Christie	8.00
2016	Mr.Men Little Miss	10.00
2016	Christmas	11.00
2016	COMPLETE YEAR	105.00

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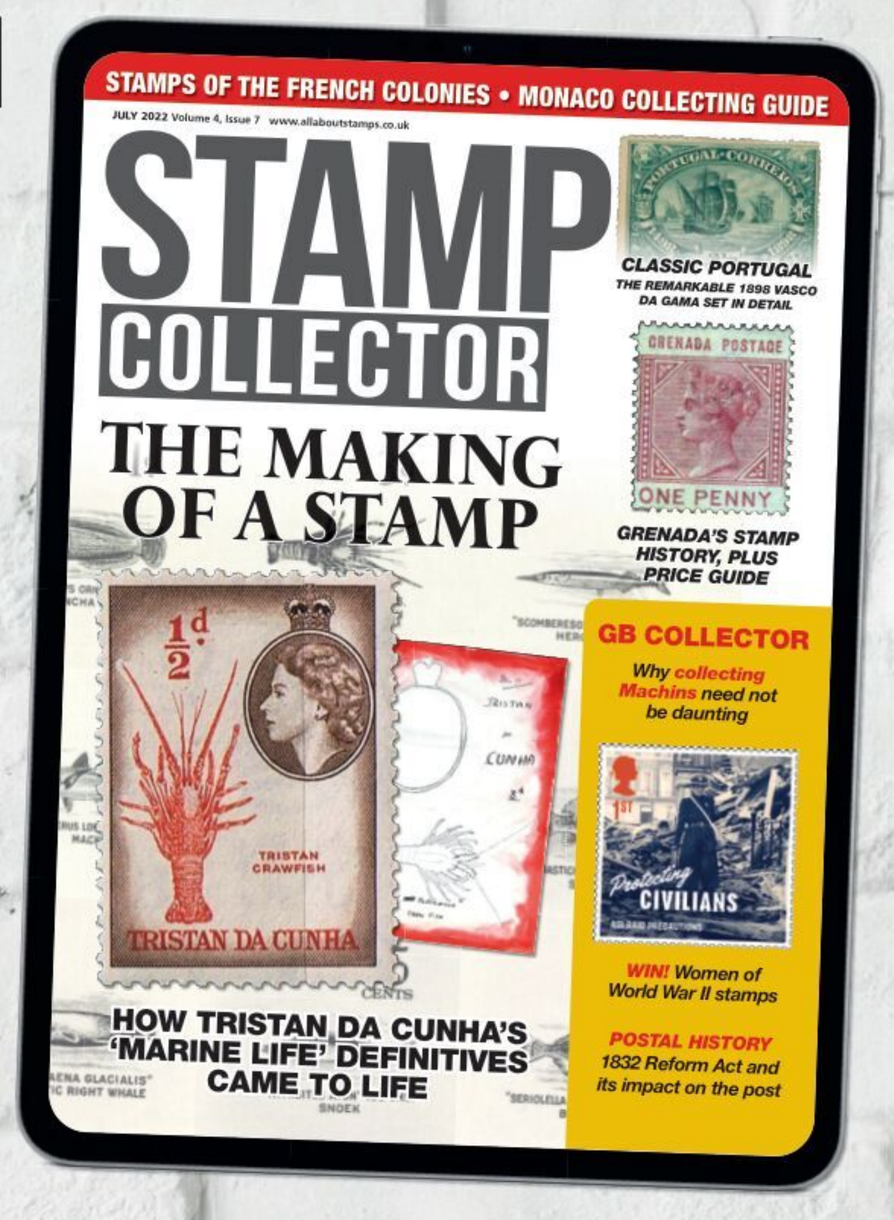
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The Space Race on stamps

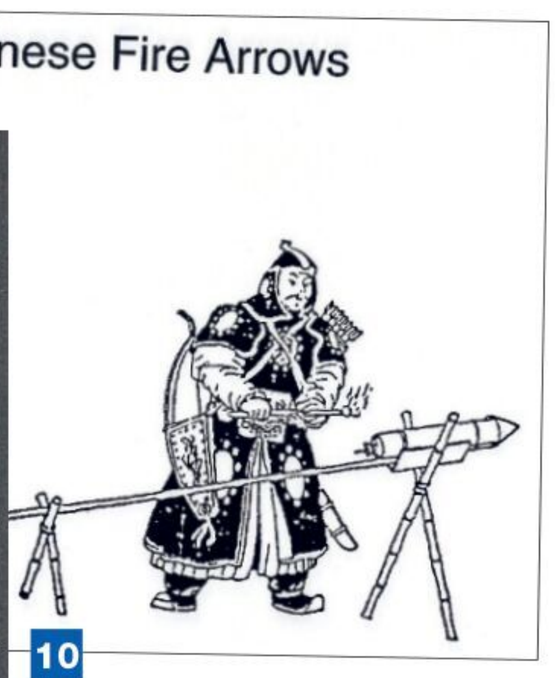
In the latest in our series on the creation of a stamp set, Richard Scott Morel, Curator, British Library's Philatelic Collections, uses the extensive Crown Agents archives to follow the development of the Ascension Island 'Evolution of Space Travel' definitive stamp issue of February 1971

The 1955-1975 'Space Race' between the USA and Soviet Union during the Cold War introduced beneficial technological advances in telecommunications, computer science, solar power and engineering. It also initiated a major postage stamp theme, much loved by philatelists globally.

The most important 'Space Race' postage stamps from this era have to be Ascension Island's 15 February 1971 'Evolution of Space Travel' definitive issue. So why did a tiny volcanic island spanning just 88 square kilometres, beneath the equator in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, select this subject for its stamps? Was Ascension's postal authority cynically attempting to extract money from the stamp collecting community, or is there something more culturally significant at work? One hopes the philatelic community better appreciates their importance following this brief survey on the issue's development.

Constructed by the United States during the Second World War (1939-1945), Ascension's 'Wideawake' Airfield quickly became an important stopping point for US military aircraft crossing the Atlantic to engage in conflicts throughout Europe and Africa. Disused soon after, the Americans returned once more in 1956 during the opening phases of the Space Race. The airfield's expansion to support large aircraft in the 1960s underlined its selection as an emergency landing site for NASA's Space Shuttle Programme. Various commemorative postage stamp issues also chronicle Ascension Island's growing strategic importance. The 7 November 1966, 'Opening of the Apollo Communications Satellite Earth Station' set celebrated NASA's construction of an earth satellite tracking station on the island as part of its global Spacecraft Tracking and Data Acquisition Network to facilitate space to ground communications (figures 1-4).





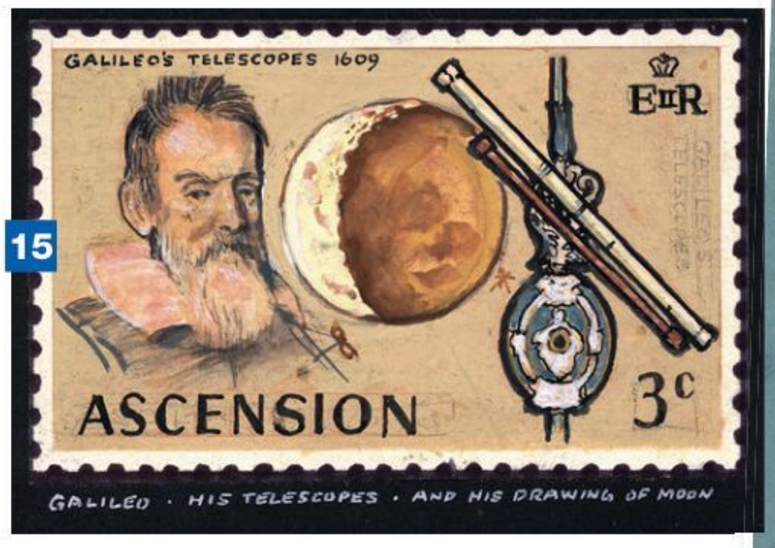
The 1 December 1966 'Opening of the BBC Relay Station' set marked the completion of another project enabling the British Broadcasting Corporation's World Service to transmit shortwave radio broadcasts throughout Africa and South America (figures 5-8).

Ascension's role as a logistical and communications hub for Anglo-American Governments during the Cold War and Space Race highlights the decision to issue stamps on space travel in 1970 was perfectly logical. Possessing no domestic security printing industry of its own, Ascension turned to the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations to oversee the manufacture and dispatch of the stamp issue. They granted the design commission to prolific international stamp designer Victor

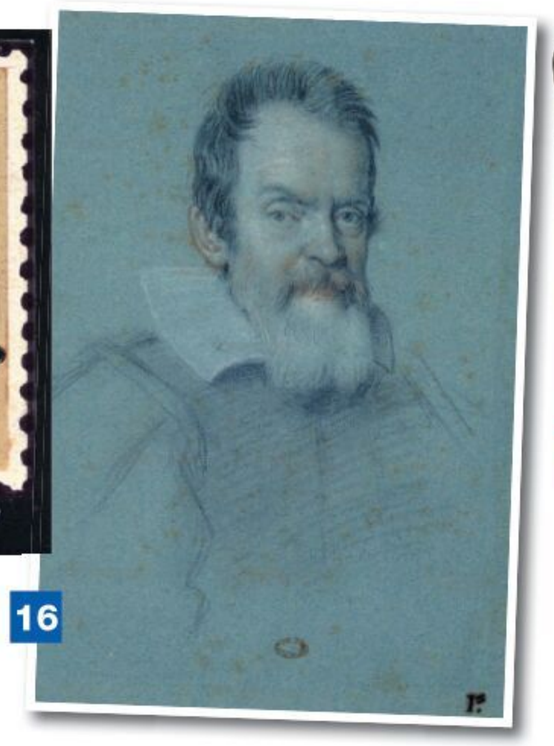








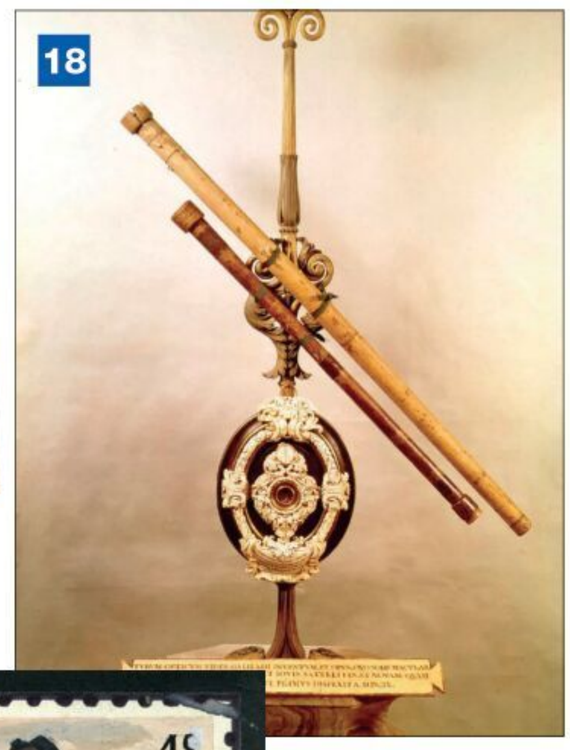
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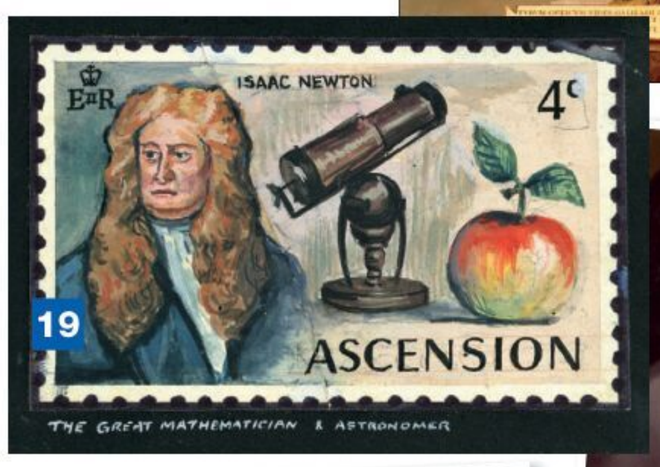
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Whiteley survive online, including on the webpages of NASA's Glenn Research Centre (figure 10).

Moving on, the 1 cent design captioned 'Medieval Arab Observatory' (figure 11) which became the 1 penny stamp is directly rendered from MS Shahinshahnama F1404 989-1581, an illuminated manuscript held at Istanbul University Library (figure 12). Depicting astronomers working inside a sixteenth century observatory built by Murad III for the polymath and astronomer Taqi ad-Din Muhammad ibn Ma'ruf ash-Shami al-Asadi (1526-1585), signifies important Arabic contributions towards space travel in the scientific fields of mathematics and astronomy.

Next, the 2 cent stamp allocated to the 1½-penny value (figure 13) centres around the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546-1601). The design comprises Brahe's observatory at Uraniborg adopting an illustration within Jean Bleau's Atlas Maior published at Amsterdam in 1663 (figure 14). The neighbouring image of a small quadrant manufactured in gilt brass derives from an illustration within Tycho Brahe's book *Astronomiæ instauratæ mechanica* published at Noribergae in 1602. Immediately above the images is a star chart of Cassiopeia with Tycho's Star, a supernova discovered by Brahe in 1572.'

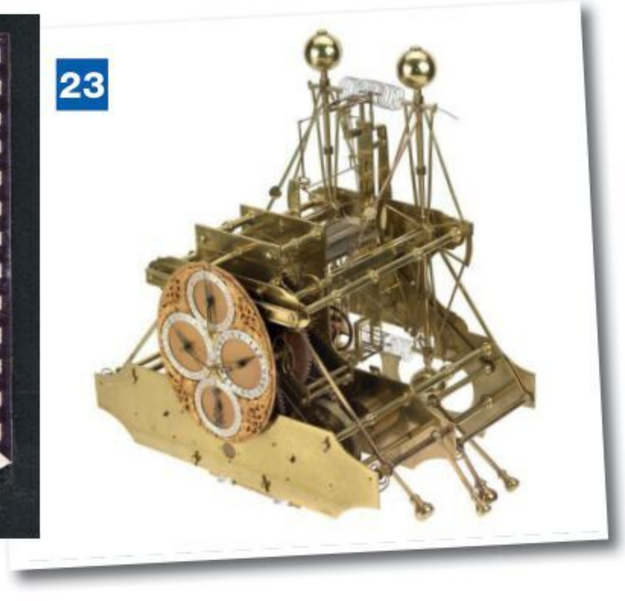
The 3 cent design appropriated to the 2 pence denomination uses similar design techniques (figure 15). Celebrating the Italian astronomer and polymath Galileo Galilei (1564-1642),

Whiteley's portrait is modelled on a colour drawing by Ottavio Leoni (c.1578-1630) created c.1600, now housed in the Biblioteca Marucelliana, Florence (figure 16). Likewise, the moon image mimics the style of Galilei's original watercolour drawings of the moon made in 1609 in Ms Gal. 48, f. 28r at the Biblioteca Nazionale Central (figure 17), whilst that of Galileo's telescope used to discover the moons of Jupiter in 1610 is based on a model held at the Museo Galileo, Florence (figure 18).

Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727) is featured in the design for the 4 cent artwork appointed to the 2½ pence stamp (figure 19). Newton's



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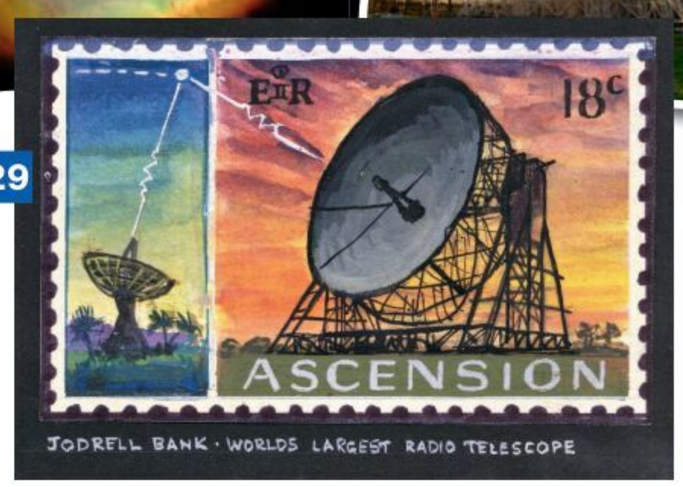


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29

visage takes inspiration from John Vanderbank's (1694-1739) portraits created in 1727, one now owned by the Royal Society (figure 20). The illustration of Newton's reflecting telescope manufactured c.1671 also accurately depicts a model in the Royal Society (figure 21). The apple's presence in the design reflects the apocryphal story of a young Newton sitting beneath an apple tree, a falling apple confirming his theory on gravity.

The 5 cent design on the 3½-pence stamp (figure 22) moves on to John Harrison's (1693-1776) H1 Marine Timekeeper held at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (figure 23). The grid pattern superimposed over the image of a sailing vessel in distress during a storm acknowledges how this important invention saved countless lives by enabling navigators to ascertain longitude during voyages. Sadly, the original artwork from which Whiteley derived this artistic detail remains unidentified.

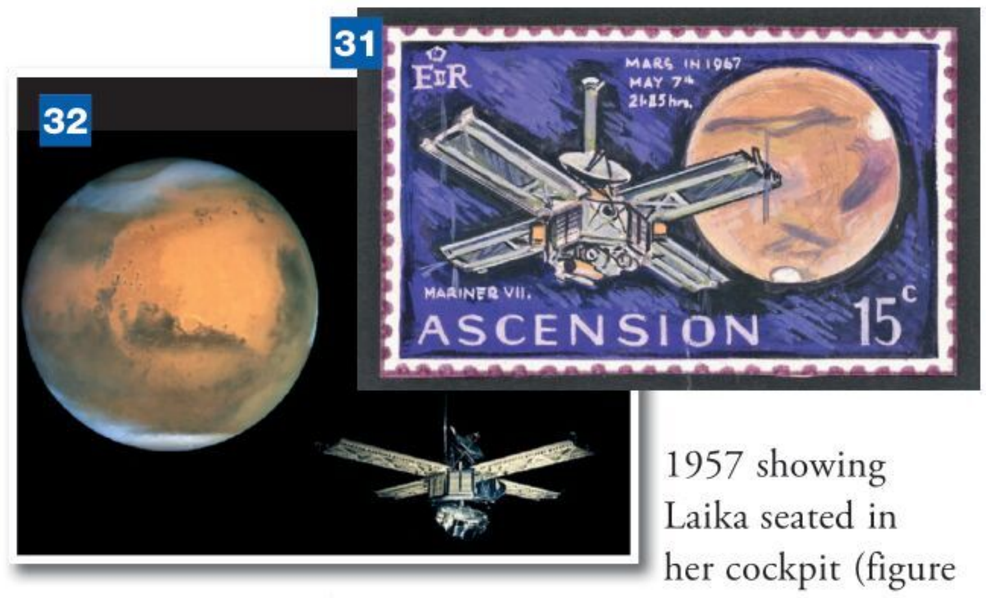
The 10 cent design used on the 4½-pence stamp (figure 24) accompanies the text 'Lift-Off for First Mercury Manned Space Flight 20. 2. 62.' It celebrates John Glenn (1921-2016) becoming the first American to orbit the earth and is directly rendered from official photographs taken during the launch (figure 25).

Although unidentified, accurate details on the 20-cent design on the 5-pence stamp depicting the world's largest telescope at Palomar in the United States (figure 26) suggest Whiteley used various photographs in developing this artwork (figure 27). Again, photographs clearly helped develop the neighbouring image of the Ring Nebula in Lyra, Messier 57 (figure 28).

Original source material remains unidentified for the 18 cent design adopted on the 7½ pence value (figure 29) of the world's largest radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in the United Kingdom (figure 30) but again it was likely developed using photographic images.

The 15-cent design on the 10 pence stamp (figure 31) is interesting both historically and from a philatelic perspective. It commemorates NASA's unmanned spacecraft 'Mariner' missions to Mars, showing the Mariner VII spacecraft before the red planet. Based upon official photographs taken during the mission, this particular composition results from the juxtaposition of two separate official NASA images together or rearranging the contents of a single photograph to improve visual impact (figure 32). The text 'Mars in 1967/May 7th/21.45 Hrs' is also factually incorrect. The actual date was 25 February 1969 explaining why the caption was not used on the issued stamp.

The 25 cent design carried on the 12½ pence commemorates Laika, a stray Russian dog who became the first living space astronaut. Launched into space on 3 November 1957 as part of the Soviet Sputnik II mission (figure 33), she tragically died during the voyage. Her sacrifice was public knowledge at the time, yet precise details regarding her horrific death remained secret for many years. A combination of two separate photographs create this composite design, the first taken on 2 November



31

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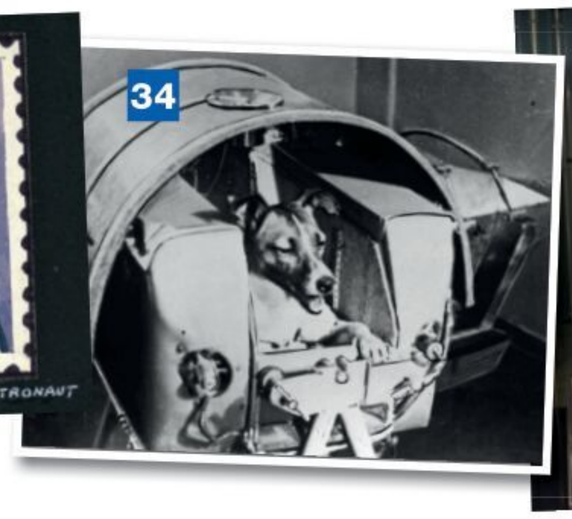
1957 showing Laika seated in her cockpit (figure 34). The other is showing a model of the Soviet Sputnik II, most likely the same one now housed in the Memorial Museum of Cosmonauts, Moscow (figure 35).

The 40 cent artwork allocated to the 25 pence stamp centres on Space Walks (figure 36). Interestingly, instead of depicting the first ever space-walk undertaken by Soviet Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov's (1934-2019) on 18 March 1965, the design instead charts the second one completed by American Astronaut Ed White (1930-1967) on 3 June 1965 during the US Gemini IV Mission. The image is a direct rendering of official NASA photographs taken during the mission (figure 37).

The 60 cent design used for the 50 pence stamp (figure 38) turns to the landmark Apollo XI mission of 21 July 1969 when Neil Alden Armstrong (1930-2012) and Edwin Eugene 'Buzz'



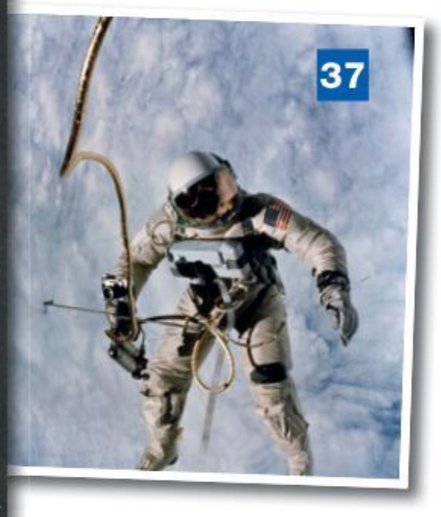
33


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36


37









Aldrin (1930-present) became the first men on the moon. Accuracy of details within the artwork indicates inspiration originated from official photographs taken during the mission. However, any photographs fitting this particular composition remain unidentified, suggesting Whiteley used various images to create an idealised composite representation (figure 39).

The final $2 design allocated to the £1 value depicts a space research station at an unspecified date in the future (figure 40). On this occasion, Whiteley used a specially commissioned piece of artwork developed for a presentation delivered by the American Aeronautical Engineer Robert Gilruth (1913-2000) during the fourth International Symposium on Bioastronautics and the Exploration of Space in San Antonio, Texas on 25 June 1968 (figure 41).

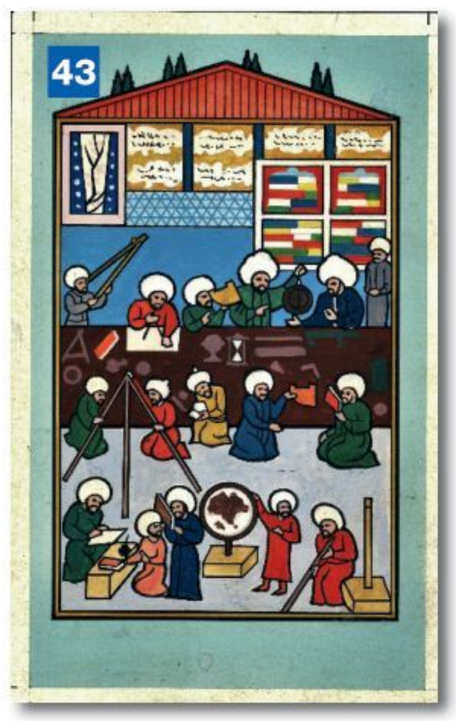
Once completed, the Crown Agents received all of these colour rough designs for approval. Approved, Victor Whitely then developed a second set of larger, more refined watercolours from which the security printing company would print the stamps. Unlike the colour rough artwork where Elizabeth II's Royal Cypher, territory name, denomination and captions are applied directly to the design, those for the colour finish artwork were placed on cellophane overlays along with some of the design features, for placement directly over the paintings (figures 42-55).

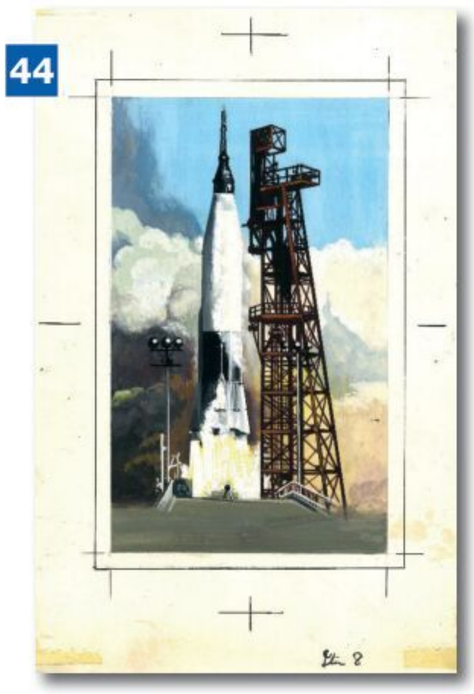
Approved by the Crown Agents, this second body of artwork arrived at Format International Security Printers Ltd, the firm contracted to manufacture the actual stamps using a lithography printing process. They developed printed proofs for each stamp, submitting them to the Crown Agents for approval in several phases. The ½p, 1p, 2½p, 3½p, 5p, 7½p, 10p, 12½p, 25p, 50p and £1 submitted to the Crown Agents received approval subject to minor amendments on 2 November 1970, followed by the 1½p and 2p stamps on 4 November 1970 and finally the 4½p on 9 November 1970 (figures 56-58). Signed off by the Crown Agents, Format began printing the stamps in sheets of fifty upon CA watermarked paper. Sadly, details regarding the quantities manufactured and their dispatch do not survive.

While Whiteley and Format busily developed and printed the stamps, celebrity astronomer Sir Patrick Alfred Caldwell-Moore (1923-2012) wrote a promotional essay for them titled 'Man into Space' published within the Crown Agents Philatelic Bulletin in January 1971. The advertising firm, S.H. Wright Ltd also produced an attractive pre-publicity leaflet promoting 'Ascension Islands New Definitive Works' (figures 59 and 60).

Viewed as a totality, several historical and ideological cold war era propaganda narratives emerge, commissioned by Ascension's postal authority during the advanced stages of the US-Soviet Space Race. The meta-narrative provides an optimistic, inclusive and straightforward tale of the world's recent entry into the 'Space Age.' Victor Whitley's individual designs undertake an episodic, plot-based approach narrating the history of space travel that Moore's

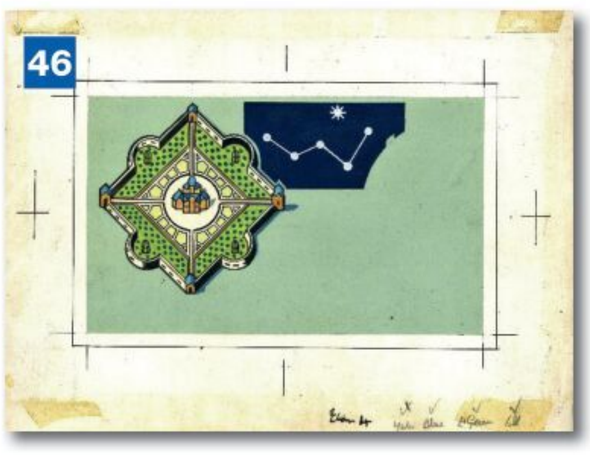


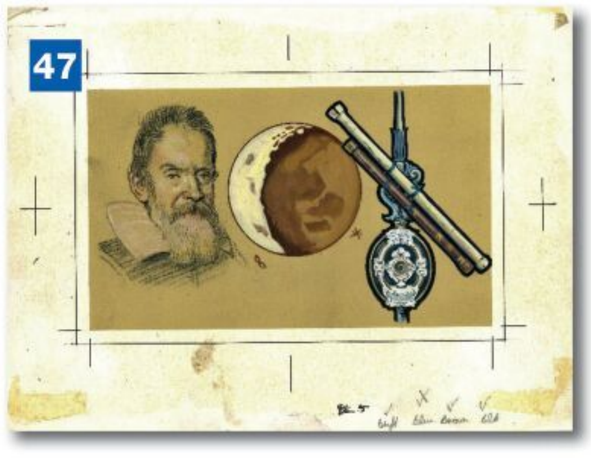




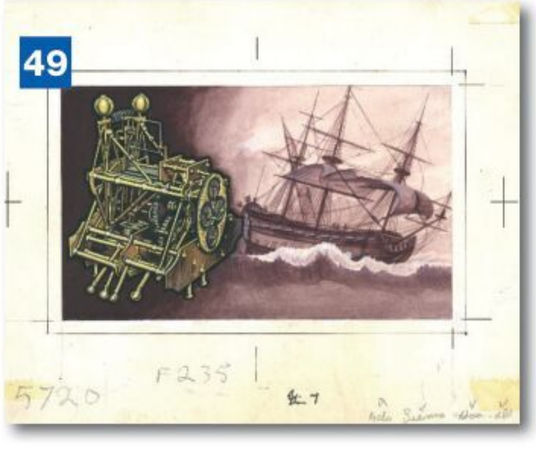


essay comfortably expands and threads around. Together they regale audiences with a progressive, evolutionary and chronotopic story of global technological and scientific innovations through millennia. The first six stamps focus on distant historical events, individuals and inventions, followed by five designs centring on recent contemporary achievements before concluding with a single design idealising the future of space exploration. Spatially, the six historical stamps start in China and







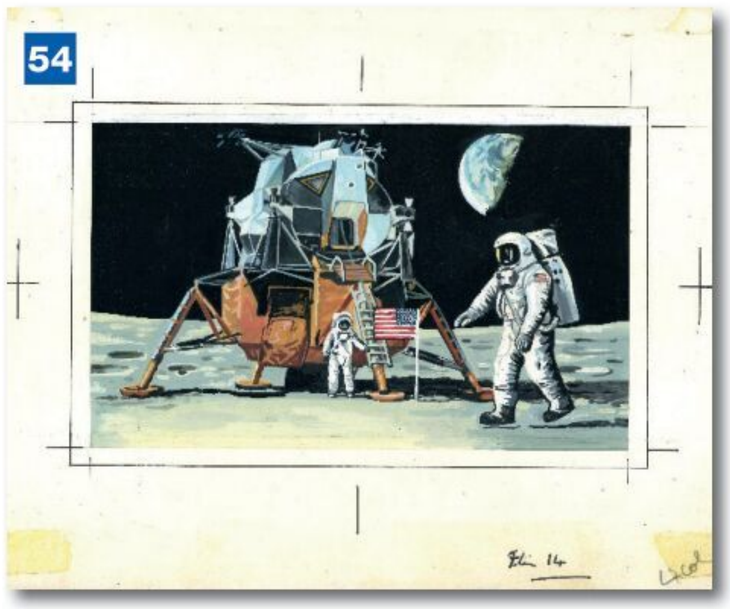


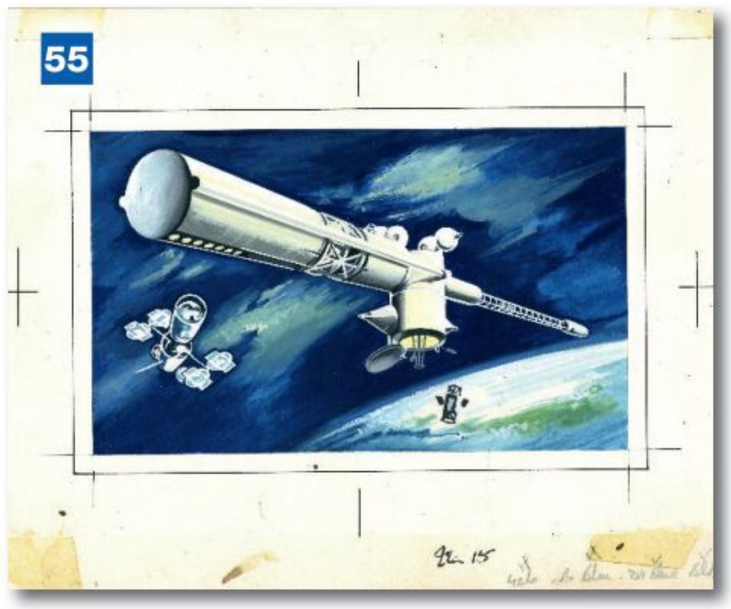


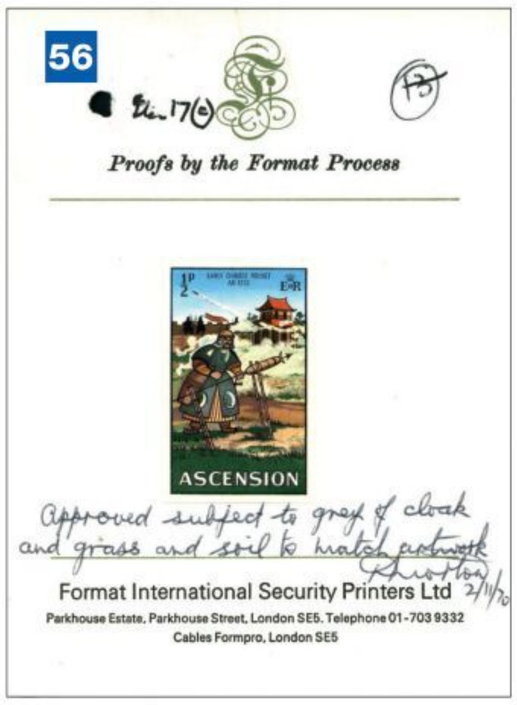


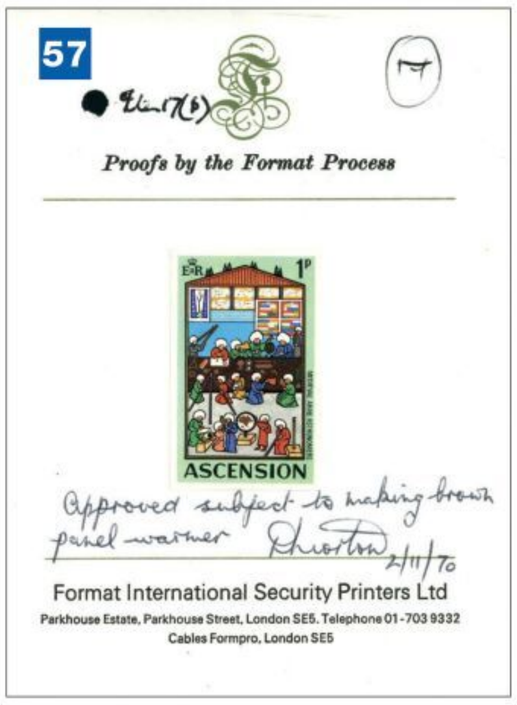


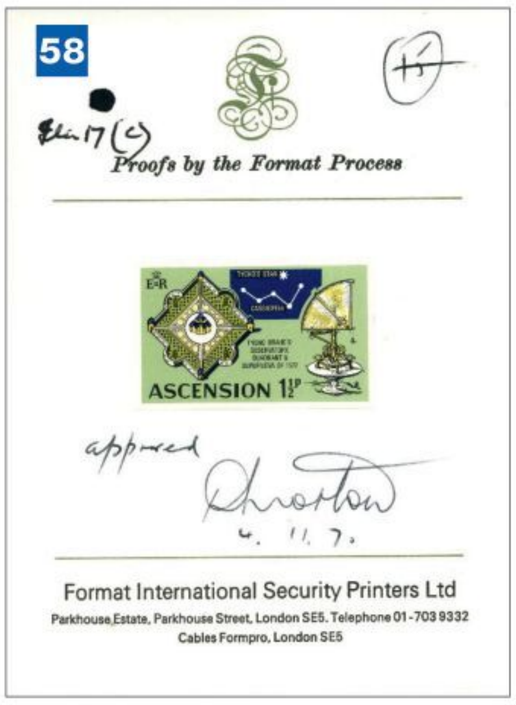












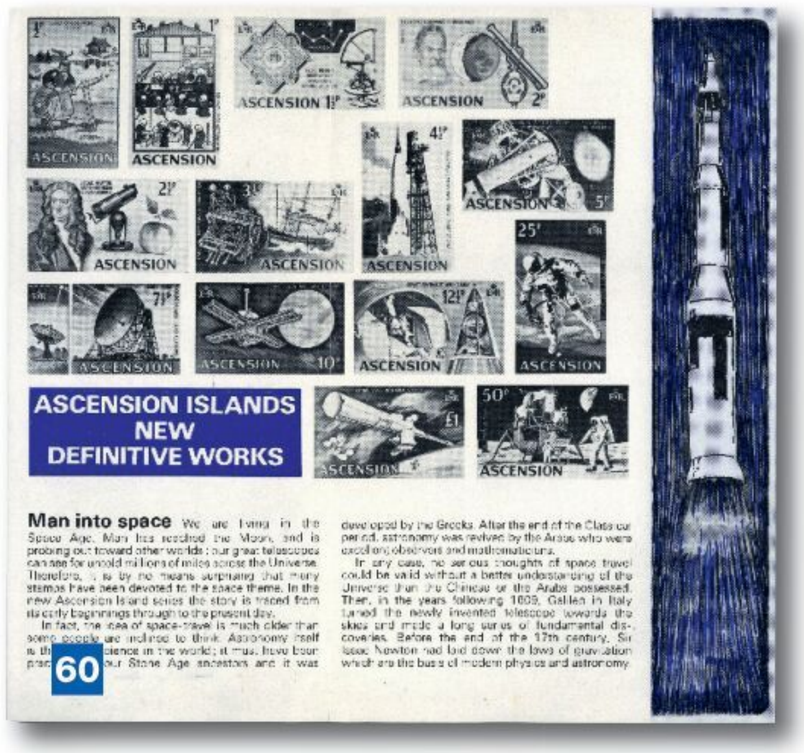
the Arabic world before moving from the east, westwards to early modern Europe then the British Isles during the Enlightenment. This westerly direction from the old to new world continues with all bar one of the five contemporary-era designs dominated by US achievements, generally omitting or downplaying Soviet successes. This generates a powerful ideological sub-narrative championing the American western capitalist future over an Eastern Soviet Communist one, a bright future of continued western dominance in a fast, ever-changing postcolonial world.

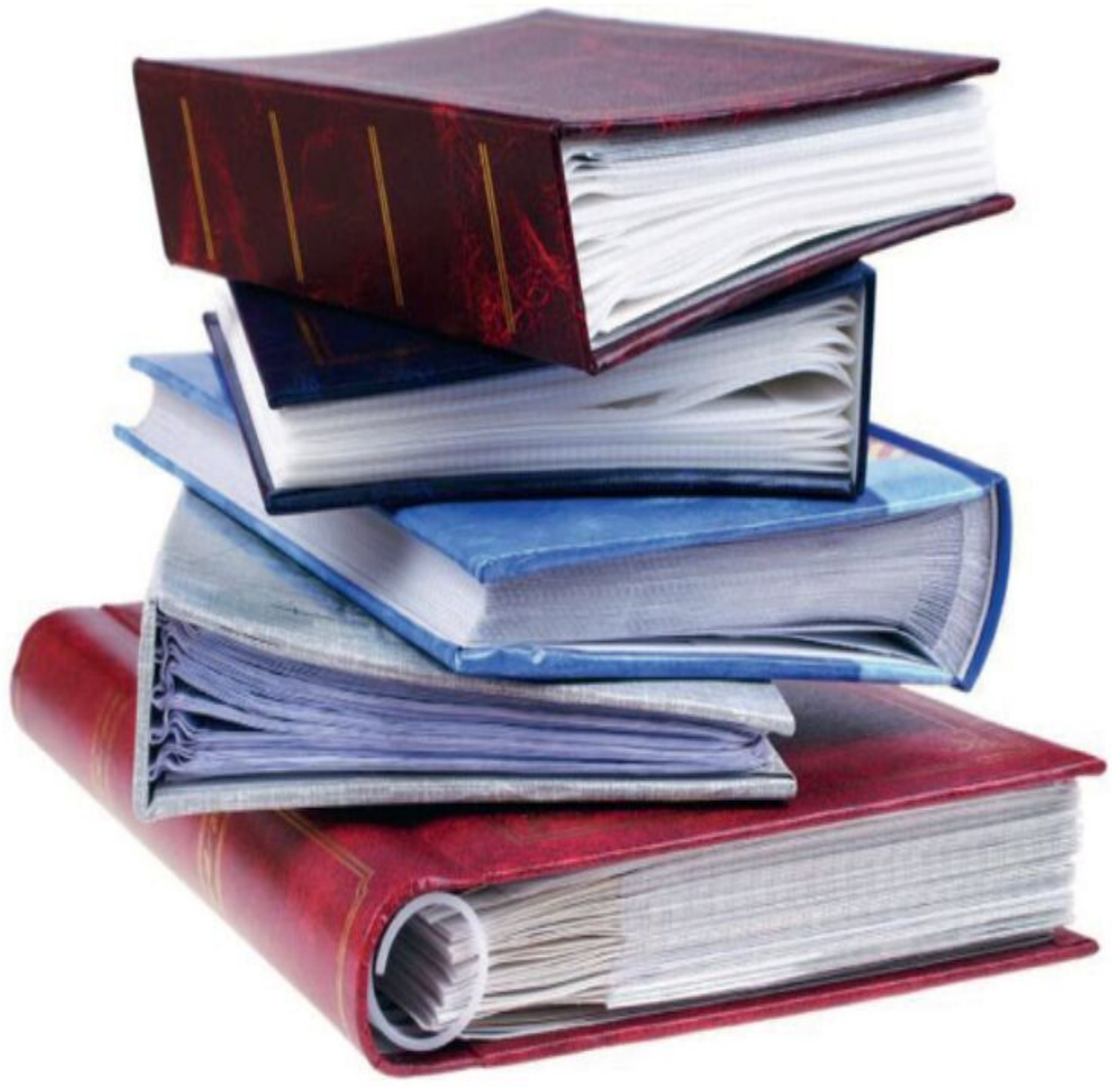
In remixing this diverse body of pre-existing source material together, Victor Whiteley's intertextual approach to stamp design created fundamentally innovative and new cultural meanings. Surveying this important body of archival material likewise taps into several significant wider present-day issues. Sustained postmodernist critiques on the colonial roots of museums, archives and libraries has created a limited crisis of confidence in relation to the rationale and purpose of modern cultural institutions. Yet, pre-production material like this coupled with their generated narratives demonstrates beyond any doubt that despite some reform of the cultural sector being required, it remains important and relevant today as well as into the future. Endangered archives like these also deliver a strong clarion call to institutions, stamp dealers and collectors worldwide about the inherent dangers accruing from breaking apart important pre-production materials for mere profit or private acquisition. Instead, resources like these should remain intact for future cultural posterity, something essential to the long-term survival of the hobby. Finally, now living during a period of massive geo-political, social, economic and ideological instability, stamp collectors can take consolation in anticipating the amazing range of future stamp issues on the subject released in response to the more recent Sino-US Space Race.



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







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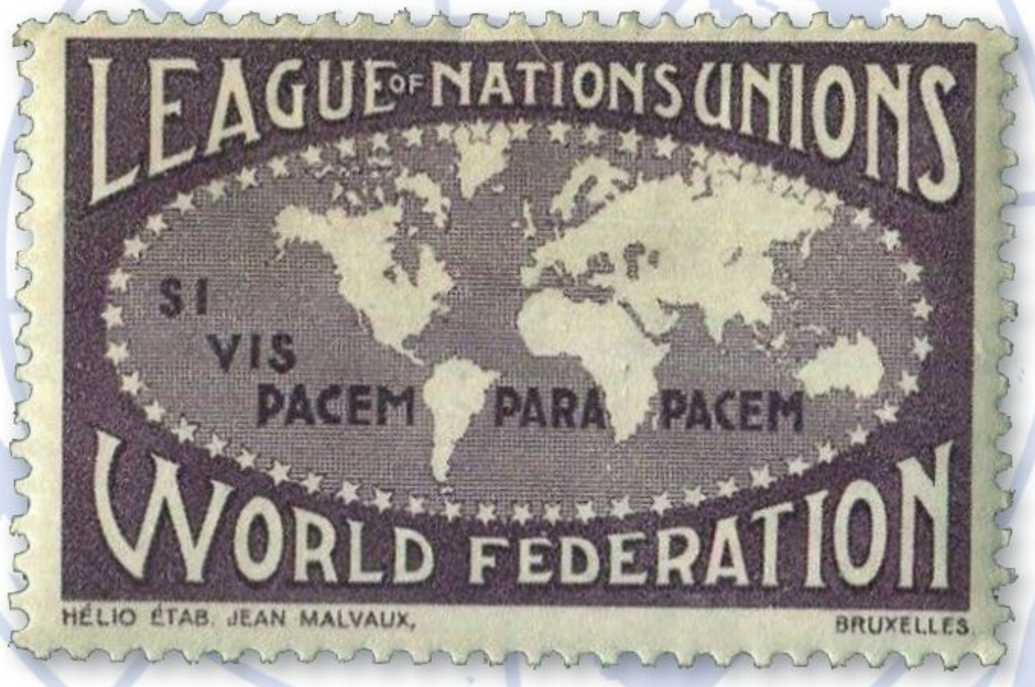
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From left: a Cinderella promoting the League of Nations; the text is an adaptation of a Latin motto which originally read: 'If you want peace, prepare for war'; the League of Nations overprint on a Swiss definitive of 1922

Below: the bottom value from the UN's first set from 1951; the Belgian World's Fair set of 1958 had 16 values showing the work of the UN

Stamps without borders

David Bailey discovers the world of stamps from international organisations and finds out that the intriguing theme is large, complex and collectable, not to mention topical in today's world

Supra-national organisations began after the first world war, with the Treaty of Versailles. Its first 26 clauses formed the Covenant of the League of Nations, which had three main aims: to stop wars, to encourage disarmament and to make the world a better place by improving working conditions and combating disease.

It would accomplish this through an assembly, which met every year and a council which met more often to handle crises. There was a small secretariat to handle the paperwork, a Court of International Justice plus a number of committees to handle the humanitarian side. These included the International Labour Organisation and the Health Committee.

The League of Nations is widely seen as a failure. But it had its triumphs, notably on the humanitarian side. It took half a million prisoners home and provided food and shelter to Turkish refugees. It mobilised opposition to the drug trade and the slave trade and supported measures against malaria and leprosy; this work has been continued by the UN.

It could also broker peace, but only there was a will to peace on both sides of a border dispute, as with Sweden and Finland over the Aaland Islands and between Greece and Bulgaria. However, the League was powerless when one well-armed country was intent on going to war – as with Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia – and it lost both credibility and relevance thereafter. In 1946, its buildings and other assets were transferred to the United Nations.

The League's stamps

The League of Nations was based in Switzerland and used specially overprinted Swiss stamps. These were not on sale to individuals until 1944, and so the bulk of them are unpriced in mint by Stanley Gibbons.

There are two issuing authorities: the League of Nations itself, which used three different overprints, and the International Labour Office, which used two. From 1944, there were also overprinted Swiss stamps from the International Bureau of Education. This was independent of the League of Nations but now works through UNESCO.

The UNO

As early as 1941, statesman were discussing how the world's countries could live in peace after Germany's defeat and on 12 June, representatives of fourteen countries signed the Declaration of St James, stating, in part: 'That the only true basis of enduring peace is the willing co-operation of free peoples in a world in which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security; and that it is their intention to work together,









Above, from left: the UN 10th Anniversary miniature sheet; a 6c value commemorating the 50th anniversary of the International Labour Office

Below: the UN Geneva office used overprinted Swiss stamps from 1950 to 1955; Stamps used by UN forces in the Congo between 1960 and 1964







The Interdepartmental Design Committee for the United Nations Postal Administration at the 79th meeting at U.N. Headquarters in New York, considering some thirty designs for a stamp to commemorate the week of the U.N. Organisation in the Congo *(UN Photo/Teddy Chen)*

and with other free peoples, both in war and peace to this end.'

The words 'United Nations' originally referred to the Allies, and first appear on the 'Declaration of United Nations', signed by 26 countries' representatives on 1 January 1942. After meetings at Tehran and Yalta, the UNO took its final form at the UNCIO (United Nations Conference on International Organisation) in San Francisco from April to June 1945. The UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.

UN postal history begins in 1946, with the special cancellations for the first UN General Assembly, which was held in London. (They'd wanted a special stamp – but the GPO said no). The postmarks were used at 120 London post offices and show the originally planned start date in 1945.

UN stamps began in 1947, with a proposal to the General Assembly by the Argentine delegate. The idea was approved, but still required the agreement of the USPS. The stamps eventually appeared on United Nations Day: 24 October 1951, with a set of 11 stamps, printed recess by De la Rue in London and Enschede in Haarlem. They sold out within days.

Today, UN stamps are issued from UN headquarters in three cities: New York, Geneva (from 1969) and Vienna (from 1979). Prior to this, the Swiss and Austrian offices used their national stamps with overprints.

The UN stamps usually feature the same design but are released simultaneously in three currencies; no other postal organisation does this. Another point of difference is their use of printers. Some countries have a shortlist of home-based firms; others have their own state printers. But the UN uses printers from all over the world, choosing a different company each time.

The stamps can only be bought and posted at the UN's own post offices. But they reach out to new audiences by attending national shows like Stampex and through their own travelling exhibition. These special exhibition cancels are another branch of UN postal history.

Topics, naturally, cover the aims and achievements of the UN as well as subjects of international concern, like combating diseases, stopping global warning and protecting wildlife: the series on endangered species has run for over 25 years.

The results are, literally, world class. National stamps can only feature landscapes, heritage and wildlife from within their own borders. UN stamps have the whole world to choose from. They also have a worldwide choice

of photographers, illustrators and designers, to keep the stamps looking fresh and tackle the perennial problem of conveying complex ideas in simple, powerful images.

The UN in action

Ever since its inception, the blue berets or helmets of the UN have become a familiar sight in trouble spots around the world, keeping the peace, or cleaning up after the war. Blue Berets in Cyprus, for instance, have been clearing mines and restoring damaged buildings. The UN also eases the break-up of nations, with interim or transitional administrations in Kosovo, East Timor and West New Guinea. Five of these initiatives have issued their own stamps and these temporary engagements become the UN's equivalent of dead countries for a stamp collector.

For instance, the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo lasted from 2000 to 2008. During that time, it issued over ninety stamps in 32 sets, covering all the popular thematic topics and providing a unique window on the culture, wildlife and scenery of Kosovo. Many of these stamps have gone unnoticed by all but the specialist collectors. A rare exception to this was the Kosovo Europa issue for 2006, which got caught up in the speculative boom in Europa stamps and is now the easiest UNMIK set to find.

Paris, Strasbourg, Brussels, the Hague and Geneva

Paris hosts UNESCO: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.
We feature its stamps on our website **allaboutstamps.com**.

Strasbourg is the home to the Council of Europe, an organisation set up after the war to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law. What is now the EU flag was first designed for the Council of Europe. It is an official United Nations Observer, whose best known institutions are the European Court of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. It has issued stamps from 1958. At first, these were only for delegates and officials, but from 1960, they could be used on all correspondence from the Council of Europe building.

Brussels was the site of the 1958 World's Fair. Over forty nations took part and so did the UNO, which had its own pavilion and issued a set of stamps for visitors to the show.

It comprises ten regular postage stamps plus six airmail issues which depict the UNO and its subsidiary organisations. Technically, the stamps are Belgian, but they could only be used on mail sent from the UNO Pavilion during the show.

The permanent Court of International Justice is based in the Hague and issued stamps for its exclusive use from 1934. At first, they were overprints on Dutch stamps. Then their own designs were used from 1950.

Geneva is the traditional home of international partnerships and today hosts a dozen organisations working to raise standards, promote best practice and set out the protocols which enable our interconnected world to function. They all used overprinted Swiss stamps before issuing their own designs, created and printed in Switzerland. Many will ring bells with thematic collectors.

International Labour Office (ILO)

The ILO is based on the belief that social justice is essential for creating a just and lasting peace. It brings together governments, employers and workers from its 187 member states to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes to promote decent work for men and women. It issued its own designs from 1956 to 1994.

International Bureau of Education (IBE)

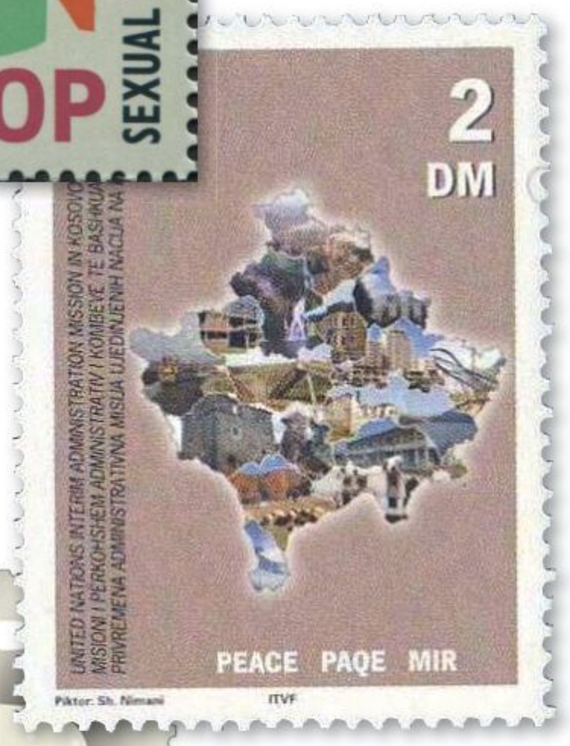
From 1929 the first intergovernmental education organisation, IBE set out to promote peace through education.It joined UNESCO in 1969 and issued just one set of stamps, current from 1958-60.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Founded in 1948, the WHO sets itself five-yearly programmes of work, with measurable targets. The current period runs from 2019-2023 and aims to ensure that one billion more people are benefitting from universal health coverage, are better protected from health emergencies and are enjoying better health and well-being. Its own stamps run from 1957.



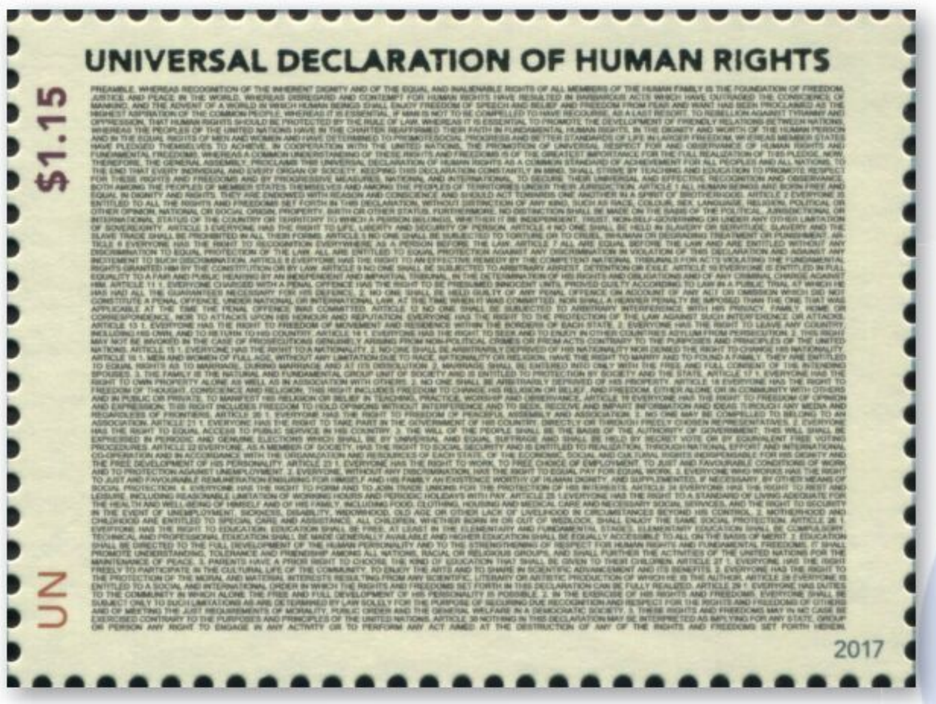
UN Stamps and initiatives keep up with the issues of the day, such as this 2019 value highlighting sexual exploitation and abuse

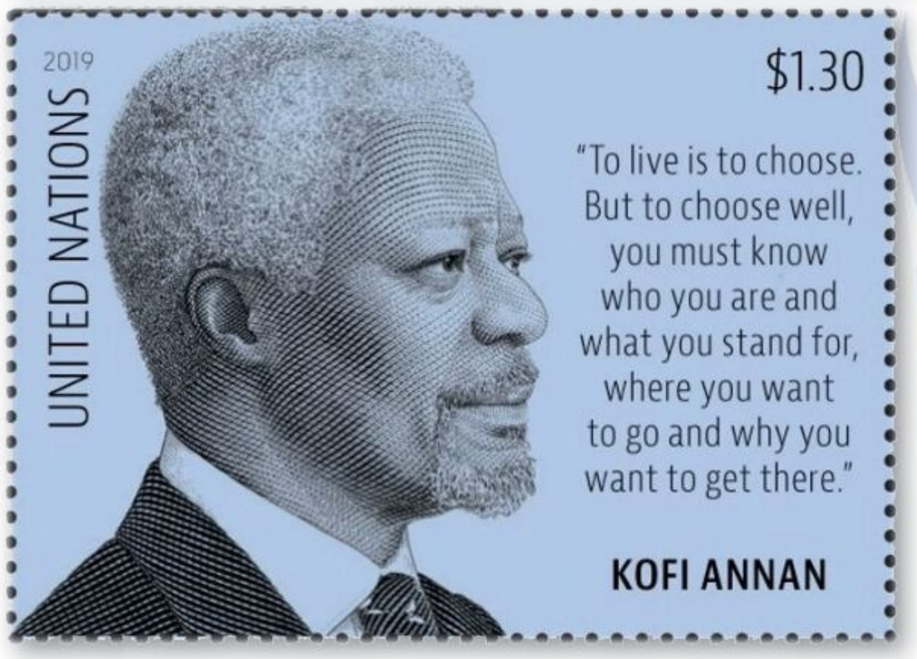


Right: a stamp used by the UN mission in Kosovo; it is a montage of historic buildings; below: modern art on a stamp of 2014



The entire Universal Declaration of Human Rights was reproduced on a single stamp in October 2017, whilst the famous people series features engravings by Martin Morck, depicting figures such as former Secretary-General Kofi Annan





International Refugee Organisation (IRO)
The IRO issued overprinted stamps for just one year: 1950.

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
This is the body that looks after the world's weather, gathering data and promoting co-operation and co-ordination between countries; it has a particular focus on water resources. There are no overprints, just two sets of stamps from 1956-60 and in 1973.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
WIPO was created to promote and protect intellectual property across the world by co-operating with countries and international organisations. Founded in 1970, it issued one set of stamps in 1982.

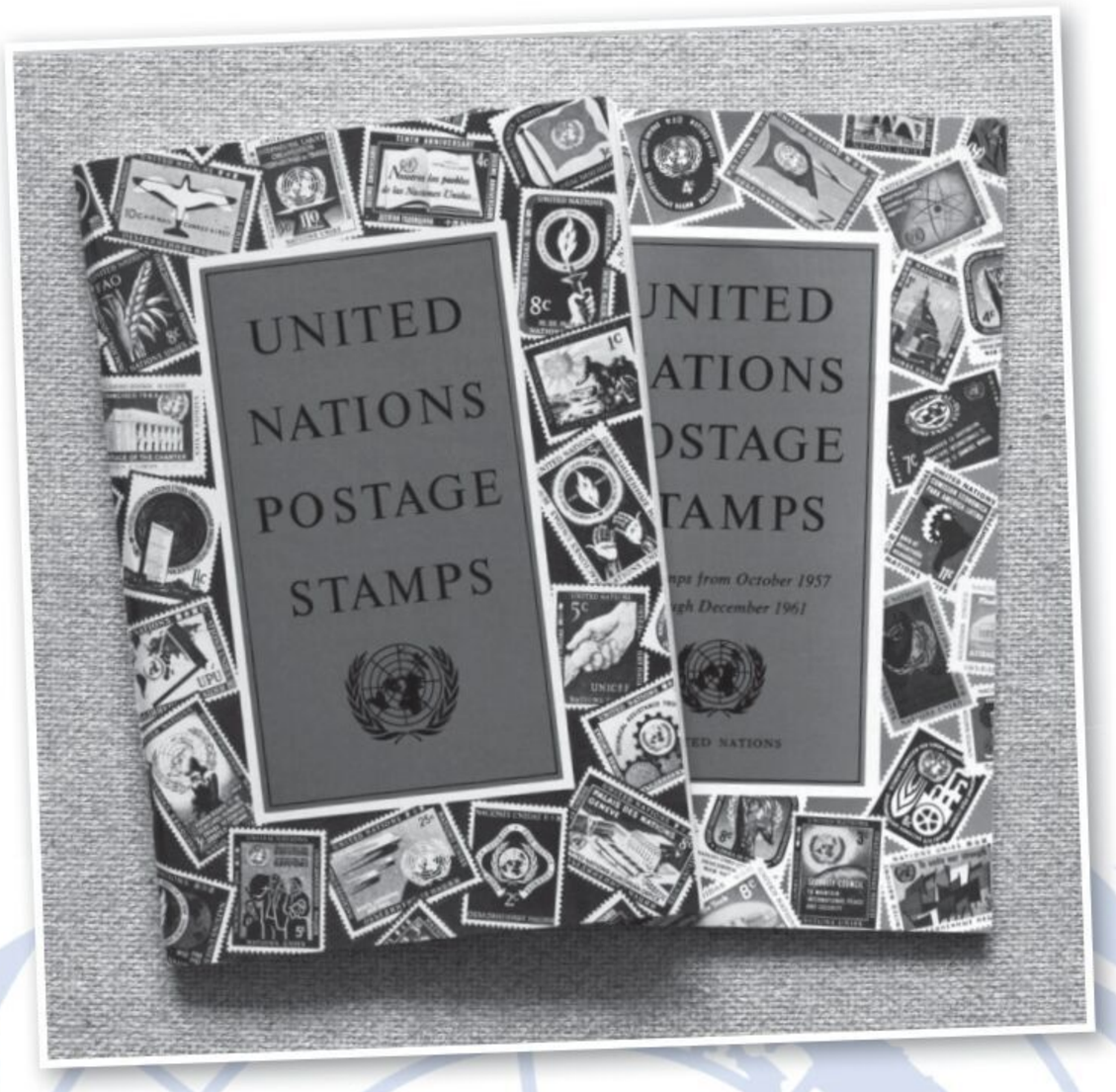
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
There are many stamps that feature the UPU. But it also issued its own stamps, in this case from 1957 onwards.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Founded in 1865, the ITU allocates global radio frequencies and satellite orbits and develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies work seamlessly together.

You benefit from its work whenever you make a phone call of access the internet. It appears on a number of countries' stamps but also issued its own, from 1958.

International Olympic Committee (IOC)
The Olympic Games have been a popular thematic since 1896 but the IOC's own stamps may not be so well-known. They have been issued since 2000, to promote the Games and other sporting initiatives.

Collecting the stamps
Previously, detailed information about all these issues was split between a number of different catalogues. Then in 2010, Gibbons brought the whole lot together in a single 139-page volume, which did much to stimulate interest in these stamps. However, only this 1st edition is listed on their website, so for more up to date information in print, it's back to the one-country catalogues, or direct to the issuing authorities themselves. Online, Colnect.com list all the UN stamps and a few minutes' searching will turn up a number of small specialist dealers and mega-dealers who stock almost everything, like PostBeeld, Stampworld and Stampedia.



Two booklets prepared by the United Nations Postal Administration. The left one, issued in 1957, provides the history and postal activities of the United Nations Postal Administration and its stamp issuances from 1951-57. The one on the right, printed in the form of a supplement, brings up to date all United Nations Stamp issues from October 1957 through to December 1961 *(UN Photo)*



Above: the IOC promotes sport in general – not just the Olympic Games. Right: World Toilet Day was marked in November 2021, what sounds like an unusual cause is actually a vital campaign to provide clean and safe sewage and water supplies



Right: A Cinderella supporting the League of Nations and Viscount Cecil who helped to found it



FIND OUT MORE
The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) website (**unstamps.org**), explains more about the bureau's unique operations: 'United Nations stamps are issued simultaneously at UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Each issue carries a related design theme, with different denominations for each office. The stamps are available from UNPA offices in person or by mail, and from stamp dealers. They are valid for postage when used on mail from the UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna.' The journal *Fascination* is issued by the UNPA three times a year in four different languages (English, French, German and Italian), and provides collectors with all relevant about new stamp issues and other philatelic products of UNPA. It can be downloaded for free from the website.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

CINDERELLAS

Bogdanoff's cigarettes

Smoking is certainly not good for your health but this fact was apparently not that well known in the early 1900s, writes Christer Brunström. Today most cigarette packs carry a gruesome warning illustrating the health hazards of using the product.

Obviously the prospect of developing lung cancer didn't influence the people who designed a series of Danish advertising poster stamps for A.N. Bogdanoff & Co, a major cigarette manufacturer established in the Russian city of St. Petersburg in 1884. It seems it was a successful enterprise exporting its cigarettes to many other countries. In 1911, the company had a capital of three million Russian roubles. Bogdanoff spent a lot of money on advertising which included publicity posters and postcards designed by talented artists.

Bogdanoff's cigarettes were marketed in Denmark using very attractive poster stamps produced by A/S Dansk Papirvarefabrik in Copenhagen. The different cigarette brands were offered in packs of 10, 15, 20 or 25. Some of the brands were MONA LISA, No. 87 and PAN.

There are at least five different varieties of the Danish poster stamps, and here we see the stamp advertising the LUX brand, a pack of 15 cigarettes at 10 öre (probably not including the Danish tax on tobacco products).



Rather amazingly, the design includes a nude child holding a smoking cigarette and pointing to a LUX pack. By today's standards, this certainly is not the politically correct approach to advertising tobacco products. Remarkably, the image seems to convey the impression of the healthy qualities of the product.

STAMP QUIZ

Test your stamp knowledge with our monthly quiz (answers on page 44)

1 Who invented perfins?

2 Why did Brazil use a bull's eye image on its first stamps?

3 To what postal items were the first stamps of Mauritius mostly applied?

4 In the stamp collecting world, what is an Hawaiian Missionary ?

5 What were the initials and surname of the engraver's agent who gave stamps to Central American governments in the 1890s free-of-charge on condition that unsold stamps were to be returned to the agent when new designs were issued in the following year?

6 Name the plants shown growing on this stamp.

7 Which British Postal Agency used these stamps?

8 What were the two words used in the watermark on line engraved GB stamps of 1858-1870?

9 Name the lighthouse featured on Jersey's 1943 War Occupation Issues 1½d stamp.

10 What was the advertised product named on the back of some GB QV Jubilee ½d stamps of 1887-1892?









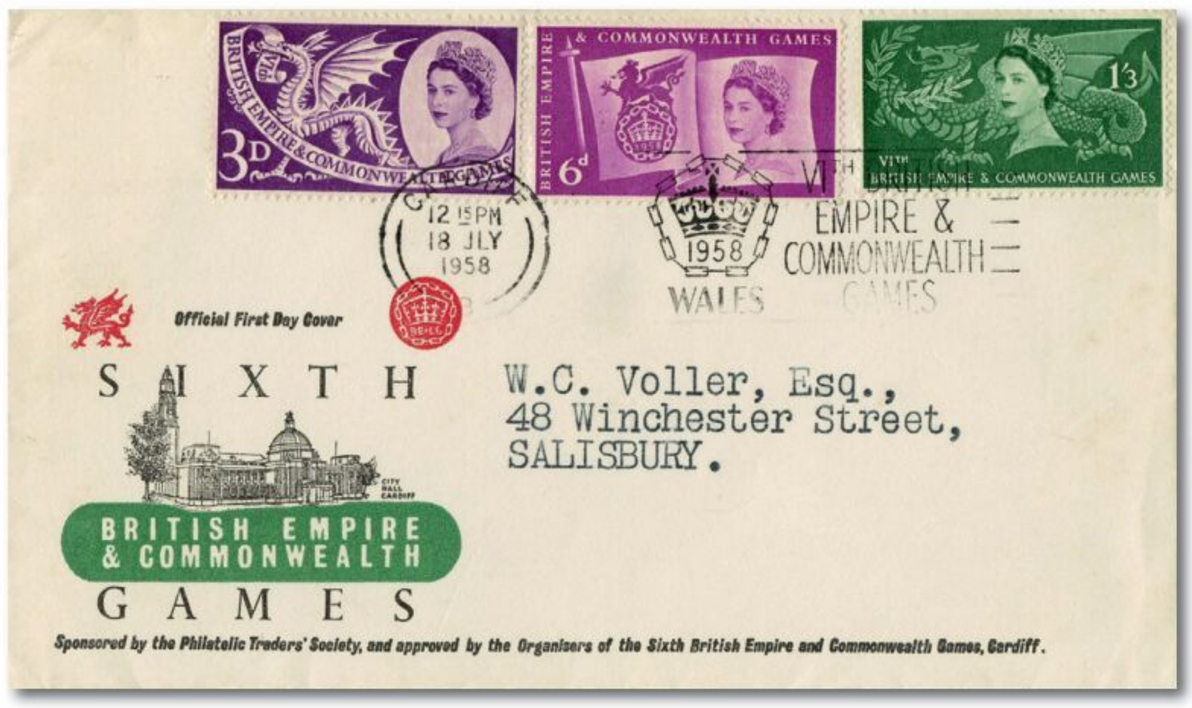


FIRST DAY COVERS

Commonwealth covers

Researching the Commonwealth Games can be rather a confusing task, writes Brian Austin. The first 'official' games to be held in the UK were in London in 1934 and there were no commemorative stamps.

The first stamps to celebrate the event came along for the sixth games, held in and around Cardiff in 1958. As well as the stamps there were also three special slogans in Cardiff, Llanberis and Barry, ranging in price from £75 to £100. The Cardiff slogan is shown here.



In addition, at the games there was a Mobile Post Office, a Court Post Office and a Parcel postmark, and slogans from these locations are all very rare; if you ever come across them, whatever the condition, it would be worth considering a purchase.

The RAFA Philatelic Society also produced a special registered commemorative cover which, if you can find, will probably be handwritten and comes with various CDS postmarks. We have also seen it with the very rare Barry Hooded cancel. These type of cancels are scarce and mainly seen on later Victorian issues. However, this example seems to only appear for the Commonwealth Games, so it may have been specially produced or just found in a drawer at the time and added to the cover. We will probably never know, but it's a lovely cover to add to your collection.

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games takes place from 28 July to 8 August.

POST & GO

Gibraltar and the Chinese New Year

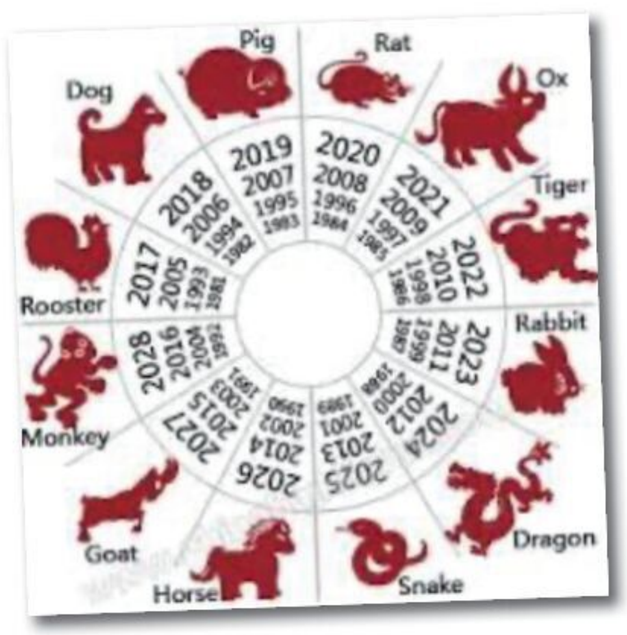
Each Chinese year is associated with an animal sign according to the Chinese zodiac cycle, which features 12 animal signs in the order Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig, writes Stuart Leigh.

Since 2013, Gibraltar has commemorated the Chinese New Year with a pair of stamps designed by Stephen Perera. They have a unique character, with the colours typical of China, from yellow to orange and black, portraying, in a unique style the Chinese animal of the year. In 2016 Gibraltar copied the design over to the Post and Go series.

Illustrated here, going clockwise from top, we have the Post & Go stamps issued to date: the Year of the Monkey in 2016, the Rooster in 2017, Dog in 2018, Pig in 2019, Rat in 2020 and in 2021 the Ox.

This is the Year of the Tiger and again a pair of stamps were designed in the same style by Stephen Perera, having values of £3.16 and £4, which was again copied over to the Post & Go issue.





The Chinese calendar defines the lunar month containing the winter solstice as the eleventh month, meaning that Chinese New Year usually falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice. Invariably this occurs between late January and mid February. It is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture and, as many readers will recognise, is a regular theme on stamps of all kinds.

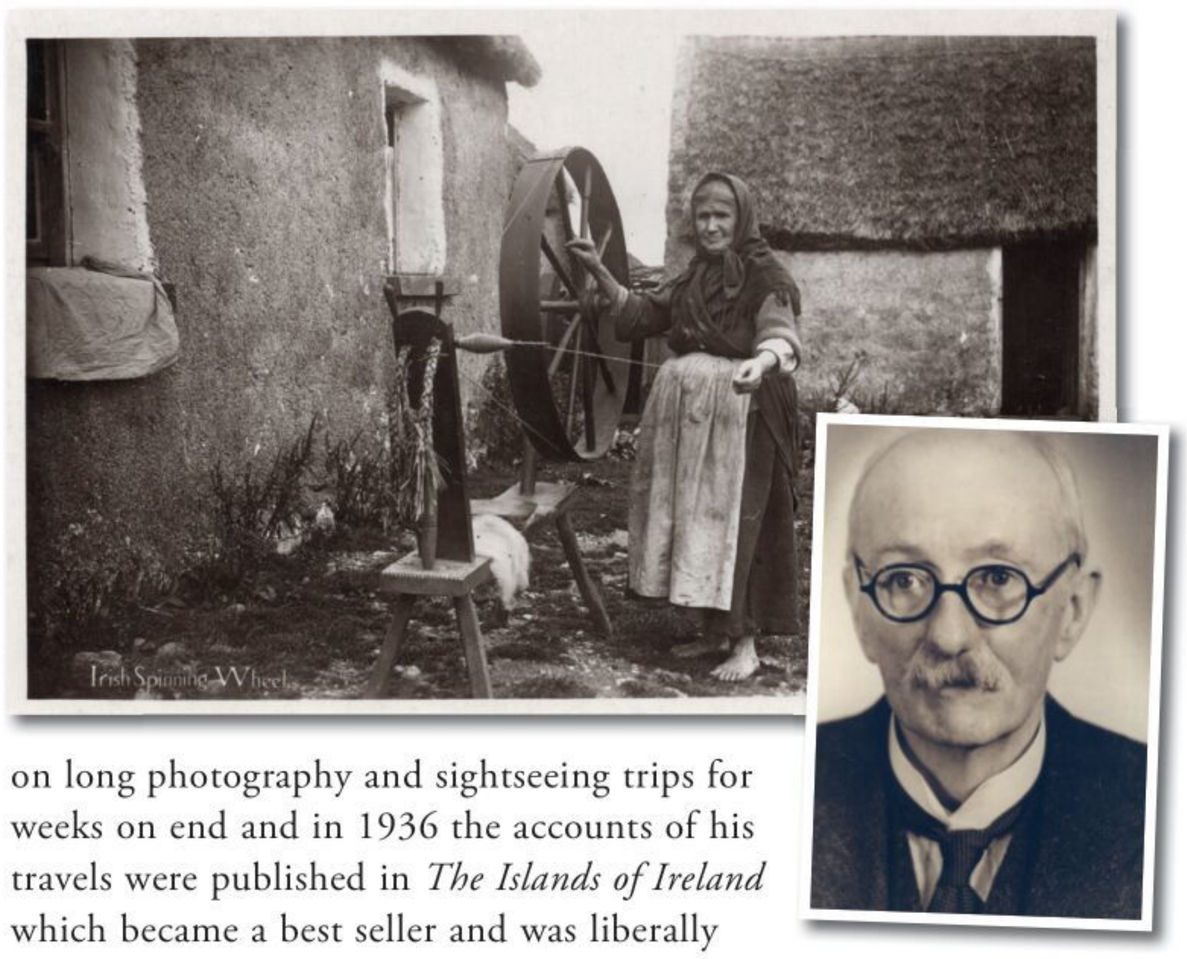
The unsung Irish publisher

Most collectors of Irish postcards are familiar with the sepia real photo postcards produced by Mason of Dublin, but until now little has been written about the man behind them, Thomas Holmes Mason. Yet when he died in 1958 his obituaries described a life packed with interests, business activity and devotion to family, writes Richard Stenlake.

Thomas' interest began at the age of 12 and by the time of his death he had taken many thousands of photographs in Ireland and overseas. His images were published under the Mason, Dublin imprint and sold in post offices and hotels, who would buy 2,000 postcards of their hotel at a time.

The postcard business had began with a series of cards of the Eucharistic Congress in Phoenix Park, but its mainstay became sepia photographic images of antiquities, scenery, Irish life and the hotel cards which were profitable but not amongst Mason's favourites. He sneaked his Model A Ford into the card illustrated. Mason would go





on long photography and sightseeing trips for weeks on end and in 1936 the accounts of his travels were published in *The Islands of Ireland* which became a best seller and was liberally illustrated with his half-tones. His cards of Irish life depict the natives of Connemara and the Aran Islands. Islanders were often not keen to have their photo taken and to photograph them covertly Mason used a reflex camera with an angled lens.

All Mason postcards were produced directly from the negatives as photographic prints and the quality of the product was its downfall. When the price of silver increased, production became uneconomic. The postcard business was discontinued in the 1940s. On the evening of 25 May 1965 the firm's premises at 5 and 6 Dame Street were destroyed by fire and the priceless collection of Mason photographs went up in smoke.

QUIZ ANSWERS

How well did you do?

1. A Londoner named Joseph Sloper, who took out a patent for a perfin machine in 1868.
2. So that the portrait of Emperor Pedro II would not be defaced by an obliterator.
3. Invitations to a fancy dress ball on the island. Sent by the Governor's wife.
4. Hawaii 1851 2-cents blue stamp
5. N. F. Seebeck
6. Tobacco
7. Dubai
8. Half penny across three stamps
9. Corbière Lighthouse
10. PEARS' SOAP





The Trucial States was the name given by the British to what we now know as the United Arab Emirates

Perfins are small holes applied to stamps to prevent theft and were often used by businesses

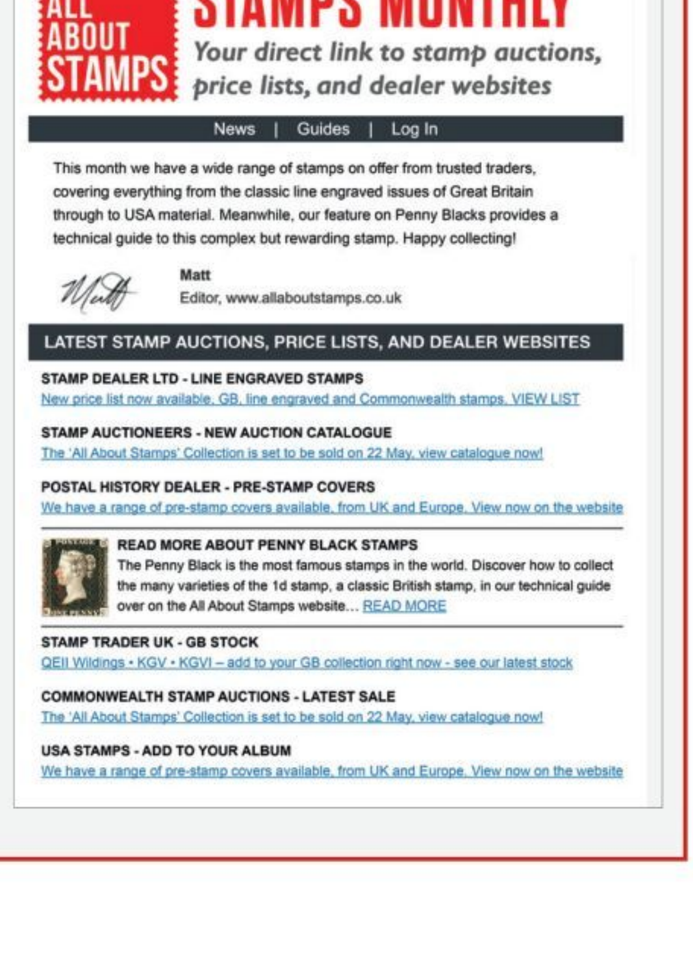
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ALL ABOUT STAMPS

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This month we have a wide range of stamps on offer from trusted traders, covering everything from the classic line engraved issues of Great Britain through to USA material. Meanwhile, our feature on Penny Blacks provides a technical guide to this complex but rewarding stamp. Happy collecting!

Matt
Editor, www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

LATEST STAMP AUCTIONS, PRICE LISTS, AND DEALER WEBSITES

STAMP DEALER LTD - LINE ENGRAVED STAMPS
New price list now available, GB, line engraved and Commonwealth stamps. VIEW LIST

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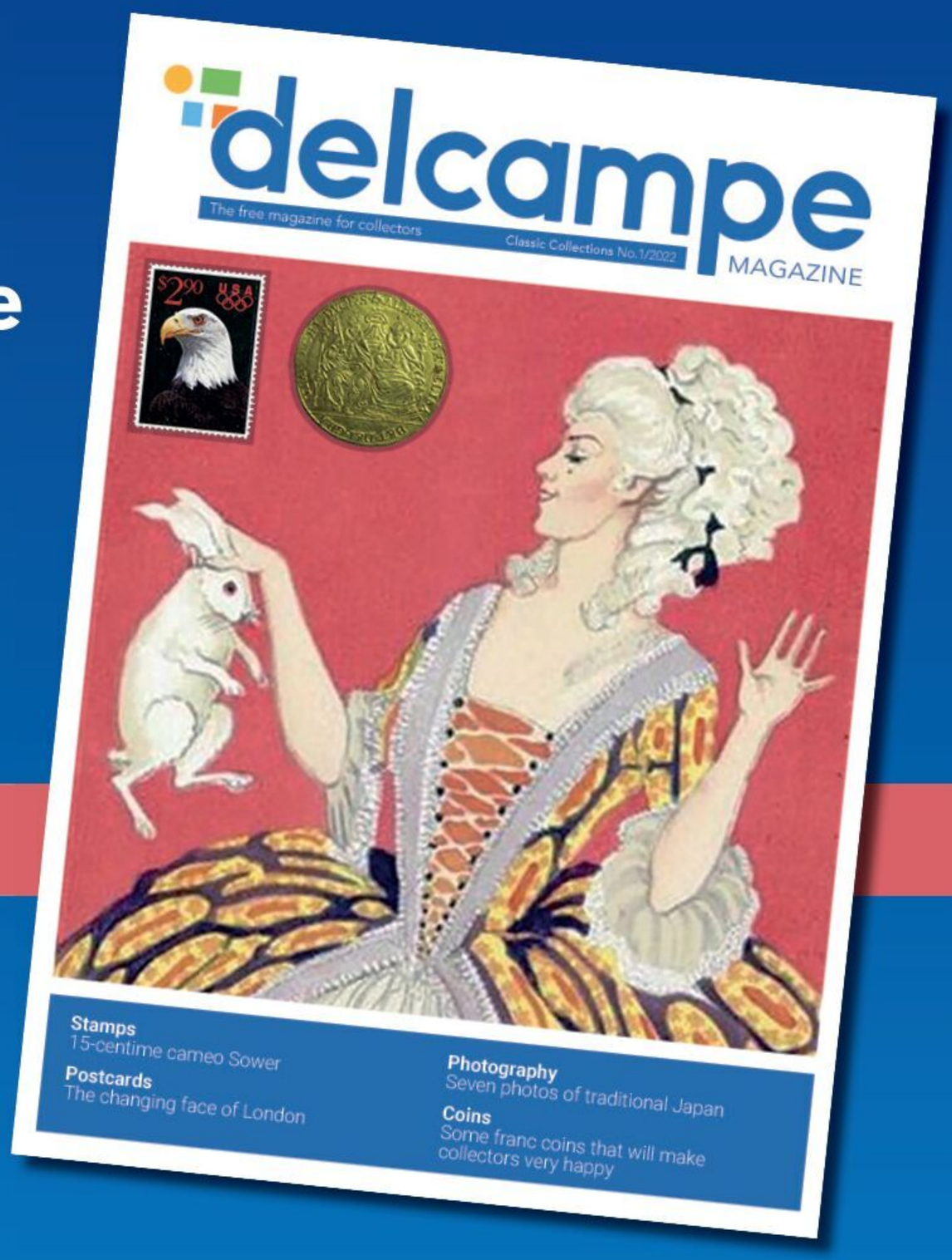
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Current Market Values

BUYING & SELLING

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(We always require GB postage but some values are more popular than others so please contact us by email or telephone where the sale value is £2000 or over).

CATEGORY OF STAMPS	BUYING (% of Face Value)
New Royal Mail Barcode Stamps	1st Class - 62% 1st Class Large - 69% 2nd Class - 66% 2nd Large Letter - 73% Fixed Values 1p to 50p - 55% Fixed Values £1 to £5 - 65%
Commemorative and Christmas Stamps Sorted by value in bags of 100 stamps (smaller amounts accepted)	1st Class Stamps - 52% (all types) 2nd Class Stamps - 63% (all types) 1p to 44p - 47% 45p to 97p - 50% £1 to £3 - 55%
Commemorative and Christmas Stamps Made up in mixed bags containing £50 or £100 face value	**We pay 48% face value** Lots must include a wide range of different values.

CATEGORY OF STAMPS	BUYING (% of Face Value)
Definitive and Regional Stamps 1p to £10 including all 1st class and 2nd class stamps. (e.g. all stamps from 1971 to date which will not be valid for postal use after 31st January 2023)	**We pay 46% Face Value** Sorted by value and segregated into clear bags each containing just 50 stamps. NO Commemoratives or Christmas Stamps
Post & Go & Commemorative 'E' European and Worldwide stamps These stamps will remain valid for postal use after 31st January 2023	**Up to 10g, 20g, 40g, 60g and 100 grams** **We pay 80p per stamp.**
Commemorative Presentation Packs, Year Books and all Booklets	**We pay 50% face value.**

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PTS

10 June 2022



Examples of FRANCE LIBRE and other overprints







STAMPS OF THE FRENCH COLONIES

France's stamp empire, part 2

Join Ed Fletcher on the second leg of his French Colonials walk-through, as he heads into the pictorials gallery

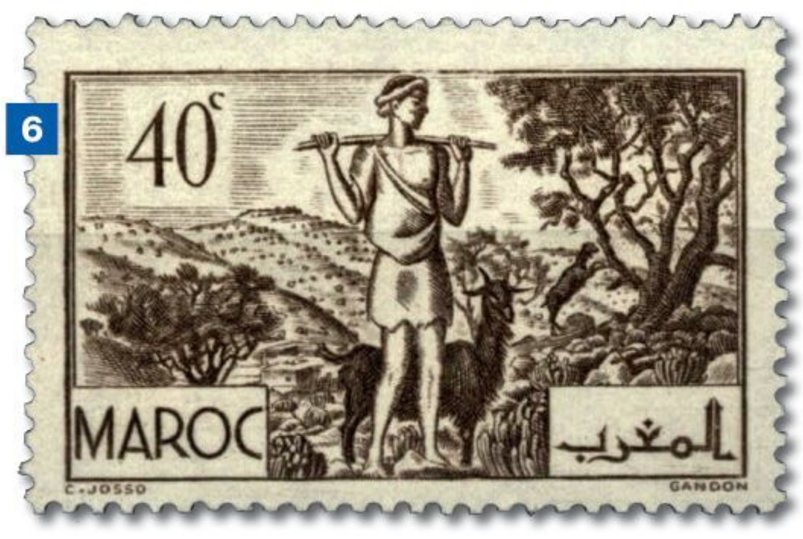
If you turned to this feature after reading last month's article, I'm delighted by my small success in arousing your interest in France's 19th-century general issues for her colonies. Now you feel ready for an introduction to the 20th century's offerings and an answer to your next query: which of the later colonials should I collect? That is easier to ask than to answer; so let us throw in a borrowed Gallic shrug at this point and reply: 'It all depends'.

With so many directions in which we might draw our eyes, we can do little more than give you two or three nudges and hope one of them sets you on a fruitful course. But first let us provide a thumbnail sketch of the historical background into which these stamps were originally set.

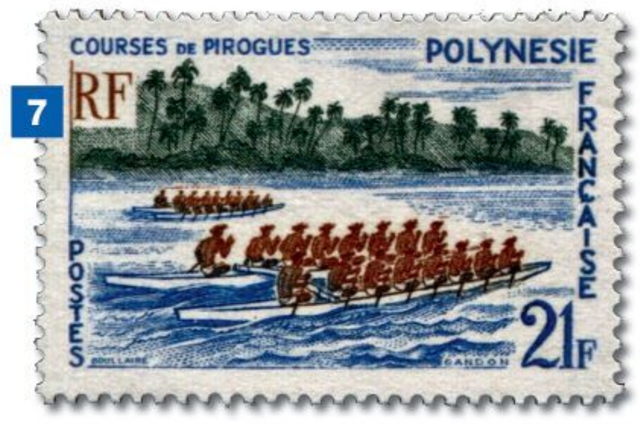
France's Third Republic had suffered a crushing defeat in 1940 when a German blitzkrieg smashed through inadequate and outdated defences and forced a humiliating surrender, in the same way the Prussians had defeated France's Second Empire seventy years earlier. The déjà vu of the 1940 catastrophe spurred some of the bravest and best to quit the country and flee abroad in hope of joining a second front that might eventually return to Europe and drive back the Germans. Other heroic men and women remained in France, planning and plotting to organize the Resistance. A far larger group chose to submit to Hitler. Under Marshal Petain they established the seat of a puppet regime at Vichy and embraced the Nazi ideology. Virtually all of France's colonial empire and other territories thus fell into Vichy hands; along with all supplies of postage stamps already delivered throughout the empire before the defeat, together with the productive means of designing and printing more.

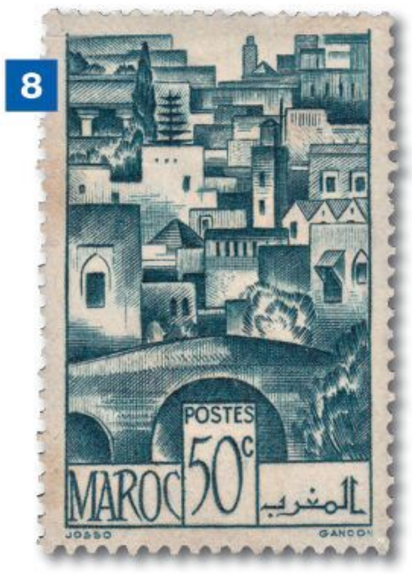
In 1940 General Charles de Gaulle had made his way to London where he gained Churchill's support for a plan to rally France's overseas territories to form a Free French provisional government opposed to the Vichy regime. Several colonies placed their forces at de Gaulle's disposal; others joined after the Americans, British and French landed in North Africa



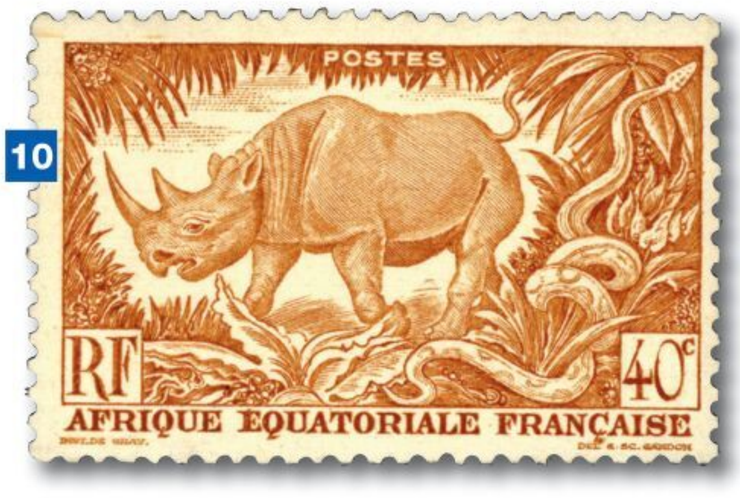


All the work of Pierre Gandon, with many more for you to discover











11



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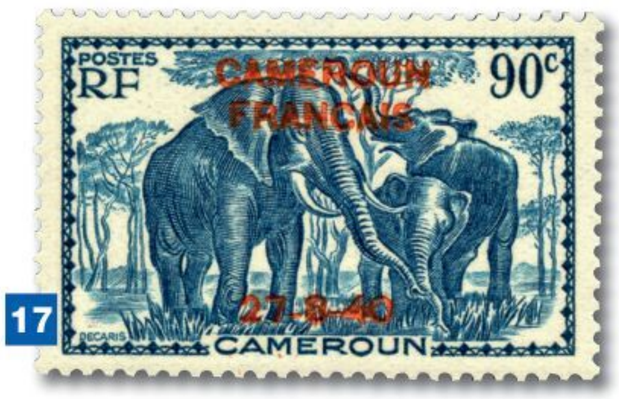
16

in November 1942. The eventual success of Operation Torch, as those invasions became known, resulted in increasing numbers of French overseas possessions and territories overprinting their stamp issues with 'FRANCE LIBRE' to signify their rejection of Vichy. A provisional government of Free France, with de Gaulle as its chairman, had evolved by 1943 to become the Provisional Government of the French Republic – now with de Gaulle as Premier – by that time governing all of Algeria and all liberated parts of France's colonial empire as they freed themselves from Vichy clutches. Interesting overprints such as Résistance, Forces Francaises Libres, Afrique Francaise Combattante, Libération 18 Juin 1940, F.N.F.L., and many others can be found on stamps from throughout the empire.

Turning to French colonials from the 1930s, 40s and 50s in general, have a look at the examples we've shown here, together with others that catch your own eyes as you browse stamps offered by dealers. You will know from first glance that the majority differ markedly from GB colonials issued in the same decades. You will find it helpful for comparison purposes to open pages from a GB

Albert Decaris won an Olympic gold medal for etching and engraving at the London Olympics in 1948; figures 11-20 show a few examples from his lifetime's work

Many more superb French colonial pictorials like these await your attention



17



18

colonials catalogue and focus on one randomly selected country. Let us take the Nyasaland Protectorate as an example, even though it somewhat untidily spills over into Rhodesia and Nyasaland for much of the 1950s. From 1930 to 1959, covering the final years of GV; all of GVI; and most of the first decade of the Queen's reign, more than thirty large-format stamps were issued. All receive praise and are enthusiastically collected by GB colonials buffs, being the work of printers such as Waterlow, De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson. On one-third the design consists of the monarch's head with Nyasaland's emblem (a leopard) and/or the Federal Coat-of-Arms; and with other heraldic devices alongside. Two thirds display pictorial scenes; but only two stamps have indigenous people as the prominent focus within the scenes (a mother-and baby portrait, and a uniformed soldier of the King's African Rifles).



19



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Of course, examples chosen for this feature come from a swathe of French colonies; but even when you limit your search to a single colony the general observation remains: most issued far more stamps depicting indigenous people going about their daily lives. Animated figures in action often appear, in contrast to the posed native inhabitants often seen on GB colonials. Cultural objects and indigenous artwork also seem to merit more exposure than on our issues. One wonders if French stamp engravers and artists strove to suggest a sense of inclusivity between colonisers and colonised? This might have chimed with the then-popular French notion of mission *civilisatrice*, which held that exposure to French ideas, language, values and culture would gradually transform foreigners until they became active and committed members of a Francophone world-spanning Republic of free and equal citizens. A pipe dream, of course; though modern France does still retain close economic and political links with some of its former colonies, protectorates and mandates.

The engravers and artists who created French colonial issues certainly played major roles in providing collectors the world over with stamps still admired more than half a century later. Look for examples carrying the name Pierre Gandon, who engraved around 300 stamps for home consumption in France; as well as more than 700 for issue in French colonies around the world. If he becomes the first named engraver in your collection you will make an excellent beginning. Albert Decaris had an even more formidable reputation. He created hundreds of engraved vignettes for postage stamps, many still findable and affordable as French colonials. He is probably most renowned as the last engraver to win an Olympic gold medal for etching and engraving before artistic medal categories came to an end. Where did he win it? At the London Olympics in 1948.

As this two-part guide comes to an end here are three suggestions for your route to further enjoyments:

1. Emulate those 1950s schoolboys. Find a bargain lot of later French colonials from a seller who shows the contents of the lot with accompanying well-focused images.
2. Find stamps bearing the names of engravers and decide which artist best captures your notions of a pleasing stamp design.
3. Start collecting French colonials that carry FRANCE LIBRE overprints. The present tumultuous state of world affairs might one day return such slogans to popularity.



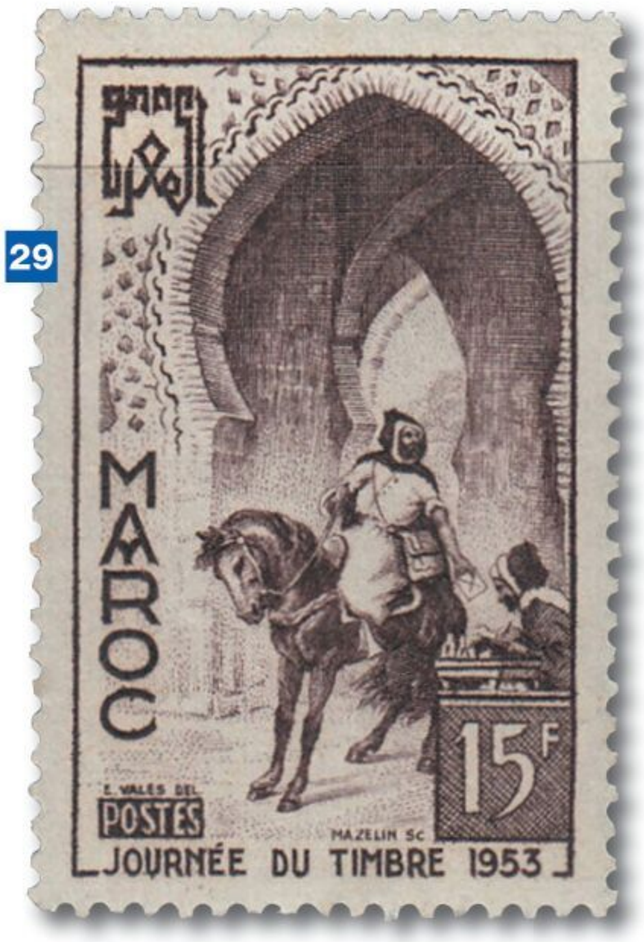
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The following internet dealers often have good stocks of French Colonials, offered with excellent photo images: cjmce1 from USA; tidno from Norway; seafighter3 fom Cyprus; mystampplace from USA; azuckuss from UK; Scott Philatelics from UK; Rum River Homestead from USA; jfreedomstamps from USA; Empire Philatelists from UK .and tophat_4 from UK.

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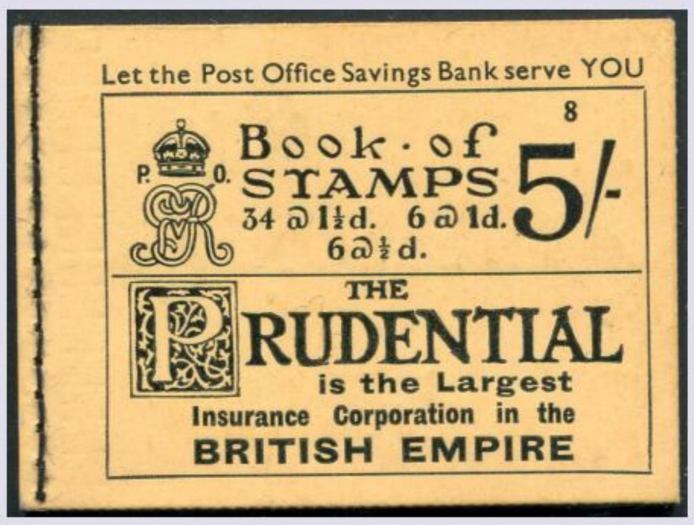
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Mother Theresa, limited edition of 100, signed - £50

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



Kofi Annan, signed - £30

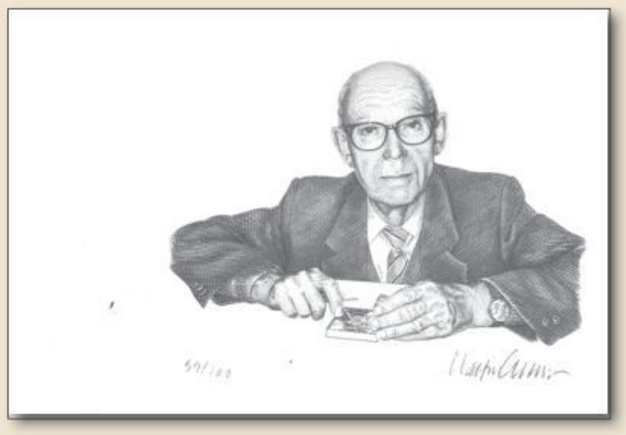
As seen on United Nations $1.80 definitive stamp, issued May 2019

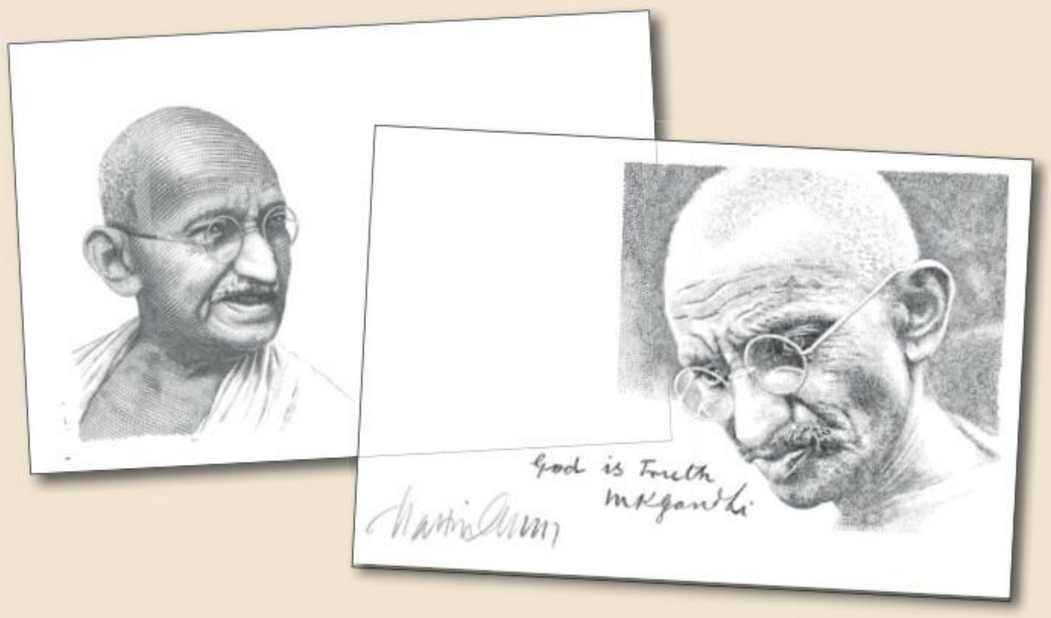
Mahatma Gandhi, signed - £30

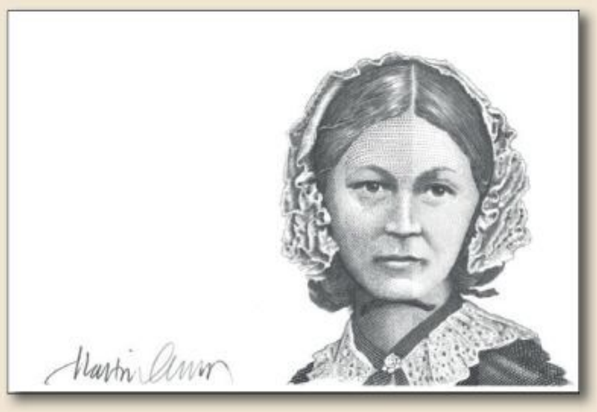
As seen on United Nations $2.75 definitive stamp, issued October 2019

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







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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Wrong name!

This stamp was issued by West Germany to celebrate the famous British nurse Florence Nightingale. So how did the error in her name come about? Chris West investigates



The stamp was issued in 1955. By that time, Germany's economy was recovering fast. Straight after the war, the country had been in ruins. By 1950, people had started talking about an 'economic miracle'. Various forces had brought this about. America's Marshall Aid plan had pumped money into the German economy (and into other own). The German government had created a system that neatly balanced the state and the market. And, of course, there was that famous German industriousness… So one cannot plead poverty: the country had plenty of money to pay someone to check its stamp issues.

My guess is that there was a mix-up, with whoever was supposed to check assuming that the designer had it right, and the designer assuming the authorities would check for details. But how did the designer make such an elementary mistake?

Again, one can only guess. The stamps were designed by Hubert Berke, an artist who worked in a number of media. As a stamp designer, he produced neat, clear stamps celebrating 'great and good' figures: the other individuals celebrated in this issue are Adolph Kolping, a left-wing Catholic priest, Amalie Sieveking, a philanthropist, and Samuel Hahnemann, founder of homeopathy But maybe Berke's mind wasn't totally on this work. 1950s Germany was still haunted by its recent past. Berke also produced terrifying, surreal imagery in series like 'The Dance of the Dead' and representations of Holocaust victims.

West German stamps of the era show a determination to move on and rebrand the country as a land of culture, civic decency and progress. This issue is a semi-postal – the extra 10 Pfennig went to charity (the words down the right-hand side of the stamp mean 'Helpers of Humanity'). Other stamp issues of the time featured writers and scientists. The country's old traditions were also highlighted, in order to build a bridge back into the past over the horrors of more recent decades. Charity stamps like this one were issued annually – they still are – and featured not just German but international figures. Germany needed to see itself as part of the international liberal order again.

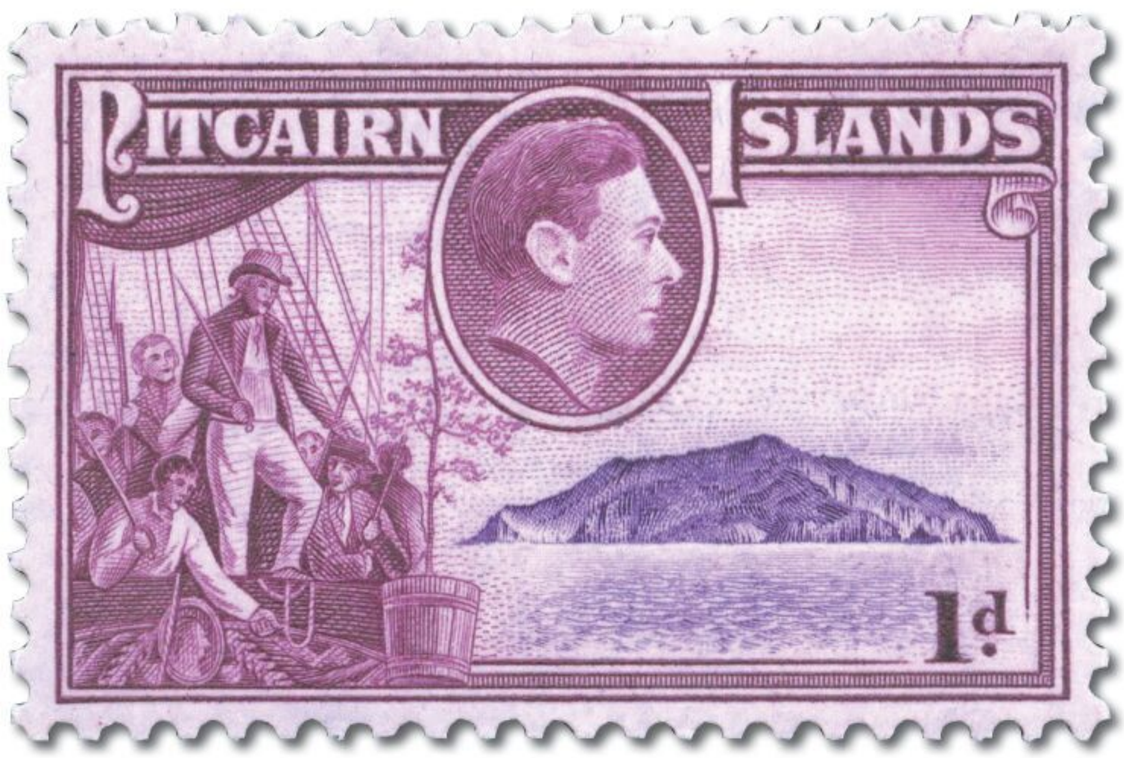
West German stamps of that era show a determination to rebrand the country as a land of culture, civic decency and progress.

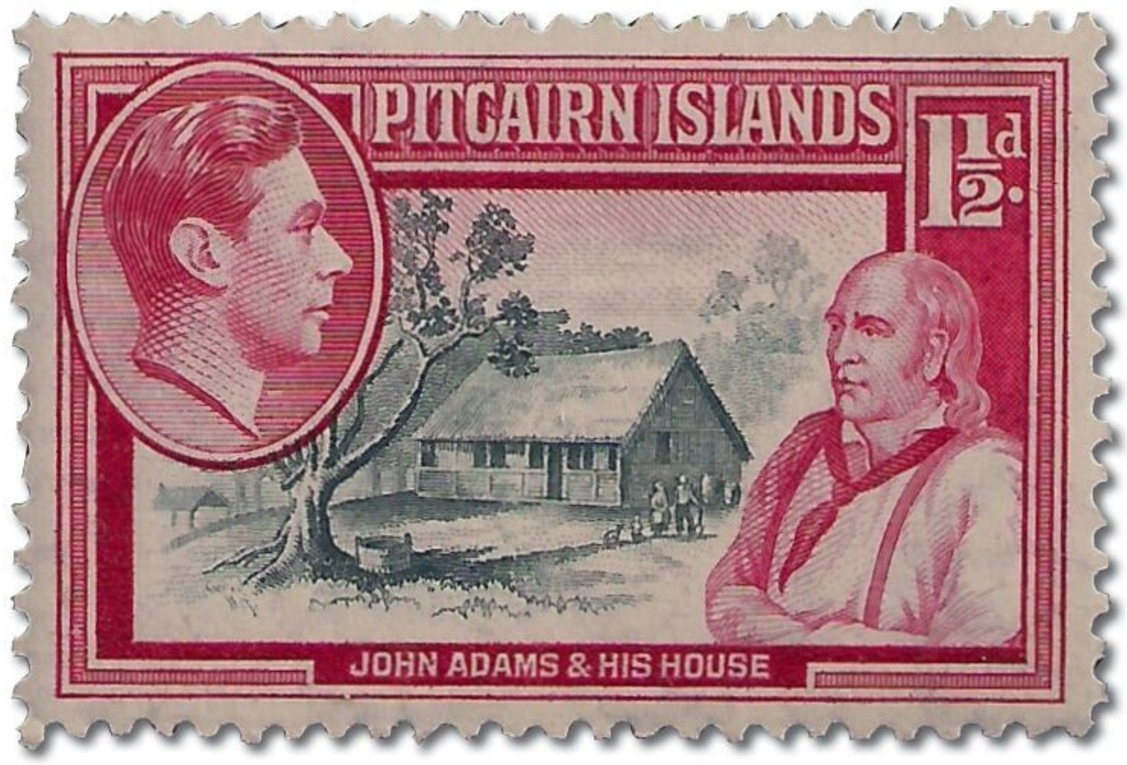


Florence Nightingale was a natural for this series. Her work in the hellish hospital of Scutari is world-famous. The Victorians, as was their wont, sentimentalised this work, presenting her as bringing feminine kindness to an otherwise loveless place. In fact, her main contribution was organisational, sorting out hygiene and ventilation (she did care, of course, but 'the Lady with the Lamp' did a lot more than just carry a lamp round wards at night).

On her return from Crimea, she wrote *Notes on Nursing*, a modestly-titled book that became the core text on nursing education around the world. She set up the world's first non-religious training organization for nurses, the Nightingale School. She campaigned for better sanitation in pubs and (a rather wider field) in the British 'raj' in India, and for proper nursing facilities to be made available in workhouses. She also wrote books about religion and did pioneering work in statistics: she was the inventor of the polar area diagram, a kind of pie chart which she used to argue for improvements at Scutari. A curiosity: a recording of her voice was made in 1890, and can be heard at: www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/florence-nightingales-voice-1890 or by searching YouTube.

Anyone who visits modern Germany will see what a success its post-war rebranding has been. A shame they got the name of this remarkable woman wrong!





CELEBRATED SETS

Pitcairn Islands 1940
The first definitive set

In his latest guide to a classic set, David Bailey discovers how these intriguing *Bounty* stamps rescued Pitcairn from poverty

The Pitcairn Islands turned out to be a great place to hide but a bad one to colonise. The valleys were fertile and the seas were teeming with fish, but the islanders had no means of paying for manufactured goods and if the colony grew past a certain size, it became unsustainable. Twice, in 1831 and 1865, the entire population had decamped for other islands, but they came back. Royal Naval ships occasionally called at the island and the piety and simplicity of the Pitcairners' lives won practical support from religious organisations back home, but island life was still hard and spartan.

Things began to change with the 20th century and especially with the Panama Canal. Pitcairn was now a stop on the direct route to New Zealand with ships calling practically every week. Its long isolation was over and passing ships brought customers for all kinds of souvenir handicrafts.

A postal service began in 1920, run by New Zealand; this was free but letters had to bear a hand-stamped cachet to indicate that no further postage need be paid. The free service was withdrawn in May 1926, after which New Zealand stamps were used until 1940.

Pitcairn's own stamps began with a visit to the Island by the British Governor of Tonga, James Scott Neill. At the time, there was a drive to make all Britain's colonies self-sufficient and Neill realised that sales of postage stamps would help the cause. Back home, two printers collaborated to produce the stamps.

On 15 April, the British Post Office opened in Adamstown and the first set of eight stamps went on sale. They were an immediate success. After a handful of books and three feature films, the story of the *Bounty* was known around the world and collectors were keen to get hold of stamps related to the exotic setting of this oft-told tale. After the first six months sales totalled £12,760. The profits were paid into a general fund to pay wages, reimburse expenses and fund improvements, like the construction of a school and transforming Adamstown from a shanty town to a civilised settlement.

The Pitcairn Islands website still credits philatelists as having 'come to the rescue' of the impoverished community.

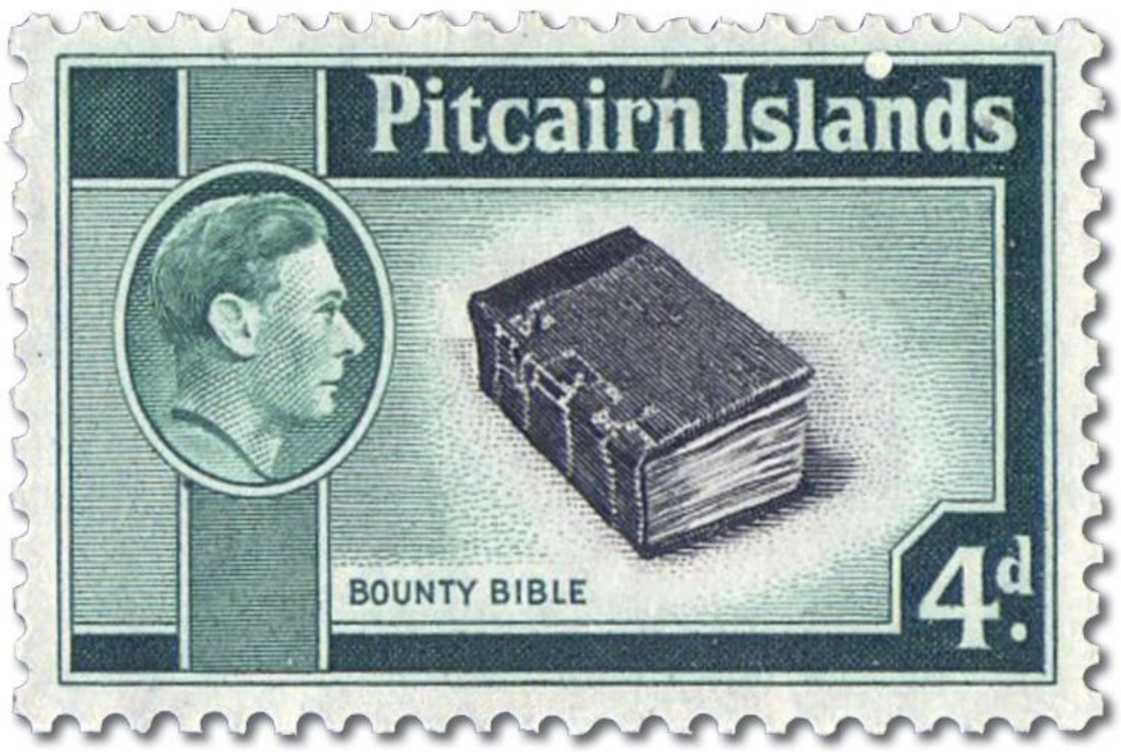


The story in the stamps

½d: Oranges

The Bounty had carried pigs, chickens, yams and breadfruit, which thrived in the island's temperate climate. Oranges





were introduced in the early 19th century. News of the little colony had filtered out and there were increasingly frequent visits from passing ships, who bartered surplus stores for provisions and made gifts of practical items like tools and weapons.

1d: Fletcher Christian aboard the Bounty and Pitcairn Island

Fletcher Christian had joined the *Bounty* as Masters Mate but was promoted to Acting Lieutenant en route. He had got on well with Lieutenant Bligh during an arduous outbound voyage. But after the stay on Tahiti and on the way home, Bligh's increasingly vindictive and irrational behaviour made his position untenable. On 28 April 1879, he took over the ship and looked for a permanent refuge. Attempts to settle on Tubuai failed. He got a hostile reception in Tahiti and with a mixed group of mutineers and Tahitian men and women, he set out on 22 September to find Pitcairn, somewhere to the East. It took him until 15 January 1790.

1½d: John Adams a nd his house

John Adams was the last surviving mutineer and the only one whose final resting place is known. By 1793, the community of mutineers and Tahitians had almost wiped itself out by murder, disease and alcoholism, leaving only nineteen people. Adams, with Ned Young, took on the leadership of the island and, with the Bounty's Bible as their guide, tried to construct a new, peaceful society. He was, eventually, granted an amnesty for his part in the mutiny.

2d: Lt Bligh and HMS Bounty

William Bligh had sailed on Cook's last, fatal voyage in the Pacific which made him the ideal choice to lead this expedition. He was also, in the

The story of the Bounty was known around the world and collectors were keen to get hold of stamps related to the exotic setting of this oft-told tale.



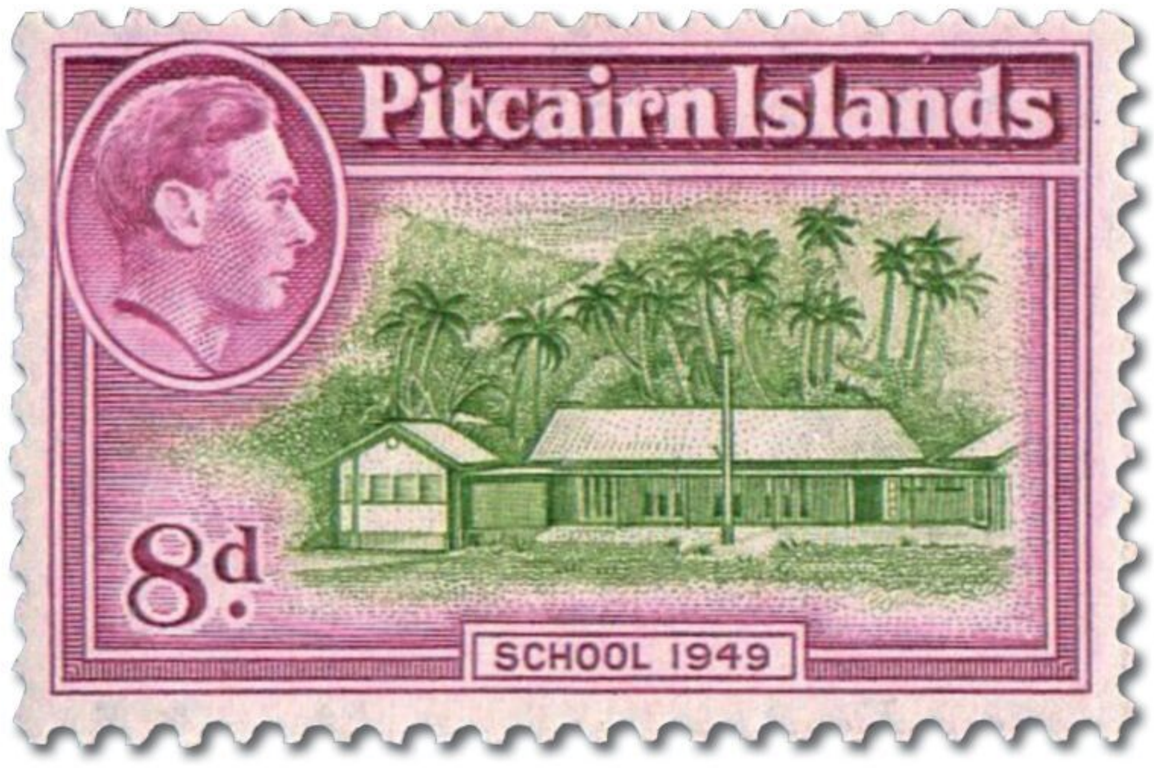
DISCOVERING THE BOUNTY



The mutiny on the HMS *Bounty* took place in April 1789 and has been recounted many times in the years since. It was infact Lt William Bligh who first published a version of the dramatic events, just months after his return to London. *Narrative of the Mutiny on the Bounty* became hugely popular and he published an expanded account, *A Voyage to the South Sea*, in 1792.

Writer and geographer Sir John Barrow published a more impartial account in 1831, and many other books and reports were eagerly read over the decades before, in 1916, the first film version of the story was released. This silent film is now lost, but another Australian movie was released in 1933 with Errol Flynn in the role of Christian. Charles Laughton and Clark Gable, as Bligh and Christian, respectively, starred in the *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1935; it is interesting to note how the popularity of these films will have influenced the decision for our celebrated stamp set to be issued.

Two further films, *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1962) with Trevor Howard and Marlon Brando, and *The Bounty* (1984) with Anthony Hopkins and Mel Gibson, followed, both depicting Bligh as the increasingly unsound disciplinarian and Christian as the hero.





Cook mould, a disciplinarian, but not excessively so by naval standards. Much ink has been spilled as to why he turned on Fletcher Christian but no single convincing theory has emerged. What is not in doubt is his seamanship. After the mutiny, he was set adrift in the ship's open launch along with eighteen loyalists, but successfully completed a 4,000 mile voyage to what is now Indonesia.

3d: Map of Pitcairn Islands and the Pacific

Pitcairn Island was first sighted on 3 July 1767, by Midshipman Robert Pitcairn of HMS *Swallow*. His Captain, Philip Carteret, named the island after him and charted it at 25°02'S 133°21'W. However, Carteret had set sail without a marine chronometer, so while the latitude was reasonably accurate, the longitude was out by some 210 miles.

Today, the Pitcairn Islands comprise Pitcairn plus Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands

4d: The Bounty Bible

Two stamps were released in 1951, for 4d and 8d. The 4d shows the Bounty's Bible, which was presented to the ship by the Naval and Military Bible Society. After the mutiny, Ned Young used it to teach John Adams how to read and after Young's death, Adams used it as his template for the ideal society. After a spell in the USA, it is now in the Pitcairn Museum.

6d: HMS Bounty

Bounty was originally built as a collier and named *Bethia*, but was purchased by the Royal Navy in 1797 for a specific mission: to sail to Tahiti and deliver a cargo of breadfruit to the West Indies, where it was hoped they could be cultivated as a cheap source of food for its population of slaves. After being armed and modified to hold the growing plants, the ship set sail on 23 December 1787. The *Bounty* was a cutter, the smallest type of naval warship, so it need only to be commanded by a Lieutenant and did not carry a squad of marines on board.

8d: Pitcairn School

This stamp was also issued in 1949 and shows Pitcairn School, which was built from the profits on the first set of eight stamps. This must be unique in world philately.

1s: Fletcher Christian and Pitcairn Island

When Fletcher Christian rediscovered Pitcairn in 1790, he realised that the error in the charts would make him very hard to find, so the mutineers decided to settle there. The *Bounty* was stripped of all useful timber and on 23 January 1790, it was burnt, to avoid giving away the mutineers' location.

2s 6d: Fletcher Christian on HMS Bounty and the Pitcairn Coast

The colony on Pitcairn Island was discovered in 1808 by an American sealer, the *Topaz*. Of the mutineers, only John Adams was still alive along with nine of the Tahitian women and there are conflicting reports of how Christian had died. He left two sons and a daughter.



THE SET IN DETAIL

1d, 3d, 4d, 8d, 2/6d printed by Bradbury Wilkinson.
½d, 1½d, 2d, 6d, 1s printed by Waterlow.

	Mint	Used
½d orange and green	76p	80p
1d mauve and magenta	92p	56p
1½d grey and carmine	92p	32p
2d green and brown	£1.60	£1
3d yellow-green and blue	80p	80p
4d black and emerald-green	£14.40	£8.80
6d brown and deep greenish-grey	£4.40	£1
8d olive-green and magenta	£14.80	£6
1s violet and grey	£4	£1.60
2s 6d green and brown	£10.80	£2.80

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MUSEUM OF PHILATELY

Your expert guide to the world of philately

CURATOR'S PICK

A GREAT RARITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

One of the curious things about philately is our fascination with errors and how these mishaps came about, writes Devlan Kruck as he examines an Australian oddity and the story behind it

This month's featured stamp, the South Australia 1868 '3 PENCE' on 4d deep ultramarine with the surcharge omitted, is certainly a fascinating stamp, even though we have no idea why it didn't get its surcharge overprinted.

As well as being one of the great rarity of this region and one of *the* famous errors of Australia, and indeed the British Empire, it is also one of only two unused examples of this error which exists in private hands, with the only other being in the Royal Philatelic Collection (which was in a horizontal pair with the lower stamp when bought by Stanley Gibbons in 1901).

There are only eleven used examples recorded of which seven are in private hands. It was first reported in the *Philatelic Record* in October 1879 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1892. Today it is catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £50,000 unused and £55,000 used; given the number of used examples on the market, it seems that the unused catalogue value is significantly undervalued.

The last used example sold was in the Gary Diffen collection in April 2020 and realised £40,000. In fact this unused vertical pair could, and perhaps should

Given the number of used examples on the market, it seems that the unused catalogue value is significantly undervalued

be comparable in rarity to the famous 'Inverted Swan' error of Western Australia of which only seven examples, all used, remain in private hands. Stanley Gibbons gives that stamp a catalogue value of £180,000. The last example offered at auction sold for CHF 290,400 (including buyer's premium) in the Besançon collection in 2018, which was just under £220,000 at the time.

Our South Australian oddity certainly boasts a philatelic pedigree, the provenance reading like a who's who of the great and good philatelists of the 19th and 20th century. The top example of this rejoined pair has been in the collections of Ernest Brown, Colonel Harry Napier, John Griffiths, Barton Sparrow and Michael Blake, with the lower example coming from the Count Ferrary collection (Sale 7 lot 107), and also having been owned by Alfred H. Caspary and John R. Boker.

What is certain and less curious is that these errors do not come to market often and unused pairs are extraordinarily rarely, so it was exciting to see it make an appearance in a recent David Feldman SA auction when it featured as one of the stand-out items within their British Empire offering on 17 June. Such appearances provide the discerning philatelist with the opportunity to study the stamp and reflect on this great rarity's illustrious provenance.



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MUSEUM OF PHILATELY

Eminent Philatelists



Agathon K. Fabergé

(1876-1951)

Philatelists will often see the provenance 'Ex Fabergé' in auction catalogues and websites. If you're not aware, this small piece of information most likely refers to the world-famous philatelist Agathon Karlovich Fabergé, who was born in Russia, and is probably better known as being the son of the famous jeweller Peter Karl Gustavovich Fabergé, creator of Fabergé eggs.

Those two words may also refer to Oleg A. Fabergé (1923-1993) the son of Agathon, who became a recognised philatelist in his own right. But let's start with Agathon, who was also a professional jeweller, collected art, and worked at the famous house of Fabergé from 1892 until, in the 1920s, his family had to flee Russia for Finland due to the threat of revolution.

In fact, whilst his family fled, the loyal Agathon stayed in Russia and faced the music, being imprisoned for his stance. In 1927 he was smuggled out of prison, out of Russia and to the safety of Finland, where he took with him his beloved stamp collection and some of his fine art and antique furniture. Much of these valuables sustained him in funds during the remainder of his life in Finland.

Although he ended his days in Finland, he is one of Russia's most famous philatelists. And as we have heard he also gave life to another world-class philatelist in the shape of his son Oleg Fabergé. Such was the influence of the father and son collectors, the Russian Academy of Philately created The Fabergé Medal in their memory. The award features engraved portraits of the pair and is given to collectors and outstanding figures in politics, science and culture who carry out public charitable activities in the promotion, strengthening and development of Russian philately.

Oleg also produced a book called *Imperial Russia Zemstvo Post*, published by the Philatelic Federation of Finland, ironically, which contains reproductions in colour of the magnificent Oleg Fabergé collection and exhibit of Zemstvos. His passion for these stamps (and much of the material in his collection) will have come from his father, who also had a fascination with the local Russian stamps, indeed stamp folklore suggests Agathon eagerly pursued Ferrary's Zemstvos for much of his life.

Agathon joined the St. Petersburg section of the International Philatelic Society of Dresden where he met many well known collectors and acquired important pieces for his collection. He was actively involved with major philatelic exhibitions in Helsinki, Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and Brussels in the late 1920s through to the 1940s, some of which he exhibited at or served as a judge.

Although recorded as a famous Russian philatelist, he is known to have had the largest collection of Finnish postage stamps in the world, as well as extensive Russian and Polish material. He also assembled a unique collection of philatelic material of the Russian Empire.

The Fabergé Collection was presented at an out-of-competition show during the International Philatelic Exhibition in Vienna in 1933. Of course, the collection was a show stopper, and ensures that although the name Fabergé is synonymous with a bejewelled egg, Agathon is synonymous with Russian and Finnish philately, and his son followed his lead to leave an impressive philatelic legacy.

In 1939, Agathon Fabergé sold the majority of his stamp collection at auction in London. Now whilst we have introduced two top flight philatelists,we shall crown only one a 'Philatelic Emperor' who is worthy of his place in our philatelic hall of fame, and that's Agathon K. Fabergé.

EXHIBITION NEWS

Canadian exhibitor Hazel Elmslie made history recently at the CAPEX 22 exhibition held in Toronto in June, being the only exhibitor who also competed at CAPEX 78. As it was in 1978, her focus was on Spanish philately with a single-frame postal history exhibit entitled 'The Rueda de Carreta (Cartwheel) Cancellation of Spain'. Hazel received a special prize from the virtual exhibition in Guadalajara Mexico, Expojafil 2021 which was presented to her at CAPEX 22 by Jaime Benavides, the commissioner for Mexico. Meanwhile, you can read or download the 48-page CAPEX 22 souvenir show guide at: canadianstampnews.com/capex-csn-show-program

The winners at the CAPEX 22 one-frame exhibition have also now been revealed. The Grand Prix de Toronto, for best overall one-frame exhibit, was awarded to Damian Läge (Switzerland) for 'The Pigeon Mail of Great Barrier Island – stage setting for the first airmail stamps of the world'. The Grand Prix Americas went to Chip Gliedman (USA) with 'Mail Routes of Rupert's Land, British North America'; and the Grand Prix National was won by David Hobden (Canada) for 'Canadian Mails and Dispatches of the War of 1812'.

The HELVETIA 2022 winners were announced during the palmares dinner on the Saturday evening of the event, at the Palazzo dei Congressi. The World Stamp Champion was Adriano Bergamini (Switzerland), with his exhibit 'Postal relations between Ticino (Switzerland) and foreign countries before the UPU'; the first WSC runner-up was Walter Britz (Uruguay) with 'Uruguay: Early Issues of the XIX Century (1856-1862)'; and second runner up: Vittorio Morani (Italy), 'Tuscany 1836 to GPU (up to 30 June 1875): Letter mail in, from and to Tuscany: routes, rates and charges'. Grand Prix International was awarded to UK collector Simon Martin-Redman for 'Sarawak – The first forty years 1858-1898' and the UK's Joseph Hackmey won the Grand Prix National for his exhibit on 'Classic Switzerland'.

At the Swedish Philatelic Federation Congress, held in Täby on 14 May, the Strandell Medal was awarded to three recipients, as earlier award ceremonies were postponed due to the pandemic. Strandellmedalj 51 was awarded to regular *Stamp Collector* writer Christer Brunström, who was involved in the management team of practically every Hallfrim exhibition as well as of Stockholmia 2019. Strandellmedalj 52 went to Kjell Nilsson, whose work in postal history of the 1920 onwards has found new areas and inspired others. Finally the Strandellmedalj 53 award went to Jan-Olof Ljungh, chairman of Ringström's Museum of Philately, who has made the collections available digitally.

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

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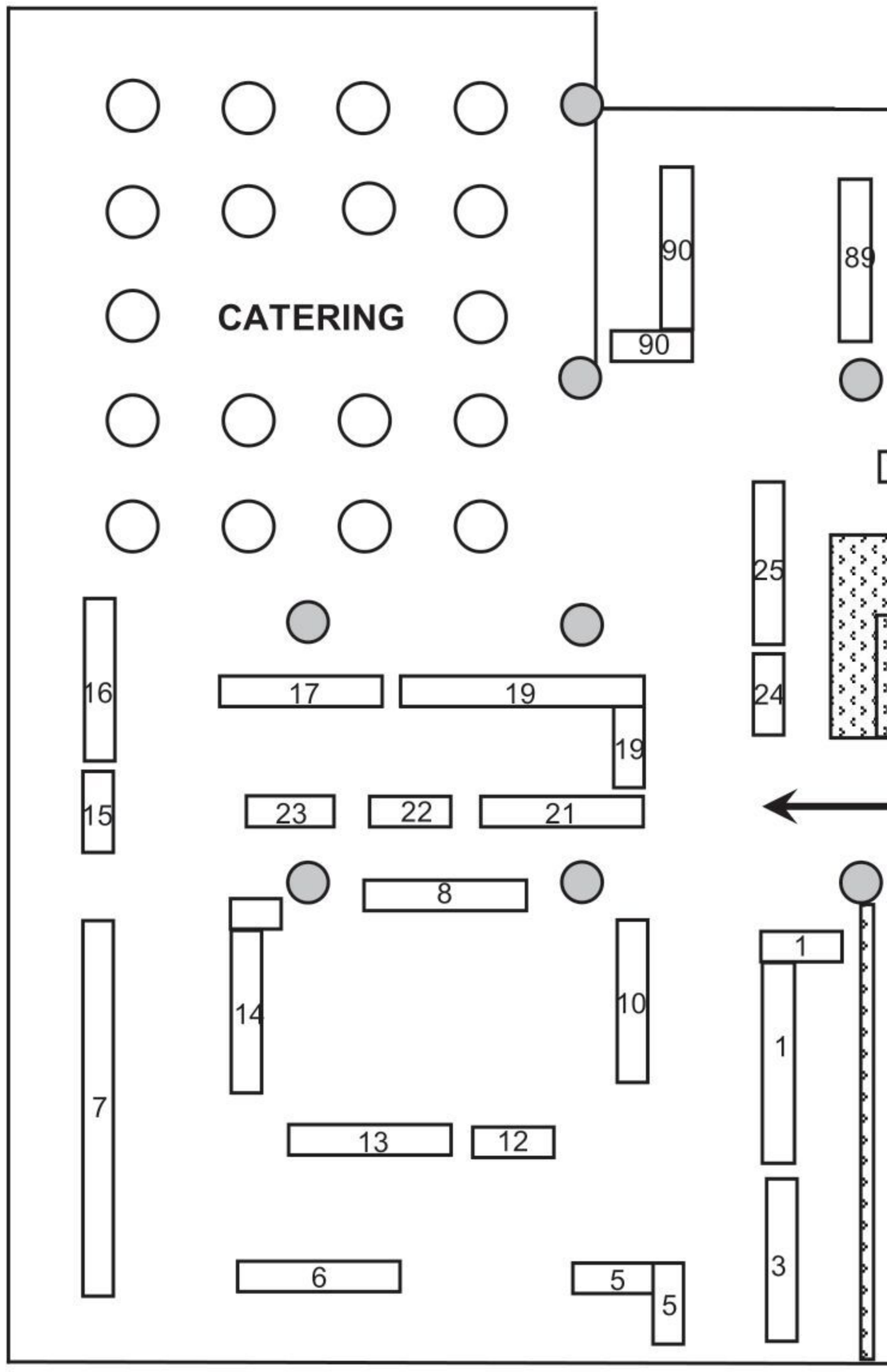
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It was fantastic to see the return of the York Stamp & Coin Fair back in January, after the challenges and postponements of the pandemic. Fast forward six months and regulations have relaxed further meaning the event is set to be the busiest for a number of years. Throw in some lovely Yorkshire sunshine and, of course, an array of philatelic material on offer, and this summer's event is a 'must-not-miss'!

Bringing together traders from across the country, the York event is held in the grandstand of the famous racecourse and the opening day sees hundreds of collectors queuing up outside the venue. With a cafeteria and bar, the show offers opportunities to relax between buying and selling, whilst the beautiful city of York is just a ten-minute walk away.

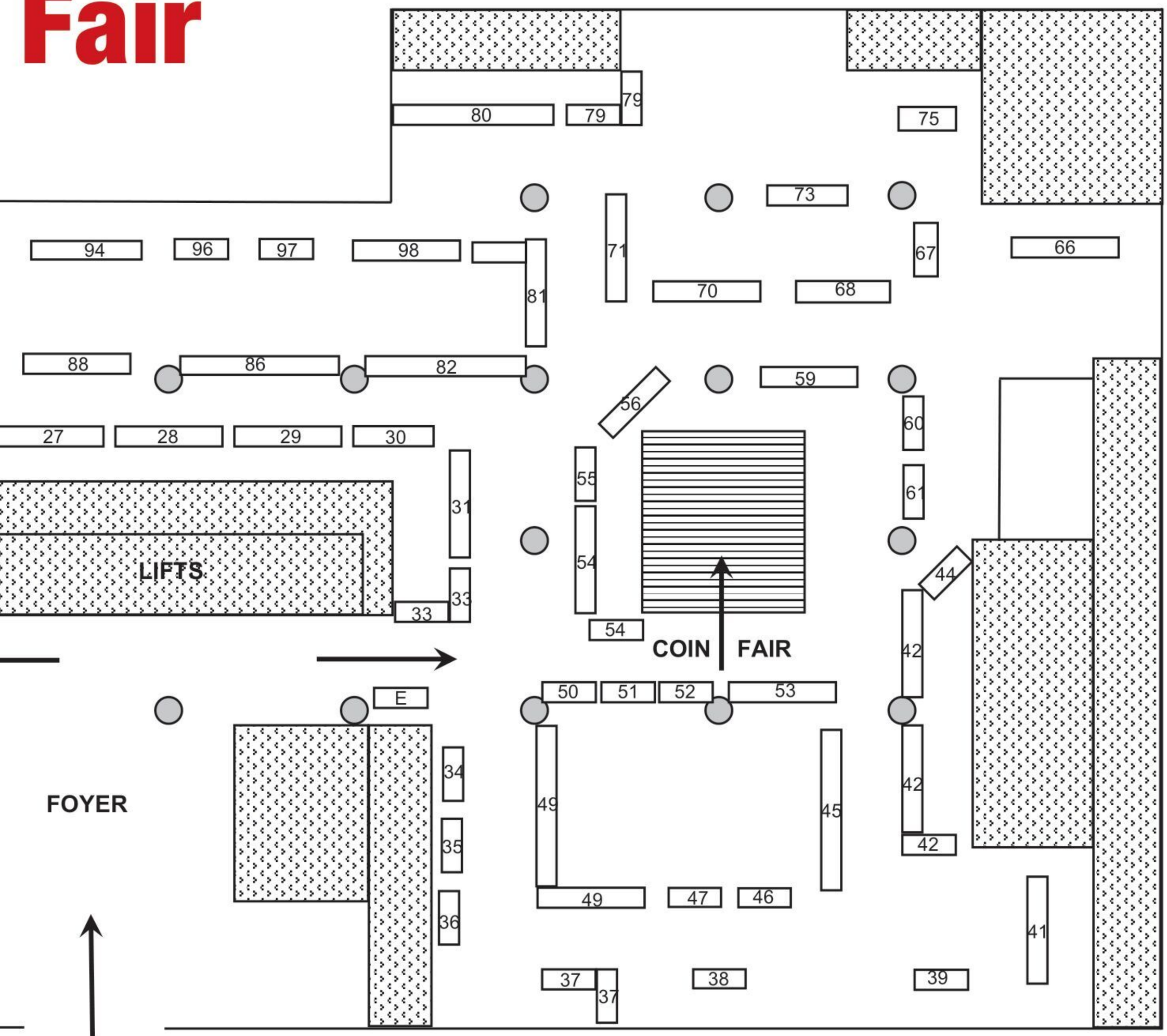


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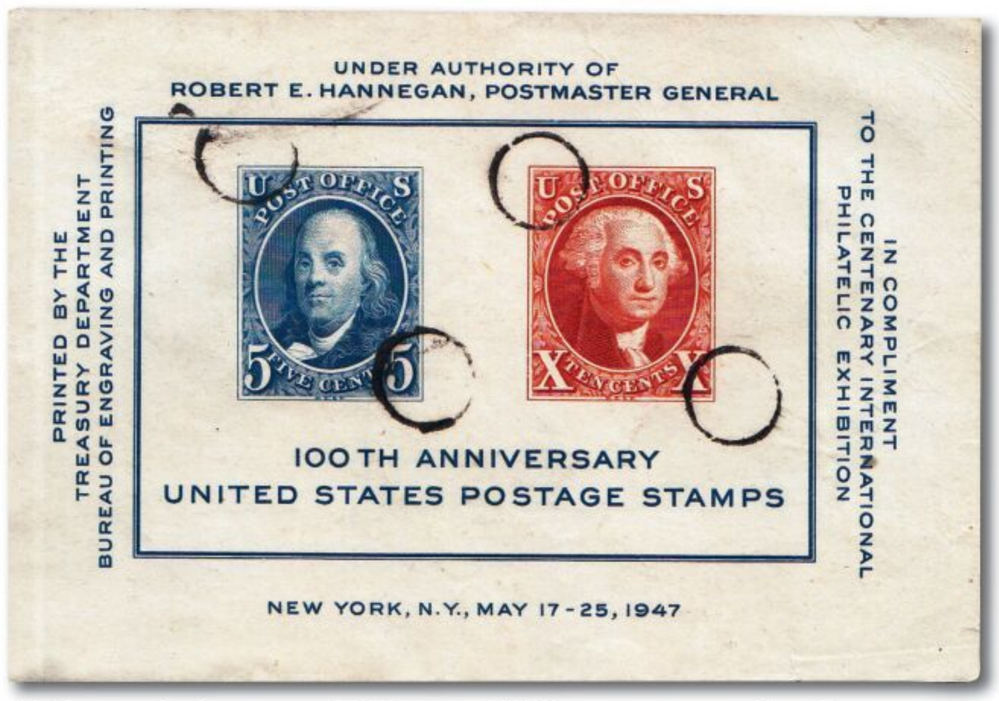
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1947 souvenir sheet to mark 100 years of USA postage stamps. The sheet reproduced the first two US stamps depicting Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Washington's portrait was based on Gilbert Stuart's Athenaeum portrait



1932 issue 2-cent value based on Gilbert Stuart's 1796 Athenaeum portrait. 4.2 billion of this stamp were produced, the largest ever printing of an American stamp



1985 18-cent coil stamp with design based on Gilbert Stuart's Athenaeum portrait

THEMATICS

Washington's stamps

USA stamps featuring George Washington can form a fascinating thematic collection. Richard Tarrant looks at the background to some of these presidential issues

George Washington has appeared on more postage stamps than any other American president, which is an indication of how he is regarded in American history and culture. As there are no photographs of Washington, stamps portraying him have mainly been based on contemporary paintings and sculptures.

Washington was born in 1732 in Virginia. At age seventeen he became a surveyor and, in 1753, a major in the Virginia militia. The following year, now a colonel, Washington led 300 men against the French at Fort Duquesne. Prominent in the movement demanding self-government, he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1775. Washington led his army to victory that culminated in a peace treaty between Great Britain and the United States in 1783. Five years later he became the first president of the United States and served two terms before leaving office in 1796. He died in 1799.

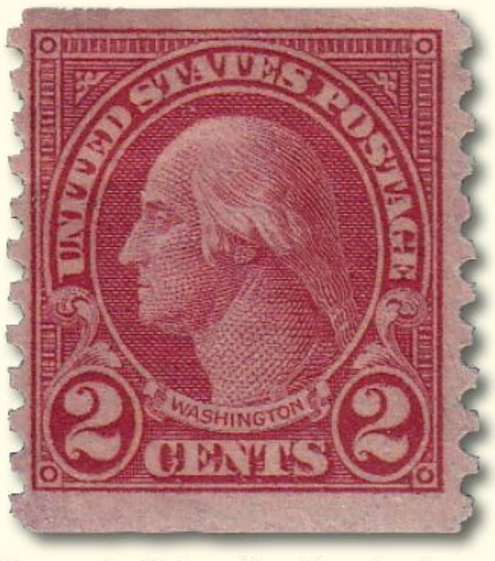
The USA issued its first postage stamps on 1 July, 1847. There were two stamps, a five-cent stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin, while the ten-cent stamp bore the portrait of George Washington. A souvenir sheet in 1947 had reproductions of these two stamps, albeit in different colours from the originals.



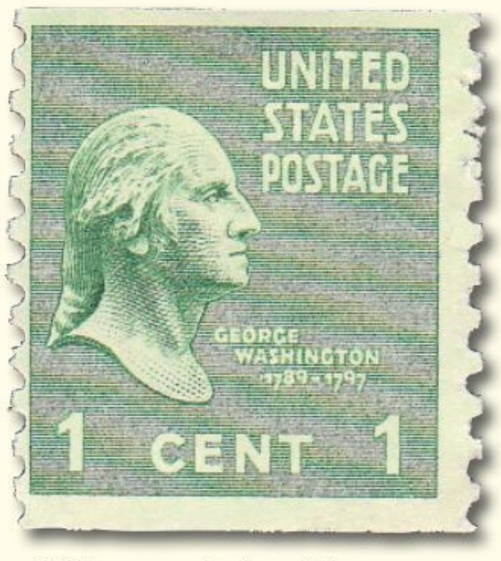
Top Right: 2011 block of four 20-cent stamps depicting Washington from a painting based on Gilbert Stuart's Athenaeum portrait prototype



1887 two-cents stamp depicting Washington after the bust by Houdon



Two-cent coil stamp from the extensive Washington-Franklin series of 1908 to 1921. It features the bust of Washington by Houdon



1938 one-cent value of the Presidential Issue, based on the bust of Washington by Houdon



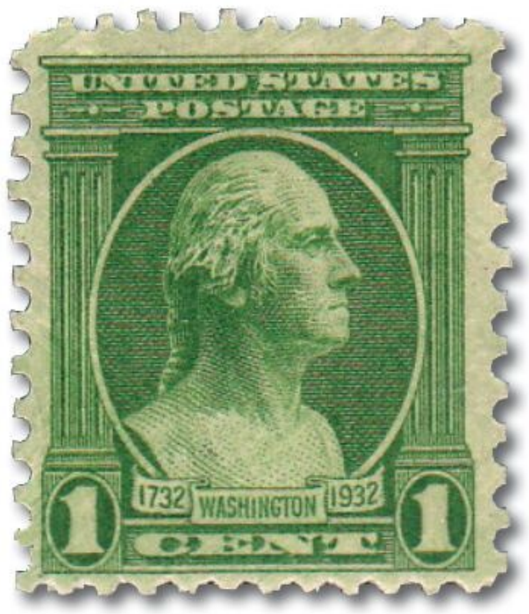
2001 23-cent issue illustrating the bust made by Jean-Antoine Houdon

The 1847 Washington stamp was based on a painting of Washington by Gilbert Stuart, known as The Athenaeum portrait. This painting is one of the most famous of all images of Washington. The oddity of The Athenaeum portrait, though, is that the original painting was largely incomplete. Stuart's painting of Washington's face covered barely one third of the canvas but Stuart used the unfinished painting to create many other paintings.

In fact, Stuart painted just three portraits of Washington from life but,



½-cent value from the1932 issue for the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth. The portrait was taken from a miniature painted by Charles Wilson Peale in 1777.



1932 issue one-cent value reproducing the profile bust of Jean Antoine Houdon



1932 issue 1½-cent value from a painting known as the Virginia Colonel made in 1772 by Charles Wilson Peale



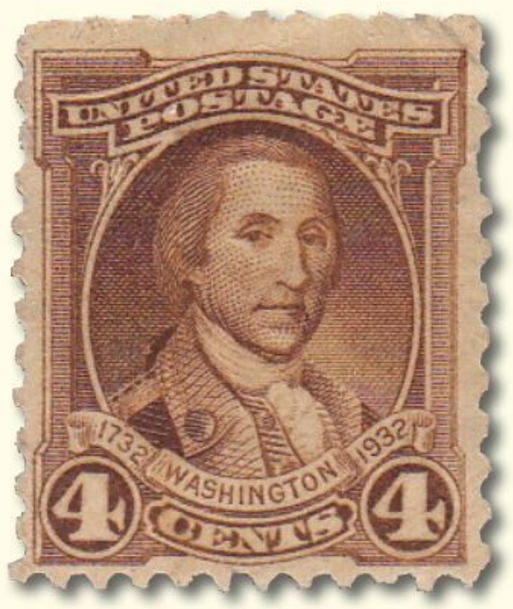
1932 issue 3-cent value featuring the likeness of Washington in the uniform of a general with cocked hat from a portrait by Charles Wilson Peale painted at Valley Forge in 1777.

based on them, he went on to complete more than 100 other portraits, mostly based on the Athenaeum portrait. Many USA stamps have featured images based on the original Athenaeum portrait or a derivative from it. The most recent stamp issue depicting Washington from a painting based on the Athenaeum portrait prototype was issued in 2011 – a superb, colourful reproduction.

Another image of Washington that has appeared prominently on American stamps is that of the bust made by Jean-Antoine Houdon, a French sculptor. In 1785 Houdon travelled from France to Washington's home in Virginia to take measurements to produce a sculpted bust. The bust was first used as the basis for a stamp in 1851 and has been featured a number of times since, perhaps most notably as one of the two images on the extensive Washington-Franklin series of 1908 to 1921. It also formed the basis of the one-cent value of the 1938 Presidential series. One of the most striking of the Houdon issues was made in 2001, with two values having superb reproductions of the bust.

Any thematic George Washington collection must have at its centre the 1932 issue of stamps that celebrated the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth. A major issue of stamps was planned and some grandiose suggestions made as to the form the stamps should take to honour Washington. In the event, however, the issued stamps consisted of a set of twelve depicting Washington in definitive size format, each in a single colour. They were based on famous paintings showing Washington at various stages of his life between the ages of forty and 66.

The two-cent value of the 1932 set was based on Gilbert Stuart's Athenaeum



1932 issue 4-cent value taken from a painting by Charles Willson Peale

WASHINGTON WITHDRAWALS

It is rare that public dissatisfaction with a stamp causes it to be withdrawn and replaced but that has happened twice with stamps depicting George Washington. This is an interesting indication of how important George Washington is to Americans.

On 17 January, 1903, as part of the definitive series known as Series 1902, a two-cent value was issued that featured Washington. The stamp, based on Gilbert Stuart's Athenaeum portrait and known as the Washington Flag stamp, was criticised for making Washington appear red-nosed and bibulous. The stamp was radically redesigned, with a much clearer and cleaner image of Washington, and reissued on 12 November, 1903. It is known as the Washington 'Shield' stamp.

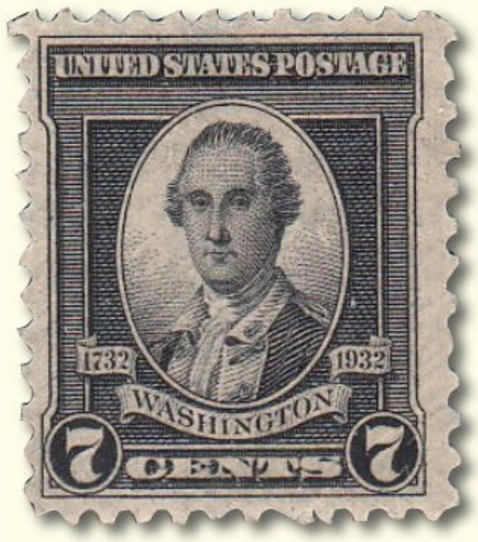
Another stamp ran into similar problems in 1966. A five-cent stamp was issued on 22 February, 1996 as part of the Prominent Americans series. It had a drawing of Washington that was based on a portrait by Rembrandt Peale, son of Charles Willson Peale. This time the stamp was criticized for making Washington appear unshaven and unkempt. The design was redrawn and a newly engraved version of the stamp issued on 17 November, 1967 that made Washington appear much cleaner and more wholesome.



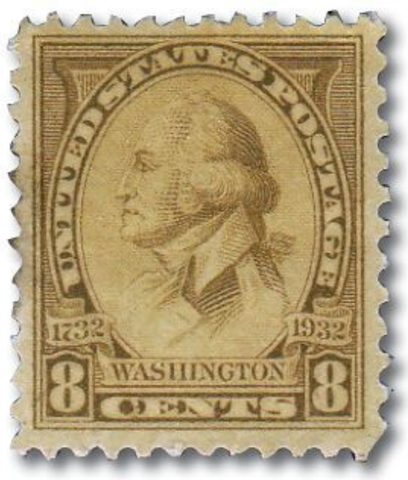
1932 issue 5-cent value taken from a painting by Charles Willson Peale



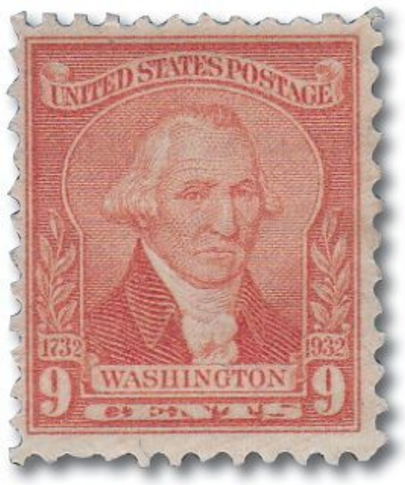
1932 issue 6-cent value showed Washington in the uniform of a general based on a painting by John Trumbull in 1792



1932 issue 7-cent value based on a portrait painted by John Trumbull in 1780



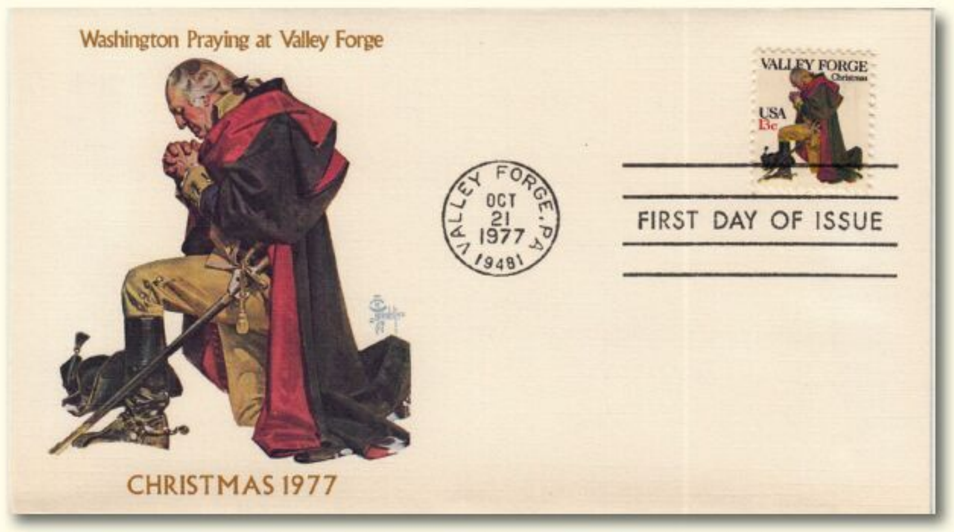
1932 issue 8-cent value reproduced from a crayon drawing made from life by CBJF Saint-Mémin in 1798



1932 issue 9-cent value based on a pastel portrait drawn from life by W. Williams in 1794



1932 issue 10-cent value taken from a painting by Gilbert Stuart in 1795



1977 first day cover for the 1977 issue of Washington at Valley Forge. The illustration was based on a painting by JC Leyendecker that had originally appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post in 1935.

portrait. No fewer than 4.2 billion copies of this stamp were produced, making it the largest printing ever of an American stamp. Stuart also had his 'Vaughan portrait' used on the 10-cent value, while Houdon's sculpture featured on the one-cent value.

Charles Willson Peale, an American painter, had five of his portraits featured on the 1932 stamps, including the 1½-cent value showing Washington wearing his colonel's uniform of the Virginia Regiment. Peale had Washington sit for him seven times from 1772 and used these sittings to go on to produce around sixty portraits. Peale's most famous painting of Washington is probably his full-length portrait of Washington at the Battle of Princeton in 1777. The original painting, which appeared on a stamp in 1977, sold for $21.3 million in 2005.

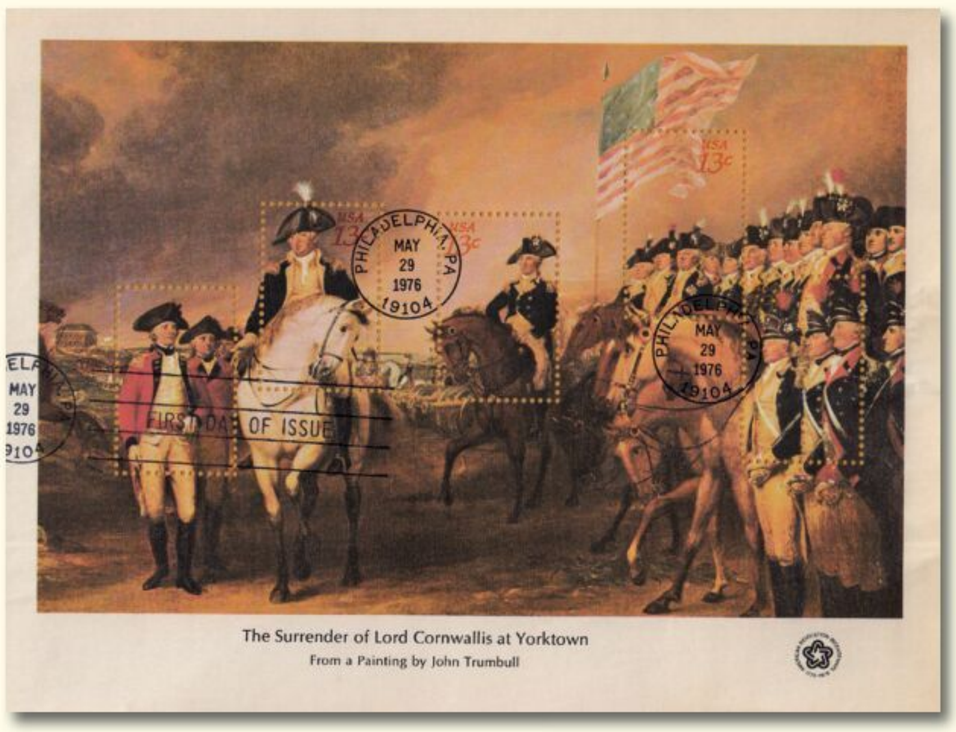
The six-cent and seven-cent stamps of the 1932 issue were based on paintings by John Trumbull. Trumbull's work was first used on a stamp in 1860, when a 90-cent value was issued based on his painting entitled 'George Washington Before the Battle of Trenton'. Other values in the 1932 set were based on a painting by CP Polk (four-cent), a crayon drawing by CBJF Saint-Mémin (eight-cent) and a pastel by W Williams (nine-cent).

Although appearing predominantly on definitive stamps, George Washington has also been celebrated on a number of commemoratives. Examples include a 1928 issue to mark the 150th anniversary of Washington's encampment at Valley Forge and a further issue fifty years later on the 200th anniversary. Washington's 250th birth anniversary in 1982 was celebrated with a stamp that had an original, colourful design by Mark English of Washington's profile that was based on a copy of a Washington 'life mask'.

In 1976, four large souvenir sheets were issued as part of the American Bicentennial celebrations. Washington featured prominently on three of them: John Trumbull's painting of 'Surrender of Lord Cornwallis', Emanuel Leutze's painting 'Washington Crossing the Delaware', and William BT Trego's 'The March to Valley Forge'.

There have also been four stamps between 1952 and 2008 depicting Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. The memorial consists of an eighteen-metre sculpture of George Washington's head, along with those of three fellow USA presidents.

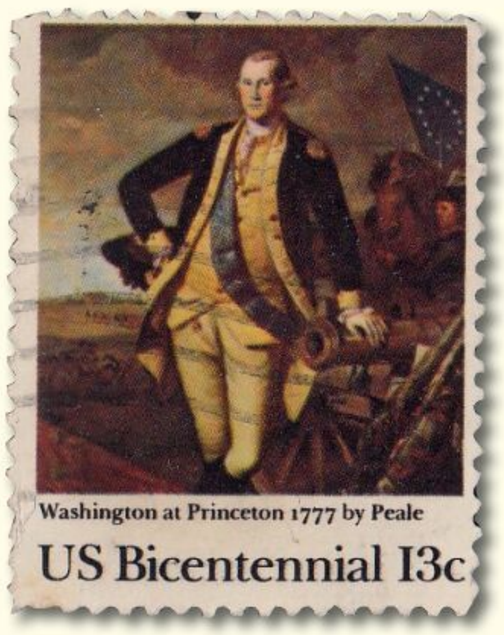
There is a wealth of philatelic material available for a fascinating thematic collection featuring George Washington. This article has only considered some highlights. There are many more.



One of four 1976 souvenir sheets to mark the American Bicentennial. This is of John Trumbull's painting of ' Surrender of Lord Cornwallis', showing George Washington on the centre right



1982 20-cent stamp celebrating Washington's 250th birth anniversary, designed by Mark English. The stamp depicted Washington's profile as based on a copy of a Washington 'life mask'.



1977 13-cent stamp depicting Charles Willson Peale's portrait of Washington at the Battle of Princeton in 1777. The original painting sold for $21.3 million in 2005



1952 3-cent stamp marking the 25th anniversary of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. The memorial consists of giant sculptures of the heads of American presidents, including Washington



1974 26-cent airmail stamp illustrating he Mount Rushmore National Memorial



1903 Washington Flag stamp, based on Gilbert Stuart's Athenaeum portrait, that was criticised for having Washington appear red-nosed and bibulous; and the Washington Shield stamp that replaced it, making Washington look cleaner and clearer

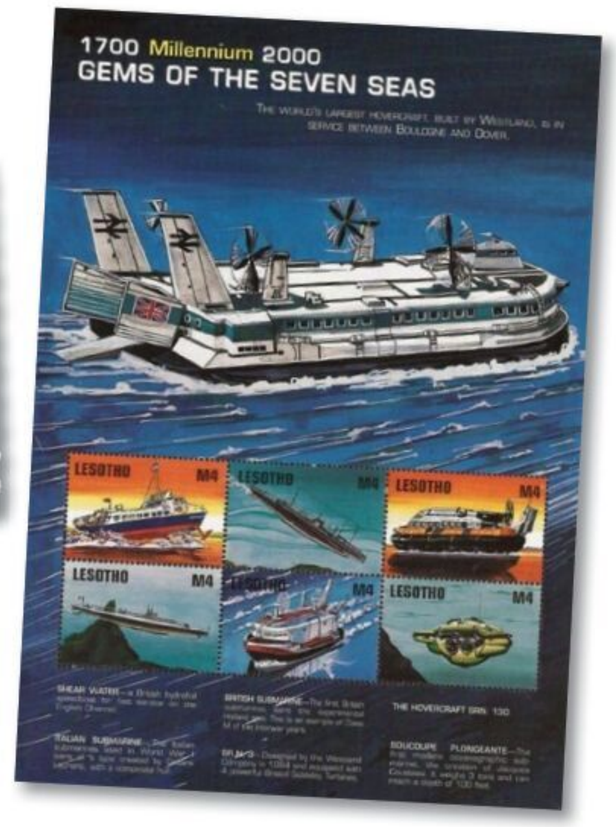


1966 five-cent stamp of the Prominent Americans series that was criticised as Washington looked unshaven and unkempt; and the re-engraved stamp that replaced it, making him look much cleaner and more wholesome









A-Z THEMATICS

Air-cushioned cruising

Hovercrafts are perhaps one of the great under-appreciated inventions, writes Paula Hammond, but you can shed light on the unique mode of transport by showcasing the stamps that feature them

Although engineers had tinkered with the concept of hovering crafts for centuries, it wasn't until 1915 that an Austrian naval officer, Dagobert von Thomamühl, built the world's first air-cushion boat. Intended to work as a fast-deployment troop carrier, several were made but ultimately mothballed. Further military applications emerged in the 1930s, but this, too, was discontinued.

Today, Britain's Christopher Cockerell is the name most associated with the hovercraft design we're familiar with, although it was C.H. Latimer-Needham who added the inflatable skirt that made the vehicle so stable and flexible. Latimer-Needham later went on to work for Saunders-Roe who produced the first British hovercraft, the SR.N1 (Saunders-Roe Nautical 1).

The word 'Hovercraft' is actually a trademark but, now used generically, air-cushion vehicles continue to have a wide-range of applications. There are racing hovercraft, large and small commercial hovering ferry services, and vast military air-cushion vehicles. Air-rider hovercraft are used for diamond mining and because hovercraft are fast and manoeuvrable on everything from water to mud, they're used around the world by rescue services. All of this makes hovercraft a wide, varied, and unusual transport theme.

A good starting point is GB's 1966 British Technology stamp, featuring the SR.N6, which was the world's first hovercraft to enter commercial service. The SR.N4, the world's largest hovercraft, was celebrated on the spectacular 1999 Lesotho six-value stamp-sheet, which also includes the SR.N130. Madagascar's 1994 Passenger and Cargo Craft seven-stamp set shows a range of fabulously-illustrated passenger and commercial ships, including their hover-ferry service. For a superb example of a military air-cushion vehicle, look no further than Mozambique's 2018 release, which shows a Zubr-Class Soviet-designed craft, used as an amphibious landing vehicle. India's 2008 postal release turns the focus towards rescue vehicles, with stamps commemorating the 30th anniversary of the nation's coast-guard. The mini-sheet includes four stamps highlighting service vehicles, including helicopters, light-aircraft, and hovercraft.

One of the more interesting items from Britain's hovercraft golden age are the 1971 postal strike labels, which feature aeroplane and hovercraft airmail 'stamps' produced by Europa, one of dozens of private postal providers who were allowed to issue stamps and deliver mail during the week strike.

The history of hovercraft development wasn't always plain sailing, but a hovercraft thematic is certain to give your collection a lift!





H IS FOR HOVERCRAFT

Why collect?

- Unusual transport theme.
- Small but varied releases.
- Lots of First Day Covers.
- Signed FDCs available.

Notable releases

1966, GB, British Technology, SR.N6 stamp.
1971, GB, Europa postal strike air-mail issues.
1999, Lesotho, Stamp sheet, including the SRN. 3 & SR.N130.
2008, India, Coast-Guard vehicles.
2018, Mozambique, Zubr-class landing craft & BTR-80 personnel carrier stamp.

Expand the theme

Sir Christopher Cockcroft famously said that the navy believed hovercrafts were planes, while the air-force believed they were boats. Philatelists don't seem to share that confusion: covers issued for inaugural journeys are classed as 'first flight' covers and are often signed by the pilot. Some of the earliest date from the world's first passenger & mail hovercraft service, between the Wirral and Rhyl, in 1962. Such hover-mail makes a fascinating sub-theme, with covers to mark first and last 'flights', public demonstrations, and special events.

Collecting links

The Cover Collecting, Postal & Philatelic web site has a wonderful collection of hover-mail covers. Visit: https://www.covercollecting.com/thematic-covers/maritime/hovercraft.html

From the Railway and the Countess

Two different styles of envelopes, writers and contents, were sent to the same recipient in the 1870s, both with a story to tell, as related by postal historian Dane Garrod

What can we tell from any envelope or cover that comes into our sight, or possession? With names of writer and receiver, and an address and place of despatch from the postmark, hopefully quite a lot. Research by written word or website can do much more, but often with a gap or an uncertainty. No one ever expected their 'private' letters and correspondence to be seen by others in their lifetime, and usually it was not. However, in years to follow this may happen, and it can shed light on not only what took place at a given time, but the highs and lows of life in a different time period. A potential treasure indeed, even if the letters inside are gone forever or just stored elsewhere, probably never read, and forgotten.

From the Secretary's Office of the headquarters of the Midland Railway at Derby, and with a duplex cancellation dated 21 July 1874 over a plate 184 penny red stamp, a cover was addressed to the Walsh family home in Radnorshire at Newcastle Court, which was the seat of Lord Ormathwaite, father-in-law of Lady Emily Walsh. Emily was apparently in London at the time, and the cover received two different circular handstamps in Kington on 22 July, on the front and back, one with an 'A' and the other with 'C' for arrival and re-despatch. During the next day in London a West London handstamp was added before delivery to 7 Tilney Street, near Park Lane.

By 1874, the recess-printed original design postage stamp series had been in existence and flourishing since May 1840, and was to continue for a further five years. From 1864 the 1d red stamp had visible engraved plate numbers in the two side margins, numbered from 71 to 225 with three omissions, this stamp being towards the end of the series and numbered 184. It's the later ones from about 206 that are more valuable, especially on cover. This printed envelope of the Midland Railway and sent from Derby, was from one of the largest railway companies in Britain and the largest employer in Derby. There was no known family connection and the purpose of the correspondence could have been about any number of things, including purchase of shares in the company.

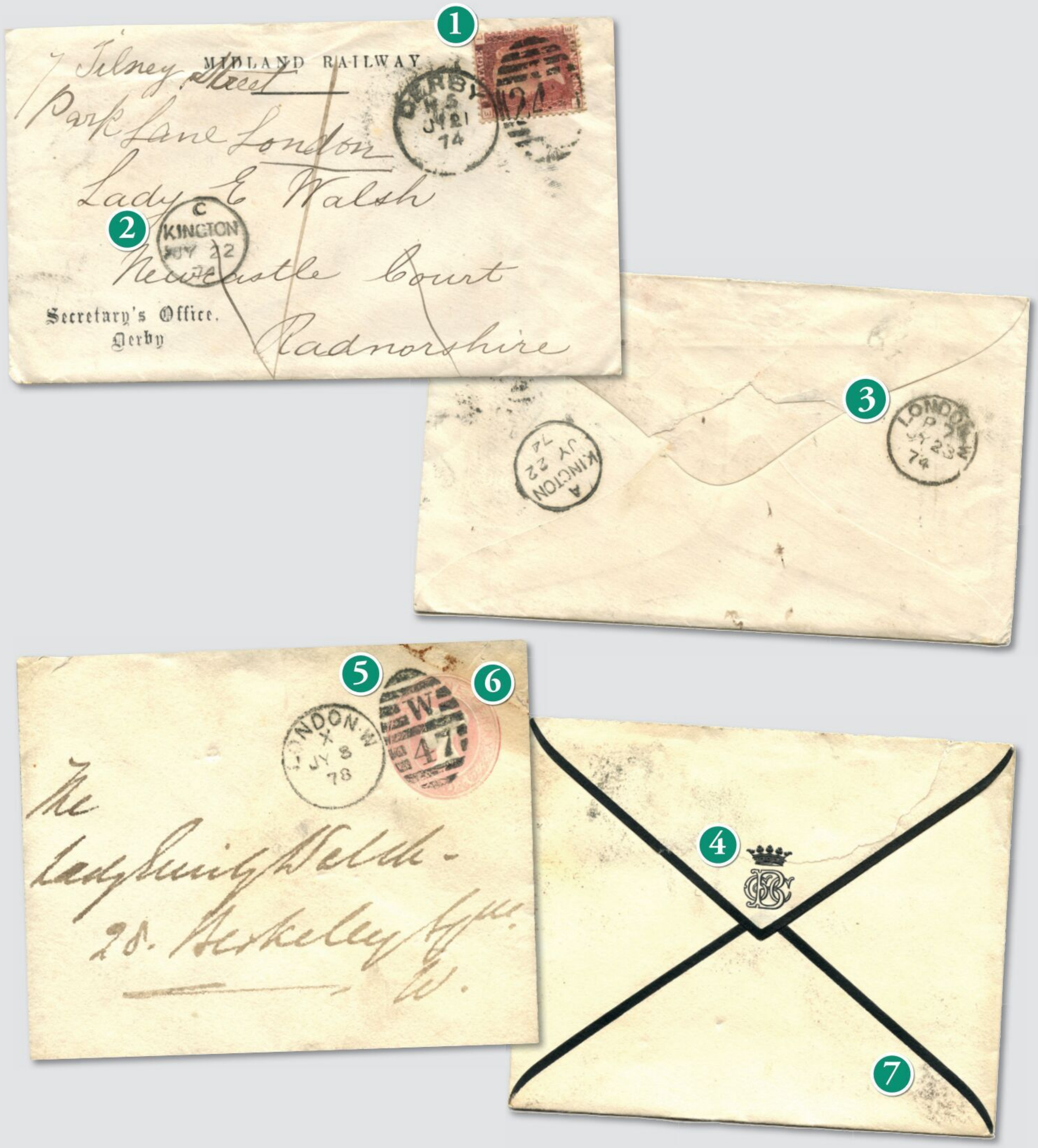
The second cover is from four years later, and also in July. With the personalised stationery monogram 'GCB', Lady Georgiana Charlotte Somerset, Duchess of Beaufort, writes to her sister-in-law Lady Katherine Emily Walsh who uses her second given name. The black-edged stationery received a London W 'W 47' duplex cancellation on 8 July 1878. The Berkeley Square address may have been a London residence at this time, although 16 years earlier in 1862, Lady Emily Walsh was delivered of a daughter at 35 Hill Street near Berkeley Square, later a home of the Duke of Newcastle, who sold it to Sir James Williams-Drummond and his wife Madeline at a time when it was valued at £18,000. This cover is a mourning envelope with the black-edge surround with an embossed one penny pink stamp that is dated within the design '10 2 77', a year and a half before use. Research has shown that there is no apparent demise of a member of either family, so we cannot tell what aspect of family life was being shared between the sisters-in-law.

Lady Emily Walsh (1834-1914) was born the daughter of Henry Somerset, 7th Duke of Beaufort, and married Arthur Walsh who became 2nd Baron Ormathwaite on the death of his father in February 1881, a few years after these two covers were written. Emily went on to have ten children and died as Lady Ormathwaite. Fortunately for social and postal historians, the covers, and probably others from this family, have survived these 140-plus years. As for the correspondence…?



Lady Emily Walsh and her eldest daughter Margaret on 5 July 1861

No-one ever expected their 'private' letters and correspondence to be seen by others in their lifetime, and usually it was not.



1 The Penny Red stamp is cancelled with a duplex dated 21 July 1874

2 The cover received two different circular handstamps in Kington on 22 July, on the front and back, one with an 'A' and the other with 'C' for arrival and re-despatch.

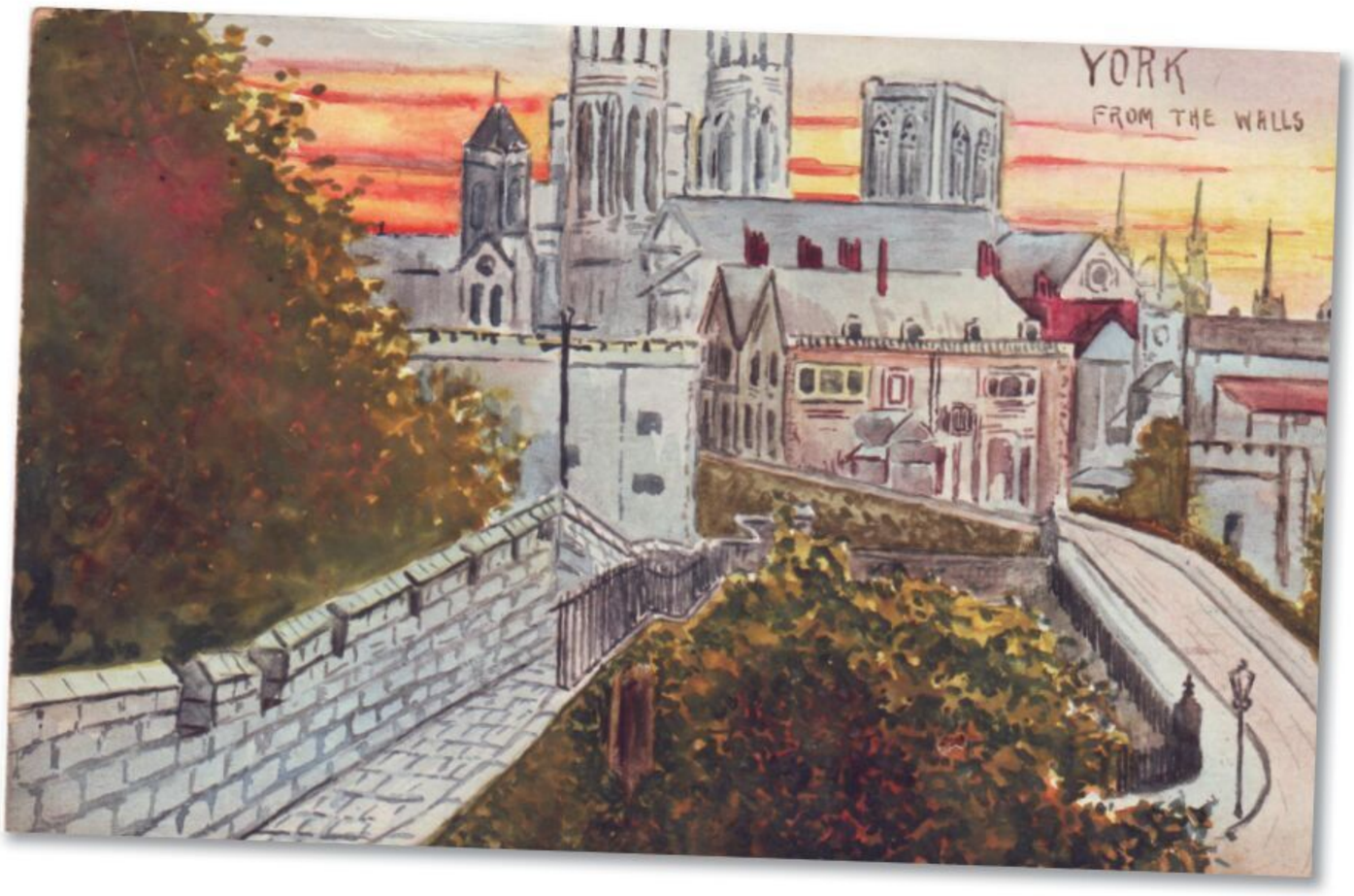
3 During the next day in London a West London handstamp was added before delivery to 7 Tilney Street, near Park Lane.

4 The second cover was sent four years later, and features the personalised stationery monogram 'GCB'.

5 An embossed one penny pink stamp features on the front of the postal stationery

6 The black-edged stationery received a London W 'W 47' duplex cancellation on 8 July 1878.

7 This cover is a mourning envelope with the black-edge surround



A handpainted postcard of York from the Walls posted in 1908

POSTAL HISTORY

Yorkshire

John Scott's epic postal history tour of the UK comes to an end as we head to Yorkshire, a large county (now actually split into four) with a long and proud past

The letter 'Y' marks the end of our stroll through some of the byways of postal history and so this article brings together some of the many aspects covered by other counties. Postmarks have not featured greatly, largely because they are covered in depth in catalogues and handbooks, with over 30 titles on Yorkshire postal history alone.

For many letter writers, newspapers were the source of much postal information, whether the announcements of new routes, rates of postage or the opening of offices. In 1776 Henry Cook used *Etherington's York Chronicle* to inform his customers that the building housing the Post Office was reverting to a private home and that he would be moving to the High Street in Bridlington, near the Fish Shambles. Since the first postmark from there is recorded for 1756 he may well have been the town's first Postmaster. Post Office buildings themselves feature especially on postcards of the Edwardian era but for the smaller offices, which frequently doubled with another trade, we need to look to the latter's invoices. G.H. Smith, a printer and stationer in Easingwold, was also the location of the Post Office in 1875. When it comes down to those who worked as postmen, the cabinet

Bridlington Post Office advertisement from 1776

HENRY COOK, at the POST-OFFICE in BRIDLINGTON, begs leave to return thanks to his friends and the public in general, for paſt favours, and to acquaint them, that the houſe where he lately dwelt is now purchaſed for the uſe of a private family, and that he has taken and refitted up a houſe in the HIGH-STREET, near the Fiſh-Shambles, where he hopes for the continuance of their favours, which will be ever gratefully acknowledged, by

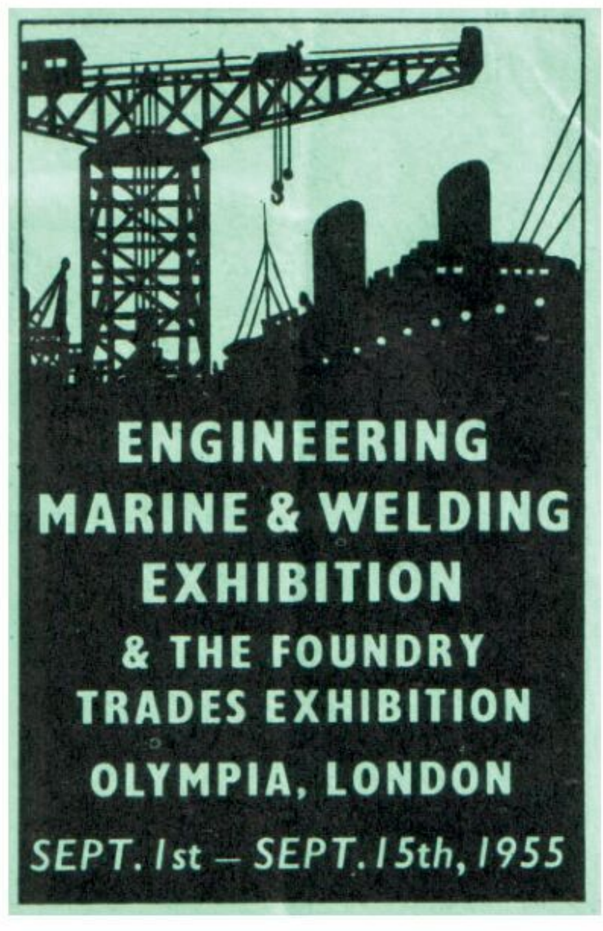
Their much obliged and very humble ſervant,

HENRY COOK.

☞ The POST-OFFICE continued by him as uſual.



Far right: A label for an industrial exhibition at Olympia in 1955 on an invoice from Huddersfield



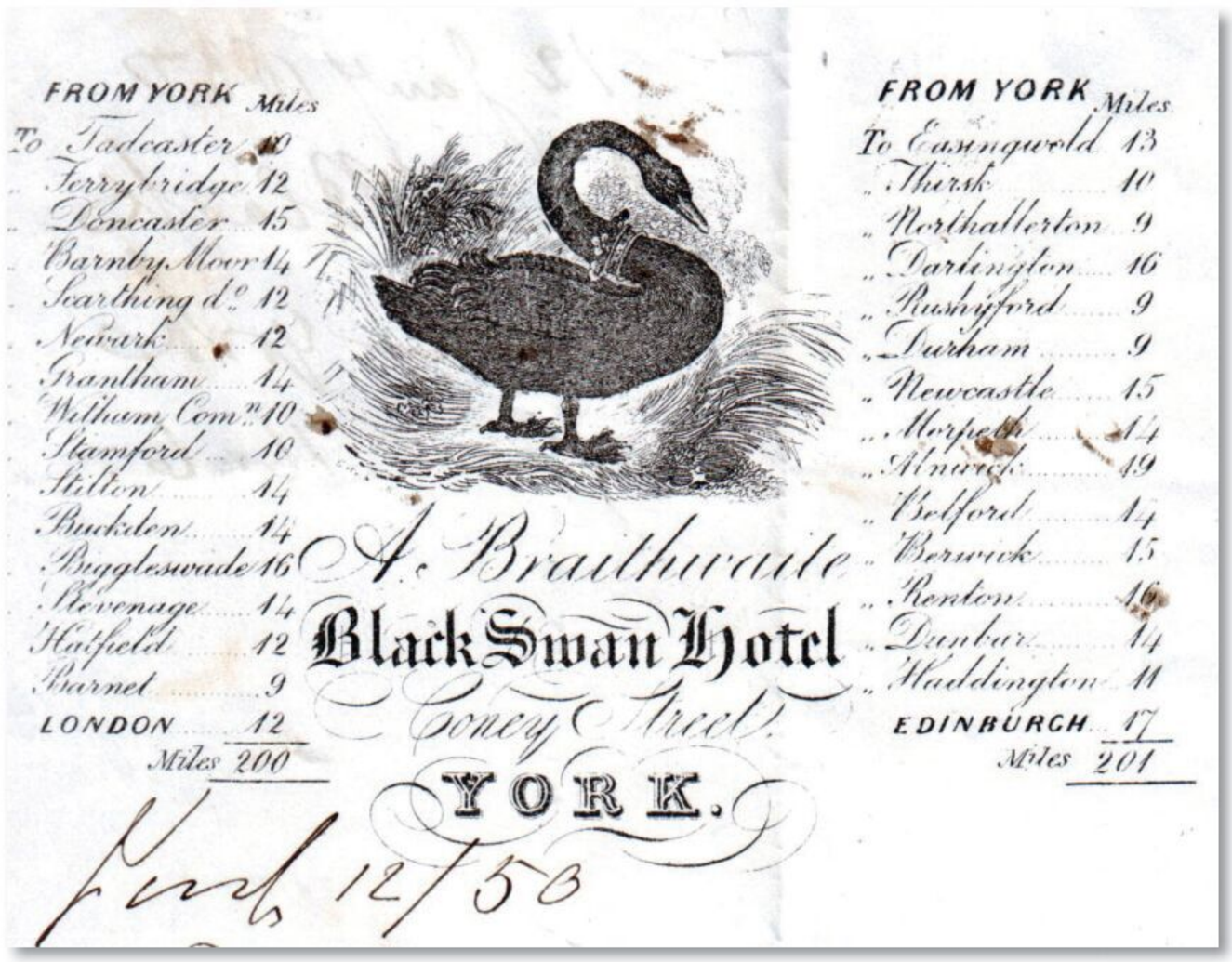
A cabinet photograph by Israel Todd of Otley, depicting a local postman

photograph gives us a graphic image, even though the individual's name may be unknown.

Readers of these articles will be aware that Pigot's directories are an invaluable source of information about post offices and the carriage of the mails from place to place. This process can be illustrated both from the inn receipts and from the coaching handbills, a few of which survive to this day. By the 1900s Charles Wood of Brighouse, a Cab Proprietor and Undertaker, proudly proclaimed on his stationery that he was a 'Contractor for His Majesty's Mails' and evidently also had the first telephone there, No. 1.

While illustrated envelopes of the 1840s have a huge following among collectors, which puts them beyond the reach of many, industrialists continued to illustrate their products on envelopes even after the Second World War which are eminently collectible, as are the labels for industrial exhibitions which often come with strong graphic images reflective of their age.

The years between 1900 and 1914 marked the zenith of the postcard craze and the sheer numbers produced make them a very affordable addition to any collection, showing how a townscape has changed over the decades. Standing out in a packed market for postcards was a challenge which was met by enterprising publishers with a variety of variations on a theme. E.T.W. Dennis of Scarborough and London was a prolific publisher using the 'Dainty' trademark whose more innovative cards feature 'Mawson's Patent'. There

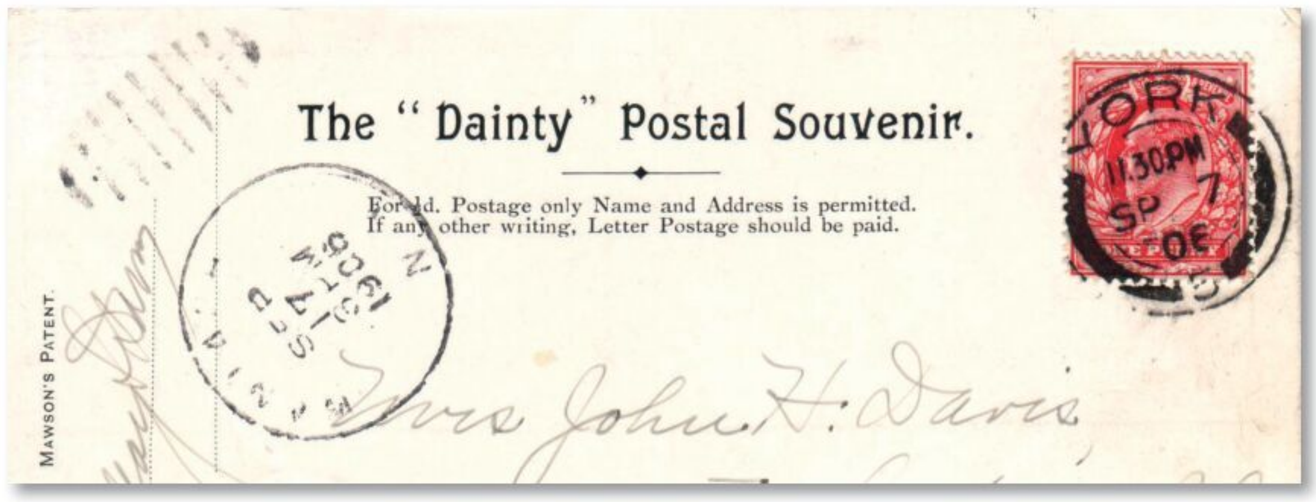


The Black Swan Hotel was one of York's oldest coaching inns and Abraham Braithwaite's invoice of 1850 lists the distances from York to London and Edinburgh



The heading of Charles Wood's stationery as a mail contractor in 1912

The 'Dainty' Postal Souvenir of York sent to New York in 1906



Lumby's Boiler features on this envelope posted from Greetland in 1949



was also a fashion in Edwardian times for the skilled amateur artist to paint blank cards in watercolours. Sadly we seldom know who they were but their talent is undoubted.

In an age when many local history groups are far larger than the local stamp club the future for collectors of provincial postal history may rely on widening their scope from simply stamps and postmarks to embrace the social history of the period and of the place.

These articles have attempted to provide a few pointers as to how this objective can be achieved for a relatively modest outlay.

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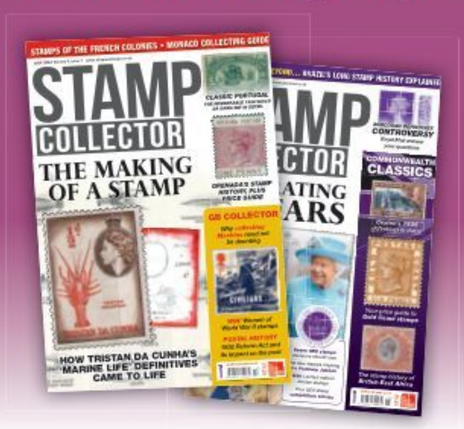
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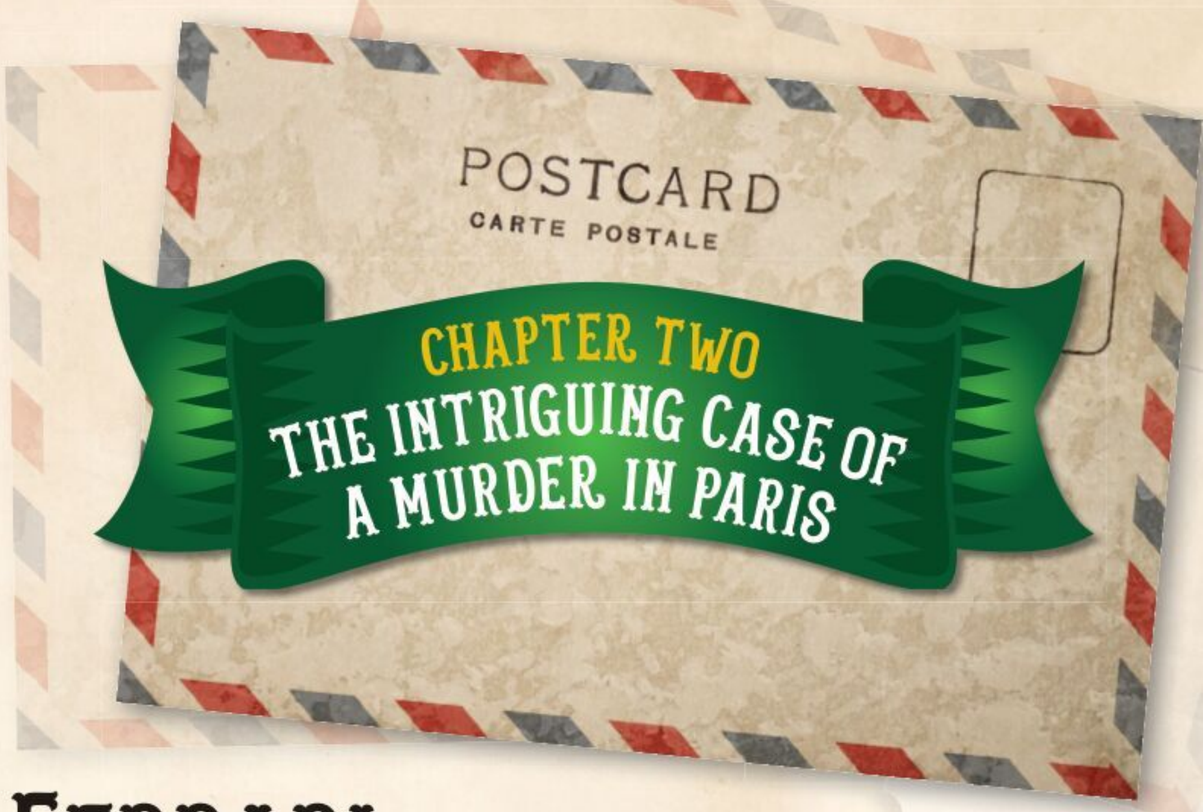
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Chronicles of NOELLA BRY

A philatelic distraction based on real events,
by Eva Mealing



Part sixteen
The Meeting with Count Ferrari

Count Ferrari's regal residence was a solid half hour walk according to the conscientious concierge at Noella's hotel. Apparently it would be a mucky, muddy trudge through the Paris streets, heading south from the Hôtel Continental, and he strongly advised the young reporter to avoid the journey on foot due to the filthy pavements, although he confessed it was a simple and direct route down the Rue Royale and across the Seine.

Wishing to arrive as spotless and unruffled as possible, Noella took the counsel and a carriage was ordered to collect her outside her hotel, which despite the stout and powerful horse pulling the compartment that she reclined within, still took over thirty minutes to navigate through the clogged streets of the French capital.

Arriving a few minutes ahead of the appointed time, Noella stepped out of her taxi onto polished grey cobbles, and stood admiring the milky white stone frontage, with its tall windows, framed by pillars topped with gargoyles. The arched decorative frames were artistically adorned with lion heads and unknown creatures, and looking up she noted the second-floor windows were dressed with black cast-iron balconies inlaid with gold.

A tall male attendant dressed in a black coat led Noella through a glossy, heavy, timber door and into a carpeted hallway. It opened out onto a rectangular courtyard, an internal garden that had towering window panes along all sides except for a double entrance-way at the bottom.

The attendant stepped through and waited for Noella to pass before shutting the access behind them. Another gentleman in a frock coat and dress trousers greeted her. 'Mademoiselle Bry. Welcome. This way.' His English, Noella thought, was perfect and hardly accented. He turned away and said not another word until they arrived at an imposing double door, painted in a rich red with golden furniture handles.

He tapped three times in quick succession and then paused before knocking a fourth. The door was opened by a man in what appeared to be outdoor clothes and she noted his high boots and a cap in his hand. He looked Noella up and down and then flung open the door and nodded and said to her escort, 'Thank you, Monsieur. Come with me Mademoiselle.' He smiled warmly and as they walked across a large carpeted room with wood panelled walls, with yet more gold lining, and oil paintings at regular intervals, he spoke with an accent which Noella thought perhaps was German. 'I understand you have come from London. How was your crossing?' Noella explained it had been several days since her boat trip from Kent, but she recalled it was rather cold, inclement and bordering on unpleasantly wavy. 'It is always a lottery at this season. My master dislikes it immensely and agrees to cross only if the channel is calm.' Noella was sure he smirked in an ironic manner, and at that moment a man emerged from their left and stopped just ahead of them.

'Mademoiselle Bry. What a pleasure to see you here in Paris. I hope Huber has not been filling your mind with stories about my travel preferences?' Noella recognised Count Ferrari immediately, although he was less dishevelled than when they met outside the stamp shop in London. He wore a grey suit and an elegant embroidered waistcoat, which sported gold stitching, and a watch chain in gold was hanging from one of his pockets. He nodded to Huber, who turned on his heels and was gone before Noella could reply. 'Thank you for your invitation, and for responding so swiftly. You look well, and more rested than the last time we met.'

The Count beckoned with one arm for Noella to walk with him and he continued to exchange small talk. 'Arh. Well, as my assistant Huber alluded to, getting shaken up on the crossing is disagreeable. Come take a seat Miss Bry, lunch will be served. I trust you are hungry?' They had moved through a large room, with high ceilings, two chandeliers and windows to either side. The fire was blazing and electric lighting made for a warm cosy atmosphere. Sitting opposite each other on a dining table which could seat four, two waiters appeared at their sides and simultaneously placed dishes in front of the host and guest.

The Count looked up and smiled. 'Tournedos Rossini, Miss Bry. One of my favourites. Steak fillet, pan-fried in butter, served on a crouton and topped with a hot slice of fresh whole foie gras. It's wonderfully garnished with slices of black truffle and finished with a Madeira demi-glace sauce. Bon appétit!' Wine and water were poured into crystal glasses by the two waiters and as soon they left the Count asked how he could help with philatelic matters. Noella reached for her wine, admiring the dense, silky ruby shade of the liquid. She sensed the aroma of cooked blackcurrants and took a sip of what was a surprisingly earthy taste and a hint of spice. She then proceeded to tell the Count why she had come to Paris and what she had discovered so far. The Count showed no indication of surprise. Noella pondered if what she'd articulated was new to him or not.

'Can you think what stamp Gaston Leroux may have been buying? It would be helpful if we knew who he met that fateful day?' The Count took hold of his wine glass, holding it up to the light, swirling it around. 'This is a fine Bordeaux, from Chateau Latour. Can you taste the truffles and the tobacco?' He didn't wait for a reply and continued with his glass still in his hand but resting on the table. 'I can answer your question concerning the stamp with some certainty, but am unable to help you with who he might have met.'

Noella took another mouthful of wine and met the gaze of Ferrari across the table, urging the great stamp collector with her eyes to tell her what he knew…

…To be continued. Find out in the next episode what stamp Count Ferrari thinks Gaston Leroux had purchased and what this means to Noella's investigation.

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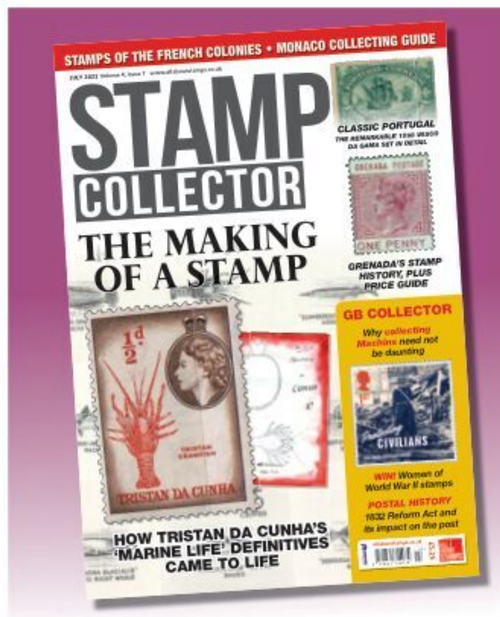
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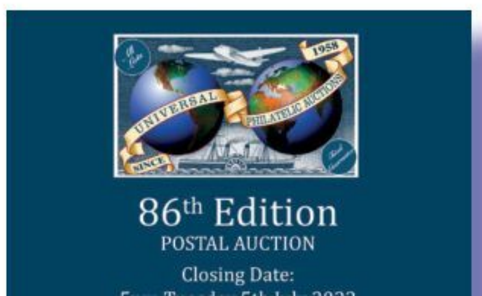
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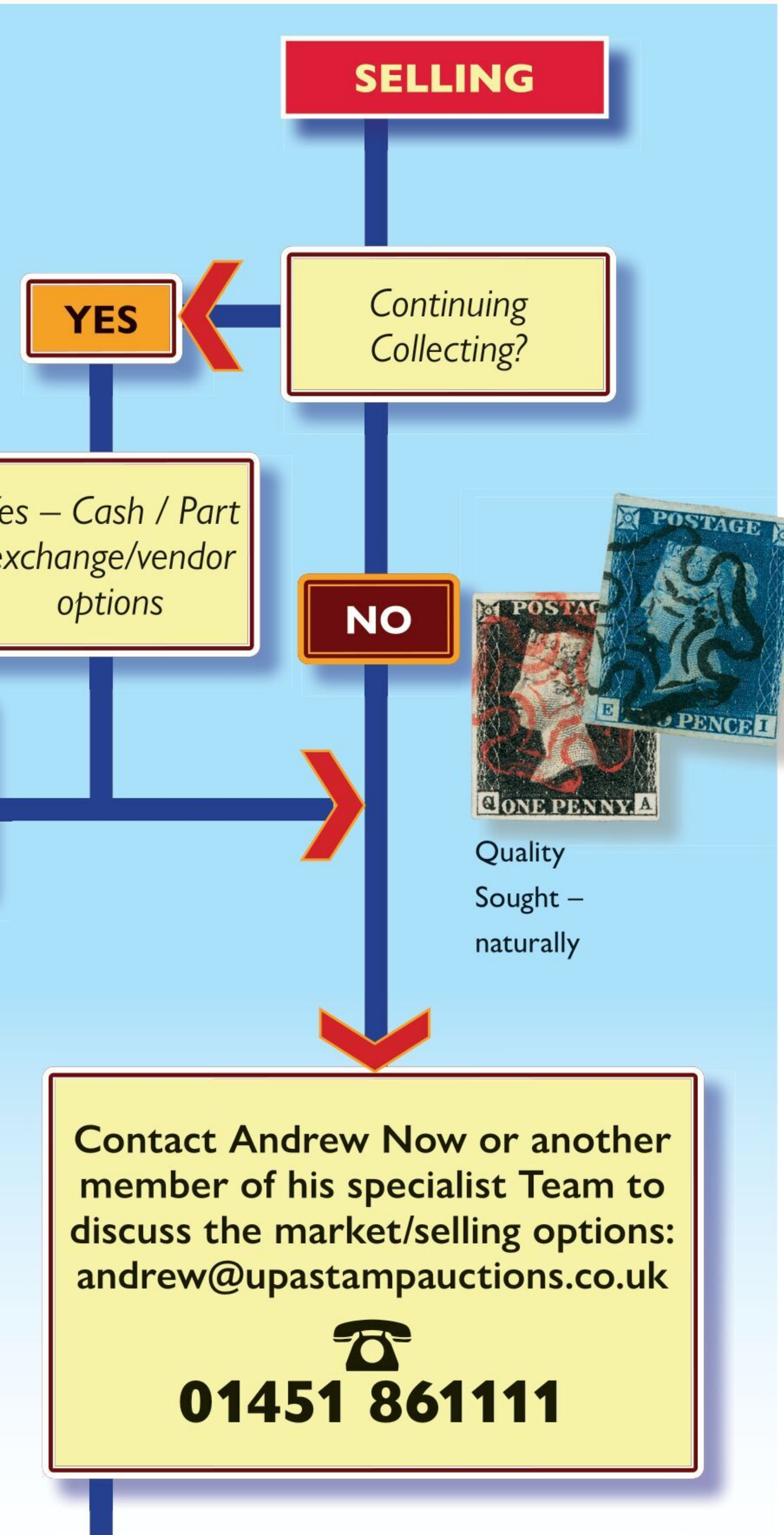




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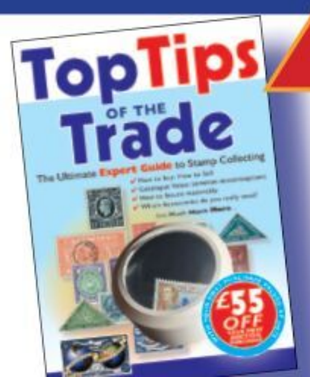
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