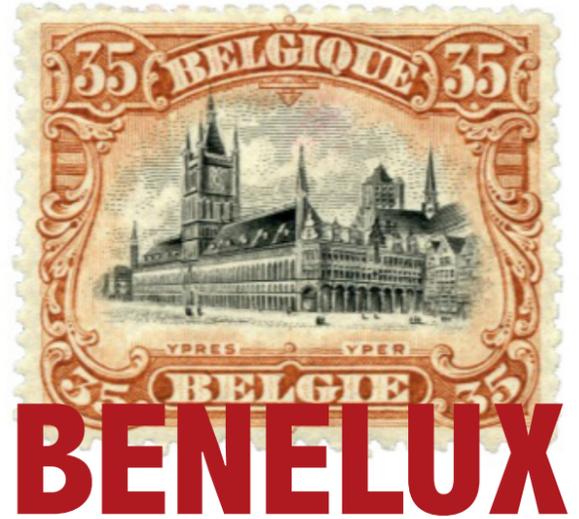


# STAMP COLLECTOR

OCTOBER 2022 Volume 4, Issue 10 Build your knowledge. Build your collection.

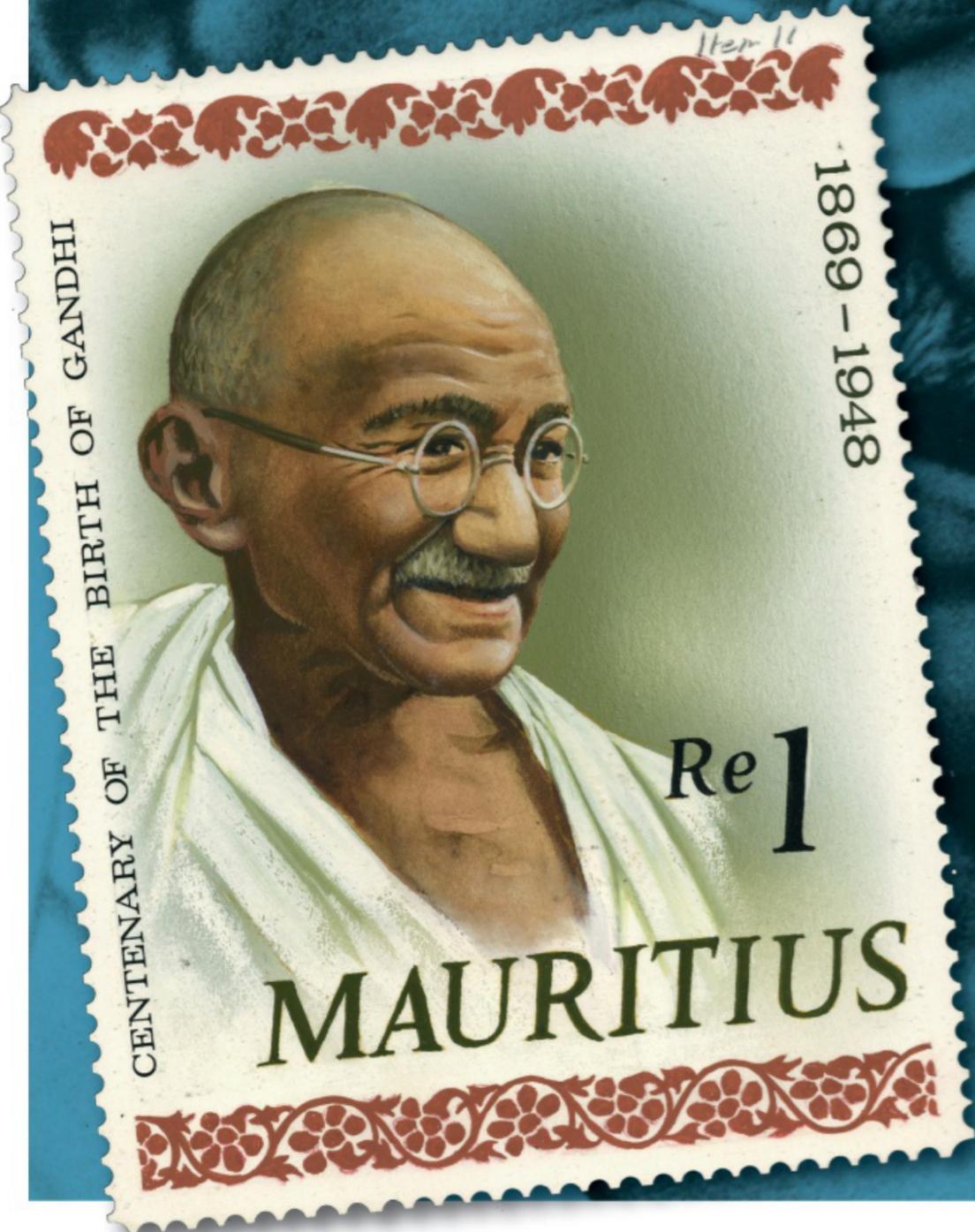


## BENELUX

DISCOVER THE STAMPS OF BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS & LUXEMBOURG

# MAHATMA GANDHI

HOW MAURITIUS CREATED THEIR HOMAGE TO THE INSPIRATIONAL LEADER



## COLLECTING GUIDES

EARLY DESIGNS OF CENTRAL AMERICA

WHY NIGERIA'S 1953 DEFINITIVES WERE AHEAD OF THEIR TIME

PRICE WATCH: USA PARCEL POST SET 1912-1913

OPINION: SHOULD THE LIONESSES BE HONOURED ON STAMPS?



## POSTBOXES ON STAMPS

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ALL ABOUT STAMPS

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

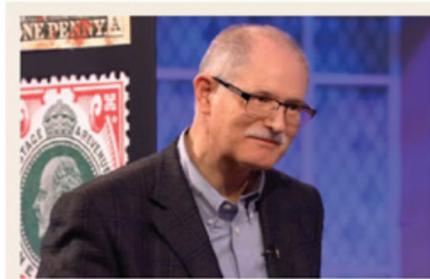
Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

# This is How **The** Stamp Trade Works

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

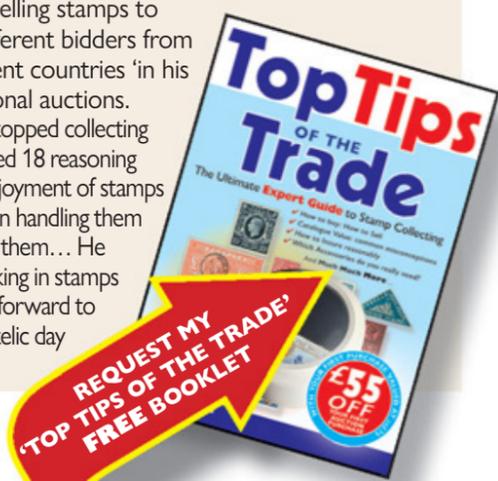
**1** ▶ **If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited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

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



**ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's – Presentation** ✓ **Place** ✓ **and Price** ✓

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

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

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

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# OCTOBER 2022 CONTENTS

OCTOBER 2022 Volume 4, Issue 10 Build your knowledge. Build your collection.

- 6 **STAMP UPDATE**  
Royal Mail reveal Transformers stamps. Ebay sponsor Stampex auditorium. Public to decide Rowland Hill Award. Plus, we speak to renowned philatelist Cheryl Ganz, and round up the latest new stamps
- 21 **GB STAMPS**  
The recently issued Commonwealth Games stamps in detail. Plus, Richard West wonders why Royal Mail didn't celebrate the recent win for England women's team
- 24 **MARKET INSIGHT**  
The latest auctions and internet sales, our regular 'Stamp Detective' column, and your price guide to USA Parcel Post stamps
- 34 **COLLECTORS' CORNER**  
Our popular section brings together special collecting guides to postcards, Post & Go, Cinderellas, and FDCs. Plus, test your knowledge in our latest quiz
- 38 **CENTRAL AMERICA**  
We examine the early stamps of Central America printed by the American Bank Note Company
- 43 **TOUR OF EUROPE**  
In the first part of a new series, David Bailey details the stamp histories of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg
- 48 **STAMP STORY**  
Chris West explores the history of the place named Death Valley for its heat-induced fatalities, as depicted on a 2018 USA stamp
- 50 **MUSEUM OF PHILATELY**  
The evergreen appeal of the 1901 2c Empire State Express Inverted Centre. Plus, the philatelic career of J.H. Harvey Pirie
- 52 **CELEBRATED SETS**  
Discover why Nigeria's 1953 definitives were ahead of their time, in our latest guide to a classic stamp set to add to your album
- 58 **MAKING OF A STAMP**  
The design and production process behind Mauritius' 1969 issue commemorating the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi
- 65 **COLLECT BY THEME**  
Our regular thematic guides, the Internet, and post boxes on stamps
- 69 **SPECIAL OFFER!**  
Receive your first five issues of *Stamp Collector* for just £5, including delivery!
- 70 **POSTAL HISTORY**  
A registered parcel from Germany to the UK sheds light on the post-war world, and an intriguing letter to a miner's brother
- 74 **CLASSIFIED ADS**  
Buy, sell and swap your stamps!
- 77 **THE CHRONICLES OF NOELLA BRAY**  
Our Victorian fiction series continues
- 78 **ADVERTISER INDEX**  
Your A to Z guide to advertisers.  
*Add to your album, support the trade, and be sure to mention Stamp Collector!*

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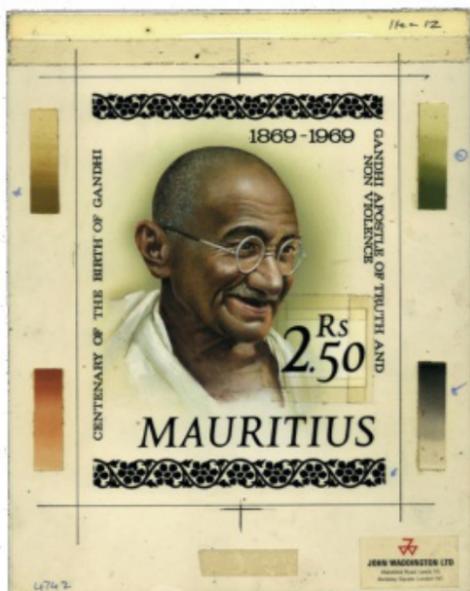


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The Belgian Post Office began investigating pre-payment by stamps in 1841, with a visit to London to see how it was done. The first Belgian stamps followed in 1849. Read more on page 43



Mahatma Gandhi paid a 21-day visit to Mauritius in October 1901 and it is said that the trip left a lasting impression on him. Mauritius marked the leader's birth centenary in 1969, as detailed on page 58



Whilst initially popular with businesses and sole traders, the USA's 'Parcel Post' stamps were soon usurped by ordinary values as they too became valid for parcels. Read more on page 30

## WELCOME TO *STAMP COLLECTOR*



My mum loves sport just as much as I do, so for a few hours during our summer holiday (several thousand miles away from Wembley) we gathered around my phone attempting to watch the Euro 2022 final between England and Germany. The picture stuttered and frequently disappeared, and we eventually resorted to the radio, picturing each kick and tackle as the Lionesses tried their very best to win the major trophy.

It didn't matter that we couldn't see the dramatic final unfold, the fantastic news that England had won (and avoided the dreaded penalties) was the most important thing and we'd definitely got a reason for a celebratory holiday tipples. And isn't that the point? After a challenging few years, exacerbated for football fans by England's near miss at the men's Euros, the success of the England women's team was a real excuse to celebrate. No, not just an excuse, a real reason to recognise a great achievement. So one wonders why Royal Mail didn't feel the same way.

We can all agree, our postal service is usually very eager to celebrate an event such as this. We've had countless Olympic gold medal stamps, designs to celebrate winning the Cricket World Cup (both the women's and men's teams), plenty of (male) footballers on stamps, and the holding of the Commonwealth Games has been seen on a variety of sets (see page 21 for full details of the latest).

And yet the Lionesses victory seemingly caught the stamp decision-makers by surprise. Rather than a stamp set showing Keira Walsh, Beth Mead, Mary Earps and co celebrating or perhaps in action, we got a short-lived postmark that surely few members of the general public will have seen... and a stamp set celebrating the 'not-that-British' Transformers franchise (see news story on page 9). You can read more about the absence of any stamps for the Lionesses in Richard West's column on page 23, and we'd love to know what you think too.

Finally, this issue also features an excellent interview with Cheryl Ganz (page 12). The American collector and former Smithsonian curator tells us how she discovered stamps and postal history, and what prompted her to form a career in philately. I'm sure you'll agree, her enthusiasm and passion for the hobby is an inspiration to us all.

Matt Hill, Editor

Keep in touch. Share your views, stamps and thoughts with us: [matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk)

## WRITING IN THIS ISSUE



Richard Scott Morel FRPSL  
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Chris West, author of  
*First Class, A History of Britain  
in 36 Postage Stamps*



Tina Jackson, author  
and *Stamp Collector*  
Assistant Editor



David Bailey, freelance  
writer, collector and  
former stamp trader

## WRITE FOR US

Do you have a stamp-related story to tell? Would you like to share your expertise in your chosen field with fellow collectors?

Why not consider writing for *Stamp Collector*? Writing experience is preferred but the most important attribute is a passion and knowledge of your philatelic subject.

If you think that's you contact the editor at: [matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk)

## PURPLE POSTBOXES, BARCODE VIDEOS, AND POSTMARKS

It has been a busy time for Royal Mail, with a series of novel campaigns intended to promote the business, its services and stamps.

Back in July, Royal Mail unveiled five special postboxes across the UK decorated in vibrant pink and purple, which included graphics and encouraging messages to teams participating in the Commonwealth Games. The postboxes were located across in Birmingham, London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

Royal Mail were sponsors of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and as part of the deal exclusively delivered all official Birmingham 2022 merchandise from the Games' website.

In August, Royal Mail announced the launch of a new video that enables recipients of mail featuring a barcoded stamp to receive birthday wishes from children's animated character Shaun the Sheep and his friends.

The video was created exclusively for Royal Mail by the multi-award-winning British animation studio, Aardman and is the third in a series released by Royal Mail, with more to follow during the year.

The Happy Birthday video sees Shaun and the flock create mischief behind the Farmer's back, by sending him a card that he mistakenly thinks is musical.

Royal Mail explained: 'To choose and view the video, both the sender and recipient will have to download the Royal Mail App. The sender can select the 'Happy Birthday' video for the recipient to watch just by scanning the stamp barcode — giving that someone special something extra to smile about.'

Royal Mail, also found time to pay tribute to England women's national football team being crowned European Champions for the first time with a special postmark, though it seems no stamps are to



be issued to celebrate the historic win.

Natasha Ayivor, from Royal Mail said: 'It's a fantastic achievement that we feel is deserving of a special postmark. It's been amazing to watch this group of talented footballers bring the nation together. We congratulate the manager, the players and all of the backroom

staff on the win!'

Following the release of special stamps to celebrate other sporting achievements, including the England women's cricket team winning the World Cup in 2017, some collectors and sports fans have expressed their disappointment, claiming a stamp set should have been released to mark the historic win – the first time an England national football team has won a major trophy since 1966. Read more about this subject in our GB column on page 23.

Finally, barcoded versions of Country Definitive stamps are now available for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The existing designs feature the familiar national icons but with the addition of a barcode in matching colour.

Country Definitive stamps are available in three values: 1st class, 2nd class and £1.85 (the rate for letters to Europe up to 100 grams and worldwide up to 20 grams). The current designs featured on the Country Definitive were introduced in June 1999 for Scotland and Wales' designs, Northern Ireland's in March 2001 and England's in April 2001. Each stamp features an image or symbol relevant to the country.

David Gold, Director of External Affairs and Policy, Royal Mail, said: 'For customers who prefer to use Country Definitive stamps, we are delighted to confirm that they will continue to be available to purchase. In line with all definitive stamps the Country Definitives now carry a unique barcode, bringing the option to send a fun video as well as a little piece of national pride on a letter.'

As previously reported, non-barcoded definitive stamps will remain valid until 31 January 2023, and Royal Mail are encouraging customers to use their non-barcoded stamps before this date. Alternatively, non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme, with more information at: [www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps](http://www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps)





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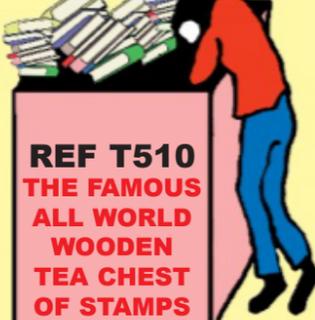
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<p><b>REF T500</b> <b>FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE</b> GREAT BRITAIN INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER INC KGV1 &amp; WILDINGS IDEAL FOR WTM ETC PLUS ALBUM PAGES MOST REIGNS, MINT &amp; USED AND FDCs, ITEMS OF NOTE ARE 1841 1d &amp; 2d IMPERF PLUS QV TO 1/- GREEN. KEVII WITH VALUES TO 1/-, KGV WITH VALUES TO 2/6 SEAHORSE, KEVIII SET, PLUS KGV1 WITH VALUES TO £1 AND QEII TO £5 MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH MANY BETTER VALUES WITH A CAT PRICE OF £1,000+ FOR JUST £149.50 PLUS £9.75 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>	<p><b>REF T501</b> <b>FREE C. O. G .H TRIANGULAR CAT £95 WITH EVERY COMMONWEALTH BOX FILE</b>  <b>CAT £95</b> COMMONWEALTH MIX INC 1,000 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER USED STC £150+ ALSO ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD RANGE OF COUNTRIES, PLUS STAMPS LOOSE ON AND OFF PAPER TO SORT, WITH GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £25+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST £99.50 PLUS £9.75 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T502</b> <b>FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE</b>  <b>CAT £900</b> FOREIGN COUNTRY MIX OF ON &amp; OFF PAPER EARLY TO MODERN 1,000+ MIXED ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES &amp; £50+ OF BAGGED &amp; PRICED ALBUM PAGES AND AUCTION LEFT OVERS WITH STAMPS CAT £20+ £89.50 PLUS £9.75 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T503</b> <b>FREE GENUINE 1840 2d BLUE WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE</b>  <b>CAT £900</b> 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 &amp; 2d QV TO 1/- 1887 GREEN AND RED KEVII TO 10d, KGV TO 5/- SEAHORSE, KGV1 TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1,500 + £179.50 PLUS £9.75 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>
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<p><b>REF T504</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILES</b> BUY REF T500 &amp; T503 AND RECEIVE BOTH FREE GIFTS, 1840 1d BLACK &amp; 2d BLUE, AND WE WILL REPLACE 500 DIFFERENT WITH 1,000 DIFFERENT TO MAKE THIS PAIR OF BOX FILES A SUPERB SORT &amp; VALUE FOR MONEY CAT AT £3,500+ AT JUST £310.00 PLUS £14.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD OR REG POST</p>	<p><b>REF T603</b> <b>FOREIGN SHOE BOX</b> 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 &amp; INSURANCE</p>	<p><b>REF T604</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX</b> CONTAINING ON AND OFF PAPER, UNCHECKED A TO Z EARLY TO MODERN, LOOSE AND ON LEAVES, A GOOD MAINLY MODERN MIX, BUT SOME EARLY MIXED IN, BETTER SINGLES, CHEAP LOT, 1000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST £59.50 PLUS £4.75 POSTAGE</p>	<p><b>REF T605</b> <b>CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS &amp; IOM SHOE BOX</b> CONTAINS STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, DEFINITIVES &amp; COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS ALBUM PAGES FDCs ETC, ALSO SOME SETS &amp; SINGLES, MINT &amp; USED, A GOOD SORT FOR THESE POPULAR COUNTRIES, FOR JUST £59.50 PLUS £4.75 POSTAGE &amp; INS</p>	<p><b>REF T606</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN SHOE BOX, FREE 1841 IMPERF 1d RED &amp; 2d BLUE CAT £130</b> CONTAINING A GOOD MIX OF ALL 6 REIGNS FROM 1d REDS TO MODERN INC STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, INC SOME EARLY, IDEAL FOR WATERMARKS, ALSO ALBUM PAGES, FDCs, MINT &amp; USED SETS &amp; SINGLES ETC £59.50 PLUS £4.75 POSTAGE</p>
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<p><b>REF T602</b> <b>WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX</b>  BOX OF ALL WORLD COLLECTIONS COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN (NO GREAT BRITAIN) AND NO STAMPS ON PAPER A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES AND SINGLE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS IN STOCKBOOKS AND ALBUMS AS RECEIVED COULD BE ANYTHING 1,000s OF STAMPS (EVERY BOX DIFFERENT) £299.50 PLUS £16.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.</p>	<p><b>REF T510</b> <b>THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS</b>  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 &amp; OFF PAPER, ALSO MIXED COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS BOXES &amp; STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC A GOOD MIX INC GB, C/W &amp; 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 <b>HAVE YOU TRIED ONE YET FOR</b> £999.00 PLUS £29.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
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<p><b>REF T623</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES STOCKCARDS, BOXES OF ON &amp; OFF PAPER &amp; LOOSE STAMPS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC 1840 1d BLACK, 1d REDS AND A GOOD SELECTION OF MINT &amp; USED, ALL REIGNS, PLUS FDCs ETC, A GOOD LOT, VERY HIGH CAT, WITH TOP VALUES AND AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T624</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES &amp; STOCKSHEETS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULAR, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, LOOSE STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, COVERS &amp; AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, SETS &amp; SINGLES, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T626</b> <b>FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES &amp; STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON &amp; OFF PAPER, &amp; SINGLE STAMPS &amp; AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
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<p><b>REF T627</b> <b>THE WHOLE WORLD IN SUITCASE</b>  INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM &amp; GREAT BRITAIN INC STOCKBOOKS, COLLECTIONS, ALBUM PAGES, FIRST DAY COVERS STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER BOXES AND PACKETS OF UNSORTED MATERIAL. AUCTION LEFT-OVERS A GOOD SORT 1,000s FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £100+ STATED TO RETAIL £400 £299.50 PLUS £22.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T607</b> <b>ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/2 BOX</b>  INCLUDING LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER PLUS CHILDREN COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC PLUS OTHER BITS, ALBUM PAGES, THE ODD COVER, EVERY BOX IS DIFFERENT (VIRTUALLY NO GB) 1,000s TO SORT £99.50 PLUS £14.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T622</b> <b>WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER</b>  A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON &amp; OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER £29.50 PLUS £5.00 POSTAGE &amp; INSURANCE</p>
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# STAMPEX TO FEATURE EBAY AUDITORIUM AND #XTREMEPHILATELY EXHIBITION

The Philatelic Traders' Society have announced that eBay will become the official Stampex 2022 partner for the Stampex Talks Auditorium.

Now in its third show, the auditorium space has become a key part of the Stampex experience both for visitors in person and online. The eBay Auditorium is set to host an array of philatelic talks throughout the four days, including talks by Richard Morel from The British Library (and a regular contributor to *Stamp Collector*), Chris Taft from The Postal Museum, Daniel Piazza from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Graham Beck of Exploring Stamps, Ian Shapiro at Spink, and Court of Honour collector, Chris Harman.

Suzanne Rae, of the PTS said: 'We have been working with eBay for two years now ensuring the PTS shield can be seen across eBay UK so that collectors can buy safe in the knowledge that they are purchasing from a verified PTS Member. We are delighted that eBay are joining us at Stampex celebrating their prominent philatelic community and supporting the Auditorium.'

Frances Monroe of eBay added: 'Collectors and enthusiasts have been at the heart of our marketplace for over 25 years. That's why we're extremely excited to bring eBay to Stampex this year, providing the ideal arena to connect and celebrate with the vibrant community of philatelists that trade with us.'

Other highlights of the forthcoming event will include the first ever #xtremephilately

exhibition. Described as a fun way to take your collection out and about, #xtremephilately is the trend of taking a stamp and finding the object, landscape, or person on the stamp in real life and then taking a photo and sharing it on social media. The exhibition will include pieces from Exploring Stamps, Richard the Philatelist, Punk Philatelist and Stanley Gibbons, and the organisers have promised that it will be brought to life with an interactive element.

The Court of Honour at Stampex will feature Chris Harman's Chalon Head Collection. Chris is well known within the philatelic world having signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2003, and serving as president of the Royal Philatelic London and GBPS. In February this year, The Collectors Club of New York named Chris as the 2022 recipient of its prestigious Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Philately. A spokesperson said: 'We are excited to be showcasing his collection and sharing it with everyone during Stampex.'

Visitors to Stampex will also be able to buy Royal Mail's new Royal Marines issue on the first day of issue; view the ABPS National Exhibition on the theme of Africa; celebrate World Postcard Day and pick up an exclusive postcard designed by the Postcrossing team; and enter a Stampex Bug Hunt, online or at the show and be in with

the chance of winning Bug Hunt prizes.

As always, the Stamp Active, StampIT and Postcrossing teams will be offering activities for kids to enjoy at the show.

*Stampex, the UK's leading philatelic exhibition, takes place between 28 September and 1 October at The Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH (nearest tube station: Angel). Read much more about Stampex in our special online feature at: [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news/stampex22](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news/stampex22)*



## ROWLAND HILL MEDAL GOES TO PUBLIC VOTE

Following the recent launch of the Rowland Hill Medal, set to be awarded to the collector with the most impressive philatelic display featured on the Museum of Philately website, the organisers have revealed that the winner will be decided by the public.

The online competition closed at the end of August with entries now being reviewed by the Museum of Philately curators. Voting is set to

open this month, with collectors around the world being encouraged to view the entries and select their favourite.

Museum spokesperson Isobel Klempka said: 'The exciting element to the awards is that the public will decide who the winner is. Collections will be hosted online and anyone around the world will be able to vote to decide who wins. Voting will continue right up to the awards ceremony set to be held at philately's most prestigious show, Monacophil 2022.'

The Museum of Philately ([www.museumofphilately.com](http://www.museumofphilately.com)) gives collectors the chance to view privately held collections which are not often shared. The majority of the collections on the website have won Large Gold medals at exhibitions.

This is the first year that the medal has been awarded and presented to celebrate the collections displayed on the unique platform.



# DON'T TAKE ROYAL MAIL'S TRANSFORMERS STAMPS AT FACE VALUE!

Based on the 1980s comics and TV cartoon, there's more to Royal Mail's new 13-stamp set of Special Stamps than meets the eye.

The main set consists of eight stamps, produced in pairs. They show original illustrations of an Autobot and Decepticon in battle and feature Transformers Optimus Prime, Megatron, Bumblebee, Starscream, Grimlock, Shockwaves, Arcee and Soundwave. The 'hidden' feature is that the stamps are printed with UV ink. When the stamps are shone under a UV light, the stamps are transformed so their hidden details are revealed. Not only that, but if the stamps are scanned on the Royal Mail App, they're brought to life with unique Augmented Reality animation that includes a clip from the original *Transformers* TV series.

Illustrated in retro Generation One-style, the stamp images were created for Royal Mail by British comic-book artists Andrew Wildman (pencils), Stephen Baskerville (inks) and John Paul Bove (colours). All three artists have contributed to the *Transformers* comic series.

Since The Transformers burst onto the scene in 1984, British writers and artists have made a



substantial contribution to the ongoing story of the popular warring mechanoids; to this day many continue to do so and have inspired new artists to do the same,' said Matt Parkes, Director of Stamps and Collectibles, Royal Mail. 'We are delighted to be able to celebrate their work with this stunning set of stamps – which calls back not only to the early comics but also – by using the Royal Mail App to trigger hidden content - the original cartoon series as well!'

Five further stamps, presented in a miniature sheet, feature the Dinobots; Grimlock, Snarl, Slug, Sludge and Swoop.

*You can read more about the new Transformers stamps in next month's Stamp Collector.*

## FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR BOSTON 2026

Boston 2026 World Expo has been granted FIP Patronage by the Federation Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), whilst the organisers recently revealed the latest collectable label.

Boston 2026 World Expo, will be the twelfth international philatelic exhibition of the United States, held from May 23 to May 30, 2026, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Centre in Boston's Seaport District.

A spokesperson confirmed: 'The request for such FIP classification was initiated by Boston 2026 leadership and presented to delegates at its 76th Congress Commissions' Conference Meeting and Meeting of the Associate Members

taking place in Jakarta, Indonesia August 4-9. It was approved without objection and continues the tradition of such recognition by once-a-decade U.S. international exhibitions of years past.'

Meanwhile, Boston 2026's second collectable label was released recently. This second-in-a-series patriotic-themed promotional label was created by award-winning stamp designer Chris Calle, whose artwork was used on the first label and will continue yearly up until show time. Each sheetlet contains nine self-stick labels of the same design.



*Orders are being accepted on the Boston 2026 website at: [boston2026.org](http://boston2026.org)*

## IN BRIEF

Ukrposhta recently issued a one-stamp miniature sheet to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day. The sheet features the motto 'Free. Unbreakable. Invincible.' and the colours of the Ukrainian flag. The postal service is also planning to issue its first NFT (non-fungible token) stamps based on the design of the now famous 'Russian Warship' stamps. Money raised from the sale of the NFT stamp is set to go to the Ukrainian Army.

Prakob Chirakiti has been elected as the new President of the International Federation of Philately (FIP) following a meeting at the 76th FIP Congress held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The 2020 elections had been postponed due to the pandemic and so the Vice-Presidents and Directors for America and Europe were elected for a half-term or two years (2022-24), to ensure that the ordinary intervals and terms of office can be observed again from the 77th Congress onwards. The President, the Vice-President and Director for Asia were elected for four years (2022-26).

A pair of San Marino stamps marking the 50th anniversary of the international charity Doctors Without Borders was recently awarded the Asiago Philatelic Award for the best designed stamp issued in 2021. The two stamps featured Riccardo Guasco's artwork showing figures with red wings, representing 'the goodness of the choices'. The Asiago awards, held in the Italian town each year, are referred to as the 'Oscars of Philately'.

Australia Post are considering raising the price of stamps amidst concerns about the company's finances prompted by a reported \$255 million loss in the letters business. Stamp prices are expected to go up by 10c, but according to reports 'all options are on the table' and a more dramatic rise could be seen in January 2023.

## IN BRIEF

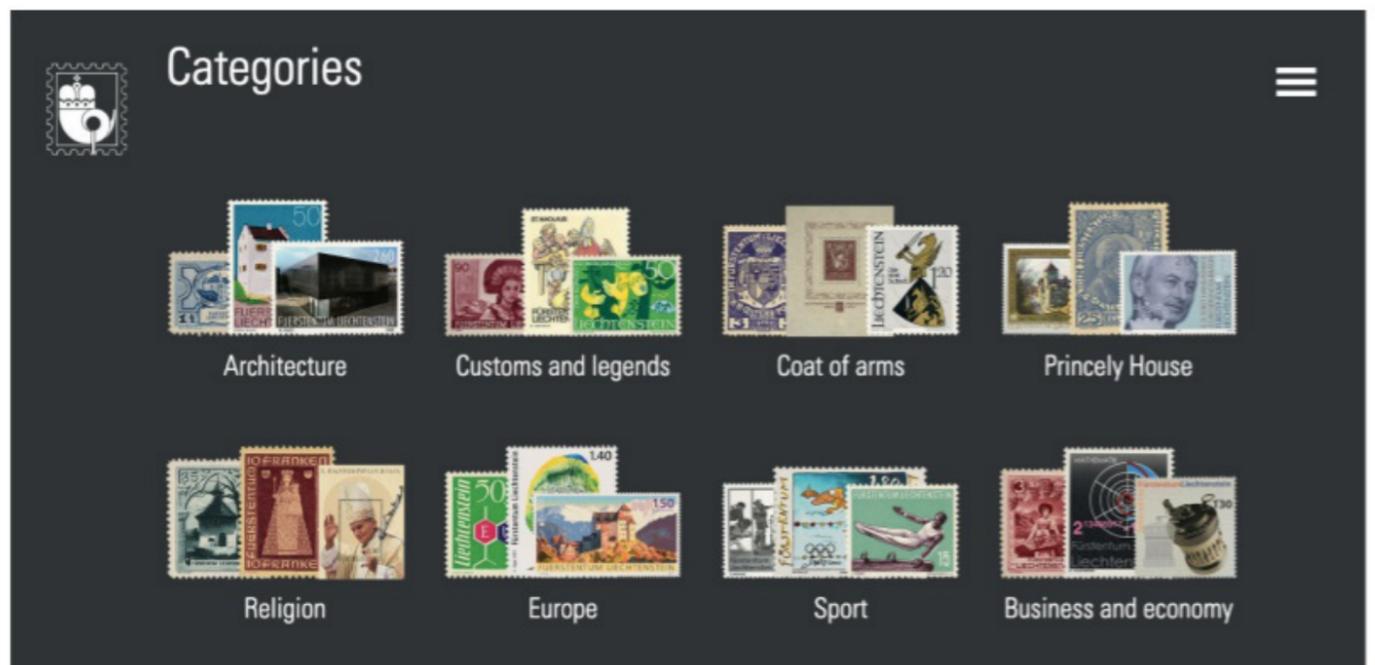
Well known for their novel stamps, the Kingdom of Bhutan is set to issue its first NFT stamp. Following the signing of an agreement with Estonian NFT company Stampsdaq Estonia, Bhutan is set to issue NFT stamps featuring the 2014 stamps set 'The 12 Deeds of Lord Buddha', with each stamp featuring five NFT variations.

India has issued a stamp in honour of Ondiveeran Pagadai, an Indian commander-in-chief who fought against the British East India Company and British rule. According to a report on organiser.org website, Governor of the Tamil Nadu region, RN Ravi said: 'Ondiveeran did not belong just to the Arunthathiyar community but to the whole country... The British rulers have done much to destroy us, our history and our society'.

An Post, Ireland's postal authority, recently marked the centenary of the death of Michael Collins with a single stamp. The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin said, 'It is fitting that an individual such as Michael Collins, who played such a pivotal role in the foundation of our state, should be commemorated in this way.' Known as the 'Big Fellow', Michael Collins was a leading figure in the War of Independence.

The HipStamp website and the American Philatelic Society (APS) have announced a strategic partnership, bringing the APS's StampStore marketplace exclusively to the HipStamp platform. Mark Rosenberg, CEO & Founder of Hip eCommerce, said: 'We're excited to welcome the APS's StampStore, which will be moving exclusively to the HipStamp platform on 1 October 2022; at which time HipStamp will additionally be designated as the official marketplace of the APS.'

# THE LIECHTENSTEIN POSTAL MUSEUM'S DIGITAL STAMP HISTORY



The Liechtenstein Postal Museum's website has digitised all of its stamps to create an online catalogue, enabling users to see every stamp issued by the German-speaking Alpine microstate of Liechtenstein since 1912.

The museum is home to a wide range of exhibits and documents providing insight into the development of the postal system since the 15th century, when the Lindau Messenger operated between Lindau on Lake Constance (Bodensee) and Milan, passing through present-day Liechtenstein.

The museum in the capital, Vaduz, also provides a representative cross-section of the entire philately

of the Principality of Liechtenstein. Original sketches by designers, as well as printing plates and stamp sheets, show the creation process all the way through to the finished stamp. Extraordinary production and processing methods are often used in Liechtenstein's stamp-making process. For example, laser-cutting is used to give motifs a silhouette-like appearance. In 2019 an embroidered stamp was issued for the first time to mark Liechtenstein's 300th anniversary.

The entire Liechtenstein Postal Museum digital stamp catalogue can be viewed here: [www.landesmuseum.li/de/museum/museum-digital](http://www.landesmuseum.li/de/museum/museum-digital). A 360° virtual tour of the museum is also available.

## MESSENGER OF THE GODS EMBRACES THE FUTURE

Austrian Post is embracing digital artwork to reveal the past and present of its stamp history.

With the original crypto-stamps, the user first bought a physical stamp, and was then able to access its 'digital twin' in the etherium blockchain. With the new crypto stamp art, the focus is on digital collecting, which will increasingly see digital artworks created, and collected. The first edition of Austrian Post's crypto-stamp, released on 1 July, consists of a new interpretation of the Mercury newspaper stamp first issued in 1851. The second step, issued on 22 July, is an edition of 2,500 CSA Mystery Boxes – digital collection boxes, each containing four non-fungible tokens (NFTs) of the Mercury stamp. These come in different colours, and some are rarer than others! The boxes cost €500 and are exclusively available e from Topkapi.com.

Physical stamp lovers are able to buy a classic special stamp block of *Der Merkur: 1851 – 2022* from 1 July. The new block of four stamps was designed by digital artist Pr1mal Cypher, and is based on the original newspaper stamp's colours: rosé, blue, yellow and vermillion. The vermillion issue of the original 1851 Mercury stamp is one of the rarest stamps in Europe, and the most valuable by far in Austria.



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# A life in stamps

The distinguished American philatelist Cheryl R. Ganz talks to *Stamp Collector's* Tina Jackson about how starting a collection from personal interest developed into a top-flight career as a museum curator and national advisor

Cheryl R. Ganz is an honoured American philatelist, and a major figure in the international stamp world. Between 2007 and 2014 she was the chief curator at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, and is a board director of the American Philatelic Society and vice-chair of the United States Postal Services Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. In 2018 she was added to the prestigious Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Born in 1950, Cheryl's collecting habit started young.

'I began collecting things as a child,' she remembers. 'Coins, postcards, books, seashells, and other treasures. I attended many collector shows in my teens.'

It was the stamp shows in particular that piqued her interest. 'Only stamp shows had the collector exhibits as a centrepiece,' she explains. 'Other shows had the dealers listed as the exhibitors. Seeing other collections and knowing that these were valued, captured my interests.'

Cheryl has collected, as a passionate amateur, throughout her life, but following the death of her husband in

Right: Cheryl pictured with a philatelic exhibition. It was the inclusion of other philatelist's collections that captured Cheryl's interest in stamps

Below: 'Perhaps my favourite Zeppelin stamp is the USA 1933 50-cent Graf Zeppelin stamp issued to help finance the Zeppelin's flight to Chicago's world's fair, A Century of Progress' Cheryl says. 'This stamp is from the upper-right corner of a sheet that was cut into four panes. A paper fold created the crazy perforations. The "C" in the margin stands for chromium oxide. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing first used this chemical with this issue to harden the plate.'

2005, she transitioned from amateur to professional in the stamp world, becoming a philatelic curator.

'I received my PhD in American History and had worked in history museums,' she describes. 'That professional training together with my lifelong collecting interests gave me the skill set to become a philatelic curator.'

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum is home to one of the world's largest and most significant philatelic and postal history collections. Cheryl's appointment as chief curator enabled the NPM to go a long way to fulfilling its vision as the world's greatest philatelic resource.

'I was in the right place at the right time,' she says with modesty. Under Cheryl's aegis, the NPM modernised and built on its history to create a world-class, accessible museum environment.

'The museum's stamp collection display needed updating in order to engage current visitors,' she says. 'At the same time, acquisition of additional space and a generous donor offered an opportunity to create a new stamp gallery. As a result, the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery became reality. It has multiple gallery spaces and combines stamps, mail, 3D objects, graphics, interactives, and films to showcase philately. I worked with amazing teams of curators and collaborators.'

The William H. Gross Gallery at NPM has helped spread the word about stamp collecting in the USA. 'The museum reaches millions of visitors on-site and online each year with the positive message that stamps are educational and fun,' says Cheryl. 'Also, I believe that visitors love understanding that stamp collecting is more diverse and expansive than



they had ever imagined. There is something for everyone!

During her time at NPM, *Stamp Collector* wonders, what was Cheryl's favourite exhibit?

'This question is so difficult!' she replied. 'I have so many favourites and all for different reasons. The *Fire & Ice: Hindenburg and Titanic* exhibition was rewarding because my Zeppelin research uncovered documents and interviews with crucial new information. These findings now reside in the museum archives and in the online story: [postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice/index.html](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice/index.html). Further, the comparison between these two ships revealed new experiences, knowledge, and understanding for visitors. I worked with a great exhibition team, including co-curator Dan Piazza,'



Dan is now chief curator of Philately at NPM.

Cheryl is well known in the philately world for her interest in Zeppelins. Why did she pick this as a topic to pursue? As with so many of the passions that collectors build on, there's a personal connection.

'My interest in Zeppelin history came from my grandfather,' she describes. 'I collected ephemera for several years before I discovered flown mail. Holding a piece of mail carried on Graf Zeppelin thrilled me. The collecting and study of Zeppelin mail has sustained a strong passion and lead to an exciting, rewarding life.'

She'd advise anyone starting a collection to follow what most grabs their interest. 'Find a region/country or topic that excites you. Search an online auction to see what is available and in what price range. Decide if you should narrow the focus according to the time, energy, and funds that you wish to devote to collecting and studying. See if there are any books/catalogues on the subject or if any clubs/online groups exist.'

Researching stamps connected to something you already know is a great way in. 'I believe collecting your hometown or a place where you worked or visited is a great way to begin,' says Cheryl. 'You have some knowledge and interest, and you will learn so much more. Postcards and postmarked mail of local history will make a great volume to display on your coffee table!'

Cheryl is well placed to know what makes a worthwhile addition to the world of philately. Her current



'I love collecting passenger mail to study who was aboard Zeppelins and what information they shared with friends' explains Cheryl. 'British journalist Lady Grace Drummond-Hay wrote this card to a friend while in flight aboard Hindenburg on its first flight to the United States in 1936.'

role at the Citizen's Stamp Advisory committee involves deciding upon subjects for US stamps.

'Members of CSAC of the USPS meet quarterly to review subject proposals submitted by the public,' she explains. 'We discuss thousands of ideas and narrow them down to a couple dozen ideas. We look for subjects with national appeal, subjects that tell important U.S. stories. Then further discussions continue the focus, and collaboration with the Stamp Services team and Art Directors until a few ideas become postage stamps.'

How does she think new stamps influence the hobby? Do modern stamps encourage collecting or is their appeal more general?

'The ways in which people collect has changed,' she believes, 'with many

new collectors seeking topics with a personal connection. New stamp issues bring stamp visibly to larger numbers of potential collectors. The more senders use stamps, the better the reaction from recipients.'

Over the course of her career in philately, Cheryl notes that the most significant changes have come about via the shift from analogue to digital technology.

'The computer and internet are our double-edged sword,' she says. 'While the numbers of collectors might be lower, their focus and passion for research and collaboration have intensified with new sources and worldwide, immediate interaction.'

She sees the internet continuing to impact of the way our hobby develops in the future. 'It'll be



## A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN STAMPS

- 2005** Awarded PhD in History from University of Illinois
- 2005** Joined the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum as a curator.
- 2007** Appointed chief curator of the NPM
- 2011** Winner of Smithsonian Secretary's Research Award for research book of the year for *The 1933 Chicago World's fair: A Century of Progress*
- 2013** The NPM under Ganz's direction opened the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery
- 2014** On retirement, appointed curator of philately emiteria at the NPM
- 2014** Edited *Every Stamp Tells A Story: The National Philatelic Collection*
- 2016** Awarded Lichtenstein Medal for Distinguished Services to Philately by the Collectors Club of New York and the Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately by the American Philatelic Society
- 2018** Added to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by the Royal Philatelic Society London



leaner but smarter,' she says. 'I think specialising, postal history, and increased use of technology will offer more engaging activity.'

Her best tips for serious enthusiasts involve expanding your knowledge base. 'Look at research outside your own specialty for ideas of what new sources and methodologies might work in your areas,' Cheryl advises. 'Get exhibit feedback from jurors, fellow experts, and even non-philatelists in order to keep fine-tuning your creative work.'

Achieving the Holy Grail of finding rare stamps involves being part of the philatelic community. 'Be active in organised philately through writing, presentations, volunteering, etc,' Cheryl suggests. 'With a philatelic network, it is amazing how rare material finds you. Remember rare does not always mean expensive. Difficulty of acquisition for modest items is also a challenge.'

Buying stamps at auction involves knowing how to research what you're looking for to get a deep insight into values and prices. 'Study prices realised from the past so that you understand realistic prices. If you really want something and you stretch a bit beyond your means, you might worry that you are overpaying. But I think you would still not want to part with that treasure regardless

Above: 'I am currently researching British rigid airships and the unofficial mail flown on them. Stamp dealer A.C. Roessler of the USA paid a crew member to carry 26 envelopes on the R100 flight from Canada to England. I have documented ten of the 26 and found four different British postmarks used in processing this mail for return to Roessler. I recently published my findings and hope to uncover more examples to verify my analysis.'

of the price paid. If you are spending considerable sums, consider hiring an auction agent to advise and represent you.'

After a lifetime in philately, is there anything Cheryl would do

differently if she was starting a collection today? She doesn't think so. 'I did what was right for me: found an area of interest, joined clubs, shared interests, published research, and exhibited.'





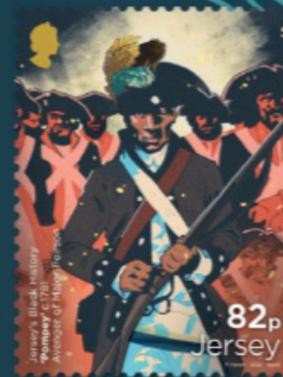
# JERSEY STAMPS & COLLECTABLES

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Jersey Post Group

## ÅLAND

# Messenger of the gods

The ninth miniature sheet in Åland's 'Chinese zodiac' series features illustrations of the mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*), by renowned engraver and stamp designer Martin Mörck.

Each of the miniature sheets in the series depicts a different animal in a winter setting. Martin Mörck explained: 'White hare against white snow was the challenge. I thought of Bruno Liljefors [the Swedish artist known for his paintings of animals] and got to work. One of the modern cliff houses was to appear in the background, so, I used the reflections of the sea in the windows. I drew the water a little bluer than it might be at this time of year and a faint winter sun. It worked well as a contrast, and I could also use the blue tone for shadows in the snow. I gathered the hares in a small group down by the reeds. The reeds became the warm element, along with the calligraphy. This time, there were no hidden details to discover, but I am very pleased with the result!'

With a denomination of €3.60, the sheet also features calligraphy by Ruizhen Liu, and design by Johanna Finne. A maximum card

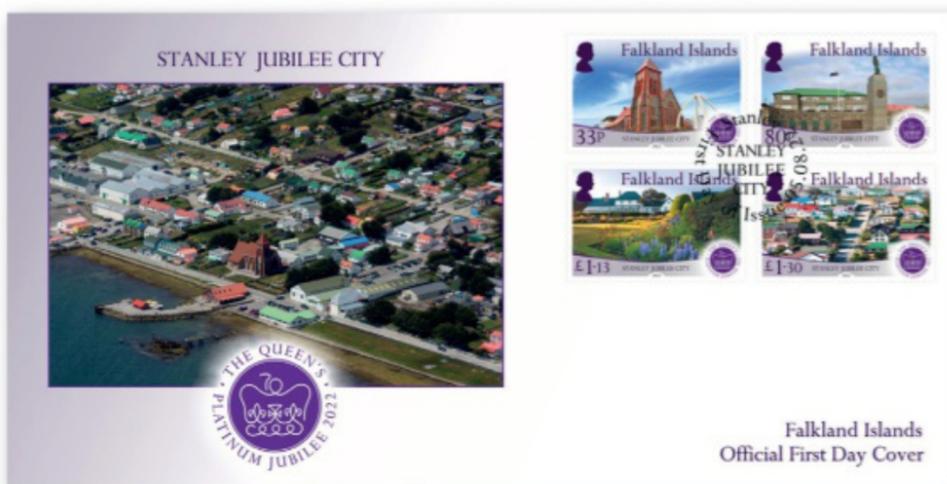


shows a hare sitting in the reeds at the shoreline, and postage from Åland to anywhere in the world is included in the price of the card.

*Issue date: 20 October 2022; [www.alandpost.com](http://www.alandpost.com)*

## FALKLAND ISLANDS

# Platty joobs and city status



*Stanley – Jubilee City* is a new set of stamps from the Falklands that proudly commemorates the fact that the Falklands capital was granted official city status by Her Majesty the Queen as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Stanley was granted city status after a rigorous process, and marks not only the Queen's 70th anniversary on the throne, but the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Islands War.

'We are utterly thrilled to have been chosen for this very rare award, which is granted by Queen Elizabeth II herself,' said MLA Pete Biggs, Chair of the Legislative Assembly. 'The Falkland Islands is one of the most remote British Overseas Territories, but our distance only serves to strengthen the feelings of gratitude, love and respect, that we have for Her Majesty The Queen, as a vitally important and iconic figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth.'

'This celebration of her extraordinary reign comes at a time when we in the Falkland Islands are equally reflecting on an extraordinary time in our own history, as we remember the events of 74 days in 1982 when we were invaded,' continues Mr Biggs. 'For our small community it was an unprecedented time, but I am delighted that, 40 years on from those dark days, we are being recognised in this way – I think it goes to show just how far we have come in that time. In the past four decades we have built a thriving, prosperous nation, which continually looks to the future while respecting our past.'

The stamps were designed by Bee Design and depict Christchurch Cathedral, the Secretariat Building, Government House and Stanley Houses. The First Day Cover shows an aerial view of Stanley houses.

*Issue date: 5 August 2022; [www.falklandstamps.com](http://www.falklandstamps.com)*



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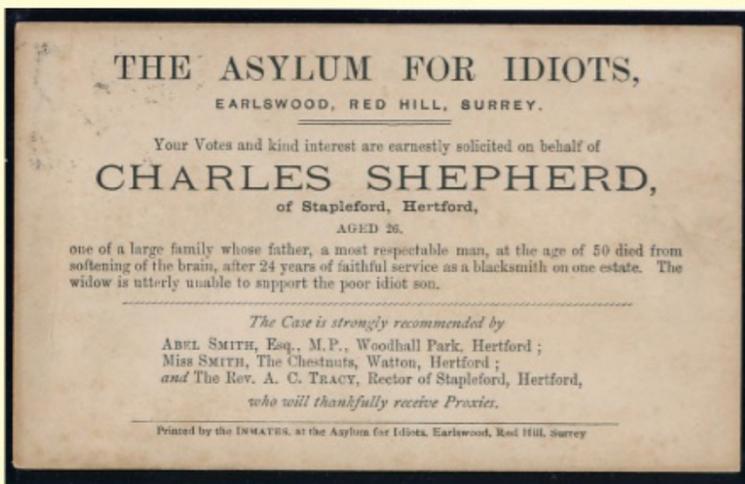
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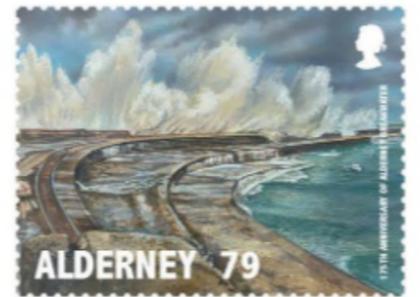
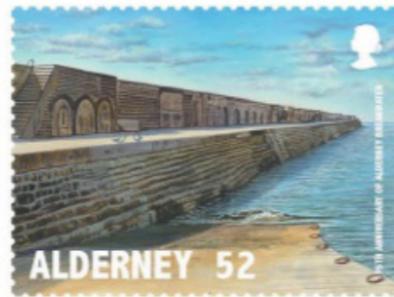
# An incredible feat of engineering

Guernsey Post is commemorating the 175th anniversary of the construction of Alderney's harbour breakwater with a set of stamps and a souvenir sheet, which have been designed by Robin Carter.

The Alderney Breakwater, which is now part of Braye Harbour, was designed by Victorian engineer Thomas Jackson. At that time, between 1847 and 1860, the British Admiralty wanted to protect British ships from the French fleet harboured in Calais.

Although Jackson was a highly experienced engineer who had spent a decade creating railway and canal works, it's believed that the Alderney Breakwater presented him with the greatest challenge of his career, as the island provided only sand and stone, which meant all the other materials had to be imported. Furthermore, there was no accommodation available on the island for his workforce.

Preparatory work began in 1847, and by 1856 the Breakwater had reached 2,700 feet from the shore. Construction ceased for ten years, but rubble for the bank continued to be placed, and by 1860 it was



4,800 feet. About a third was destroyed by storms after its completion.

In 2018 the Alderney Breakwater was named as one of the 200 most influential engineering projects in the world.

*Issue date 24 August 2022*

[www.guernseypost.com](http://www.guernseypost.com)

## ISLE OF MAN

# Postal networking



A striking new set of stamps from the Isle of Man Post Office celebrate a decade of the island's Creative Network. Each one the ten stamps, designed by Carola Rush, depicts work by a talented Manx artist.

The Creative Network is a non-profit, grassroots organisation set up in 2012 and run on a voluntary basis by artists. The breadth of work by its more than 70 members is shown by the variety on the stamps, which feature ceramics, glass-making, embroidery, woodturning, digital illustration, photography, textile art, drawing and painting.

Carola Rush, who designed the stamps, is herself a member of the Creative Network. 'Taking on the design and co-ordination of this stamp issue from the Creative Network's perspective, was a mixed blessing,' she admitted. 'On the one hand, Isle of Man Post Office offered a not-to-be-missed opportunity to showcase the wealth of artistic talent amongst the Creative Network membership. On the other

hand, it presented the daunting challenge of how to select ten pieces of work from such a huge pool to feature on the stamps themselves. I am extremely grateful to IOMPO for both the opportunity to mark and celebrate the tenth anniversary of this Manx collective and the endless support of their team throughout the selection and design process. Thanks also have to be directed at the artist-members themselves who have kindly put forward their work to feature on the stamps and the supporting stationery. It has been a joy and a challenge to see the issue come to fruition.'

An exhibition to celebrate the 10th anniversary and showcase the work of Creative Network members is being held at the Artreach Studios in Peel on weekends in August.

*Issue date: 28 July; [www.iompost.com/creative-network](http://www.iompost.com/creative-network)*



## JERSEY

### *Illuminating inventors*

Two of history's greatest inventors are commemorated on Scientific Achievements, a new set of stamps from Jersey Post devoted to Alexander Graham Bell, best known as the inventor of the telephone, and Thomas Edison, inventor of the lightbulb.

2022 marks 175 years since the birth of both American inventors, and 100 years since the death of Bell.

Jersey Post's six-stamp Scientific Achievements set illustrates inventions that changed the world. The 56p stamp depicts Alexander Graham Bell's telephone. On the 82p stamp glows Thomas Edison's lightbulb, and the 91p stamp has a picture of his phonograph. The £1.20 stamp features a picture of Bell's metal detector and the £1.37 stamp shows Edison's kinetograph motion picture camera and finally the £1.75 stamp shows Bell's twisted pair cabling.

The stamps have been illustrated by Beatrice Garcia, a Gibraltar-born, Amsterdam-based artist and illustrator whose use of warm, Mediterranean-



inspired colours creates a modern contemporary backdrop for the images of the inventions.

'These stamps showcase inventions from two of the most iconic inventors of the 19th century,' said Beatrice. 'Bell and Edison were innovators of their time; hence I chose a contemporary palette of pastel shades for the backgrounds of the stamps to reflect their modernity. The pastels also contrast nicely against the often-dark tones in the inventions, giving the inventions centre stage.'

The miniature sheet that accompanies the Scientific Achievements set features portraits of both inventors and illustrations of two early versions of the telephone – a device to which each other two great inventors contributed. Bell is credited with the invention of the telephone, and Edison's work in developing a microphone that enable users to hear what was being said was pivotal to its success.

The stamps, plus miniature sheets, First Day Covers and presentation packs, are available from Jersey Post.

Issue date: 2 August 2022  
[www.jerseypost.com](http://www.jerseypost.com)



## MONACO

### *Albert and Louis*

Monaco's Quai Antoine I room recently housed the exhibition 'The Prince and the Painter. Albert I and Louis Tinayre, a friendship discovering the world', and Monaco Post issued a single stamp to celebrate the event.

The exhibition presented the work of Tinayre, a relatively unknown artist, giving pride of place to the drawings and paintings made for Prince Albert I. A graduate of The Budapest Academy of Fine Arts, Louis Tinayre became an illustrator for French newspaper *Le Monde* and his drawings, dioramas and panoramas were shown at the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1900.

Whilst many missed his artwork or only glanced at it whilst reading their daily paper, Prince Albert I appreciated his work and asked him to accompany him on his scientific campaigns and hunting expeditions from 1904, as depicted on the nautical stamp design.

Issue date: 18 July 2022; [www.oetp-monaco.com](http://www.oetp-monaco.com)



## IN BRIEF

La Poste of France has issued a 2022 Marcel Proust stamp set to commemorate the great French writer. Marcel Proust (1871-1922) achieved worldwide fame as the author of the seven-volume *In Search of Lost Time*, was initially unable to find a publisher for the first volume, and ended up publishing it himself in 1915. The second, published in 1919, won the Goncourt Prize. The €1.65 stamp was designed by Sophie Beaujard. [www.laposte.fr](http://www.laposte.fr)



A new Slovenian mini-sheet issued on 11 July commemorates the 2022 World Hot Air Balloon Championship, which took place in Murska Sobota between 12 and 23 September. At the initiative of Pošta Slovenije the Championship was marked with a commemorative stamp with an image of hot air balloons, a miniature sheet and a first day cover. <https://en.posta.si/>

Romfilatelia has issued a Wild Ducks and Geese set with images depicting the following species: ferruginous duck, Canada geese, common eider and wood duck. The souvenir sheet is illustrated by the Magellan goose, and the FDC shows an image of the greylag goose. The national Museum of Natural History in Bucharest provided documentary support for the set. [www.romfilatelia.ro](http://www.romfilatelia.ro)

A new Armenian stamp commemorates the 300th anniversary of 'Syunik National Liberation Struggle. Davit Bek'. The stamp depicts a monument to famed commander Davit Bek in the city of Kapan against a backdrop of Armenian mountains. The inscription is in English and Armenian. [www.haypost.am](http://www.haypost.am)



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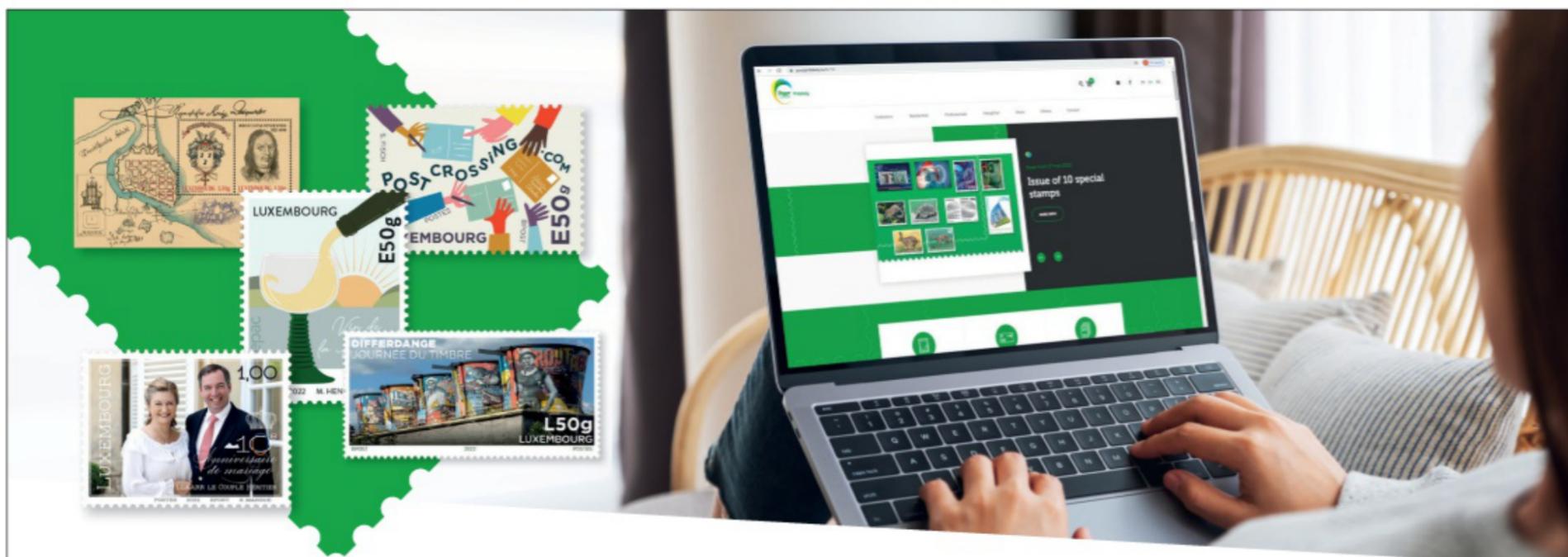
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## GB STAMPS



# Play the Games!

The Royal Mail's new set commemorating the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games reveals how the Games – and the way they've been depicted in stamps – have changed in the UK

**B**irmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games is a new eight-stamp from Royal Mail that colourfully commemorates the first-ever Commonwealth Games to take place in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games, featuring 19 sports and eight para sports, took place between 28 July and 8 August, and saw competitors from 72 nations and territories competing for 280 medal events. Representing the range and variety of sports in the 2022 games, the Royal Mail's eight new stamps depict aquatics, boxing, para table tennis, para powerlifting, gymnastics – artistic, cycling – mountain bike, athletics and wheelchair basketball.



The set, designed by Interabang and illustrated by Greek artist Charis Tsevis, is made up of four first class and four £1.85 stamps, presented as two horizontal se-tenant strips. The design brief for Interabang included the requirement to demonstrate the Games' inclusivity and

representation, with para sports now fully integrated into the Games and, for the first time in any mixed major sporting event, more medal events for female athletes than male. A modern, urban design using shards of colour conveys sport's motion and energy, and although each stamp has a distinctive colour, the stamps are visually integrated through a palette of bright jewel colours.

The Commonwealth Games, which are often referred to as the 'friendly games', first took place in 1930, although the idea behind them was first proposed in 1891, when John Astley Cooper proposed a sporting competition that would bring together the members of the then-British Empire. Committees were formed in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and as the idea was discussed, it sparked the idea for the Olympic



Games in its founder, French educator and historian Pierre de Coubertin. In 1911, an Inter-Empire Championship was held as part of the Festival of the Empire at Crystal Palace to celebrate the coronation of George V. During the Championships, teams from Australia, Canada, South Africa and the UK competed in athletics, boxing, wrestling and swimming, with Canada the overall Championship winner.

Although the seed for the Commonwealth Games had been sown, it wasn't until 1930 that the first British Empire Games, as it was known at that point, were held in Canada, featuring 400 athletes from eleven countries.

The second Games were scheduled to be held in South Africa, but serious concerns about racism towards black and Asian athletes in that country prompted a venue change. The second Games took place in England in 1934, mainly at Wembley Park, although the track cycling events took place in Manchester. New Zealand created stamps in 1990 that showed Jack Lovelock, who went on the world 1500m and mile record holder, running in the 1934 Games.

No games took place in 1942, when the Games due to be held in Montreal were cancelled because of the Second World War. In 1946 the Games were again cancelled because of the war.

In 1954, the fifth edition marked the name change to 'British Empire and Commonwealth Games'. This edition, held in Vancouver, included sporting highlights – the 'Miracle Mile' saw the gold medallist, UK's Roger Bannister, and the silver medallist, Australia's John



Landy, both complete a mile race in less than four minutes. Audiences around the world watched the race in awe, as for the first time it was shown on TV and broadcast around the world.

The sixth iteration of the Games, in 1958, were hosted in Cardiff – the biggest sporting event ever held in Wales. The growing significance of the Games as a sporting event was shown in the numbers: 35 competing nations and 1,122 athletes. Cardiff 1958 was the first Commonwealth Games to feature the Queen's Baton Relay – a relay around the world held prior to the Games which has been a prelude to them ever since. A set of three GB stamps was issued to commemorate the sixth edition. Although the issue had initially been rejected when it was first proposed in 1955, by the

The original venue planned for the 2022 Games was Durban. It would have been the first time the Games had been held in Africa, but the city had to pull out for financial reasons. Birmingham and Liverpool both submitted official applications, and Birmingham was awarded the position of replacement host for the 2022 Commonwealth Games at the end of 2017. The Games took place in 15 venues around the West Midlands – seven in the city of Birmingham, with the opening and closing ceremonies both held at the renovated Alexander Stadium.

Postmaster General, on the grounds that it would break the GPO's policy of strictly limiting commemorative issues, by 1956 the decision was reversed following a memorandum advocating special issues of stamps 'selecting for the purpose current events of outstanding national or international importance.' The stamps were issued on 18 July 1958, with three values (3d, 6d and 1s3d), each showing a variation on an images of the Queen's head, a Welsh dragon and a Games banner.

In 1970, the ninth Games, which took place in Edinburgh, first appeared under the name of British Commonwealth Games. The GB stamp set for these Games showed

## 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](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk) and answer the following question:

**How many venues hosted events during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games?**

*Closing date 8 October 2022. Winners will be picked at random from all entries. Good luck!*



## STAMP DETAILS

**Issue date:** 28 July  
**Design:** Interabang  
**Illustrations:** Charis Tsevis  
**Stamp format:** Square  
**Number per sheet:** 24/48  
**Stamp size:** 35mm X 35mm  
**Printer:** Cartor Security Printers  
**Print process:** Lithography  
**Perforations:** 14.5 X 14.5  
**Phosphor:** Bars as appropriate  
**Gum:** PVA  
**1st - Aquatics, Diving**  
**1st - Boxing**  
**1st - Para Table Tennis**  
**1st - Para Powerlifting**  
**£1.85 - Gymnastics - Artistic**  
**£1.85 - Cycling - Mountain Bike**  
**£1.85 - Athletics**  
**£1.85 - Wheelchair Basketball 3x3**

## *Rising to the occasion?*

Royal Mail have often celebrated Britain's sporting successes with stamps, prompting an upsurge in interest and sales, but this year it seems there were no plans for a celebratory issue, writes Richard West

**Congratulations England!  
Women's European  
Football Champions  
31 July 2022**

**Royal Mail  
Mount Pleasant  
Mail Centre  
31-07-2022**



A special postmark to celebrate the success of the 'Lionesses' – but would stamps have matched the public reaction better?

I was sitting at my desk on Monday, 1 August, the day after England's Women became Europe's Football Champions, when an email arrived. Just the first few words of the message appeared in my Inbox: Royal Mail to issue a special ...'. My initial reaction was delight, perhaps even incredulity, that Royal Mail had put plans in action to release a stamp, more likely a miniature sheet, to mark the English success at winning UEFA Women's EURO 2022.

Then I opened the message and read – details of a special postmark.

We have, of course, seen miniature sheets for sporting achievements in the past, the most recent being in 2019 for the ICC Cricket World Cup and ICC Women's World Cup. The question is, what successes justify a stamp issue and does it only have to be for sporting achievements? If England's women did deserve philatelic recognition, then what about British gold medal winners at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games?

The other vital consideration is timing. Today's world moves at an incredible pace. For how many days after were the British women still feted? Back in 1966, the pace of life was much slower. It was fine that the 'England Winners' stamp was issued two weeks after the World Cup Final. But today, the celebrations are over in a matter of hours.

Royal Mail got it right in 2012 with the stamps for the gold medal winners at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It took months of planning and needed six printers across the country to ensure the supply of stamps to all main post offices. The result was that the stamps – with the bonus that each athlete was shown either competing or receiving their medal – were on sale within a day or two of every achievement. And it paid off. There were always queues at my local post offices with people anxious to buy the stamps.

The miniature sheet for Andy Murray's Wimbledon success was issued on 8 August 2013 – I regret it was too long after the event. In my opinion Royal Mail must be prepared to take a risk. Decide well in advance events that might bring British success. Deal with all necessary permissions and licensing, obtain photographs, albeit not taken at the actual event, and have stamp designs ready to go. Modern digital printing would result in printed stamps within hours. It would be a gamble, and on many occasions will all be for nought. But sometimes, it might pay off.

If that email of 1 August had announced stamps to be issued during the following day or two, the public response would have been enormous, and given Royal Mail a vital boost. Much more so than a postmark, albeit that was much easier to implement. Would new stamp collectors have resulted – sadly, that's far more problematical.



*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](mailto:matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk)*

pictorial images of athletes – runners (5d), swimmers 1s6d) and cyclists (1s9d) – and was issued on 15 July 1970. A first day cover was cancelled with an Edinburgh FDI postmark. The second Commonwealth Games to be held in Edinburgh, in 1986, saw a boycott by athletes from 32 African, Asian and Caribbean nations in response to UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's support for sporting contracts in apartheid-era South Africa, but 26 nations and 1662 athletes took part. GB stamps for the 1986 Games featured illustrations in a characteristically 1980s bright colour palette of athletics (17p), rowing (22p), weightlifting (29p), rifle-shooting (31p) and hockey (34p), designed by Nick Cudworth.

The 2002 Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester – the first time they'd taken place in England since 1934. The Royal Mail issued a beautiful commemorative set called 'The Friendly Games,' with 60mmx 20mm dimensions showing motion-capture images of swimming, running, cycling, long jumping and wheelchair racing.

In 2014, the Games were held in Glasgow. Royal Mail's special commemorative set featured illustrations by Dutch artist Nanette Hooslag and photos by Andy Hooper, and showed swimming, track cycling, squash, judo, netball and athletics.

The Royal Mail's Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games set consists of four first class and four £1.85 stamps presented as two horizontal tenant strips. The special presentation pack comes with the official Birmingham hologram fixed to the packaging, and enlarged stamp artwork and photographs of the Games venues. It includes information from the Commonwealth Games team about the sports, venues and the Queen's Baton Relay. First day covers can be personalised with two special edition postmarks: the Commonwealth Games logo or the Birmingham 2022 logo. Stamp souvenirs are available until 28 October, cancelled with the alternative Birmingham postmark. Postcards are also available, as well as Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Uncirculated 50p Coin Covers, including limited edition silver and gold. Full and half stamp sheets are also available.



# MARKET INSIGHT

Quick Links

Page 26 Stamp detective

Page 28 Latest online sales

Page 30 Price guide: USA Parcel Post

## AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



### MAJOR NZ RARITY

Spink recently offered the Robin Gwynn Collection of New Zealand during an auction held at the Royal Philatelic Society London. Whilst there were many rare examples of the country's famous designs, the highest lot price went to a complete sheet of twelve 'Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post' 1/- green-blue stamps. The 1899 Marotiri Copper Mines stamps were overprinted 'marotiri / pigeongram', and the unused sheet featured full selvage at top and right. Column one had the overprint 'marotiri' set to right by 1/2mm, whilst the overprint on row 2 was offset on the reverse. The piece was described as 'a major New Zealand and World Air rarity with only 240 stamps printed, most probably a unique sheet.' The lot description also noted that the sheet is of particular importance because it clearly shows that there are two settings of the overprint, one with the 'P' of Pigeongram below the 'M' of Marotiri. This is plain to the naked eye but has not been noted by earlier students and so is not yet listed in Campbell Paterson. The offset of the overprint on three stamps of the second row of the sheet is also unlisted.'

**SOLD FOR £11,000**



### NEW BRUNSWICK BEAUTY

'As London sweltered and sweated in the early summer heatwave, prices were also simmering nicely in the Grosvenor saleroom during the two day British Empire & Foreign Countries auction,' the auctioneers at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions wrote. The highlights of the sale included an 1857 cover sent from New Brunswick to Ireland with the 7 1/2d. packet rate paid by a pair and a diagonally bisected single of the 3d value.

**SOLD FOR £1,798**



### ITALY'S IMPRESSIVE INVERT

Cherrystone's summer auction offered a range of stamps with inverted centres from all parts of the globe, but there was one example that stole the show, fetching a final price of \$29,000. The Italian 1928 Emanuele Filiberto 30c green and brown, with the centre inverted, was unused with full original gum, and said to be a fine example of this rarity. According to the auction experts, 'only one sheet of these inverts was sold at the post office in Bologna. The buyer did not notice the error and placed the majority of the stamps on a large parcel. Most of the stamps were thus used. Of the few unused examples known, only two exist with full original gum.'

**SOLD FOR £24,600**



### BRUNEI JAPANESE OCCUPATION

Stanley Gibbons recently sold this 1942-44 \$3 surcharge on 1ct black, from the Brunei Japanese Occupation. The surcharge was 'type 2' in orange-red and the stamp was lightly struck by a circular date stamp (CDS). Described as 'very fine; an iconic and sought-after Japanese Occupation rarity', the stamp was said to be the first used example the auction house have handled in many years.'

**SOLD FOR £10,000**



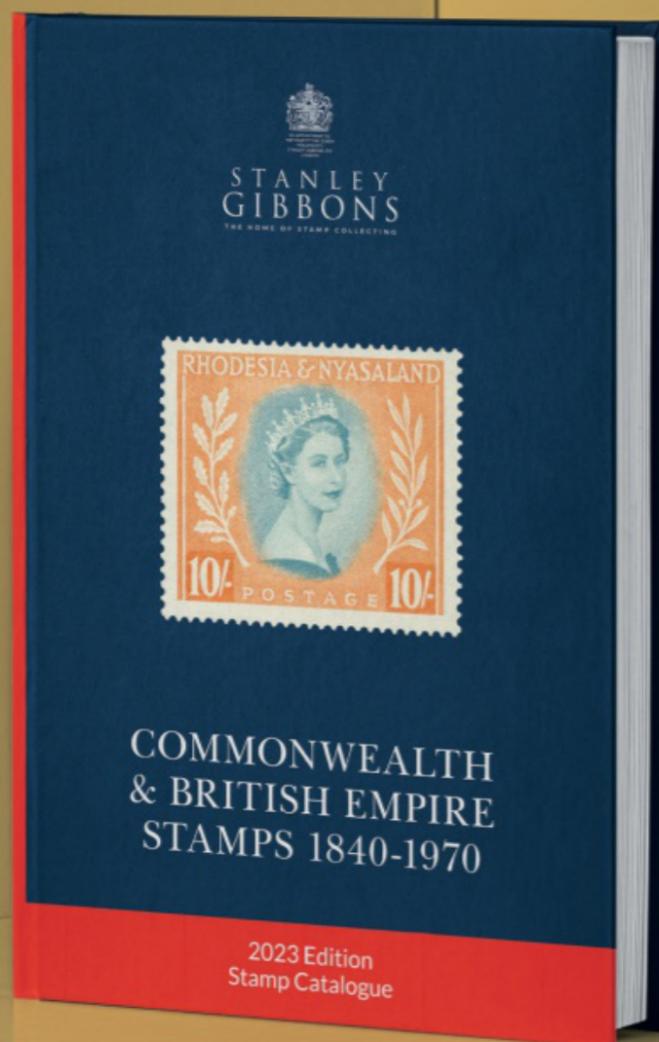
### EDWARD ODDITY

This pair of imperforate imprimatur horizontal tête-bêche 1936 1 1/2d red-brown stamps, with a 'NPM IMPRIMATUR' handstamp on reverse, was also sold by Stanley Gibbons recently. The rare Edward VIII stamp was once held in the collections of the National Postal Museum (NPM).

**SOLD FOR £2,400**

# Commonwealth & British Empire

1840 - 1970 2023



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**R2813-23**

This Stanley Gibbons comprehensive catalogue covers Great Britain, Commonwealth and Empire countries 1840-1970. The listings include variations in watermark, perforation, paper and printing methods, major shades, watermark varieties, important plate flaws, errors, government telegraph stamps and booklets (all listed and priced).

Guidance is given throughout the catalogue on subjects such as unusual usages, overprint settings, forgeries and much, much more.



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**FINE POLISH EXAMPLE**

Cherrystone offered a wide selection of Polish material recently, including a 1919 10kr violet, Plate IVB, position 1, showing the constant variety part of the middle ornament incomplete (this variety occurs only in position 1 of the plate of 25). The stamp was ‘perfectly centred and fresh’ and said to be ‘a splendid example of this popular stamp, undoubtedly one of the finest in existence.’

**SOLD FOR £8,066**



**RECONSTRUCTED ADS**

Another philatelic oddity featured in the Spink sale of New Zealand material was a complete used reconstruction of the four panes of 60 1d. rose, perforation 10 stamps, with adverts in blue. The lot was said to be ‘an impressive display, hard to assemble’.

**SOLD FOR £8,500**

**IMPERFORATE LOCO**

A more modern rarity was offered by Stanley Gibbons during their recent sale of ‘Stamps and Postal History of the World’. An imperforate left hand marginal block of four of the 2004 Classic Locomotives 47p ‘Blackmoor Vale’ stamp, said to be ‘very fine and scarce’ fetched over £2,000.

**SOLD FOR £2,500**



**CANINE COVERS**

The recent Robert A Siegel sale of US material included the category of ‘Ad Covers Picturing Dogs’, but the section of the sale was not to be sniffed

at with many items selling well. Amongst the canine covers was this example, from a collection, promoting DuPont Shoot Powders, and featuring an image of Llewelin English Setter Champion Hunting Dogs. The collection included 13 different unused postcards with multicoloured designs based on paintings by Edmund Henry Osthaus, depicting the National Bird Dog Champions of 1896 and 1898-1910.

**SOLD FOR £3,600**



**SERIOUS SCOUTING GEM**

The recent Grosvenor sale in London featured one lot that was of particular interest to collectors with an interest in Robert Baden-Powell, the Siege of Mafeking or the general Scouting theme. The lot offered an example of the Mafeking 3d on piece accompanied by a rare autograph note in the hand of Baden-Powell explaining the issue. The item had first been sold by auction in 1937, donated by Baden-Powell for the benefit of North Wiltshire Scouts.

**SOLD FOR £2,852**

**STAMP DETECTIVE**

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

*Good prospects for a Dhar*

Dhar in Central India was one of India’s many feudatory states. Its history goes back to c1730. In 1819, the ruler of Dhar signed an alliance with the British East India Company and it eventually became one of the salute states. The British awarded the maharaja a 15-gun salute which indicates that Dhar State was considered to be fairly important.

Dhar had a very brief history as a stamp-issuing entity. The first rather primitive type-set stamps were issued in 1897. A more elaborate design featuring the coat of arms of Dhar State was introduced in 1898. As the coat of arms includes two elephants, the second issue will be of interest to thematic collectors.

In early 1901, the stamps of Dhar became obsolete. All in all some ten different stamps were released.

The 1898 set of four comprises the following denominations: ½ anna, 1 anna (in two distinctly different colours) and 2 annas.

The two lower values are still quite common and frequently found in collections of Indian states. By far the most difficult stamp in the set is the 2 annas in deep green. In fact, it is often missing from collections of Dhar.

The catalogue value for this key stamp doesn’t reflect its scarcity; £10 to £15 would be a good price to pay for a nice mint copy. With an increased interest in the stamps of the Indian states, it is highly likely that this particular stamp will see substantial price increases.





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## LATEST INTERNET SALES

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



**SOLD FOR £2,225**

Portugal, 700th Anniversary of the birth of St. Antonius 1895 MNH



**SOLD FOR £370**

Belgium, Sheetlet Basilica of the Sacred Heart 1938 without 'Koekelberg' cancellation in margin MNH (with cert.)



**SOLD FOR £667**

China, Goldfishes set 1960 MNH



**SOLD FOR £445**

Fezzan, Special sheetlet of postage due stamps Brak oasis 1950 MNH



**SOLD FOR £445**

Italy, Visit of the Italian President in South America 1961 MNH



**SOLD FOR £1,068**

France, 2004 Olympics Athens sheetlet, error: missing blue value on five stamps MNH



**SOLD FOR £336**

USA, 90c blue George Washington 1857-60 used (repaired but very fine)



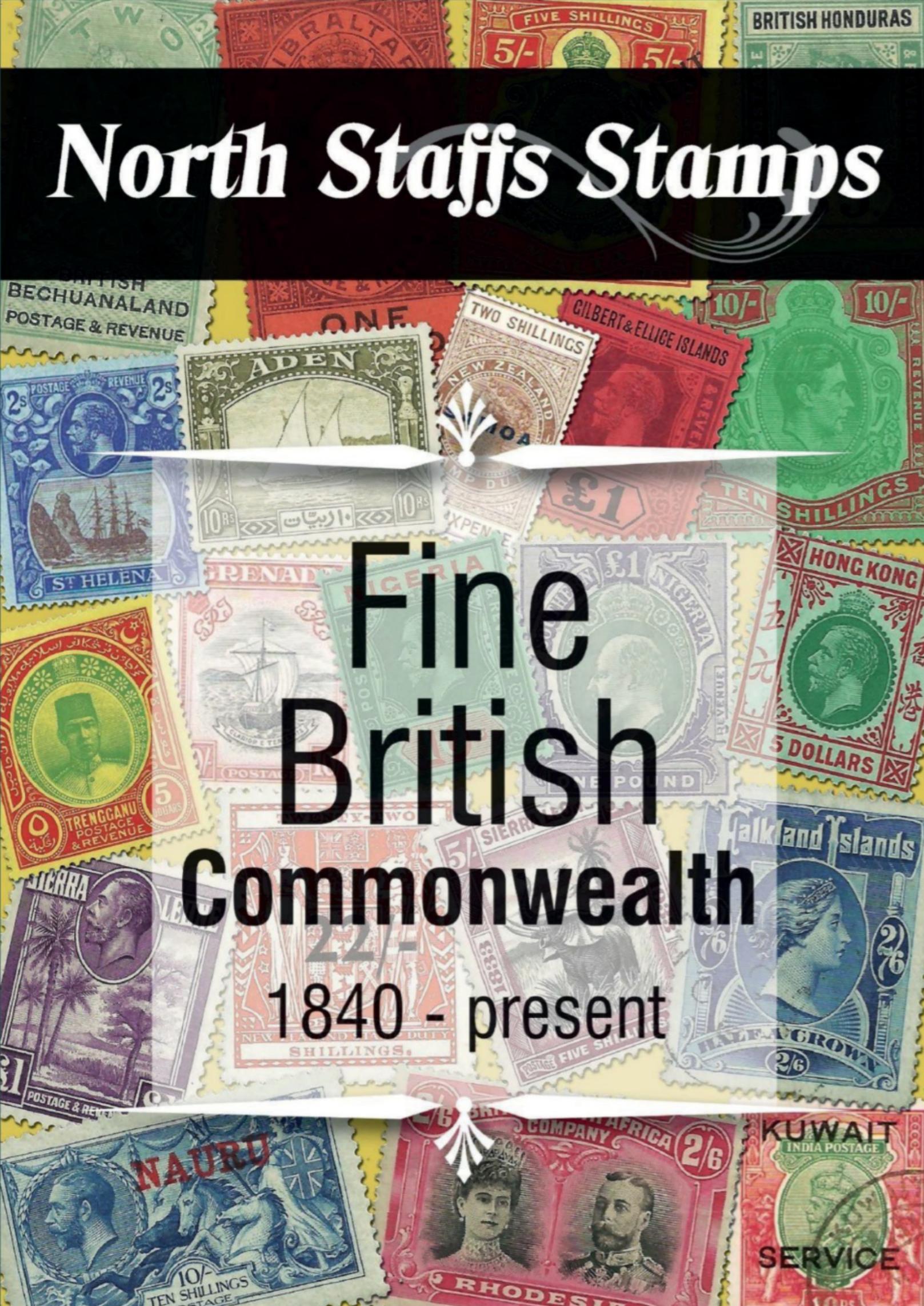
**SOLD FOR £340.87**

Hungary, letter franked 2kr from Sisak 1871 to Triest (with cert.)



**SOLD FOR £344**

Monaco, For the benefit of War Orphans set 1919 MH



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Barneys\_Stamps from North Carolina recently sold this used 20 cents Aeroplane Carrying Mail single for US \$7.99 plus shipping



ovstampco from California USA recently offered this 10 cents Steamship and Mail Tender example for US \$145.00 plus \$4.95 international shipping. The stamp was described as VF-XF+ w/PSE cert 85, never hinged, original gum, nice colour

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

# Stamps from the US Parcel Post set of 1912-1913

Ed Fletcher summarizes the fight for, and eventual establishment of, a postal service that brought parcels to people's doors in every state of the Union. A survey that provides recent selling prices for the stamps used to pay for the deliveries keeps you up-to-date in the stamps marketplace

A nation with a land area of more than 3 million square miles (40 times that of Great Britain) inevitably faced huge challenges – logistical, economic, social and political – when contemplating the

introduction of a domestic parcel post service. The question had leaptfrogged to the front of the US Government's agenda as early as 1878, when the Universal Postal Union proposed an international parcel post system which many countries around the world

enthusiastically agreed to support and implement as their economies expanded. Great Britain, for example, took a mere four years to set up home, colonial and foreign parcel post services, with many other UPU members soon in hot pursuit of our example. The USA, on the other hand, dragged its heels, agreeing only to deliver parcels arriving in the USA from overseas. Domestic parcel post was, it argued, a matter for



Barneys\_Stamps from North Carolina recently sold this 3 cents Railway Postal Clerk single, described as mint never hinged, f – vf , for US 8.09 plus shipping



Rosenberg-Philatelics from North Carolina recently offered this 15 cents Automobile Service single at \$299.00 plus shipping, describing it as mint with o.g, n.h., with PF cert

individual sellers and buyers to sort out between themselves.

It took almost two decades of protest and lobbying by farmers and small communities to persuade



£10



£80

Longleaf Stamps from North Carolina recently offered this 5 cents Mail Train single at \$42.50 plus shipping, describing it as vf, mint, n.h., and Post Office fresh

ovstampco from California USA recently offered this 1 cent Post Office Clerk plate block of six, described as vf-xf, o.g., n.h., nice colour, at US \$95.00 plus shipping

the US Government to provide free letter mail deliveries to isolated agricultural families. Private express delivery companies and rural storekeepers schemed together against calls for free parcel services, arguing that US taxpayers would have to foot the bills to balance the US Post Office's books. As America's population increased the number of people living on the land began to overtake city and town dweller populations. Rearguard action by private delivery companies resulted in some odd combinations of private and public services. Here is what things looked like in 1902 ... from a British perspective:

**Dundee Courier, August 1902**  
**PARCEL POST TO AMERICA.-.**  
*The Postmaster-General has arranged for a parcel post service between this country and the United States and vice versa. This service, which will open*

*on 1st September, has been established in co-operation with the American Ex-press Company independent of the United States Post Office. The British Post Office will convey parcels in this country; the Cunard and White Star lines will carry them across the Atlantic; in the USA the American Express Company will then deliver them throughout the nation. The charges will be at the rate of 1s for each three pounds weight and 3s for seven to eleven pounds weight to the chief cities of America, with an additional 1s cus-toms clearance fee. A similar fee will be levied by the United States Government on eve-ry parcel entering that country. Parcels will be accepted for transmission to Britain at any office of the American Express Company in the United States.*

A relatively problem-free start-up of free letter deliveries to United States rural communities

in 1902 raised calls for a widened service that would also deliver parcels, newspapers and mail-order catalogues to home addresses. America's express delivery companies had sufficient political influence to prevent such proposals altering the as then current regulations on parcel post. Eight years later, in 1910, public opinion had swung strongly to support a public parcel post service, if only to compete against the rising charges made by express services. The catalyst for the change of heart came from an announcement made by one major delivery company that its shareholders would receive a substantial bonus thanks to a big rise in company profits. The resulting angry clamour caused all political parties to swing in favour of a public parcel post service. A new law came into effect on January 1st, 1913.

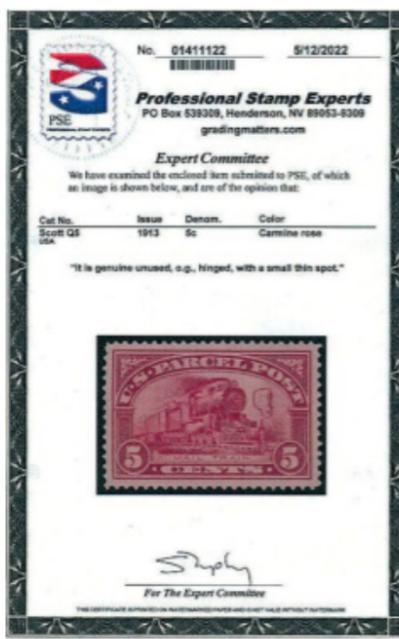
In their online book, *Parcel Post: Delivery of Dreams*, the Smithsonian Institute reported that:

*Parcel Post was an immediate hit with the public and with businesses; more than 4 million packages were shipped on the first day. Parcel Post transformed the commercial marketplace, as companies like Sears-Roebuck and Montgomery Ward blanketed the country with mass produced goods that raised the national standard of living. The express companies failed to adapt to the new reality, and soon withdrew from rural areas altogether.*

By April 1914 the battle for parcel post had concluded with a resounding victory for the American people over the power of big



£50



usmints from Nevada USA recently offered this 5 cents Mail Train single, described as mint XF OG LH, with small thin, at \$58.99 plus shipping



Steve Mallack Stamps from New York recently offered this 75 cents Harvesting single, described as v.f., o.g., for \$79.20

momenstamps from North Carolina USA recently offered this 20 cents Aeroplane Carrying Mail, described as mint, o.g., with PSE graded cert. XF-SUP 95, for \$425 plus shipping

business. Here is how it was reported on this side of the Atlantic:

**Sheffield Independent**  
**Tuesday 14 April 1914**

*The United States Government at the beginning of last year instituted a country-wide parcels post service. In the first twelve months of operation it carried some 600,000,000 parcels at far lower rates than those charged by the express companies. [...] For long years the people of the naturally richest country in the world have been content to allow their*

*magnificent resources and their everyday services to be monopolized by private hands. Even parcels post, which in this country we regard as a commonplace public service, has been a field for the monopoly profit hunter. Now at last, the United States Government has turned; and although the railways of America, like the railways of this country, are in private hands, they have demonstrated in practice that they can carry parcels much more economically than the express companies.*

The legacy for 21st century stamp collectors is a set of magnificent large

pictorials. They depict parcel sorters; walking urban carriers; railway postal clerks; rural horse-drawn carriers; mail trains; mail steamships; motorised mail vans, and parcels carried by aircraft. Four in the set show examples of industries that benefited greatly from the new service, including fruit growers, dairy farmers and manufacturers of numerous products that could now be sent through the mail. Some recently sold examples of the stamps – used and mint – are shown and priced on these pages.



The full set, ranging from 1c to \$1. Whilst initially popular with businesses and sole traders, it wasn't long before other US stamps were permitted to be used on parcels

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German States	Romania
Germany	Russia
German Zones	San Marino
West Germany	Spain
West Berlin	Sweden
DDR Greece	Switzerland
Greenland	Vatican
Hungary	Yugoslavia
Iceland	
Ireland	
Italy	

## COMMONWEALTH

Aden	Channel Islands	Labuan	St Kitts-Nevis
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Ascension	Cocos Islands	Malaya	St Vincent
Australia	Cook Islands	Malta	Samoa
Bahamas	Cyprus	Mauritius	Sarawak
Bahrain	Dominica	Montserrat	Seychelles
Barbados	Falklands/Dependencies	Morocco Agencies	Sierra Leone
Basutoland	Fiji	New Guinea	Singapore
Bechuanaland	Gambia	New Hebrides	Somalia
Bermuda	Ghana	New Zealand	South Africa
British Antarctic	Gibraltar	Nigeria	Southern Rhodesia
British Guiana	Gilbert + Ellice	Norfolk Island	South West Africa
British Honduras	Gold Coast	North Borneo	Sudan
British Levant	Great Britain	Northern Rhodesia	Swaziland
Ex Italian Colonies	Grenada	Nyasaland	Tonga
British Solomons	Hong Kong	Pakistan	Trinidad + Tobago
British Virgins	India + States	Papua + New Guinea	Tristan da Cunha
Brunei	Isle of Man	Pitcairn	Turks + Caicos
Burma	Jamaica	Rhodesia	Zanzibar
Canada	KUT	St Helena	
Caymans	Kuwait		
Ceylon			

## REST OF WORLD

Algeria
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USA
Venezuela
Yemen

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# COLLECTORS' CORNER

## CINDERELLAS

### Hutt River Province Principality



Over the years there have many micro nations around the world, writes Christer Brunström. Sometimes these tiny countries can be located on a map but quite a few are the result of someone's creative imagination. One of the leaders in this particular field was the Hutt River Province Principality in Western Australia.

It all started in 1969 when farmer Leonard G. Casley

protested against the wheat quotas assigned to his farm. His many protests led nowhere and on 21 April 1970 he announced that Hutt River – basically his rather large farm – had seceded from Australia

and was from then on an independent state. In order to create even more attention for his cause, Mr. Casley transformed his farm into a principality with himself as reigning prince.

For Australian and worldwide philatelists, the next important step came on 15 November 1973, when the principality released its first set of postage stamps. There would then be 72 different sets until the last one in 2019.

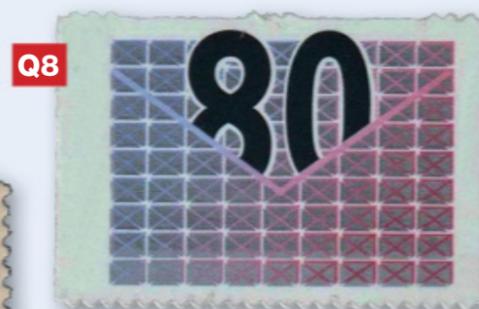
In 1974 Hutt River issued a single 30c stamp marking the fourth anniversary of secession. It featured an impressive portrait of Prince Leonard. The stamp was also released as a souvenir sheet of four. Prince Leonard (1925-2019) reigned from 1970 until he abdicated in favour of his son Prince Graeme in 2017.

In August 2020, Prince Graeme announced that the principality would cease to exist as the property had been sold. Fortunately German collector Bernhard Luerssen has compiled a detailed catalogue of Hutt River's 300 postage stamps (more details can be obtained directly from Bernhard on email: [tardis@gmx.li](mailto:tardis@gmx.li)).

## STAMP QUIZ

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

- 1 What was the aim of this Mexican charity stamp issued in 1945?
- 2 What is the philatelic term for a stamp which omits a dash between two words, as in six-pence and sixpence?
- 3 In which year did the head of Queen Victoria appear on a stamp of Trinidad; and what was its denomination?
- 4 What was Tierra del Fuego's only stamp used for?
- 5 When did the bronze statue of The Little Mermaid first appear on a Danish stamp?
- 6 What does the Irish Gaelic overprint on GB George V stamps translate to in English?
- 7 What is the heraldic device seen at bottom left on the first regional stamp of the Isle of Man, issued in 1958?
- 8 Which country introduced this stamp? When? And why?
- 9 How did Switzerland, a land where there are four official languages, overcome the difficulty of putting a single country name on its stamps?
- 10 Which country issued this stamp, and what is depicted in the central vignette?



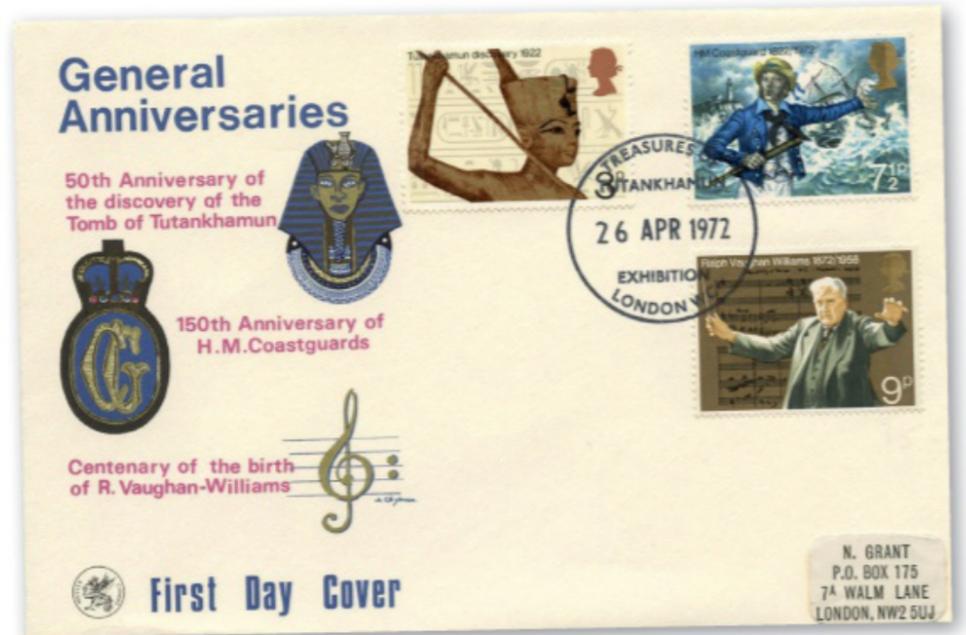
# Tutankhamun cover

This 1972 General Anniversaries cover marked the 150th anniversary of the Coastguard, the centenary of the Birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams and what was then the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun. This year of course marks the centenary and this anniversary now has its own stamp issue.

Many will remember that this was also the year when the Tutankhamun exhibition visited London and an official cover was produced, titled 'The British Museum Commemorative cover', available with this special postmark. Most were only single stamp covers, and if you can find a full set, in good condition, expect to pay in excess of £200. You must also be wary of single stamp covers which have had the other values added later – look out for differing ink and the postmark only 'clipping' the other two stamp values.

As the cover and postmark seems to have been available throughout the exhibition, also check your dates, it might not be first day. There is also a slightly different official single stamp cover marking the last day on the 30 December 1972.

Finally there was a special Tutankhamun slogan, it is catalogued at £250 on the full set, it is another very rare FDC and I can only remember seeing it as a single stamp.



The cover shown here you can expect to pay around £30 for, as the stamps had three different themes. Most were done as sets of single stamp covers, so each stamp had its own connected postmarks, you should be able to pick up a set for around £15.

# Kiosks out of action



In August last year it was announced that, as usual, Remembrance Day will be marked at all Nation Museum of Royal Navy sites with an overprint of 'Lest We Forget' on both Union Flag and Poppy stamps, from 11 November until the end of Tuesday 30 November 2021, writes *Stuart Leigh*. The Poppy stamp would replace the Machin stamp during this period.

However through no fault of Royal Mail or Intelligent AR (the kiosk makers) a third-party software update caused problems with the payment system. Correcting the problem needed an engineer to visit and replace a pin pad at the actual kiosks, but after installation of the pin pad essential software was necessary to synchronise the old and new parts, to ensure customer payments were correct and safe.

The kiosks had been fixed at the Submarine Museum, Fleet Air Arm Museum and HMS *Trincomalee*, enabling the Remembrance overprint to be available from 26 November until 10 December 2021. So only the three sites were able to issue the Remembrance message of 'Lest We Forget'.

The problem took longer than expected to fix. Not until the end of April was it completely resolved – meaning the 40th anniversary of the start of the Falklands War was also missed by the National Museum of Royal Navy and the Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower. The inscription reads 'Falklands 40th' on the Machin and Union Flag.

Fortunately, all were working correctly at the time of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee issue at the beginning of June.

## POSTCARDS



Several different publishers issued 'London Life' sets of postcards, showing street life and occupations, children playing in parks, and so on. The dominant player in the market was Rotary, who issued 100 cards.

At the time of writing there were 37 Rotary cards from this series listed on eBay, which has to be the online buyer's first port of call, although Delcampe and eBid are good sources of cards too. Asking prices seem to be from about £18 upwards with lots of cards around the £40 mark, but these are at the usually inflated buy-it-now prices. Patient collectors can snap up some of these cards over time at £10 to £15, but the scarcer ones such as the arrest of a militant suffragette fetched £88. A gorgeous card of a Royal Mail delivery van reached £68.

The first illustration is a Raphael Tuck postcard, very similar in

presentation to the Rotary Series. Others in this set include a windmill man and a postman. These are on offer at £22 upwards as buy it now, but the price these nice cards actually seem to sell at is closer to £15.

Fast forward to 1976 or so and a firm called Real London became obsessed by young punk rockers sporting bright Mohicans and produced around 40 cards which now sell for £2-plus each. Did the Rolls Royce owner approve? In the other card the lad on the right looks a little like Sid Vicious, later bass guitarist of the Sex Pistols. Born in 1957, he didn't make old bones and died aged 21 in New York of a drugs overdose. Steady yourself – these images were taken more than 45 years ago and the subjects are now in their late sixties, possibly standing beside you at a stamp fair!

## SOCIETY NEWS

The **Association of Essex Philatelic Societies** has released details of philatelic events in and around Essex throughout September. Details of its member societies, their contact details and their events are available on the Society's page at [www.stampessex.org.uk](http://www.stampessex.org.uk). Visitors to any AEPS events are advised to contact the relevant Society Secretary to confirm events before travelling.

The **Kings Lynn Philatelic Society** has announced its programme of events up to 12 May 2023, which is the date of its annual AGM followed by an auction. The Society, which was founded in 1938, meets at the Scout Building at the bottom of Beulah Street, Gaywood, Kings Lynn, and on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, and is a member of the Mid

Anglia Federation of Stamp Clubs. Contact the secretary, Dahlia Harrison, for details at [redcrossrose@gmail.com](mailto:redcrossrose@gmail.com).

As part of its centenary celebrations this year, **Maidstone & Mid Kent Philatelic Society** will be holding an Anniversary Stamp Fair at Aylesford Community Centre on 19 November. The first meeting of the Society took place on 19 September 1922, which led to the formation of the Society with a membership of 34. The Society meets fortnightly from September to June at St. Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone, and also holds morning meetings at Mote Park Indoor Bowls Club, Willow Way, Maidstone. MMKPS has now announced its events programme for 2023. Contact the secretary, Margaret Emerson,

for details: [stamp.mags@btinternet.com](mailto:stamp.mags@btinternet.com).

**Spalding District Stamp Club** has announced its year-long programme of events from September 2022 through to August 2023. The Society meets twice monthly in Spalding, and may be contacted by email on [joyceb@d-lweb.net](mailto:joyceb@d-lweb.net).

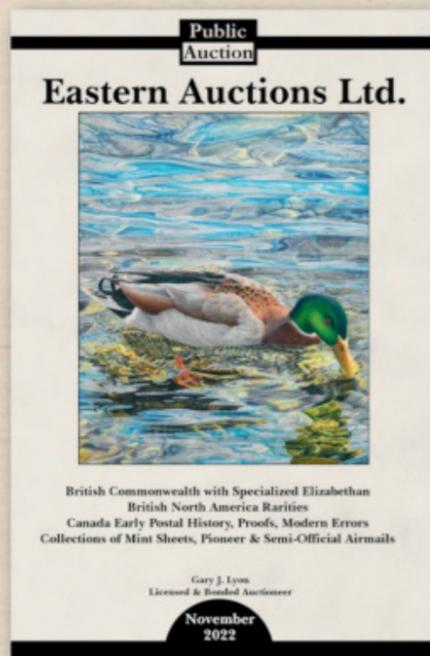
**Guildford Stamp Club's** next meeting, on 14 September, is a PowerPoint presentation on The Tower of London – a change from the original programmed event. Guildford Stamp Club meets at the Quaker Friend Meeting House opposite Guildford Library. For full details of the Club, its members and the forthcoming events programme, visit the website: [www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub](http://www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub).

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The eradication of illiteracy throughout Mexico.
2. Anhyphenate (one word).
3. In 1869 on a Trinidad 5s rose-lake.
4. To pay for the carriage of any letter from the main island of the archipelago to Punta Arenas in Chile, a distance of approximately 100 miles.
5. In 1989.
6. Provisional Government of Ireland.
7. A triskelion.
8. Netherlands; in 1997, for business users.
9. By using its Latin name – Helvetia
10. North Ingermanland, depicting the burning of a church by Bolsheviks.

## Public Auction - Autumn 2022

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Hong Kong 1973 \$20 QEII on glazed paper (SG 209d)



Barbados 1p postage due centre inverted error (SG D7c) One of only two known.



St. Helena 1961 Tristan Relief Fund mint NH set (SG 172-175)

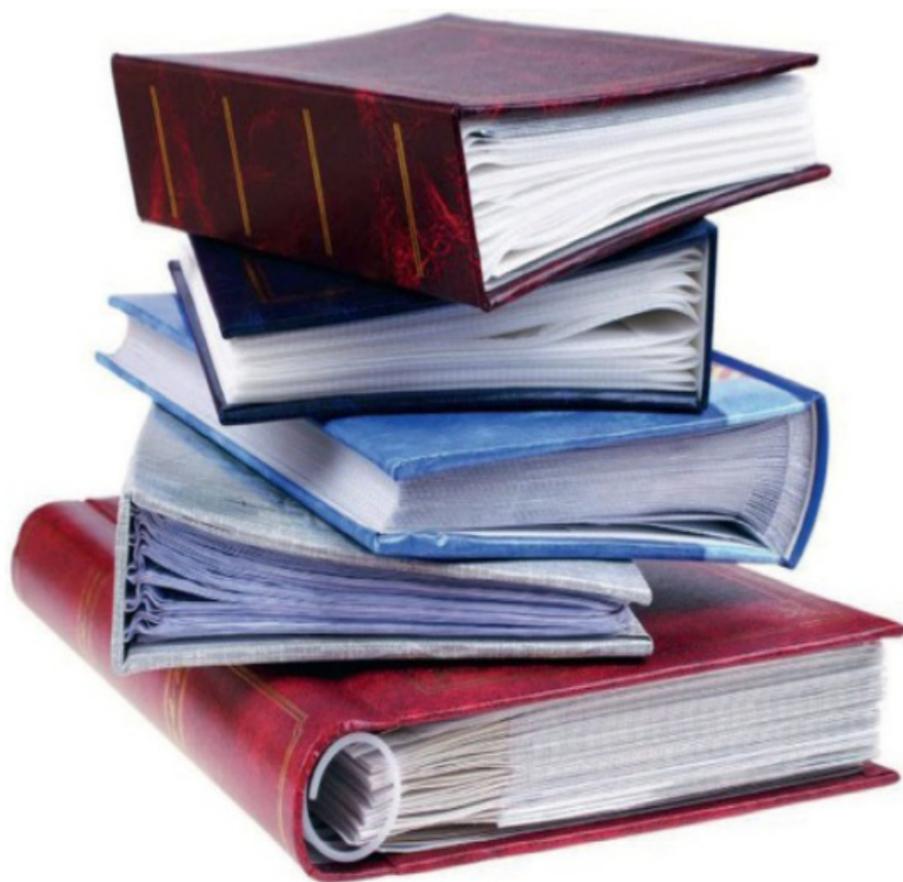
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Airmail stamp of 1934 with an allegorical depiction of Airmail flight (image courtesy of La Stamp Boutique from Canada)



This set of three diamond-shaped stamps took pride of place in many junior albums in 1936 (image courtesy of La Stamp Boutique from Canada)

## COLLECTING GUIDE

# Collecting Central America

Look for the name American Bank Note Company on some of the early stamps of Central America and you'll soon form an interesting and visually appealing collection, says Ed Fletcher as he describes some notable examples

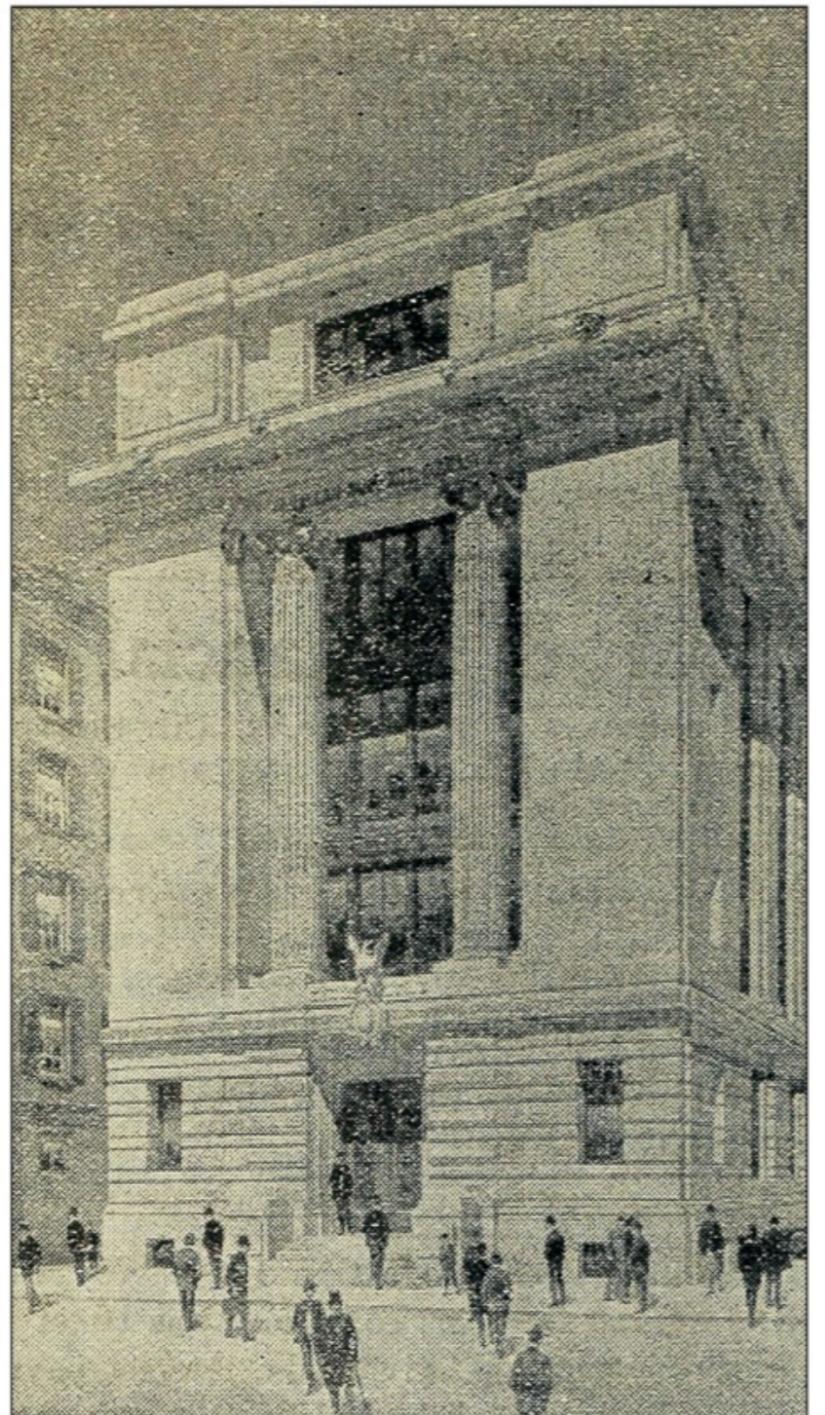
Created in 1858 by merger and amalgamation of several leaders in a highly specialized field, the American Bank Note Company (ABNC) brought together the designing, classic engraving, and printing talents of some of the world's greatest banknote makers. This was the firm that gave the world the US greenback dollar, combining the artistry of fine engraving with the secrets of high security ink manufacture.

As stamp collectors we can count ourselves fortunate that many of those remarkable skills smoothly transferred to postage stamp manufacture, with the ABNC a leader in the field. They sent sales and marketing staff down to Central and South America where they won contracts to supply many of the

banking and postal requirements of the new republics created when the Spanish Empire crumbled.

We might also give ourselves a congratulatory slap on the back for creating a market for postage stamps to add to our albums. Without the increased sales paid for by stamp collectors, follow-up contracts may not have continued to flow back to ABNC headquarters. In the short space of this feature I hope to show you a few of the company's achievements in Central America.

Costa Rica, sandwiched between Nicaragua and Panama, with the Pacific and the Caribbean on its western and eastern flanks, declared independence from Spain in 1821. Columbus had landed briefly in 1502 and named it Rich Coast (in Spanish) more in hopeful speculation than on visible evidence that its geology held undiscovered riches. His



A newspaper image from 1900 showing ABNC HQ in New York.



Inspired by a famous mural on the ceiling of a theatre, this stamp was issued to commemorate the 1937 Costa Rica National Exhibition. It depicts coffee workers carrying home their harvest (image courtesy of The Society for Costa Rica Collectors from Baton Rouge USA)



Another stamp commemorating the National Exhibition of 1937. A farm labourer and his donkey transporting bunches of bananas (image courtesy of The Society for Costa Rica Collectors from Baton Rouge USA)



Bust of Vasco de Balboa on an early stamp of the Republic



In 1915 Panama's National Exhibition brought ABNC a contract for a set of stamps with central vignettes depicting the nation's history, architecture and culture. This stamp, a 2c value overprinted CANAL ZONE, shows the national hero Balboa claiming the Pacific Ocean for the Spanish Empire (image courtesy of joramavi from Spain)

optimism proved correct centuries later, however, when Costa Rica's soils and climate yielded huge crops of coffee, bananas and other fruits and vegetables of superior quality. Despite remaining a largely agricultural people Costa Ricans generally enjoy good standards of living.

The Republic issued an airmail stamp in 1934 depicting an aerial female figure with beating wings representing an allegorical depiction of Airmail Flight. In her right hand she carries a caduceus, an attribute of Iris, messenger of the gods. It is a short staff entwined by two serpents, sometimes surmounted by wings, as seen on this stamp. By extension of its associations with Mercury and Hermes, the caduceus is also a recognized symbol of negotiation in which the properties of fairness and reciprocity are held up as ideals. Those attributes made this stamp



This stamp commemorates the founding day of the Republic with the date 3rd November 1903 inscribed above a relief map of Panama. The stamp was later overprinted with CANAL ZONE and clearly shows the line of the canal, opened in 1914 (image courtesy of danthecollector from Canada)



In this attractively framed vignette, the S.S. Cristobal – named for Christopher Columbus – passes through one of the enormous locks on the Panama Canal (image courtesy of eBay stamp\_by\_stamp from Germany)

suitable for overprinting with 1945 to mark the successful completion of negotiations between Costa Rica and its southern neighbour Panama over a long running border dispute that had been settled a few months earlier by ratification of the Boundary Treaty.

A set of three diamond-shaped stamps commemorated Costa Rica's first annual air show in 1936. The vignette illustrates an aircraft flying above

Mount Poás, one of the world's largest active volcanoes. It has two craters, the most spectacular more than a mile wide, with a lake that alters its colours as gases bubble up from volcanic vents on the lake's floor. Costa Rica's first airmail service had commenced operations in 1931; followed by a passenger airline, Empresa Nacional de Transportes Aéreos (ENTA) in 1932. The combination of the diamond form with an aircraft and a volcanic cone made this set extremely popular with youngsters filling their junior albums.

Around the beginning of the 20th century a public art movement that became known as pintura mural (wall painting) flourished in Mexico and soon spread across Central America. In Costa Rica the ceiling of the National Theatre at San José was painted in 1897 by Alvaro Villa with a work titled *The Allegory Of Coffee And Bananas*. It probably influenced the designs seen on two of the stamps issued to mark the 1937 Costa Rica National Exhibition. Aware that airports and long-distance travel held little interest for the vast majority of the country's bucolic population, the



This 1930 issue shows an aircraft overflying the Panama Canal, which by that date had ceded most mail carrying to airmail services. The canal nevertheless continued to attract ocean-going trade. Today 12,000 large vessels carry 200 million tons of cargo through its locks every year. Almost 10,000 staff are directly employed keeping the vessels moving from one ocean to the other (image courtesy of edw1949sell from the USA)



Left: prior to the opening of the Canal the majority of Panamanians made their livings from the land. This sugar cane cutter benefitted little from the international trade passing through his country



Right: Colonial architecture and coffee remain ever popular in El Salvador

organizers concentrated that year on agricultural produce. Coffee, most of it grown on small family plantations, accounted for 75% of the nation's exports, with bananas second on the list. The first coffee grower had brought a single plant from Cuba in 1808, soon discovering that its bushes thrive in warm, wet climates where the soil is rich in volcanic ash – conditions encountered in many regions of Costa Rica. The full mural on the theatre's ceiling also incorporates banana bunches and beasts of burden.

### The history of the Panama Canal

The pre-Columbian dwellers in the region we now call Panama made and traded fired ceramics and other goods for hundreds of miles into South America, and as far north as modern-day Mexico, many centuries before Spaniards arrived on their

shores in 1501. The Europeans brought influenza, chickenpox and measles against which the indigenous population had no immunity. Ninety percent died within weeks. Those who survived either fled into the dense jungle further inland, or suffered capture and enslavement on colonists' newly established plantations.

Within a decade the Spaniards had begun to explore the interior, hoping to discover precious metals. A bolder adventurer than most – Vasco de Balboa – pushed deeper into the jungle until, in September 1513, he and his small party struggled to the summit of a low hill and caught sight of a watery horizon. Balboa named it the South Sea; we now know it as the Pacific Ocean. Six years later (1519) the Spanish has created a port and city (now Panama City) on the Pacific side of the isthmus. There they constructed a fleet to carry riches from the coastal

regions we know as Ecuador, Peru and Chile. Returning to Panama the crews off-loaded the huge cargoes of wealth which then made a forty-mile journey overland on the backs of slaves and pack animals to the Caribbean coast for shipment across the Atlantic to Spain. The track they followed, barely two yards wide and paved or cobbled along most of its length, was constructed by slaves from the lands the Spanish robbed. The conquerors called the track the Camino Real (the Royal Road).

When the Province of Panama declared its independence from Colombia in 1903 it gained immediate recognition by the USA. A year later the United States signed a treaty with the Republic of Panama under which the USA leased a corridor of land ten

Below: a photograph showing coffee workers in Guatemala, c. 1900 (Library of Congress)



Guatemala showed off some of its pre-Columbian monuments on its stamps



Photograph showing President Theodore Roosevelt and his wife Edith, both dressed in white, seated on a flag draped railroad tram; others accompany the Roosevelts on their tour of the Panama Canal Zone (New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection (Library of Congress))

miles wide and fifty miles from shore-to-shore across the isthmus where US President Theodore Roosevelt pledged to build and operate a canal large enough to carry ocean-going ships from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea. The completed Panama Canal opened in 1914.

The American Bank Note Company engraved and printed many stamps for Panama, some recounting its history from the arrival of the Spanish to the opening of the two-lane canal with vessels passing through it; even a stamp showing an aircraft carrying airmail above the canal to further speed national and international communications. The first ABNC engraved and printed issue carried a handsome portrait of Vasco de Balboa, the European who first set eyes on the Pacific. A later and larger stamp depicted the scene when he

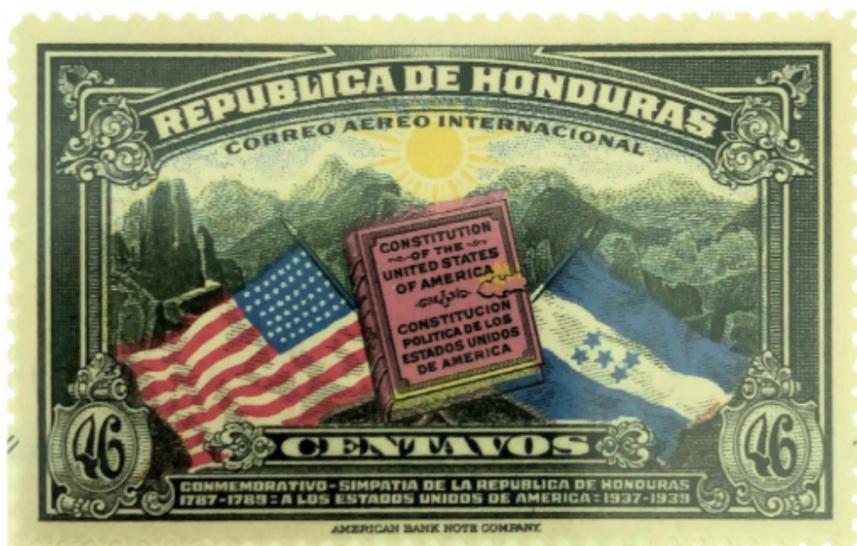
waded into the ocean and claimed it for the Spanish crown.

#### Further afield

This brief introduction is just a small sample of the ABNC attractions Central America has to offer. Some of the other republics in the region – Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala – make a brief showing in the illustrations. I hope they prove sufficient to whet your appetite for more. Browse the pages of an old catalogue covering the decades up to the late 1940s. The illustrations may lack colour; but if you use a magnifying glass you will pick out scores of examples carrying the inscription AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY at the foot of the stamp. Follow up by searching dealers' images of their lots and you will find many as eye-catching as the few we have shown here.



Above: Nicaragua has a wealth of ABNC pictorials to offer  
Below: examples from Honduras





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## A PHILATELIC TOUR OF EUROPE

*The Benelux Countries*

In the first part of a new series, David Bailey explores our near neighbours to find new and interesting countries to collect, starting with Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, each founder-members of what is now the EU. The countries have very different histories and so provide challenges and rewards to collectors

*Belgium*

Belgium is a new country with a long history. It was formed in 1830, following a revolt by the poorer southern provinces against the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. Its first King Leopold was a Saxe-Coburg relative of our own royal family who took the throne in 1831.

The Belgian Post Office began investigating pre-payment by stamps in 1841, with a visit to London to see how it was done. But it took until 1849 for stamps to appear. These were the Epaulettes – one of the world's great classic stamp designs with a 10c brown and a 20c blue.

They were produced by Jacques Wiener, with advice and assistance from Perkins Bacon and for years it was believed that Wiener – a skilled engraver – had made the original dies. It is well known that H Robinson, of Perkins Bacon engraved Belgium's second issue, the Medallions. But then a single die proof of a 40c Epauettes stamp turned up, signed H Robinson. So he may have created the other two values as well.

The Epauettes remain affordable enough to explore the various shades. Another popular avenue is to collect the different numeral cancels – there are 136 of them. Simple quality is harder to find. Margins are always close: the cliches have very little space between them. And cancels are usually heavy.

The first Medallions came out late in 1849 and the series ran until 1865, with four values from a 1c newspaper stamp to a 40c for overseas mail. There are seven different printings, distinguishable by watermark, paper type, shades and from 1863, perf gauges as well.

From 1861, the Brussels Recess Stamp Works were printing 300 stamps to a sheet, but Belgium's fast-growing economy needed



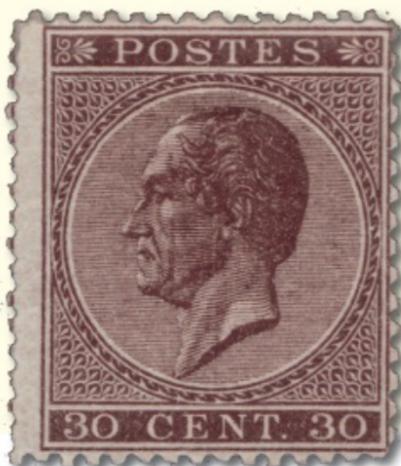
From left: the two Epauettes of 1849 and two examples of the Medallions, which are found both perf and imperf. Below, from left: the first and second definitive sets of Leopold II, the Brussels Exhibition stamps: pure Art Nouveau with 'Sunday' labels

more: so from 1865, they switched to letterpress, with 'off the peg' sets engraved by De la Rue but printed in Brussels.

Leopold II ascended the throne in 1865 and after one 'stop-gap' set, his first definitives appeared four years later. The original dies were engraved onto wood, showing the amount of fine detail this unusual medium could portray.

Two characteristically-Belgian stamps emerged a few years later. The Belgian Railway Parcels were covered in our March edition. The others were the Sunday Delivery labels. The post now operated seven days a week – but among Belgian people, there were many who took the Fourth Commandment seriously. So from 1 June 1893 and October 1914, stamps were equipped with a detachable label saying 'do not deliver on a Sunday'. Those who had no objection could tear the label off. But now, those stamps are worth half the price of intact copies. The set of 1893 was the first to feature both French and Dutch inscriptions, although the country had been bi-lingual since 1870.

Art Nouveau originated in Belgium and rapidly became the country's 'house style' in fine art, graphics and architecture – it is increasingly apparent in the stamps as well as the products that Belgium was selling to the world.



Belgium was the first country in mainland Europe to embrace the industrial revolution and soon became the most heavily-industrialised nation of all, producing iron, textiles and consumer products while undertaking major infrastructure projects. The Paris Metro was Belgian-built.

This dominance was underlined by two World's Fairs in 1897 and 1910, both commemorated by elegant sets of stamps.

With half the country occupied in WWI, a Belgian Government in Exile moved to Le Havre and issued stamps throughout the war. Cut off from their State Printer, the Belgians turned to Waterlow, who had been printing stamps for the Congo since 1894. After a set of basic definitives, they produced Belgium's first pictorials in the classic British Colonial style: recess-printing, black vignette, coloured frame. The subjects were carefully chosen for their significance to the Belgian cause and many values were re-issued after the war. We may look at them again as a Celebrated Set.

Between the wars, Belgium's definitives were simple and functional, while the commemorative sets become more ambitious. Like other European countries, Belgium issued 'semi-postals' carrying a fundraising premium. But in Belgium, more of these issues helped to finance the postwar reconstruction of its landmark buildings or historic towns.



## Belgian Congo

Above: two stamps from the Waterlow set of 1915 and the top value from the Anti-tuberculosis set of 1927. Below: the Port of Matadi from the set of 1915

Leopold II was lobbying for Belgian colonial expansion even before he was made king and he had identified the Congo Basin as an area ripe for development. When the Government remained opposed to the idea, he went ahead by himself and with the aid of Henry Morton Stanley, he laid claim to what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo – a claim ratified by the Berlin Conference of 1884-5. Leopold became the personal ruler of the Independent State of the Congo and proceeded to exploit it ruthlessly – first for ivory, then for rubber; under-achieving workers were shot. Wealth flowed back into Belgium; Leopold was nicknamed 'the builder' for his public works. But as news of cruelty and maladministration spread around the world, it brought shame upon the country and in 1908, the Belgian Parliament annexed the Independent State and brought it under Belgian control.

The Independent State issued two functional sets in 1886 and 1887. Then in 1894, Leopold went to Waterlow for a set of pictorial stamps, with detailed vignettes and elaborate frames that fully exploited the exoticism of the Congo for stamp collectors around the world. When the territory came under Belgian control, the earlier stamps were overprinted locally and in Brussels using both handstamps and an overprinting plate. The frames of later stamps read 'Congo Belge'

The contract passed to Bradbury Wilkinson in 1920, who continued with the same theme until 1923.



## Ruanda-Urundi

A country for lovers of overprints, Ruanda-Urundi comprised two provinces of German East Africa which bordered the Belgian Congo. They were occupied by Belgian forces during WWI and administered by Belgium from 1916 – 1962, when they became two independent countries.

They used overprinted stamps of the Congo until 1931, when a pictorial set appeared.

# Netherlands

The Netherlands introduced its first stamps in 1852, with three values showing the head of King William III: 5c, 10c and 15c. These were in the national colours of red, blue, white (the paper) and orange. Printing was by recess at the National Mint in Utrecht in sheets of 100, split in four panes of 25.

A total of 17 plates were used throughout the set's life, together with a broad spectrum of different shades.

The stamps soon became popular with collectors – particularly English collectors who did the first work of plating the stamps. The Dutch public, however was less impressed. In 1852, 14% of letters were franked. By 1864, that figure had only risen to 25% and it was not until the rules were changed in 1871 that the use of stamps became universal.

The second set from 1864 is perforated, using the same three values and colours with an updated portrait and a revised design.



They were printed in sheets of 200 and there is considerable variation in the papers used throughout the run. However, this set was never officially announced as a new issue and the stamps could only be sold at post offices when stocks of the earlier stamps ran out, so this can be a hard one to find.

Gibbons lists only one printer for this set: the Mint in Utrecht as before. The specialist NVPH catalogue lists two: in Utrecht and Haarlem when the printing contract moved to J Enschede & Sons.

The third Classic Set of Dutch philately ran from 1867 – 1869. It is the first to feature the country's name and has six values to 50c. Each is engraved from 2 different dies; die 1 is easily the rarer. The main area of study here is perforation types, with five gauges used for each die.

Up till 1871 post charges were based on a combination of weight and distance and pre-payment by stamps was only optional. So the postal history of this period features different handstamps

for franked mail (often a half circle) and unfranked mail (the traditional departure marks.) Another uniquely Dutch collectable is the begging letter. The envelopes are folded into triangles to signify respect for the recipient and the contents are usually about money.

The Dutch economy was slower to industrialise than the



The first and second sets from 1852 and 1864

booming new country of Belgium; the Northern States' forte was trade, not industry. But a network of roads, railways and new canals spread across the flat country, industry adopted steam power and the population expanded - notably in the cities. In 1850, 200,000 people lived in Amsterdam. By 1900 there were 500,000.

An expanding economy increased the demand for stamps. And so in 1869, the Netherlands joined the switch to letterpress printing with a set of five low-value stamps to 2½c, showing the coat of arms. In 1872, they were joined by the values from 5c – 1g showing the Royal profile.

Netherlands definitives remained simple and functional right up to the modern period but there are still stamps to look out for. Some coil stamps were released with Syncopated Perforations, where some holes are deliberately left blank for extra strength; these can be rare, with prices to match.

The country issued its first commemorative set in 1906 and these are a different matter: beautifully designed according to the fashions of their time.

Left: the set of 1867 features the country's name; William I on the Dutch Centennial set of 1913



Left: rare Syncopated Perforations on a coil stamp from 1924. Below: a striking design to commemorate Queen Wilhelmina's Silver Jubilee. Bottom: promoting the Netherlands Culture Fund in 1923



# Netherlands Colonies

During its Golden Age, the Netherlands acquired territories in both the East and West Indies. To the East, the Netherlands Indies comprised the islands of Java and Sumatra with parts of Borneo and New Guinea. They issued stamps from 1864 till 1948, when the bulk of it became independent, as Indonesia. But the definitive sets made little or no attempt to appeal to collectors with scenes of exotic peoples, cultures and animals. And the commemoratives designs put graphics above illustrations.

A Dutch curiosity appeared in 1921, in a set shared with the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles. These are Marine Insurance stamps inscribed *Drijvende Brandkast*. This was a floating safe for valuable items, equipped with flares and bells. If the ship went down, the safe would float away from the wreckage while the flares and bells directed rescuers to the safe.



The western end of New Guinea stayed under Netherlands control until 1962, when it was transferred to the UN for and later to Indonesia. Called 'Netherlands New Guinea', it issued stamps from 1950 till 1962.

We will look at the West Indies and the Netherlands Antilles next month in connection with our Celebrated Set.



The first colonial issue of 1864

Left: launching the air link between Java and Australia: the pilot is one M.P. Pattist

# Luxembourg

Luxembourg lies at the cross-roads of Europe, bordered by Belgium, Germany and France. It is the Europe's last sovereign Grand Duchy and can trace back its history to the year 963. Today, it is the second-richest country in the world.

In 1850, Luxembourg joined the German-Austrian Postal Union, which committed the Grand Duchy to issue postage stamps within two years. So a delegation was dispatched to Belgium to see how this was done. The resulting stamps are as for Belgium: designed by Jacques Weiner and engraved by H Robinson, to be recess-printed locally.

The reigning Grand Duke was also King William III of the Netherlands, so it is his portrait on the stamps and the hand-made papers have a W watermark. The set has two values in two different currencies. The 10c black was for use within Luxembourg. The 1 silbergroschen red was worth 12½c and was for use outside. This was the currency of Prussia. The portraits were in use for seven years, with 11 printings of the 10c and eight of the 1sbg and many single stamps can be assigned to printings by their shades and the condition of the plates.

In 1859, came a set of two designs showing the Luxembourg Coat of Arms, which was to last until 1882 and was denominated in centimes only.



To save money, the 'Armoires' were printed by letterpress on unwatermarked papers; but that is probably the only thing they all have in common; this is one of the all-time complicated sets of stamps.

The first version was imperforate and printed in Frankfurt by C Naumann, who had printed stamps for Baden and Thurn and Taxis. It had 11 values, including shades.

From 1865 – 71, five lower values were rouletted in the conventional way with two passes through the machinery.

However, from 1865 – 75, 17 values were rouletted in colour: printed and rouletted with a single pass through the machine. This called for a light, porous paper, which is the best way to identify these stamps. The issue is notable for its subtle shades and variety of postmarks: specialists call it the Jewel of Luxembourg Philately.

There are two types of a 1 franc overprint, done in 1872 and 74, using the 37½c bistre and two shades of the 40c. These were to pay for a new service launched after the Franco-Prussian War and paid for value declared letters to the new German Empire.

In 1874, they switched to a local printer, who produced one



Top: three stamps, two currencies; a 10 cent black and two shades of the 1 silbergroschen

Four types of the 'Armoires'. A locally-printed 4c, a 1c rouletted, a 12½c cent stamp from the Frankfurt printing and a 40c rouletted in colour

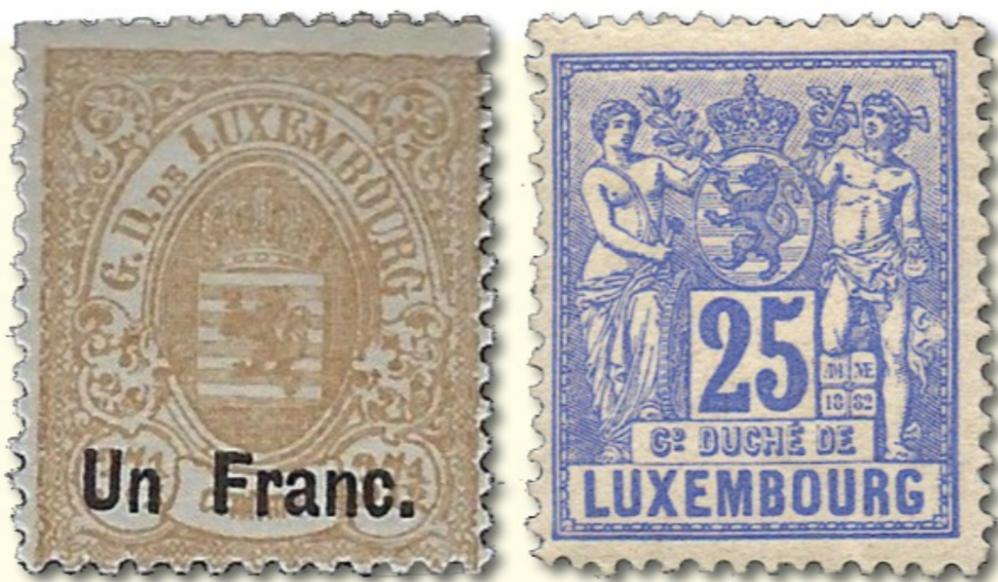
imperforate value and 15 values perf 13. Then in 1879 came a reprint of the 1 franc on 37½c – a value which had been discontinued. So new base stamps were specially produced. Print quality, however, was not so good. And in 1880, the printing contract passed to J. Enschede of Haarlem who produced a set of eight values with three perforation gauges.

And that's without counting the five types of Official Overprint on various printings listed above.

The culture and character of Luxembourg had always reflected both French and German influences and for their next set, they turned to France, with a design inspired by the Peace and Commerce stamps and engraved by the man who had produced them: Eduard Mouchon. The Luxembourg stamps feature Agriculture and Trade plus a coat of arms and the set of 13 was printed by Enschede using four perforation gauges. The stamps were also overprinted for Official use.

William III died in 1890 with no male heir. So the Grand Dukedom passed to Adolf, Duke of Nassau, whose family hold it to this day. His first set was produced in two parts; values from 10c – 2½ appeared first, printed recess. They were followed by a set from 1c – 10c printed letterpress.

Commemoratives appear in 1921, with a set to raise funds for war memorials and most of Luxembourg's inter-war stamps have a premium in aid of a good cause. But the Duchy has generally pursued a conservative programme of new issues, and while most stamps remain affordable, a fair degree of completeness is possible. Postal history collectors have a harder time; the Duchy suffered greatly during World War II and much archive material was destroyed.



Above, from left: The 1 franc overprint on the first printing of the 37½c bistre, the set of 1882; after 'Peace and Commerce'; comes 'Agriculture and Trade'.

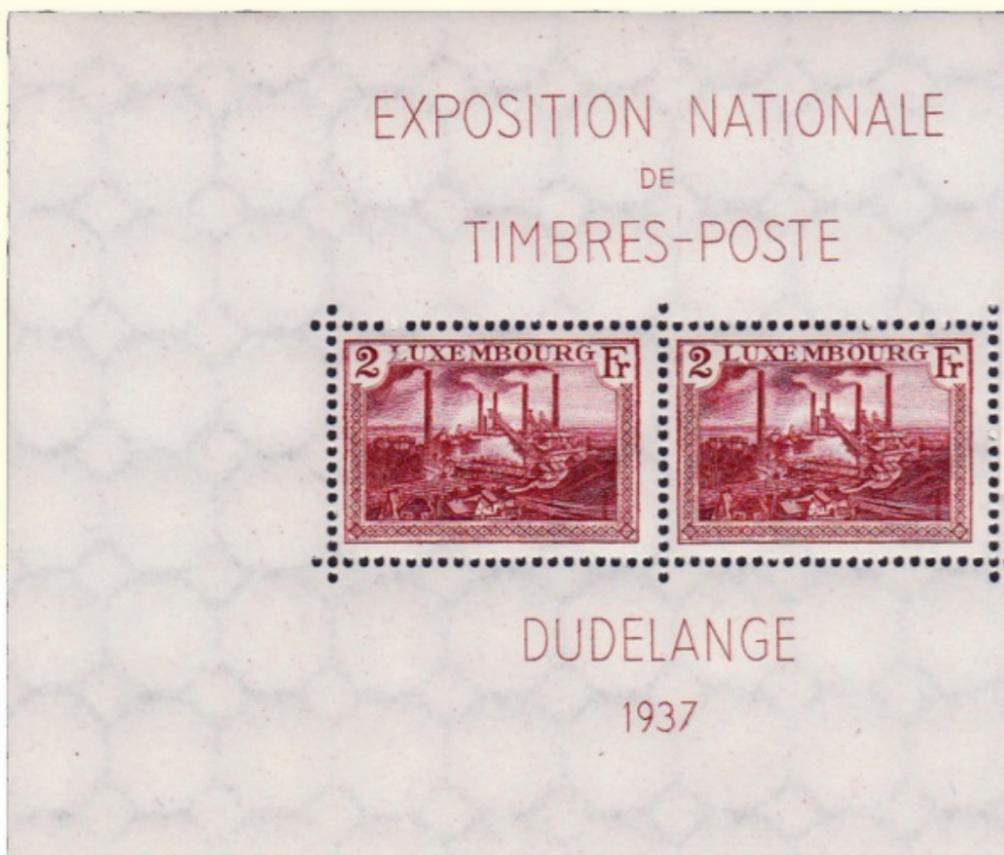


Left: Sigismund of Luxembourg, a Holy Roman Emperor, on the Child Welfare set of 1938

Below: collectable miniature sheets from 1937 mnd 1945



From left: the top values of the 1921 definitive set were pictorial, announcing the European Coal and Steel Community in 1956, a forerunner of the EC



# *The hottest place in the world*

You think temperatures were unbearable this summer? Chris West explores the history of the place named Death Valley for its heat-induced fatalities, as depicted on this American stamp

**W**e think we've had it hot in the last few months – and historically we have, with records tumbling. But our heat is nothing compared to that of the subject of this stamp, Death Valley in California.

The stamp is part of a series issued by the US Postal Service in 2018, called 'O Beautiful', showing wilderness landscapes in America. The title refers to the patriotic song *America the Beautiful*, whose lyrics were written by English professor Katharine Lee Bates after a train ride across the US in 1893. It has been set to music by many people, though the best-known version was written beforehand, for other words, and later repurposed (Bates and the composer never met). The result has been suggested as an alternative national anthem for the country – the author of the official one, *The Star Spangled Banner*, had owned slaves.

The issue comprised twenty stamps – the USPS doesn't do things by halves. They all share a vision of America as a land of boundless space and overpowering natural beauty – but also loneliness; all the landscapes are unpopulated. Each of the five rows in the block of twenty represent a quote from the song. The first row, where this stamp belongs, represents 'spacious skies'. The last row shows the coast, reflecting the famous last line of the song 'from sea to shining sea.'

The issue proved particularly popular. People in crowded cities loved the mythology implied in it: America as a vast land, open for exploration if you're brave enough.

Death Valley holds the record for the world's highest temperature: 134 degrees Fahrenheit (56.9 degrees C), recorded at the aptly named Furnace Creek in 1913. In July, the valley's



average temperature, taken over day and night, is 40 degrees C – the new record set for Britain this year, at the height of a scorching afternoon. There are various geographical reasons for the valley's harshness, including the fact that the valley lies at ninety degrees to the direction of the local prevailing wind, which blows over the top of it and traps air inside. It is low-lying: over 250 feet below sea level, it is the lowest point of America.

Yet humans have lived there. The Timbisha people managed to survive the heat for centuries – the US Government proved too much for them, however, turfing them out in the 1950s. An act of 2000 returned some land to them, and around 300 Timbisha now inhabit the area.

The first '49-er' pioneers to attempt to cross the valley nearly failed. Their journey is movingly documented in a book by one of them, William Lewis Manly. There are tales of extraordinary

Inset: America's many National Parks have been featured on a growing number of stamps, including this simple design from 2018

Main image: a Union Pacific motor-bus in Twenty Mule Canyon, Death Valley, California, July 1928. It's very unlikely the vehicle offered its passengers air conditioning

courage and humanity – final morsels and drops of food and water being shared – but also of skulduggery: someone steals the last piece of meat from a widow and her family. They are cheered by the sight of water in the distance, thinking it is the 'shining sea' at Los Angeles, but it turns out to be a lake full of undrinkably salty water. In the end, 13 of the party fail to make it, including one who dies just before they reach drinkable water. The survivors gave the area its name.

In the late 1960s, Death Valley became the setting for the psychedelic movie *Zabriskie Point* (named after one of its landmarks) by the Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni, sometimes adjudged the worst film of all time despite having a soundtrack featuring Pink Floyd and Jerry Garcia.

Pioneers, mistreated native Americans, hippies: even these bleak, baking rocks have had history written on them.

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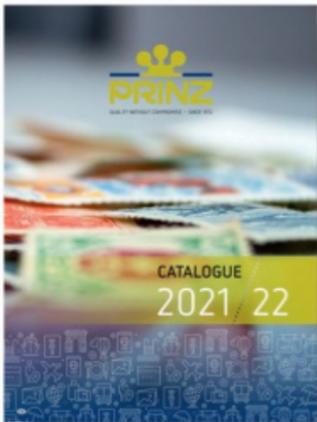


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# INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

Many 100's on stock leaves with useful Bechuanaland, St. Helena, Sarawak, N. Borneo Grenada from Chalons, KG5 to 1/=, St. Vincent from QV, Turks & Caicos KG6 to 10/=, Tristan Ships to 1/=, Br Honduras from QV, Seychelles KG5 to 30c (M) Pitcairn QE to 8/= etc. Useful lot, unchecked but many 'pickings'

£135.00

## ALBANIA

90 from Skanderbeg to 50g., 1927 Air set (no 10q) 1925 most to 5f, 1928 to 5Fr, 1938 Wedding etc Sparse in places.

Cat £400 £60.00

## AUSTRIA

P.O's 70 + inc P.O's in Crete 1903 most to 2Fr., 1908 set, P.O's in Turkey with 1867 to 50 sld., 1888 both sets, 1890 to 20pi (no 5pi) 1900 5pi 10pi., 1908 set etc

Cat £1500 £210.00

Many 100's from 1861 inc 1900 black numerals set, 1K, 2K, 1899 dues set, 1915 set (M) 1917 Air O'Print set, 1921 Flood (FU) 1922 to 2000K, Musicians set, 1923 Artists, 1924 Artists, 1926 Airs to 10Sch, 1930 Anti T.B., 1931 Writers sets (M) 1932 Painters (M) 1935 Airs (FU- scarce) Welfare (FU) 1936 and '37 complete Cat £2220

£350.00

## DODECANESE ISLANDS

70 all exceedingly fine mint being the 1930 Ferrucci set of five for each island plus Castelrosso. Beautiful lot Cat £385

£125.00

## FIUME

100's mint or FU from O'Prints on Hungary to 5K Charles & Zita and War sets, 1919 to 10 Cor., Valore Globale set, 1920 S'Charge range, provisional Govt to 2 Lire, Express issues etc to 1924. Very good lot Cat £1400

£210.00

## GERMANY

Bavaria 200+ from 1849 one of each to 18K, 1862 to 18K, 1857 to 18K (no 9K) 1875 to 2MK (2) 1911 to 1M Type 2 most to 2MK, 1914 to 20Mk, Volkstaat to 20Mk perf & imperf (M) Friestaat to 20Mk, 1920 set Cat £4880

£525.00

## GIBRALTAR

Few 100's in stock book from QV, KG5 to 8/= (FU) KG6 to £1 and range perfs, QE to 2001 Cat £800

£130.00

## GREAT BRITAIN

Many 100's in thick stock book from pair 2d blues on piece, range 1d red plates,

QV to 1/=, K.Ed to 1/=, KG5 inc U.P.U low vals and Jubilee (M) extensive QE2 in sets to 1990's UNM with much 'face' Unchecked in detail

£120.00

About 100 from average 1d black, 1887 jubilee to 1/=, 1891 £1 (VFU) K.Ed to 5/=, KG5 Sea-horses to 10/= U.P.U £1 (VFU) etc to 1940 Cat £460

£500.00

## MALTA

100's from duplicated QV, K.Ed to 1/=, KG5, KG6 to 1/=, extensive QE2 to 1985

£50.00

## MONTENEGRO

About 100 from Nicholas types to 2pf., 1896, 1902 sets, 1905 Constitution set, 1910 and 1913 sets, mainly mint

£35.00

## NETHERLANDS

Remarkable lot (100's) with 1852 5c, 10c (3) 15c (2) 1864 trio, 1867 set, 1868 Arms set, 1872 to 2G50, 1891 to 5G (!) 1907 de Ruyter surcharge set, 1923 25th Anniv set (!) Culture fund pair (M) 1926 set, 1928 Olympics set, Child Welfares complete to 1941, 1932 Tourist set (M) 1940 surcharge set etc. Very few needed for completion Cat £5560

£750.00

## POLAND

About 150 from O'Prints on Austria, 1924 New Currency most to 1g (FU) 1927 Education pair (FU) Gdansk O'Print set, strong 'dues' to 1940

£75.00

## RUMANIA

Superb collection (100's) from 1858 Moldavia 80p (FU) 1862 30p., 1869 10b-50b, 1893 to 2Lei, 1903 Post Office complete to 5L (FU- scarce) better mid period inc 1927 Geographical, 1929 Union, 1930 Air, 1931 Scouts 1938 Mamaia, 1935 Accession etc. these all mint Cat £2300

£285.00

## RUSSIA

Several 100's from 1864 with 1889 to 3R50 early Soviet types 1921 Volga Relief set, then better mid period inc 1925 Science Pair, 1930 Zeppelin pair, 25th Anniv set (M) 1933 Ethnographic, Air ship propaganda set, Ten years without Lenin set, 1935 Chelyushkin and Underground sets etc to 1941 Cat £1200

£200.00

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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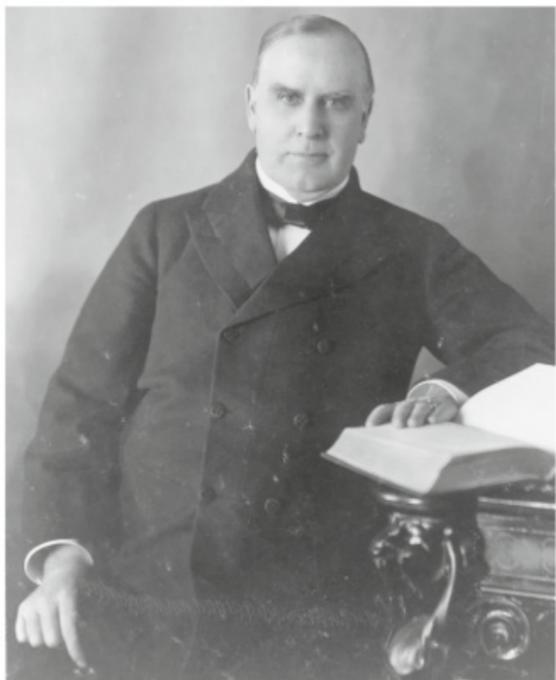
## CURATOR'S PICK

### *The invert with a sad tale to tell*

A rare American stamp, the 1901 2c Empire State Express Inverted Centre, is better known and loved than some of the country's presidents, says Devlan Kruck

It might surprise a few of you to know that in the world of US philately some of the most popular stamps are from the 1901 Pan-American Exposition pictorial issue. These bi-colour stamps were produced to commemorate a world fair held at Buffalo, New York. The Pan-American Exposition and World's Fair, which was held 1 May to 1 November 1901, celebrated the introduction of technology and its influence across America.

To support the event a set of six stamps were produced in the values 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 8c and 10c. Our featured stamp is the 2c, which was in recognition of the rail link between America's east and west, and depicts the 'Empire State Express' locomotive. Back in 1901, this four-car train was an icon of modern engineering. It was the most cutting-edge machine of its time, being able to travel over 100 miles per hour and was the world's first high-speed passenger train. These stamps were printed in black and red, and as such the printing of them was a two-stage process. The central vignette was printed in black first and then the outer red frame was printed. As you might imagine this



President William McKinley who was assassinated during the Pan-American Exposition and World's Fair (Library of Congress)



process was fraught with difficulties in getting the outer frame aligned accurately, and indeed examples showing the frame overlapping are known and collectable. However, even more rare and coveted are the inverted centres, which came about as a result of the printer feeding the sheet mistakenly into the press backwards. These errors were quickly discovered at the time of their release and became highly popular among stamp collectors; today they are considered

classics of US philately.

In 2001 the US Postal Service issued The Pan-American Inverts souvenir sheet in New York, which includes reproductions of these famous Pan-American inverts in their printed colours.

The original 2c with the inverted centre is the rarest of the inverts from this issue and 74 unused copies are recorded. This example is a very fine mint stamp which will be available at a David Feldman SA auction in December 2022, coming from The Hausman Collection of Classic World Stamps. These 2c

errors do not come to market often and indeed a similar example was sold in 2010 for over \$100,000.00 in the US.

An interesting side story is that the Pan-American Exposition had a rather sad outcome. The then President William McKinley (1843-1901) was shot at the event on 6 September 1901, by one Leon Czogosz who attended the public reception where President McKinley had given a speech. After the speech, the President shook hands with members of the audience, Czogosz hid a pistol under a handkerchief and fired two shots as he extended his hand to the president, one of which just grazed him but one that hit McKinley in the stomach. On 14 September he passed away from his injuries and Vice President Theodore Roosevelt Jnr (1858-1919) took office and became President. The assassin Czogosz showed little remorse and was quickly convicted and then executed for the killing.

Oddly, although McKinley is rated as an above-average president, as a result of his pro-innovation stance and business activities, the tale of his demise is not as well known as perhaps it should be. Indeed, it wouldn't be entirely inaccurate to suggest that these Empire State Express stamps, featuring the dramatic printing error, are more well known than President McKinley's tenure and demise. It just goes to show, stamps can be popular for many reasons, but with a little investigation, they can also shed light on our history.

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## Eminent Philatelists

### J.H. Harvey Pirie

(1878-1965)

Have you noticed that the Scottish are an extraordinarily gifted bunch? writes Devlan Kruck. Despite being a relatively small nation they always seem to produce a disproportionate number of inventors. I mean let's state the obvious – you've got the Scots to thank for telephones, television, penicillin, vacuum flasks, waterproof fabric and – dare I say it? – the adhesive postage stamp. But let's not get into that right now! Even if you ignore the inventions, the Scottish folk get around, and they pop up all over the world as famous actors, writers, poets, scientists, doctors, and explorers.

Our next legendary collector is no exception to the trend of extraordinary Scots both professionally and philatelically speaking. You probably best know Dr James Hunter Harvey Pirie as J.J. Harvey Pirie, because under that name he wrote articles and authored his book *Antarctic Posts*, which was published in 1949. That was just a year after he'd signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Pirie, who was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, was a Scottish doctor, and bacteriologist by profession. In fact, he's another of these 20th-century gallant Scots who made a name for himself worldwide, because Pirie was the guy who named the bacterial genus *Listeria*, honouring the work Joseph Lister had done before him. And Pirie is no stranger to having things named after him too. 'Pirie Peninsula', just off the bitterly cold shores of the Antarctic Island of Laurie in the South Orkney Islands, was named after Pirie.

You don't receive such an honour unless you've been out there, turned over some ice blocks and discovered a thing or two. And our man did. Pirie participated in the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition on the ex-whaling ship *Scotia* in 1903-1904, under the captaincy of William Speirs Bruce. Pirie acted as both surgeon and geologist on this bracing expedition.

As you might expect this part of Antarctica is icily inhospitable during winter, so much so that during the first expedition these guys, who sailed there in a three-masted ship known as a barque, were frozen solid in the sea for the entire winter. And this was back in the days before central heating (although, hold on, that's not actually correct because prior to this a Scottish inventor, James Watt, had managed to produce the first working central heating system, but sadly for our explorers he'd not widely shared the concept and anyhow it was a while before ships benefited from similar luxuries). The point being, the *Scotia* would have been a rigid frozen lump of

wood offering little in the way of creature comforts. So Pirie and his fellow Scottish explorers spent the majority of 1903 operating from a frozen makeshift base on Laurie Island, which you and I would probably feel was best suited to be employed as somewhere to house your lawnmower and garden utensils out of the rain. Not somewhere to work and sleep in -20c temperatures.

But, let's not feel too sorry for our intrepid bunch, because they are Scottish and as we have all come to know they can endure such tough frosty conditions, and anyway that's enough of the chilling details, because Pirie was a top philatelist who later in his life emigrated to South Africa. No doubt he'd had enough of the weather conditions back home and down there in the South Pole, and sought warmer climes, and in South Africa he certainly blossomed.

Pirie became an authority on South African Posts, and for 36 years was the writer and editor of the *South African Philatelist*. Pirie became an expert on the stamps of Swaziland and the New Republic as well. He led the line in South African philately and became the President of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society. From there Pirie was instrumental in the International Exhibition of 1936 called *JIPLEX*, held in his then home town.

As you'd expect from a man that devoted such a block of his time to the South Pole region, he formed an exceptional collection on Antarctic Posts. His name is today synonymous with the topic, not just because of his book, but items which have graced his collection are coveted.

Pirie is remembered for being the 'backbone of philately' in South Africa, and signed the Roll of Distinguished South African Philatelists in 1948. He was the first Scotsman to make the cut, demonstrating the Scottish ability to not only spread their wings in the northern and southern hemisphere, but to also explore and learn what they discover wherever they go.

Pirie shared his discoveries and certainly did Scotland proud in his profession, doing the world of philately proud as well. J.H. Harvey Pirie might not have been one of the Scottish inventors that have become a household name, but he certainly made a name for himself as he explored the world, and the stamps that made it a smaller place.

*Devlan Kruck is Regional Representative for the UK for David Feldman International Auctioneers. Find out more about the auction house at the website: [www.davidfeldman.com](http://www.davidfeldman.com)*

## EXHIBITION NEWS

The INDONESIA 2022 Palmares dinner took place recently, and the major winners were World Stamp Champion: William Kwan, Hong Kong, 'Hong Kong Designs, Proofs, Specimens and Other Archival Materials'; Grand Prix International: Jan Huys-Berlingin, Liechtenstein, 'Belgium's first issue, the Epaulettes'; Grand Prix National: Tono Dwi Putranto, Indonesia, 'The Development of KLM and KNILM Operation in the Netherlands Indies 1920-1942'.

The hyper-inflation seen in Germany in the 1920s is the subject of a special exhibition, entitled 'When postage cost billions, 100 years of high inflation in Germany 1923', set to take place during the IBRA 2023 exhibition to be held in Essen, Germany between 25 and 28 May 2023.

Following the elections of 18 June, the Romanian Philatelic Federation has a new President and a new Board of Directors, as reported by the newly elected Secretary General, Romeo Minca. President: Ion Chirescu; Vice President: Victor Iordache; Secretary General: Romeo-Radu-Cristian Minca; Members: Marius Muntean, Mircea Muresan, Nicolae Salade, Francisc Ambrus.

The French Philatelic Federation (FFAP) celebrates its centenary this year with the publication of a 200-page book, *FFAP Une belle centenaire 1922-2022*, which will be available on 28 October, on the occasion of Timbres Passion à Moulins, 28-30 October 2022. In his short message in the publication pamphlet, Philippe Lesage, FFAP President, points out that the idea of the establishment of a Federation in France was born after the international philatelic exhibition in Mulhouse in 1921, at a Congress which was decided to be held the following year. The anniversary book will be available at €30 after its publication, or at €25 if pre-ordered. Find out more at: [www.ffap.net](http://www.ffap.net)



*Exhibition news kindly provided by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). Find out more at the website: [fepanews.com](http://fepanews.com)*



CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

CELEBRATED SETS

*Nigeria Definitives 1953*

In his latest examination of a classic set of stamps to add to your album, David Bailey discovers a Commonwealth issue that was years ahead of its time

When Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne, most territories did simple updates of their George VI designs, with just a change of frame or portrait.

Nigeria started from a clean sheet. The country was struggling to find a constitution that gave equal representation to all the various regions and tribal interest groups in the newly-assembled nation. But in terms of commerce, there was a better story to tell. British Colonial policy was to encourage the production of surpluses and invest in infrastructure to get the produce to the posts for export. And Nigeria was a big country with a lot to offer the rest of the world.

**Maurice Fievet: artist-explorer**  
When it came to producing the stamps, Waterlow teamed up with an artist who had travelled widely in West Africa, recording what he saw.

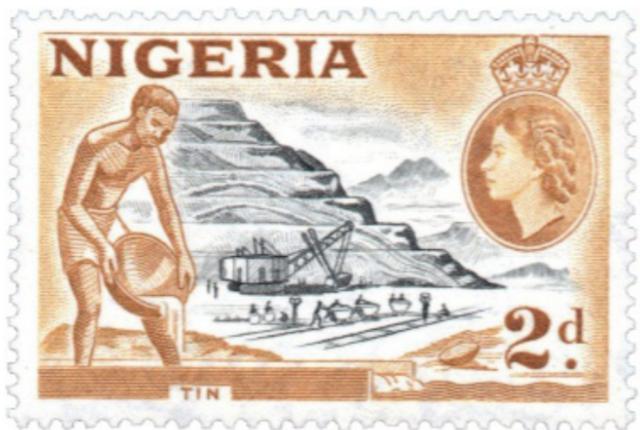
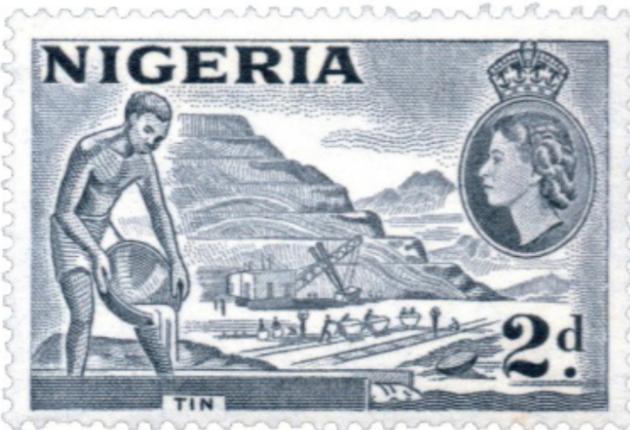
Maurice Fievet was born in the USA but in 1929 the family moved back to France, where Maurice studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. After the war – and service with the Resistance – he returned to his hometown in Northern France, where he became a geography teacher. Then suddenly, in 1947, he and his wife gave it all up to go exploring – first to Morocco then down into Nigeria, where his work won him a number of awards.

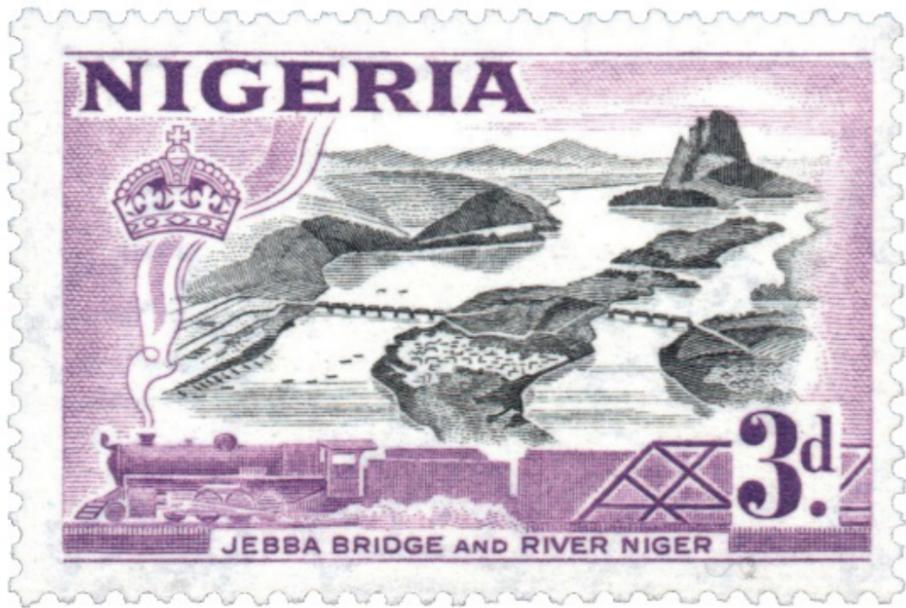
In 1949, the British Government in Nigeria commissioned him to carry out a survey of Nigeria's peoples – a pioneering ethnographic

An Okpoho-type manilla from south-eastern Nigeria, as featured on the 1/2d stamp (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license: Collectie Stichting Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen)



study that appeared in several learned journals and earned him a London exhibition. After returning from a trip exploring Nigeria's rivers, he was commissioned to design the country's next definitives. But while his landscape painting and portraiture are conventional enough, his stamps are anything but. He adopted a stripped-down graphic style, ideally suited to recess-





printing. He dispensed with the 'frame and vignette' approach to design every stamp from scratch and finally, on six of the 12 designs, he replaced the royal portrait with the Tudor Crown: a first.

The resulting set is a far cry from conventional 'commerce and industry' stamps – and it would take until the early sixties for other designers to catch up.

### The stamps in detail

#### ½d Old Manilla Currency

A Manilla is an arm bracelet worn mainly by the Igbo people in the Calabar region of Nigeria. They were made of bronze or copper in a variety of sizes and designs and were being used as money right up until the 1940s. Users identified them by the sound they made when struck.

#### 1d Bornu Horsemen

These traditional horsemen are an echo of the Kanem-Bornu Empire that once ruled over a large area in Central Africa. It was founded in the 8th century as the Kanem Empire, covering parts of Chad, Libya and Nigeria. Around 1387, the capital moved to Bornu, on the western shores of Lake Chad, where it reached its zenith in the late 16th century. It was eventually absorbed into the Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1900.

#### 1½d Groundnuts

Groundnuts (Peanuts) have long been one of Nigeria's most important crops. Today, the country is the largest producer in Africa, where most of them are grown in the north. Groundnuts can be made into high quality cooking oil. They are also an important source of protein in the

diets of both adults and children.

#### 2d Tin Mining

Small scale tin production has been part of Nigerian culture for hundreds of years. But in 1903, a British survey revealed extensive tin deposits and organised production began in earnest. By 1940, Nigeria was a major exporter, with most of its tin being mined from surface deposits, as here.

#### 3d Jebba Bridge and River Niger

The Jebba Bridge was built in 1915, linking the Lagos-Ibadan railway with the Kano-Baro line. This stimulated development of Jebba into a major trade and transport centre. The bridge has two sections and a total span of 1,795 feet.

#### 4d Cocoa

Nigerian cocoa production began in 1870, with trees imported from Trinidad and Brazil and by the 1950s, cocoa was one of Nigeria's big export earners. It is now eclipsed by Nigeria's oil – which was discovered in 1956 – but the country is still the fourth-largest producer in the world.

#### 6d Ife Bronze

This is one of 18 copper figures that were excavated in 1935 at Ife, the religious and former royal capital of the Yoruba people. It was made in the 14th century using the lost wax technique and like most west African 'bronzes' it is actually made of a heavily leaded zinc-brass. The example shown is currently in the British Museum.

#### 1/- Timber

The commercial felling of timber began in the 19th century and grew rapidly in response to demand for Mahoganies, Iroko and Obeche for

building and furniture. However due to excessive exploitation and indiscriminate felling, less than 10% of Nigeria's land area is now under high forest cover.

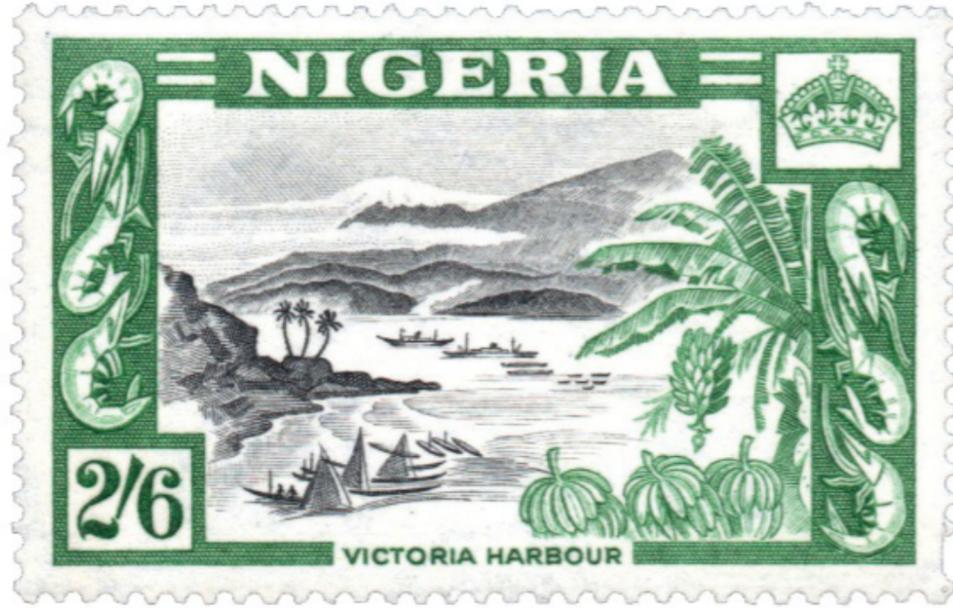
#### 2/6d Victoria Harbour

Victoria Harbour is the main harbour of Lagos and centres on what was once Victoria Island – but a programme of swamp draining and land reclamation have created a peninsular which is now Lagos' most desirable neighbourhood.

#### 5/- Palm Oil

This was the oil that gave its name to the original Oil Rivers Protectorate. Oil palms had been cultivated in Nigeria for centuries, for food and cooking. But the Industrial Revolution in Britain caused a massive increase in demand for the oil as an ingredient in candle-wax, chocolate and as an industrial lubricant. Further demand came from an expanding food-processing industry and when





these stamps were printed, Nigeria accounted for 40% of global output.

**10/- Hides and Skins**

This stamp shows a member of the Fulani tribe, who are currently the world's largest nomadic group: about 20 million strong. Fulani life revolves around the herding of cattle, sheep and goats. But as climate change pushes the Sahara Desert further south, they are coming increasingly into conflict with the farmers of the Middle Belt.

**£1 New and old Lagos**

In 1991, Nigeria moved its capital to the planned city of Abuja – partly because Lagos was too crowded, too polluted and with little room to expand. Today, Lagos vies with Cairo as the most populous city in Africa.

**Collecting the stamps**

These stamps are not universally popular; some dealers report strong demand – others don't. But a quick look around the internet will reveal a good choice of mint and used sets, part sets and singles to assemble a 'face different' set. But looking deeper, there is much to absorb the specialist. Different printings bring variations in shades. And there were two printers; late impressions of the 1d, 2d and 3d were carried out by a Waterlow subsidiary company: Imprimerie Belge de Securite. They used rotary presses as opposed to Waterlow's flat-bed machines, so there are variations in the dies. For the 2d value, the slate-blue and grey shades were only issued in Nigeria so are a little harder to find, while re-entries on both versions of the 2d are well worth looking out for.



The comparison of new and old Lagos on the £1 value reflected Nigeria's development and also the ambitious nature of the stamp set, with more traditional illustrations replaced by a more graphic style

**SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUES**

	Mint	Used
½d red orange and black	£0.21	£0.21
1d olive grey and black	£0.21	£0.21
1½d blue green	£0.42	£0.21
2d bister and black	£0.34	£0.25
3d purple and black	£0.42	£0.25
4d ultra and black	£2.12	£0.21
6d black and orange brown	£0.25	£0.21
1s brown violet and black	£0.42	£0.21
2s 6d green and black	£13.50	£1.00
5s vermeil and black	£4.60	£1.20
10s red brown and black	£20.30	£2.75
£1 violet and black	£27.50	£13.50

*Values are taken from the Scott catalogue, converted to £ using the current exchange rate, with permission from Amos Media. For more details on Scott catalogues visit: [www.amosadvantage.com](http://www.amosadvantage.com)*

# GB 1924-2016 COMMEMORATIVES UM

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

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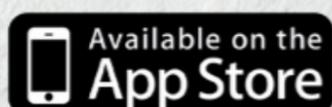
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# Birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi

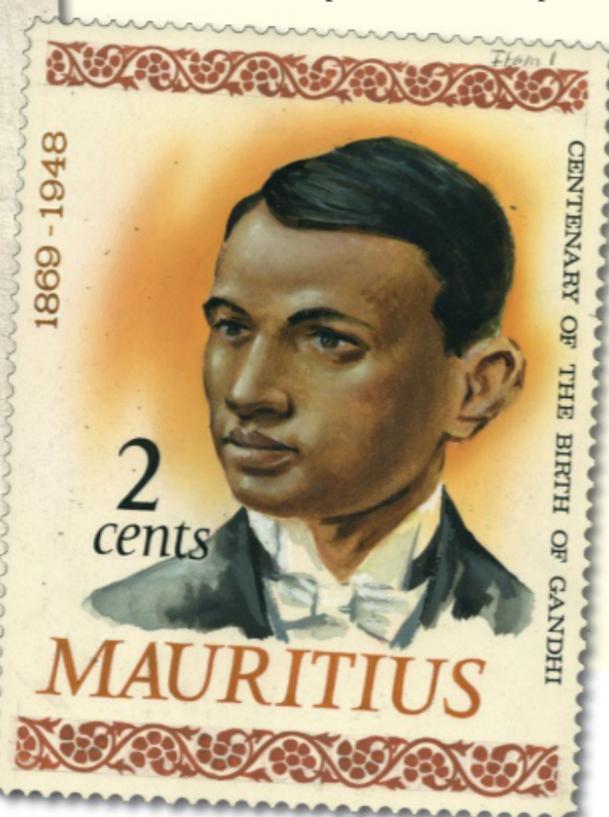
Richard Scott Morel, Curator, British Library's Philatelic Collections examines the design and production process behind Mauritius' 1 July 1969 issue commemorating the centenary of the birth of the Indian leader whose non-violent campaign of resistance culminated in India's independence from British rule

Stamps worldwide depict thousands of individuals, yet the majority are not biographical. Literary circles loosely define biography as a hybridized, inter-disciplinary writing tradition bringing elements like history and moral philosophy together to shed important light upon a person's life, achievements and character. Given their small size, one can be forgiven for querying the existence of a biographical design genre for stamps. However, reviewing the development of the Mauritius 1 July 1969 'Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi' issue should conclusively convince sceptics that stamps can indeed be read as biographies.

Generally recognised by and addressed using his honorific epithet 'Mahatma,' Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) is the towering icon of 20th-century Indian history. Trained as a lawyer, he became a civil rights activist, leading anti-colonial nationalist, politician and social reformer working tirelessly to end Britain's imperial rule and (somewhat less successfully) create a modern nation state in India based

on religious pluralism. Assassinated on 30 January 1948, Gandhi's legacy lives on worldwide via the emulation of his ideals and methods of non-violent protest. It should therefore come as no surprise to learn several countries issued stamps commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's birth centenary.

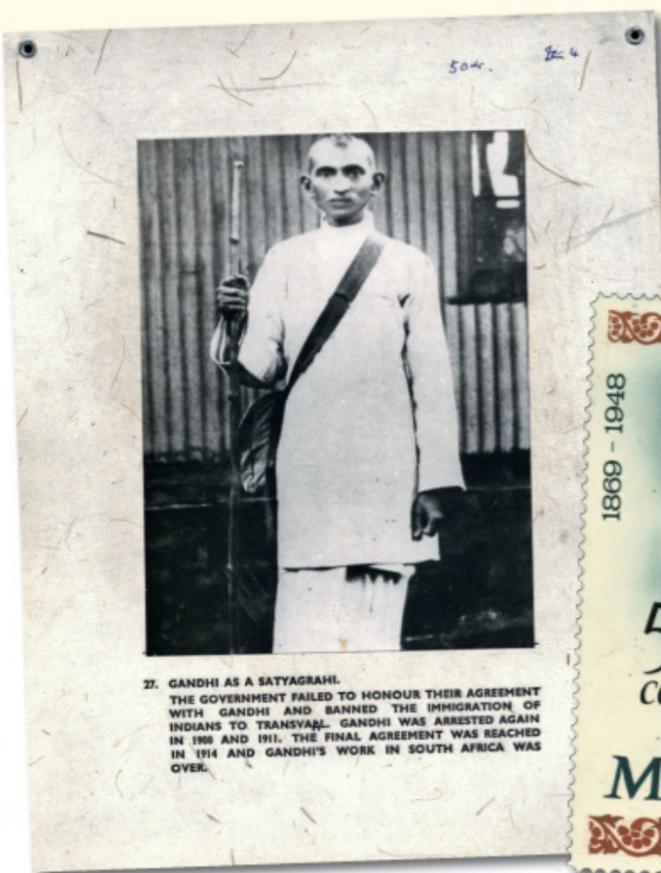
One such nation was the Republic of Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean, situated close to the East African Coast. Obtaining independence from British colonial rule the previous year on 12 March 1968, its postal authority commissioned the production of six stamps and a souvenir sheet on the subject. With no in-house security printing industry of its own, the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations were employed to manage the stamp production. Granted the design contract, in-house designers working for John Waddington Security Print Limited in Leeds developed six initial watercolour artworks mainly derived from a single unidentified photo-biographical source as well as two additional photographs.



Artwork for the 2-cents design illustrating Gandhi as a young man, completely bypasses his birth and childhood. It is sourced from a black and white photograph pasted onto a thick piece of cardboard accompanied with the printed text: '8. Gandhi as a

law student in London. The first few days in London were miserable 'I would continually think of my home and country. Everything was strange—the people, their ways and even their dwellings. There was the additional inconvenience of the vegetarian vow, even the dishes that I could eat were tasteless and insipid.'"

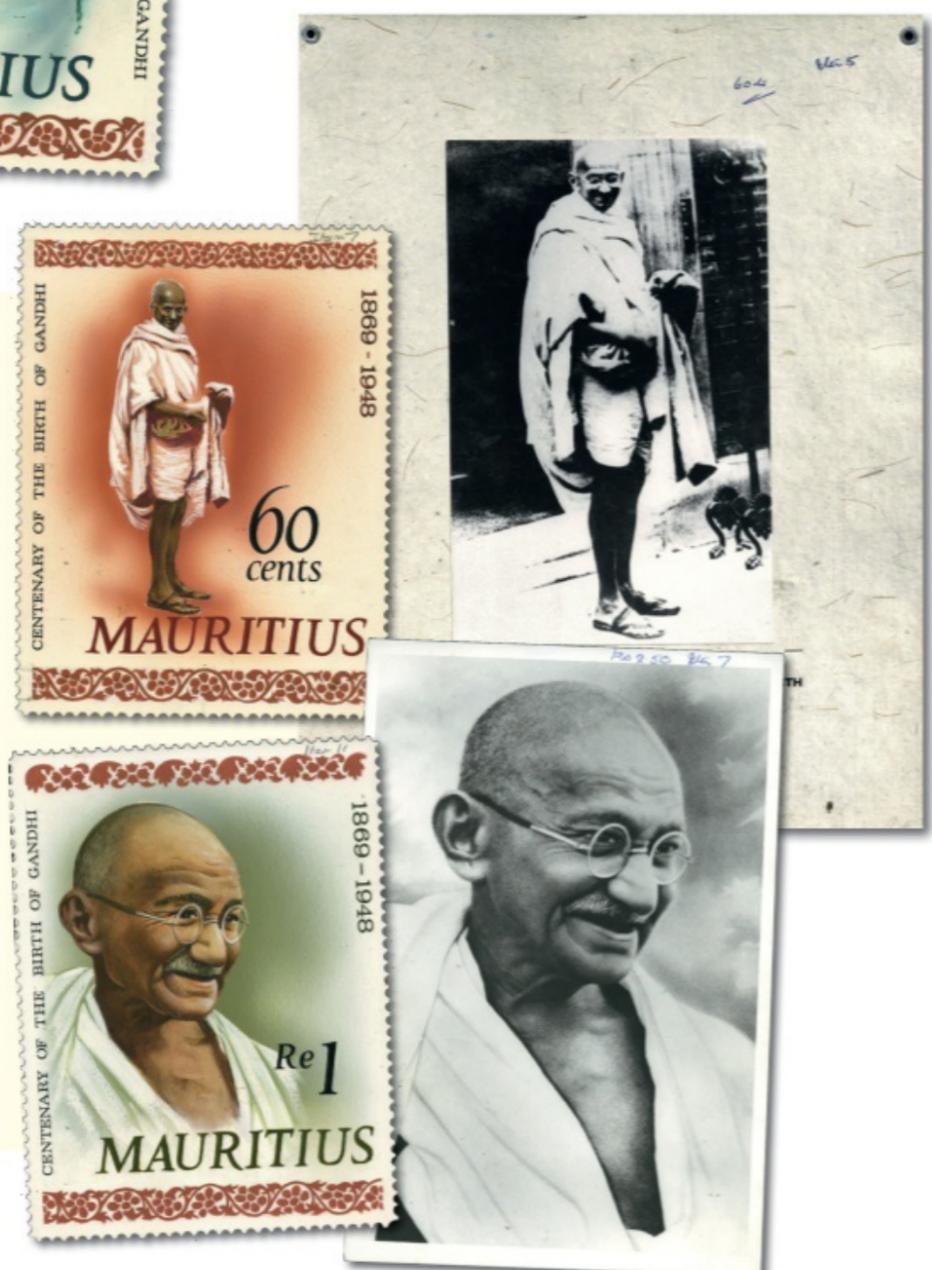
The design for the 15-cents stamp moving from Britain to South Africa several years later, illustrates Gandhi wearing a military uniform. It takes inspiration from a different photograph belonging to the same photo-biographical source alongside the statement: "17. In the uniform of a Stretcher-Bearer Corps during the Zulu rebellion, 1906. All his life nothing gave him greater happiness than the right of men working as brothers and rising above the prejudices of creed, caste or race."

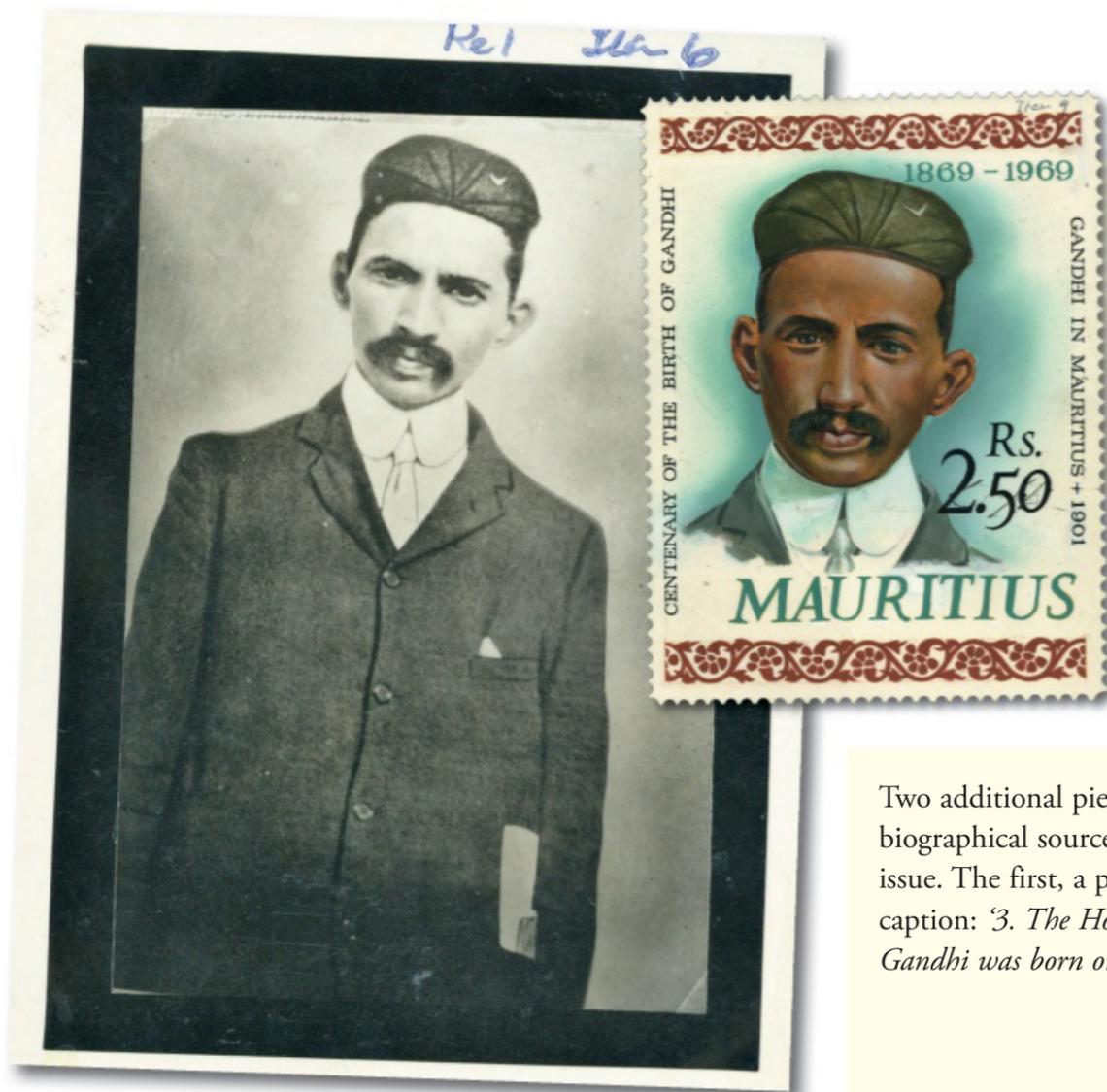


The third painting designated to the 50-cents stamp derives from yet another photograph from the same source, located immediately above the caption: "27. Gandhi as a Satyagrahi. The Government failed to honour their agreement with Gandhi and banned the immigration of Indians to Transvaal. Gandhi was arrested again in 1908 and 1911. The final agreement was reached in 1914 and Gandhi's work in South Africa was over."

The fourth painting for the 60-cents value is the final design utilising this particular source. It originates from a photograph depicting Gandhi taken on 3 November 1931 with the statement: "54. Gandhi at 10, Downing Street after a meeting with then Prime Minister, Ramsay Macdonald."

In contrast, the remaining two designs utilise two separate photographs. The one used to develop Gandhi's portrait for the Rs. 1 stamp provides no contextual information, but online research identifies it as a detail taken from a larger photograph taken on 18 April 1946 during Gandhi's meeting with the British Secretary of State for India, Lord Frederick William Pethick-Lawrence (1871-1971). On this particular artwork, the designer has provided an alternative design for the top border on the stamp which could be adopted across the entire stamp issue if preferred.





Finally, the portrait painting for the Rs. 2.50 is rendered from a photograph of Gandhi taken during his visit to Mauritius in 1901, although the photograph possesses no annotations to this fact, it is indicated by the text on the artwork itself.

Two additional pieces of research material from the unidentified photo-biographical source survive which were not used for the postage stamp issue. The first, a photograph mounted on cardboard, printed with a caption: '3. The House at Porbandar, Western India, where Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869.'

The second illustrates Gandhi in later life alongside a printed quote: '2. My Life is one indivisible Whole, and all my activities run into one another, and they all have their rise in my insatiable love of mankind.' Although it no longer survives, artwork based on this image was created for a tentative Rs. 2.50 stamp. It survives as a series of five bromides on the rejected essay for the souvenir sheet.



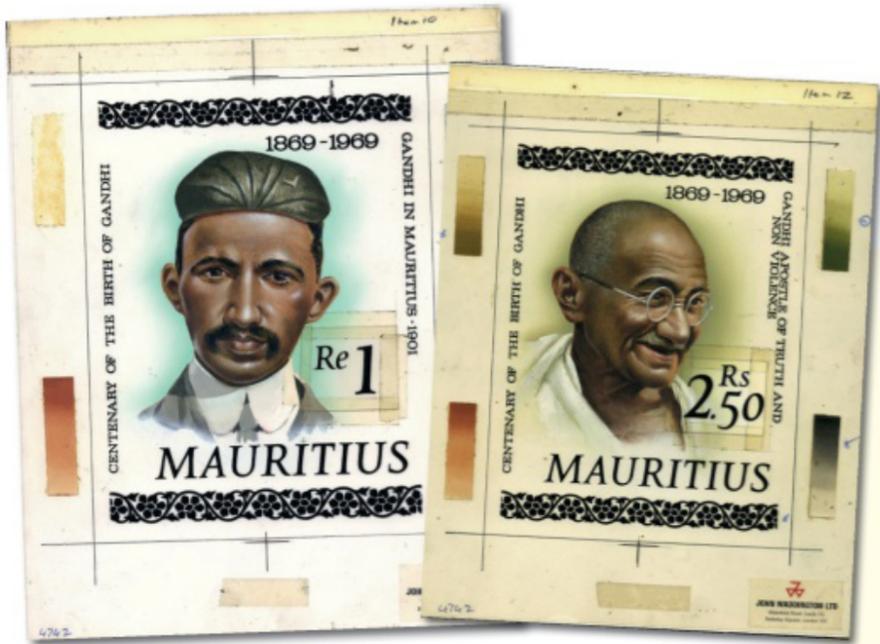
Approved by the Crown Agents, it is clear to any aficionado that the stamps remain non-biographical in this state, despite adopting a semi-chronological, episodic approach to Gandhi's life. Experimental work undertaken in the fields of art-history and neuro-aesthetics clearly demonstrates the importance of captions in the interpretation and appreciation of visual material. Given this, it is somewhat surprising that a postage stamp's textual elements and their relationship to the visual design features remain a neglected field of research. Despite their limited dimensions, stamps are perfectly capable conveying various textual and paratextual data. Primarily issued by postal authorities to indicate the prepayment of a service, in this particular case the country name 'Mauritius,' value and denomination comprises the central textual element. This is followed by the issue title commemorating the anniversary: 'Centenary of the Birth of Gandhi 1869-1948.' Lacking contextual information, each depiction of Gandhi's life remains too vague and incoherent to class as biographical. This defect was remedied during the development of the final artwork to be used by the security printing firm in manufacturing the actual stamps.





On each piece of final artwork, the country name and denomination remains unchanged. However, the issue title is moved to provide space for additional text contextualising each image. 'Gandhi as a law student in London' appears on the 2-cents; whilst 'Gandhi as a Stretcher Bearer During the Zulu Rebellion' is on the 15-cents.

Likewise, the 50-cent artwork includes the caption 'Gandhi as a Satyagrahi in South Africa' and 'Gandhi at 10 Downing Street, London' on the 60-cents.



The initial design for the Rs. 2.50 value captioned 'Gandhi in Mauritius. 1901' has been reallocated to the Rs. 1 denomination. Meanwhile, the proposed design for the Rs. 1 stamp was appointed to the Rs. 2.50 value. The top border has been amended to match the rest of the set and the information, 'Gandhi Apostle of Truth And Non-Violence' is included. Submitted to the Crown Agents and approved in May, the final artwork was then sent to the security printing firm Format International Security Printers Limited in London. From these, they developed plates from which printed five colour proofs were created in addition to a souvenir sheet comprising every stamp surrounded with an intricately decorated border illustrating various scenes and objects of cultural relevance to India. Approved by the Crown Agents on 22 May 1969, the stamp printing process began in earnest.

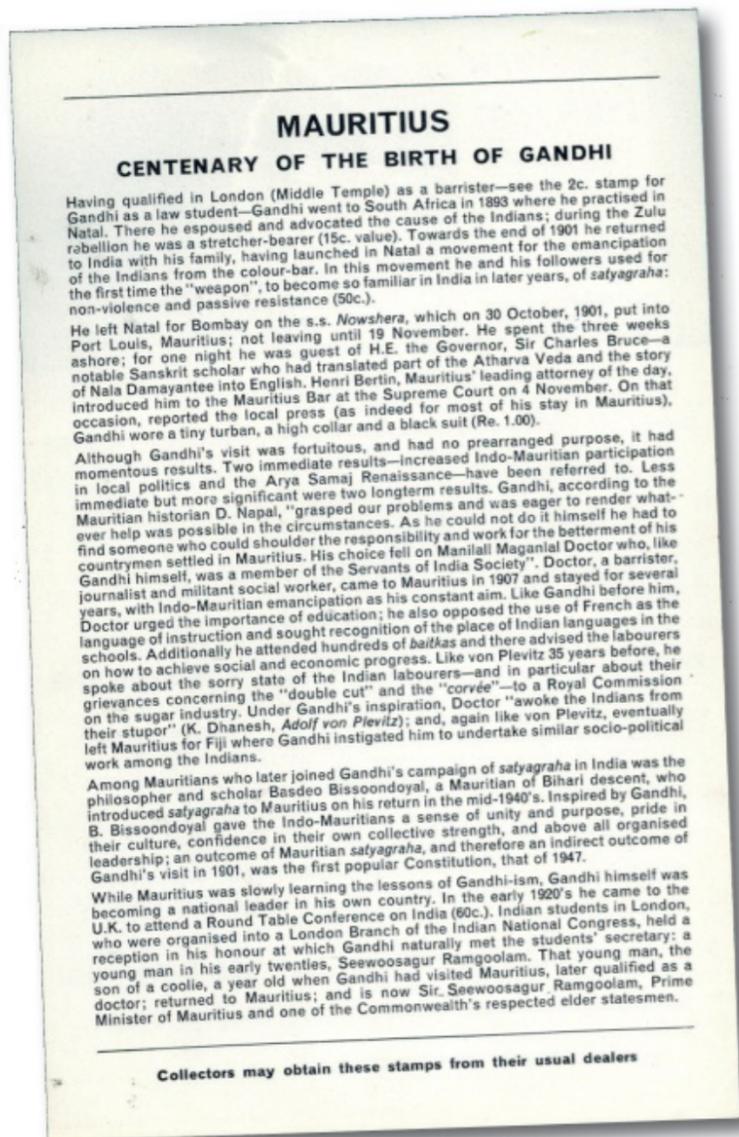


Regrettably, details surrounding the print run for this particular postage stamp issue are unknown, but the stamps first went on sale on 1 July 1969. Whilst the manufacturing processes were underway, the Crown Agents also commissioned the creation of a publicity leaflet including an anonymous biographical essay centring on Gandhi's life forming part of its promotion campaign geared to the stamp collecting community.

Read either individually, as part of a set, or in combination with the peritextual marketing sources several biographical approaches to Gandhi's life emerge which actively grapple with the individual and his iconography.

The individual stamps adopt an episodic approach highlighting a particular defining moment in Gandhi's life. As a set, the biographical reading immediately becomes more complex, charting an evolutionary approach towards Gandhi's destiny. The first two stamps chart his time (in Western-style clothing) as an imperial agent residing in Britain and South Africa during his early adult years. The next two stamps progress to his eventual awakening (at this point he stops wearing such clothing) to the truth regarding the inequities and prejudices of the British Empire. Together they denote how awakening and bearing witness to such realities were essential in enabling Gandhi to grow into a Satyagrahi and globally recognised anti-colonial champion. Although the fifth stamp breaks this chronological momentum by moving backwards in time to Gandhi's visit to Mauritius, it forms an essential chronotopic device propelling Mauritius into the mainstream of Gandhi's biographical narrative.

Wearing western-style clothing to show his role as an imperial agent, the small turban denotes his future potential as an anti-colonial leader and nationalist. This Mauritian-centric narrative is also further reinforced by the publicity essay, which allocates disproportionate attention to Gandhi's three-week sojourn on the island. In doing so it acknowledges how his life, ideals and work inspired the Mauritians to also seek out independence from colonial rule. Finally, the concluding stamp in the set focuses entirely on Gandhi as an icon. Literally



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](http://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/philatelic-collections)



symbolising via the text-image juxtaposition, his dedication as an apostle to the truth and non-violence. More subtle is the wider metanarrative this philatelic portrayal of Gandhi's life generates by incorporating this biography into wider religious cosmographies advocated within Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain belief systems in relation to concepts of emancipation, enlightenment, liberation and release. It was in Africa, not India, where Gandhi awoke to the truth and became a Satyagrahi. As universal truths he was enabled to play a major role in India whilst leaving a lasting legacy and example adopted in Mauritius and throughout the wider world. In this woke era, are modern academics correct to critique some of Gandhi's actions, words and deeds? Perhaps. Yet according to this philatelic biography to do so misses the point. Gandhi's life symbolises a struggle between the physical and spiritual domain. It is the spiritual totality and legacy of his imperfect, fragile earthly life which matters. Holistically this spiritual growth far outweighs any of the shorter-term earthly defects. This particular stamp biography serves as a potent reminder that despite starting out imperfect, we are all hopefully on the same long, arduous path towards enlightenment and release.

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## A-Z THEMATICS

# Online stamps

Being online has become such a part of everyday life that we take it for granted, but with a fascinating and recent history, the internet makes for an involving thematic, as Paula Hammond sets out

In the 1840s, the word ‘internetted’ was used to mean something that was interconnected. It wasn’t until 1974 that the term internet began to be used to refer to the burgeoning internetwork that had been born out of military time-sharing computers. Today, the internet has become so ubiquitous – and so necessary to modern life – that it’s hard to remember a time when it wasn’t there.

The internet is a diverse and, at times, surprising beast – and it’s no surprise to find that as a stamp thematic, the internet offers a wealth of possibilities.

A great way of managing what is a relatively large thematic could be to focus solely on stamps that contain the word ‘internet’. Some good examples include the Russian Federation’s 1998 Achievements of the 20th Century issue and Guernsey’s 1997 six-stamp Telecommunication release.

The history and development of the internet makes a superb sub-theme with some fascinating issues available. Belgium’s 2010 Paul Otlet stamp, for instance, celebrates the father of information science who predicted the internet in 1934, when he described what he called a ‘réseau mondial’ (world network) that could search millions of texts, images, and videos. He even imagined file

sharing, messaging, and being able to send each other virtual applause!

For many years, the question of how to govern the growing and largely unregulated system of inter-networks was a hot topic, and stamps such as Egypt’s 2009 stamp commemorate one of many internet governance forums that took place.

As the internet grew, so too did the possibilities for sharing and disseminating information. From education to entertainment – the internet is now the basis for how many of us learn, socialise, and chill out. Stamps that celebrate the role of the internet in this global exchange include China’s 2014 ‘net life series, Italy’s 1998 communication issue, and Switzerland’s 2009 issue, which took a broad brushstrokes approach, linking the internet to the Gutenberg Press in the way that the technology has been able to spread knowledge and learning. Taiwan’s 2005 even celebrated ‘internet greetings’ with a series of emoji stamps.

So important has the internet become that in 2005, the UN declared 15 May as World Internet Day. Spain celebrated the day with its own commemorative stamp in 2017.

Whether you love it, hate it, or take it for granted, the ‘net is here to stay, and an internet thematic is the perfect way to get your collection connected.



## I IS FOR INTERNET

### Why collect?

- A large theme that offers a wealth of collecting possibilities.
- Links to science, technology, and history.
- Regular expos, internet forums, and special days ensure that this is a collection that keeps on growing.
- A colourful and interesting topic to display.

### Five notable releases

- 1997, Guernsey, Telecommunication six-stamp series.
- 1998, Italy, Communication Day stamp.
- 2001, Japan, Internet expo.
- 2010, Belgium, Paul Otlet commemorative.
- 2017, Spain, World Internet Day.

### Expand the theme

While many use the terms ‘web’ and ‘internet’ interchangeably, the two are different technologies. The internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks. The world wide web (www) is a software platform designed to make navigating the internet easier. Expanding the theme to include add-on technologies opens the theme up and allows for an expansive and absorbing collection. A good starting point would be GB’s 1989 Berners-Lee stamp. Berners-Lee created the first web server and web browser.

### Collecting links

Computer Stamps ([www.computerstamps.com](http://www.computerstamps.com)) is site aimed at both beginners and seasoned philate-lists interested in building their own topical collection on computers and computer science.



From left: a 2002 miniature sheet from Jersey commemorating 150 years since the introduction of roadside letter boxes

In the same year Guernsey issued a mini sheet celebrating 150 years of the pillar box

## THEMATICS

# Post boxes on postage stamps

Since many philatelists also have an avid interest in the postal system and the history of communication, it's no surprise that there are many enthusiastic collectors of post boxes on stamps. As Richard Tarrant explains, it is worth considering how this theme can be developed

**T**he need for post boxes in Great Britain became apparent following the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in 1840. Before then letters had to be handed in at a Receiving House during the hours of business. From 1840 many more people could afford to send letters and a better system of posting letters was essential to meet the demand.

Roadside post boxes had already been in use in some overseas countries but first appeared in Britain in 1852. They were the brainchild of Anthony Trollope, later to achieve fame as a prolific novelist but then the Surveyor's Clerk with the Post Office. Trollope was aware of the use of post boxes in France and recommended their use on an experimental basis in the Channel Islands. The first pillar boxes were

installed in Jersey and Guernsey, both of which countries issued miniature sheets in 2002 to celebrate 150 years since this trial run. The Channel Islands experiment proved such a success that pillar boxes began to be used on the mainland in 1853. The first was sited at Botchergate in Carlisle.

### Local varieties

In the early years each postal district was left to design its own pillar boxes, so there was a great variety. They included octagonal, square, rectangular and columnar boxes, some fluted and with either vertical or horizontal apertures. In 1859, however, the Post Office decreed that pillar boxes should be of standard design and be painted a dull bronze green colour. That changed in 1874, when the standard colour became 'Pillar Box Red'. One

A Switzerland stamp showing the intricacies of using a post box!



of the more attractive designs was the hexagonal Penfold box, which was introduced in 1866, but in 1879 the standard shape for boxes became cylindrical.

Stamps in the 2002 GB 'Pillar to Post' set depicted an 1857 highly decorative box and an 1856 design box shown in 1874 after it had been painted red. A further stamp in this series depicted a box designed specifically for airmail post. These



The GB set of 2002, showing a 1934 airmail box, a 1939 oval dual aperture box, a 1980s 'K box', a highly decorative box from 1857, and an 1856 design shown in 1874 having been painted red



Left: a 2009 mini sheet from Royal Mail  
Above and right: post boxes are often associated with Christmas



boxes, which were blue in colour, were in use between 1930 and 1938. One of the large oval boxes with two posting apertures was also pictured, while the final stamp illustrated the so-called 'K' box that was in use between 1980 and 2001.

Of course, not all post boxes are pillar boxes. One form of early post boxes were those installed at post offices. Individual postmasters had had to bear the cost of providing post boxes, which led to there being a great variety of locally-made receptacles for letters. In 1895 the Post Office took responsibility for paying for boxes, which resulted in more standard designs being used. In particular a specific type of wall box made by James Ludlow of Birmingham was used for most offices until it ceased production in 1965.

**Village walls**

The early roadside pillar boxes catered for urban areas. Then, in 1857, small post boxes fitted into walls were introduced, initially to cater for villages and other rural sites where there was increasing demand for such a service. The first wall boxes were sited in villages around Plymouth. As far as the Post Office was concerned, one of the advantages of wall boxes was that they cost much less to produce than pillar boxes. Production of wall boxes finally ceased in 1980 but in their time there had been many different manufacturers and types.

The other main type of post box is the lamp letter box. These are simply small letter boxes that were initially attached to a lamp post, although some have been attached to poles or built into walls. These boxes serve some rural areas and places where little post is sent. The first lamp box was fitted in Church End, Finchley in 1896, since when there have been a number of designs.

The second major GB issue of post box stamps was in 2009. The 'Post

Boxes' miniature sheet featured an Edward VII Ludlow box, George V and Elizabeth II wall boxes and a Victorian lamp box.

There have, of course, been other GB stamps that have included post boxes. The 1985 set of stamps commemorating 350 years of Royal Mail public postal service and the 1997 sub-post offices set both featured post boxes. Two of the more popular stamps have been the 1983 and 1995 Christmas issues, one depicting a variety of birds posting letters, the other a robin sheltering from the snow in the mouth of a pillar box.

Post box enthusiasts are likely to be interested in stamp booklets that have depicted post boxes on their covers. Between 1971 and 1974 10p booklets were issued in Britain with a total of ten different illustrations of identified pillar boxes, while a 1985 50p booklet had a pillar box design on its cover.

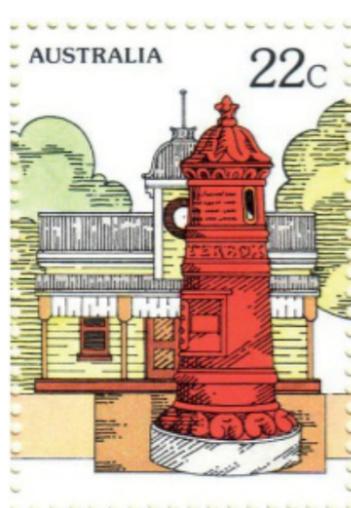
Collectors may also want to supplement their collections with postcards illustrating the very

Right: a Great Britain 10p booklet from 1971



Below: Gibraltar marked the centenary of the UPU with a set of three showing post boxes





many different types of post boxes that have been in service. There have been several excellent series of postcards that complement a thematic stamp collection. British examples include those published by Rosalind Wicks, David Shaw, Richard Blake, the National Postal Museum, regional postal boards and The Letter Box Study Group.

Collectors can also broaden out a collection of post boxes on stamps by looking to overseas issues. They include, in some cases, stamps that depict British post boxes that had been exported to countries in the Commonwealth. Examples include Gibraltar, which issued a set in 1974

depicting pillar boxes, Malta (2004) and Hong Kong (1997).

In Europe, France was the first country to have a workable system of letter boxes sited away from post offices. There had been earlier attempts but by 1829 there had been established a system of roadside boxes throughout France. Belgium was another early adopter of post boxes away from post offices, having set up a system throughout the country by 1836.

Early post boxes in the United States tended to be mounted on lamp posts. It was not until 1894 that the now familiar four-footed boxes were introduced. Initially they were dark

green, were changed to red and blue, then to all blue.

It's no surprise that a myriad of countries have issued stamps depicting their letter boxes and they serve to illustrate contrasting styles and colours. Many countries, such as Australia, Japan and Denmark, have red post boxes, while some, such as Germany and Switzerland, have yellow. Other colours used include green (for example, Ireland and Hong Kong), blue (United States and Russia), orange, grey and white.

When browsing through covers do look out for cachets and cancellations with a post box theme, both from GB and overseas. There have been quite a number and they invariably make attractive additions to a collection. Examples include the range of covers produced in 1970 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the introduction of air letter boxes in Britain. Of course, they also include covers that feature post boxes as part of the Christmas theme, the time of year when stamps and letters – or rather greetings cards – are dropped into post boxes in their millions.

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Australia's first railway depicted on a lithograph by Samuel Gill with imprint 'STG' at lower left.



## POSTAL HISTORY

# Between the sheets: The miner's tale

Stamps on letters are the gateway to fascinating social history. In the first part of a new series, John Scott looks into what a letter to a miner's brother can tell us about the past

**T**he postage stamp was invented simply to enable letters to be prepaid without necessitating a visit to the post office. It was never envisaged that they would be collected in their own right. Sixty years ago very few dealers or collectors ever gave a second

The address panel shows a fine impression of the only known example of Dublin's Australian Mail datestamp

thought as to why the letter was being written and therefore tended to ignore what lay between the sheets of paper. There is now much greater interest in the social history of a letter – a trend which may encourage a new audience to take an interest in our hobby. In this new series of articles we will take a look inside a variety of letters from all

periods and places, while reflecting also on the postal history interest.

Our first letter was written by William Malloch, a quartz miner in Australia, to his brother, John, a plate layer near Moffat in Scotland whose job it was to maintain the railway tracks. William was working in the mines at Tarrangower, Victoria, crushing about 50 tons a week for which the mine owner charged £4 a ton, grossing about £200 a week, of which the proprietor kept between £100 and £150. William tells his brother that he was paid £3 a week and adds that 'everything here is selling very dear... bread here is selling 2/- for a loaf, sugar 6-8/-, Tea 2/6 – 3/-, Eggs 6d per dozen, Boots 21/- a pair, Trousers 9/6. The Boots & Trousers you buy here don't last any time, 6 weeks or 1 month'.

A miner's life was not an easy one and a surprising aspect of William's letter is the lithographed image inside showing the City Terminus of the Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway Company which opened on 12th September 1854 as the first railway in Australia, running all of 2½ miles on a broad gauge track to what became Port Melbourne. Not only did this image



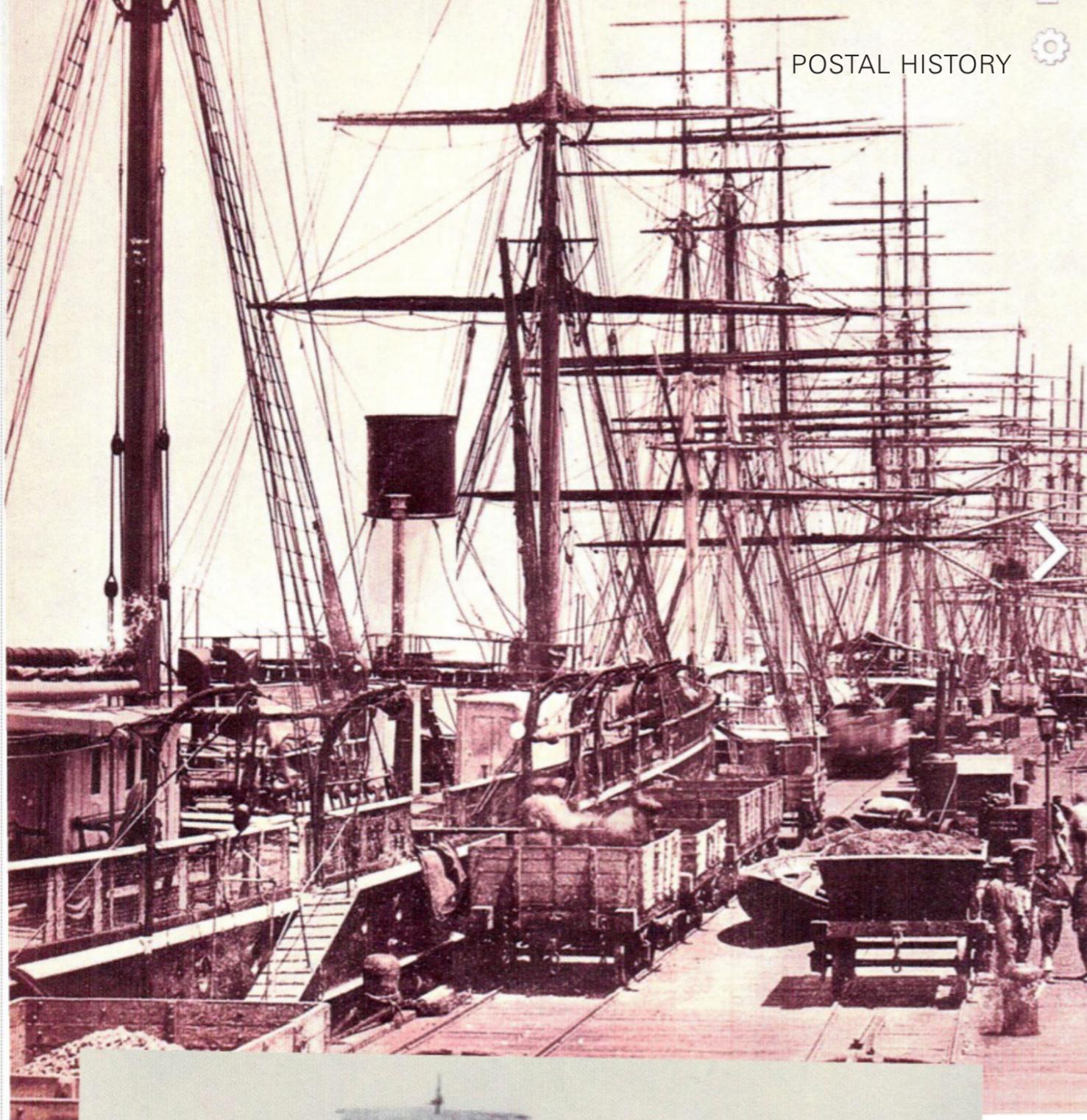


take up a lot of space but it added also to the cost of the paper, not to mention the 6d stamp, so the outlay was getting on for 10% of William's weekly wage.

The image originated from a drawing on stone by Samuel Thomas Gill (1818-1880), a native of Somerset, who emigrated to South Australia aged 21 in 1839. There he set up a studio in Adelaide before moving to Victoria in 1852, where he built up a reputation for his sketches of life in the towns and mining settlements of the area, with examples of his work in the National Library in Canberra and the National Galleries of Victoria and South Australia. In April 2022 one of his paintings of Port Adelaide fetched over £20,000 but the record for one of his works was set in 1992 at over £40,000. The drawing was printed as a lithograph by Campbell & Ferguson, who are famous in philatelic terms for their printing of Victoria's postage stamps after the lapse of Thomas Ham's contract in 1854, and was published by James Blundell of Melbourne.

The demands of the Crimean War for troop transports had diverted the steam ships from the Australian route which meant that in 1856, when William wrote to his brother, his letter was carried on the Black Ball contract sailing clipper 'Montmorency', which sailed from Port Phillip Heads on 17th October. After encountering severe headwinds in the Western Approaches and the Irish Sea the mail was landed at Dunmore East, near Waterford, on 5 January 1857. While most of the mail was handled at Liverpool on 7 January or in London on 8 January this is the only recorded example of Dublin's Australian Mail datestamp, possibly applied only to those letters destined for Ireland or Scotland. The red handstruck '1' next to the postage stamp indicates the share of postage due to the British post office.

This particular letter has something for everyone – the content, the image, and the postal history. Most of us could not afford one of Gill's paintings but one of his lithographs for 1% of the cost of a picture seems too good a bargain to miss. As they, almost, say on *Strictly*, 'Keep hunting!'.



Top: the Railway Pier at Port Melbourne

Right: the Black Ball sailing clipper *Montmorency*

# Forces overseas with gifts sent home

Details of items sent in a registered parcel from Germany to the UK shed light on the immediate needs after war, as explained by postal historian Dane Garrod

After the formal end of hostilities of the Second World War, it took some years before all the military units were returned to their countries of origin. British army soldiers remained in Germany for many years, and although British forces personnel were scaled down, particularly in April 2010 and April 2019, the permanent deployment ended as recently as 2020. Whilst abroad, British Armed Forces had the use of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes – the NAAFI – which sold goods to servicemen and their families, and ran clubs, bars, shops and other facilities on most British military bases.

The cover shown here is in fact the front and back portions of a parcel, fortunately saved by the family of the sender, perhaps due to the two 2/6d stamps thereon. Addressed by 2nd Lieutenant Arthur Kenneth Garrod of the Royal Norfolk Regiment based in Germany, he had addressed it to himself at his home address in Norwich, Norfolk. Due to the weight of the contents and the registration, four stamps totalling 5s 7½d was required, all neatly tied to the cover by handstamp postmarks of Field Post Office 734 based in Germany, as well as a generic FPO registration label that required an additional handstamp at the top with the number of the specific office.

The front and back portions that had been cut out and saved were later loosely held together by adhesive tape, thankfully, as the reverse has all the information. Army Form W 5192 which is entitled 'H.M.FORCES OVERSEAS / DUTY FREE CONCESSION FOR GIFTS SENT / TO THE UNITED KINGDOM' was stuck down with handwritten words 'Issued in lieu of Blue Lettering'. At this distance in time (76 years) we may not know the significance of this, if any, however, the sender had to complete a declaration of the contents of the parcel and confirm they were being sent as a gift. The label adds that it must not be affixed to any package which weighs more than 5lbs. The signature 'A R Garrod' was added with the date '2/4/46', and Arthur aided transmission by clearly writing in capitals the destination address both on the front and back of the parcel.

So what was he sending as 'gifts', and addressed to himself at home? Maybe they were gifts which he wanted to reveal upon his return to the UK. Firstly, four yards of 'Material (Cotton)' which would be welcome after the continuing shortages after the end of the war, and then 'Films' – quantity 1. This would be roll film, black and white, that would produce 12 negatives for printing. A world away from photography today. Finally, 'Scent 1



Cap badge of the Royal Norfolk Regiment with Britannia

sm bott.'. Not for Arthur I doubt, but for mother, wife or girlfriend. All adding up to 18 shillings, not much above three times the postage cost. The 'NAAFI GIFT SHOP' handstamp confirms the legitimacy of the purchases, and a purple oval censorship stamp can just be made out at the bottom of the label. When the parcel arrived in the UK, there would be no tax to pay because of the duty free concession.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment is no longer in existence under that name, as amalgamations from 1959 have led to the Royal Anglian Regiment, of which A Company of the 1st Battalion is known as the Royal Norfolks. However, the regimental nickname of the 'Holy Boys' is remembered as originating from the misidentification in the Peninsular War by a Spanish soldier of Britannia on their cap badge as the Virgin Mary. As for the man who sent the gifts in April 1946, unfortunately little more is known, except that although the surname is the same, he was not a relation of the writer.

*The materials sent included 'Films – quantity 1'. This would be roll film, black and white, that would produce 12 negatives for printing. A world away from photography today.*



**1** The parcel was addressed by 2nd Lieutenant Arthur Kenneth Garrod of the Royal Norfolk Regiment based in Germany, to himself

**2** Due to the weight of the contents and the registration, four stamps totalling 5s 7½d were required, all neatly tied to the cover by handstamp postmarks of Field Post Office 734 based in Germany

**3** A generic FPO registration label that required an additional handstamp at the top with the number of the specific office.

**4** The 'NAAFI GIFT SHOP' handstamp confirms the legitimacy of the purchases,

**5** A purple oval censorship stamp can just be made out at the bottom of the label

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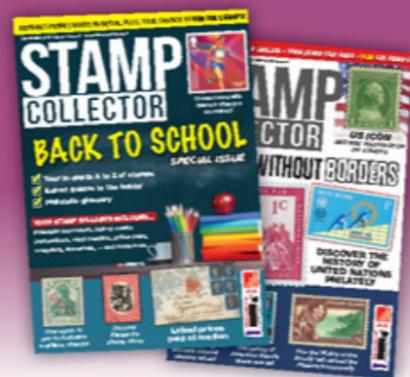
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# Chronicles of **NOELLA BRY**

*A philatelic distraction based on real events,  
by Eva Mealing*

## CHAPTER TWO THE INTRIGUING CASE OF A MURDER IN PARIS

### PART NINETEEN THE KILLER

**D**r Jacques Legrand picked up Noella at 5pm as planned and they made their way to the prominent Paris property, utilised as a meeting venue by the local stamp society. This was the club of which the late Gaston Leroux was an avid member.

Inside the premises Noella noticed the members arriving with black armbands, and even though their dialect made little sense, it was clear a sombre mood pervaded the conversations. In contrast, Legrand was animated and appeared excited when introducing Noella as a collector from England who was on a social visit to France, a personal friend of the doctor's sister. This explanation was accepted without question, Legrand's prestigious status amongst this assembly readily apparent in their reaction to his presence. This admiration of Legrand in most cases spilled over into a warm welcome towards the lady visitor and many showed a keen interest in her attendance.

The interaction was useful to the young journalist, her real reason for being there was not suspected and she smiled at the doctor in a thankful manner and decided to utilise the lack of suspicion to make enquiries among these gentlemen along the lines of the Hawaiian 2c Missionary stamp.

She reasoned that the purchase of the rare and valuable stamp, which she now believed had been the motive behind the murder, would not be known by anyone other than the murderer, so the quickest method of qualifying if any of these men were implicated was to raise the topic without delay. This was a simple task because, of course, on every occasion discussions followed questions of what was her collecting interest, and at this juncture Noella introduced a desire to develop a study of the Hawaiian missionary stamps.

Her interest was met with polite acknowledgement, but with an obvious disinterest either from lack of awareness of these stamps, or as a consequence of the person's own interest lying elsewhere and wishing to talk about those things they had knowledge. This served to disqualify those she'd spoken to. Noella was just starting to feel that perhaps none of these men could have been involved when she was approached by a tall elegant Frenchman, of about 45, with thick swept-back, oiled dark hair, speckled with grey. He had distinctive thin lips, a tightly pinched mouth topped with a curled moustache. Dressed in a black coat and trousers, a ruby waistcoat and a white buttoned shirt, he represented an affluent air and spoke good English.

"Mademoiselle, allow me to introduce myself. I'm Hector Giroux, and my friend over there tells me that you have an interest in a particularly specialised area of philately, which I myself have a keen interest?"

Noella felt her heart rate increase and endeavoured to keep her expression neutral. "Lovely to make your acquaintance Monsieur Giroux. If your friend has informed you correctly then I'm guessing you too have an interest in the Hawaiian missionary stamps of 1851?"

Hector Giroux's face betrayed no guilt as he elaborated his position. "Oh yes indeed. In fact, it is an area in which I have spent much time

researching. I propose to write a paper for our society on this topic soon and am preparing a display of the various values and known usages. You'll no doubt be aware these are thought to be highly scarce and in many cases rare?"

Noella saw her opportunity and decided to strike before they were interrupted. "Monsieur Giroux it is a great pleasure to hear your accurate statement of this specialised area of collecting. It is clear you are highly qualified in speaking on this topic and so I wonder if I may ask your advice on a particular stamp?" Noella could see her request stroked the ego of this man, his lips twitched with pride and his eyes lit up. "Mademoiselle, it would give me great pleasure to help you in any way I can. Please ask away." Giroux's chest appeared to grow as Noella framed her question in her mind.

"Thank you Monsieur Giroux. Then can I ask, have you any knowledge of the 2c blue value? I'm at a loss to know if there are any unused examples known and so have arrived at the conclusion that perhaps not and so the rarest of all the stamps from this issue is the 2c used?" This statement was like an arrow into his chest. Giroux stepped back and his face held a startled expression, but he quickly recovered and replied. "It is extraordinary that you ask about this stamp Mademoiselle. I have recently in the last few days acquired such a copy as you describe and although have not publicised this fact, can advise you it is the rarest of all stamps and greatly coveted by the world's greatest collectors." At that moment Noella felt certain this was the man she had been seeking "Oh! Monsieur Giroux, would you be prepared to allow me to view this stamp?" Without hesitation he replied. "Of course. I invite you to my residence tomorrow for a private viewing. Here is my card. Shall we say two in the afternoon?" Noella accepted and took her leave from this curious character. Her mind quickly turned to how best to approach their scheduled meeting the next day.

*...to be continued. Find out in the next episode if Noella has discovered who killed Gaston Leroux and what happens at her meeting with Hector Giroux.*



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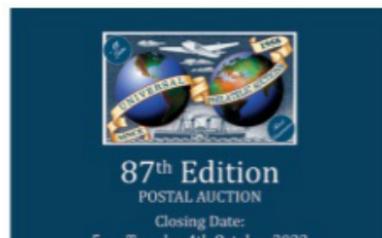
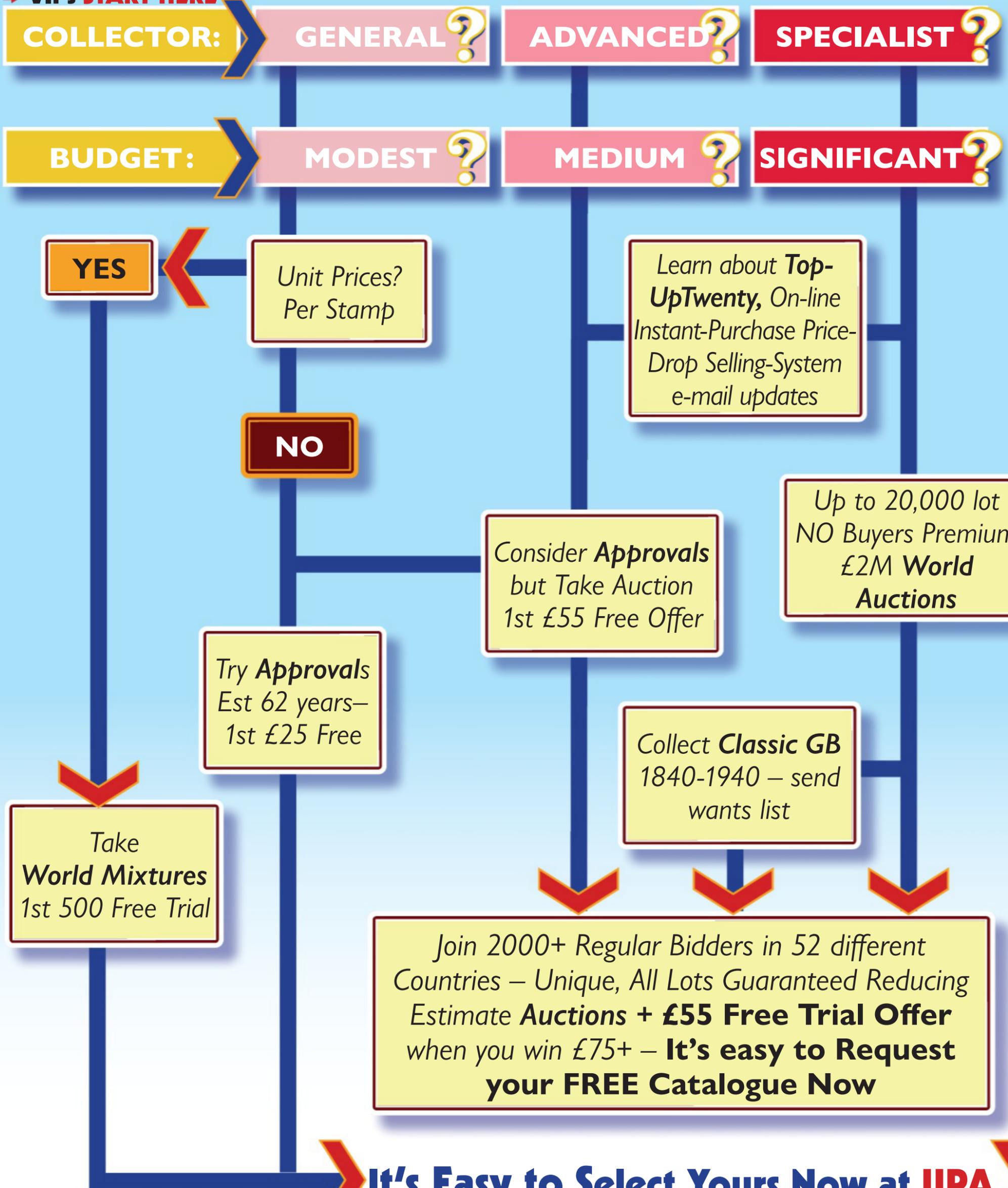


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# Don't think You're Treated like a VIP?

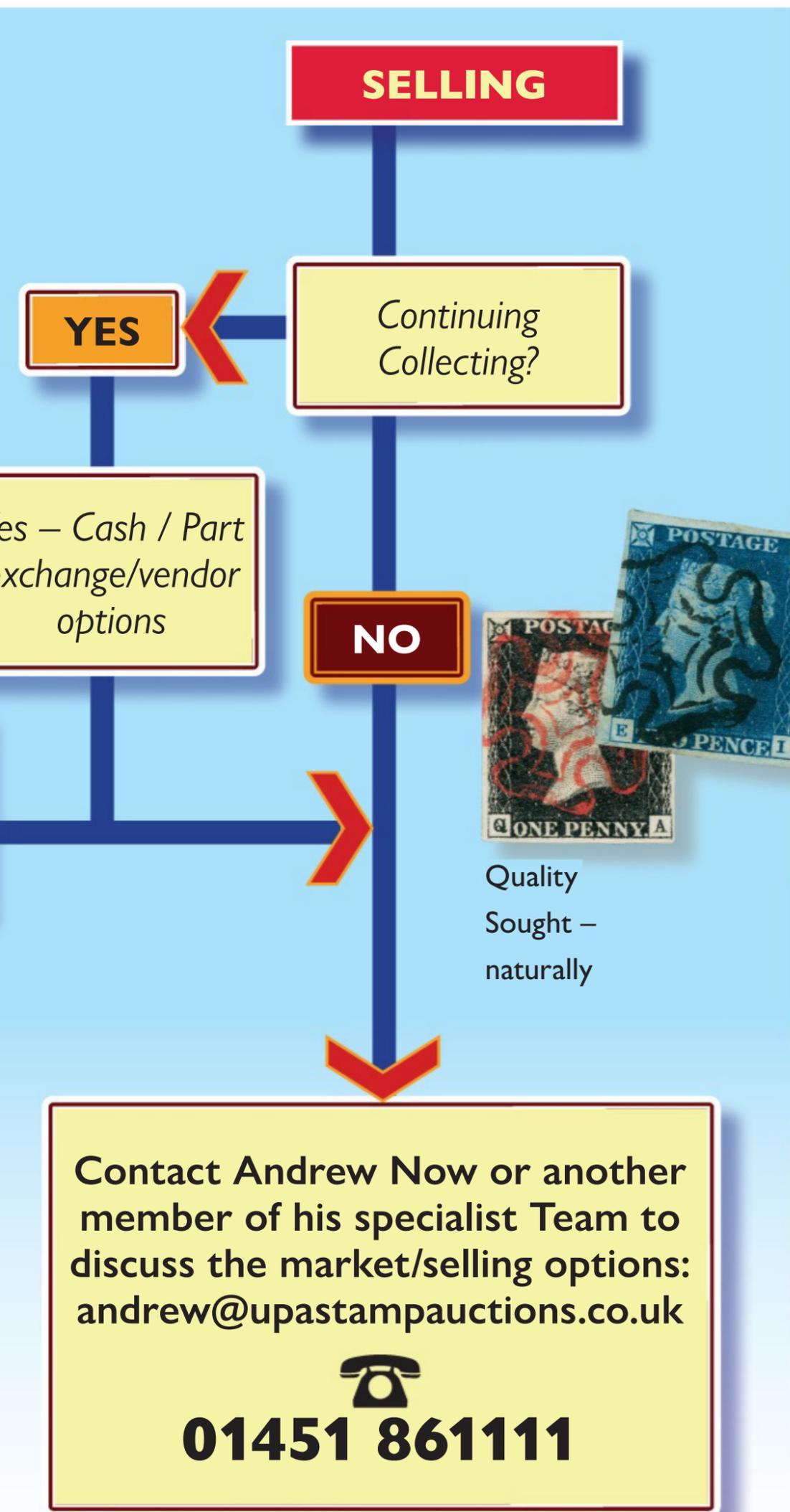
## Try Philatelic Route-Finder NOW!

VIPs START HERE



# Sometimes Collectors Get a Raw Deal

## Determine how You wish to be treated Here ...



*'money spent in the wrong way soon mounts up ...'*

Successful and enjoyable collecting depends upon understanding the relationship of your budget to your interest.

Offers and services can be confusing can't they, and money spent in the wrong way soon mounts up.

In philately, sometimes it is hard to decide which way to go. Your passion may exceed your resource, so just what may be best for you?

**Often, it is not what you collect but how you collect**

This is the reason why my team and I have devised this quick and easy philatelic route-map QUIZ which does not ask you what you collect - but helps you to determine by your answers just which type of collecting service may best suit you ...

Presently you may find few philatelic companies other than UPA which can offer you integrated philatelic selling systems, but obviously once you determine which philatelic services best suit your collecting interest - you may have a clearer idea of which way is best to go - depending upon your levels of specialism and philatelic budget, of course

Check out our Philatelic QUIZ right now and see for yourself. To select your choice, visit our website or call my team

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Andrew McGavin,  
Veteran Philatelic Auctioneer  
Philatelic Expert & Author  
Managing Director Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

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Participate in this Philatelic Route-Map to Enjoyable Collecting.

Find UPA also on-line at [www.top-uptwenty.co.uk](http://www.top-uptwenty.co.uk)

New Instant-Purchase Price-Drop Selling-System

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