

# STAMP<sup>TM</sup>

## MAGAZINE



**Edward VII's  
only stamps  
in Australia**

**Penydarren  
locomotive**

The first  
successful  
steam railway  
locomotive  
Richard Trevithick, 1804



**Big ideas of  
the industrial  
revolution**

# Dante's Inferno



Stamps  
celebrating  
the greatest  
medieval  
poet, and his  
vivid visions  
of heaven  
and hell

## Congress collectables



Cinderellas,  
cancellations and  
ephemera as  
souvenirs of the  
Philatelic Congress  
of Great Britain

■ Stampex and local fairs  
back on the calendar

■ Royal Mail and  
the Post Office  
drifting apart

■ Our pick of the  
new issues from  
around the world





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# The “Imperium” Collection of British Guiana

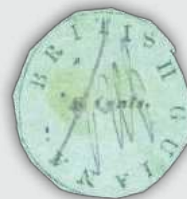
**Transatlantic Mail:** The Antonello Fumu Collection

**Spanish-American War:** The Jack Thompson Collection - Part I

Geneva - October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021



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A very rare registered transatlantic mail from Russia, most probably unique from Ukraine; ex Bianchi.



Coamo Provisional, type II, one of two Coamo covers tied by a postmark; ex Gallagher and Acevedo.



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The collection will be available for viewing at the Autumn Stampex exhibition in London, from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021.

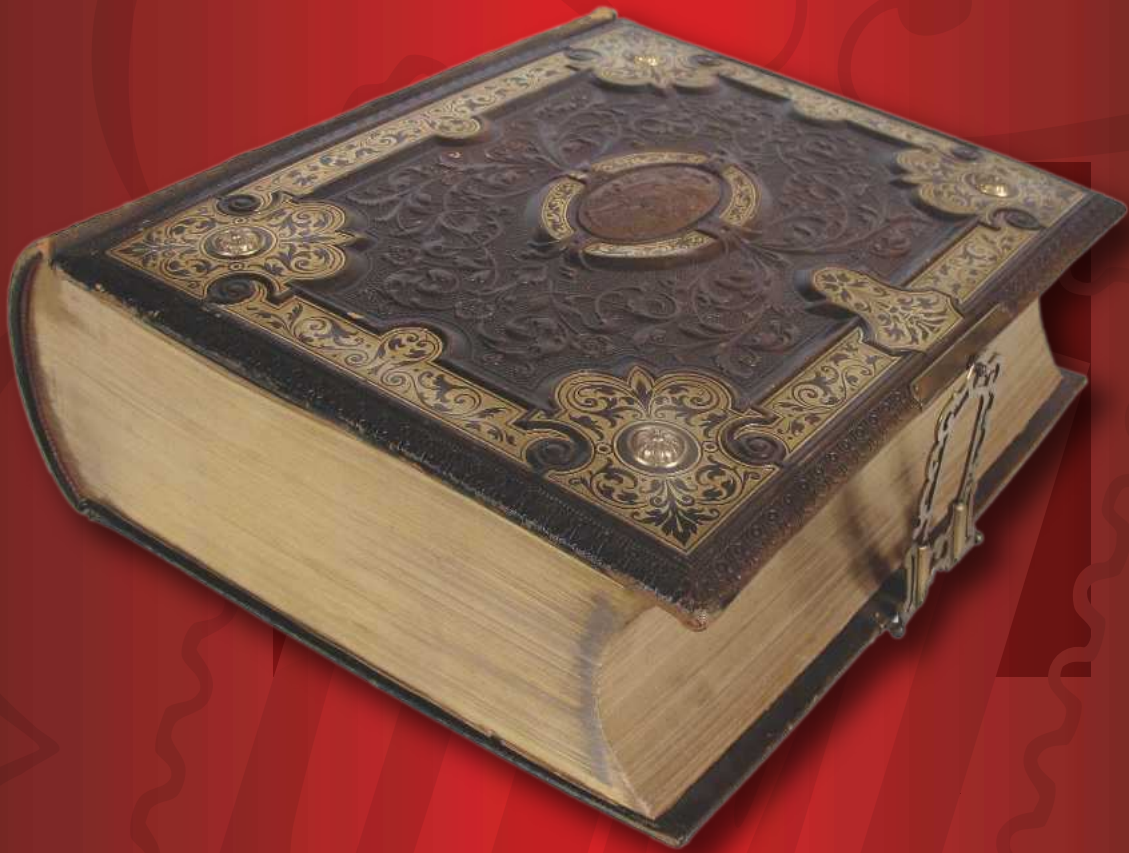
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## WELCOME

Just when you thought nothing would ever knock Brexit out of the news headlines in the newspapers and on television, along came Covid-19. Similarly, just when I thought nothing would ever knock improper postmarking off the Letters pages in *Stamp Magazine*, along came the lack of availability of stamps from post offices.



The idea that a postage stamp would become so difficult to obtain from this most traditional of sources would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. It's like visiting a florist, only to be told they are unable to provide flowers. Yet, our mailbox is currently dominated by complaints about post offices which apparently don't have any stamps.

The latest special issue? 'We don't stock those.' Just the 1st class or 2nd class values? 'No, not even those.' A booklet combining definitives and commemoratives? 'Not here. Try a newsagent.'

But it's not only commemoratives that are affected. On a visit to my local sub-post office, I was unable to buy a single Machin definitive for a packet, and (after fighting off the usual attempts to sell me a Horizon label) was reduced to piecing together what was only approximately the correct rate, from the limited selection of self-adhesives in their stock book.

These included a 50p make-up value which was so old that it had no date code in its security overlay; the marginal inscription confirmed a printing date of August 2009!

The latest developments (see page 22) are loosening the historic ties between Royal Mail and the Post Office still further, so where will this end? Perhaps we'll end up buying stamps from the florist.

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Or a copy of our GB price guide!

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*'We have Royal Mail producing hundreds of stamps and the Post Office refusing to sell them'*

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# 274-283 CORINPHILA

## 22-27 NOVEMBER 20

PREVIEW OF OUR NOVEMBER AUCTION



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 2021 SALE

- **Europe & Overseas**, incl.
  - Boy Scouts** – The Alfred Scherb Collection,
  - The Rhodesias** – The “BESANÇON” Collection (part II),
  - Bushire** – The “BESANÇON” Collection (part I),
  - Brunei** – The “BESANÇON” Collection,
  - Guatemala** – selected rarities,
  - Ballon Monté** – “Ville d’Orleans” (part I)
- **Pacific Islands** – The “BESANÇON” Collection (part I)
- **Ceylon & Maldives** – The “BESANÇON” Collection (part I)
- **France Incoming Mail/Part or Insufficiently paid** – The Jack Blanc Collection
- **South & Central America** – The Brian Moorhouse Estate (part IV)
- **Italy, France and European Countries** – The Ing. Pietro Provera Collections (part III)
- **Switzerland** – The ERIVAN Collection (3<sup>rd</sup> Auction),
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- **Strubel 1854-1863** – Collection (part I)
- **Stamp Boxes**



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# Stampex is back, with a bold new 'zonal' layout



Britain's biggest regular philatelic exhibition and fair, Stampex, returns in physical form this month for the first time in two years.

Following the cancellation of the Spring 2020, Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 events due to the coronavirus pandemic, Autumn Stampex takes place at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, from September 29 to October 2.

Building on elements of the two Virtual Stampex shows held in the interim, the organisers, the Philatelic Traders' Society, promise the physical exhibition will have an exciting new look and feel, reshaped with dedicated 'zones' and new concepts.

■ All dealers' auction houses' and societies' stands are now situated on the mezzanine level and in the gallery bays, and around 70 PTS members have booked trading space.

■ Competitive exhibits can now be found on the Village Green zone near the entrance to the show, featuring the National Competition organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies and displays mounted by members of the British Thematic Association.

■ A dedicated Auditorium zone is the new home of Stampex talks, where you can hear philatelic luminaries chat about their

collections or careers. Sessions on auctioneering and expertising are planned, as well as talks by the British Library and the Royal Philatelic Society London.

■ Another new zone is the Collectors' Lounge, where members of the Royal and the PTS will be on hand to answer visitors' questions about collecting, and exhibiting clinics will be held.

■ A new Digital Shopping Zone will offer an interactive shopping experience, with QR codes giving direct access to popular companies and brands.

■ The dedicated Youth Zone, where the Stamp Active organisation and others encourage youngsters get involved in philately, will be offering free activities, goodie bags and even a limited number of money-off vouchers, as well as celebrating Postcrossing and World Postcard Day.

■ The Museum of Philately, the digital platform that captures and preserves award-winning collections provides provenance and pricing information, will be present in physical form after adding to the attractions of the virtual shows.

■ Stampex sponsors Spink will be putting on an exhibition of art by Ann Carrington, who gives discarded and mundane objects new meaning in her sculptures, and has created several stamp-inspired pieces.

For those who are unable to visit London in person, some aspects of the event will be streamed live online, along with exclusive videos and show tours. These will also be available throughout October, so visitors can catch up on anything they missed.

## DETAILS

### DATES

September 29 to October 2.

### VENUE

Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

### PRICES

Wednesday: tickets priced £10.  
Thursday to Saturday: free entry.  
Online: tickets priced £5.

### PROTOCOL

Covid-19 safety precautions will be in place to reassure visitors.

### INFORMATION

For further details, or to sign up to an e-mailed newsletter, visit [www.stampexinternational.co.uk](http://www.stampexinternational.co.uk)



# Portugal pair recalls legacy of Magellan

Portugal has issued a pair of stamps marking the 500th Anniversary of Ferdinand Magellan's Arrival in the Philippines in March 1521, a significant moment in the history of mankind's exploration of the Earth.

To reach the Philippines, the Portuguese navigator had led a flotilla of Spanish ships across the Atlantic Ocean, around Cape Horn and across the Pacific, demonstrating practically for the first time that the planet was spherical.

Under his deputy, the Spaniard Juan Sebastián Elcano, one of the ships would become the first to complete a circumnavigation.

Magellan himself, however, did not live to complete the epic journey, as he was killed in the Philippines during a battle between local tribal chiefs on April 27, 1521.

The issue comprises a 54c design showing the Cross of Magellan in Cebu Cathedral, and a €1 design showing the Holy Child of Cebu, a statuette of Jesus given by Magellan to the local ruler and his consort when they were baptised as Christians.

The two stamps share a composite background image which carries a portrait of Magellan.



# Olympic golds prompt more 'instant stamps' from Australia

Australia continued what has become an established tradition by issuing stamps celebrating all of its gold medallists at the Olympic Games.

Its total of 17 golds at the delayed Tokyo 2020 Games duly resulted in 17 sheetlets of 10, all produced within 72 hours of the success and all \$1.10 values portraying the victorious athletes with their medals.

Watersports dominated, with the nation's swimmers, rowers, sailors and canoeists to the fore.

Australia Post was the first postal administration in the world to produce 'instant stamps', for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and has continued to honour its gold medallists in the same way ever since.



# Right royal reunion at the Royal

The Royal Philatelic Society London held its first 'in person' meeting in nearly 18 months in July, when 70 members enjoyed a display of Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus from the Royal Philatelic Collection.

Its regular live talks, however, which have been broadcast online during the pandemic, will continue to be made available in this way, not least for the benefit of the society's large international membership.

In fact, watching these is free for non-members too, via the Eventbrite website.

Visit [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk)



# Cartographic classic shows off Guernsey

Guernsey's contribution to this year's SEPAC omnibus theme of 'Old Maps' is a set honouring a 400-year-old masterpiece.

The £1 value reproduces the 1611 map of 'Garnsey' (including Herm and Sark) by John Speed, while another five designs pick out details from it, with their historic parish and island names.

Speed brought England into the mainstream of cartography, which had previously been dominated by the Dutch, with his influential atlas, *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

► Leeds Philatelic Society is one of six awarded a certificate of appreciation by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, for outstanding work in promoting the hobby.

► FEPA is naming its new annual award for the best website after Francis Kiddle, the 'tireless contributor to the study of philately' (and to *Stamp Magazine*) who died in 2015.

► Salisbury Stamp & Postcard Show is expected to go ahead at the city's Five Rivers Leisure Centre on October 15-16, with around 50 dealers. Visit [www.salisbury-stampshow.co.uk](http://www.salisbury-stampshow.co.uk)

► Capex '22 in Canada next June will be the first major exhibition dedicated to one-frame exhibits. The UK Commissioner is Frank Walton. E-mail: [frank@frankwalton.com](mailto:frank@frankwalton.com)

► Stanley Gibbons' sales fell by 18% during the year to March 31, 2021, and it made a pre-tax loss of £4.1m. For much of that period, its London shop was closed due to the pandemic.

► The US Postal Service is discontinuing its pre-paid Priority Mail postal stationery envelope, which was introduced in 2003, due to falling sales.

► A philatelic society in the Netherlands is organising an exhibition jointly with a local Lego enthusiasts club. BricksPhil 21 takes place on September 25-26 in Geleen.

# 10 British drivers who conquered Formula 1



To mark the 75th anniversary of Formula 1 motor racing, Jersey issued two sets on the same day celebrating British World Champions.

Formula 1 is the top class of international racing for single-seater cars, and the first race to approved F1 rules was the Turin Grand Prix held on September 1, 1946.

By the late 1950s, British engineers and drivers came to dominate the scene. A total of 10 British drivers have won the World Championship for drivers, and the majority of teams are based in the UK to this day.

Each set comprises five stamps and one miniature sheet, all dynamically illustrated by Keith Burns. So in all there is one stamp dedicated to each champion driver (each shown battling with a major rival), and two further large-format racing scenes.

In chronological order, the first of the 10 British World Champions was Mike Hawthorn (1958), racing a Ferrari 246 and illustrated on a 54p stamp.



The second was Graham Hill (1962, 1968), pictured on a 54p stamp on his way to his second title in a Lotus 49B in 1968.

The third was Jim Clark (1963, 1965), shown on a 74p value on the way to his first championship in a Lotus 25.

The fourth was John Surtees (1964), the only man to win world titles in cars and on bikes, seen on a 74p in his Ferrari 158.

The fifth was Jackie Stewart (1969, 1971, 1973), who is shown on a £1 value in his Tyrrell 003 during the 1971 season.

The sixth was James Hunt (1976), seen on

an 88p stamp in his McLaren M23.

The seventh was Nigel Mansell (1992), who won his title in a Williams FW14B and is illustrated on a £1.25 value.

The eighth was Damon Hill (1996), son of Graham, who was the 1996 champion driving a Williams FW18 and appears on a £1.30 design.

The ninth was Jenson Button (2009), illustrated on a £1.70 stamp prevailing in a Brawn BGP001

The 10th is Lewis Hamilton (2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), who has won six of his seven world titles for Mercedes but is illustrated on a £3.50 stamp on his way to the first, in a McLaren MP4-23.

The two £3 miniature sheets feature Clark in the pits in his Lotus 33, during his second title-winning season of 1965, and Hunt's McLaren M23 battling on the track with arch-rival Niki Lauda in 1976.

The stamps were printed in lithography, with silver foil, by Cartor.



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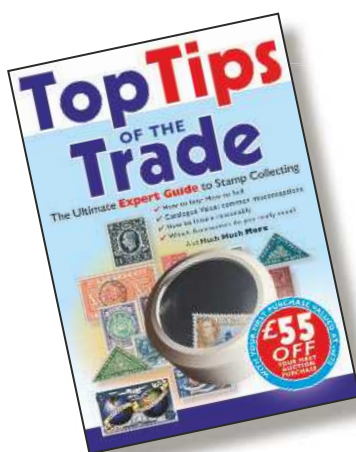
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## AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

### FRANCE 1871 Ballon monté entire to Mexico

Schuyler Rumsey's sale of the stunning Dale Forster collection of *ballon monté* (manned balloon) covers from the Siege of Paris in 1870-71 included this remarkable entire to Mexico City.

Postmarked with the double-circle handstamp of Rue St Lazare, dated January 13, 1871, it is franked with both a French Empire (Napoleon III) 80c pink and a French Republic (Cérès) 40c orange, cancelled by a numeral '2' star-of-dots and also tied by a red London transit mark of January 27.

Also tying the 80c to the cover is a large numeral '4' (meaning 4 reales) Mexican postage due handstamp in black.

Carried out of the French capital by the balloon *Vaucanson*, the cover was endorsed 'via St Nazaire ou des Etats Unis' at bottom left. In fact, it was transported by RMSP *Seine* from Southampton to St Thomas in the Danish West Indies, arriving on February 18, and by RMSP *Eider* from there to Vera Cruz, arriving on March 2.



### NEW SOUTH WALES 1850 Sydney Views 1d

This unused 1d from the 'Sydney Views' first issue of New South Wales, sold by Abacus, is one of the finest in private hands.

Printed from plate II (with clouds) it is in the dull carmine shade on greyish paper.

The original plate went into service in January 1850. It was re-engraved before being put back into service in August, and in this state is known as plate II.

**SOLD BY ABACUS £11,600**

**SOLD BY SCHUYLER RUMSEY £34,500**



### FRANCE 1871 Captured ballon monté mail

Selling for almost as much as the Mexico cover at Schuyler Rumsey was one of only two known *ballon monté* covers addressed to Cuba.

Franked with a French Empire 80c pink tied by '5' star-of-dots cancellation, it has a double-circle Rue de Bondy postmark of December 12, 1870 and a small red 'PD' boxed handstamp.

Loaded aboard the balloon *Ville de Paris*, it was addressed to Santiago and endorsed in manuscript 'Par les Vapeurs Transatlantiques' (by the Atlantic steamships).

There is no arrival postmark, however, because this mailbag never made it to the wider world. The balloon was captured by the Prussian forces besieging Paris.



**SOLD BY SCHUYLER RUMSEY £32,700**



### GREAT BRITAIN 1883 1s with inverted watermark

Great Britain's 1883 1s dull green with its Imperial Crown watermark inverted is listed but unpriced in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

Only four examples are recorded, and one came up Mayfair's auction, with strong colour and lightly postmarked.

This was the highest value in the so-called

'Lilac & Green' issue of stamps valid for both postage and revenue use. Their colours were chosen because they were the only fugitive inks available, at a time when the authorities were particularly concerned about fraudulent reuse.

**SOLD BY MAYFAIR £5,500**



## UNITED STATES 1979 'CIA Invert' error

Cherrystone's sale offered an example of the most celebrated error in modern US philately, the so-called 'CIA Invert'.

The \$1 value, issued in 1979 as part of the Americana definitive series of 1975-81 and illustrating a colonial rushlight holder, has the dark brown colour inverted, leaving only the candle and flame the right way up.

An almost complete pane, comprising 95 of 100 stamps, was purchased by a CIA employee at the post office in McLean, Virginia, for use on mail from the agency. Having noticed the error, nine employees pooled funds to buy a replacement sheet, before selling the errors to a dealer.

A scandal erupted over legal ownership of the stamps, and the CIA demanded their return. Some employees returned their stamps and kept their jobs, while others refused and were sacked.



SOLD BY CHERRYSTONE £10,200

## GB 1902 10d in rare shades

Mayfair's sale included a marginal example of the King Edward VII 10d in rare shades.

Surface-printed by De La Rue, this unmounted mint copy was in the slate-purple and deep (glossy) carmine shades.

SOLD BY MAYFAIR £4,000



## MAURITIUS 1950 5r with inverted watermark

The 5r red-brown in the 1950 definitive series of Mauritius was only recently discovered with an inverted watermark. Martello offered this fine used example.

SOLD BY MARTELLO £1,300



## BRITISH GUIANA 1852 4c black on blue

A highlight of the Corbitts auction was a rarity of British Guiana, the 1852 4c black on deep blue paper.

This example, showing part of a Demerara circular datestamp, had three margins but was missing part of its frame at top right. Mounted on thin card, it came with an Royal Philatelic Society London certificate from 2019.

The 1852 issue, comprising values of 1d and 4d, was the colony's second, after the so-called 'Cottonreels' of 1850-51. It was the first to be printed in Britain, in litho by Waterlow.

SOLD BY CORBITTS £2,700



## CHINESE POST OFFICES IN TIBET 1911 Occupation overprints

Martello's auction included an almost complete set of the stamps which were overprinted by China for use in occupied Tibet in 1911.

A set of 11 was created by overprinting the Chinese Imperial Post 1898 series in the local currency of Indian pies, annas and rupees. The surcharges ranged in value from the 3p on 1c buff to the 2r on \$2 purple and yellow.

These stamps were the first ever issued for Tibet, and were used in post offices set up by the Chinese army, which occupied the country from 1910-12.

All the stamps in this particular lot were in mounted mint condition, and the only value missing from the set was the 3a on 16c.

SOLD BY MARTELLO £1,300





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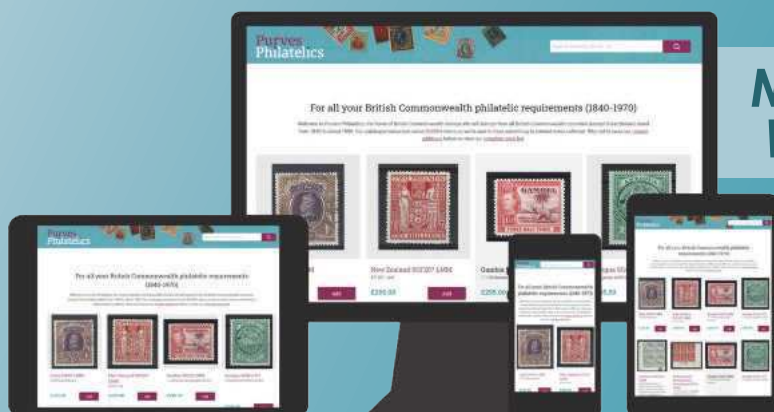
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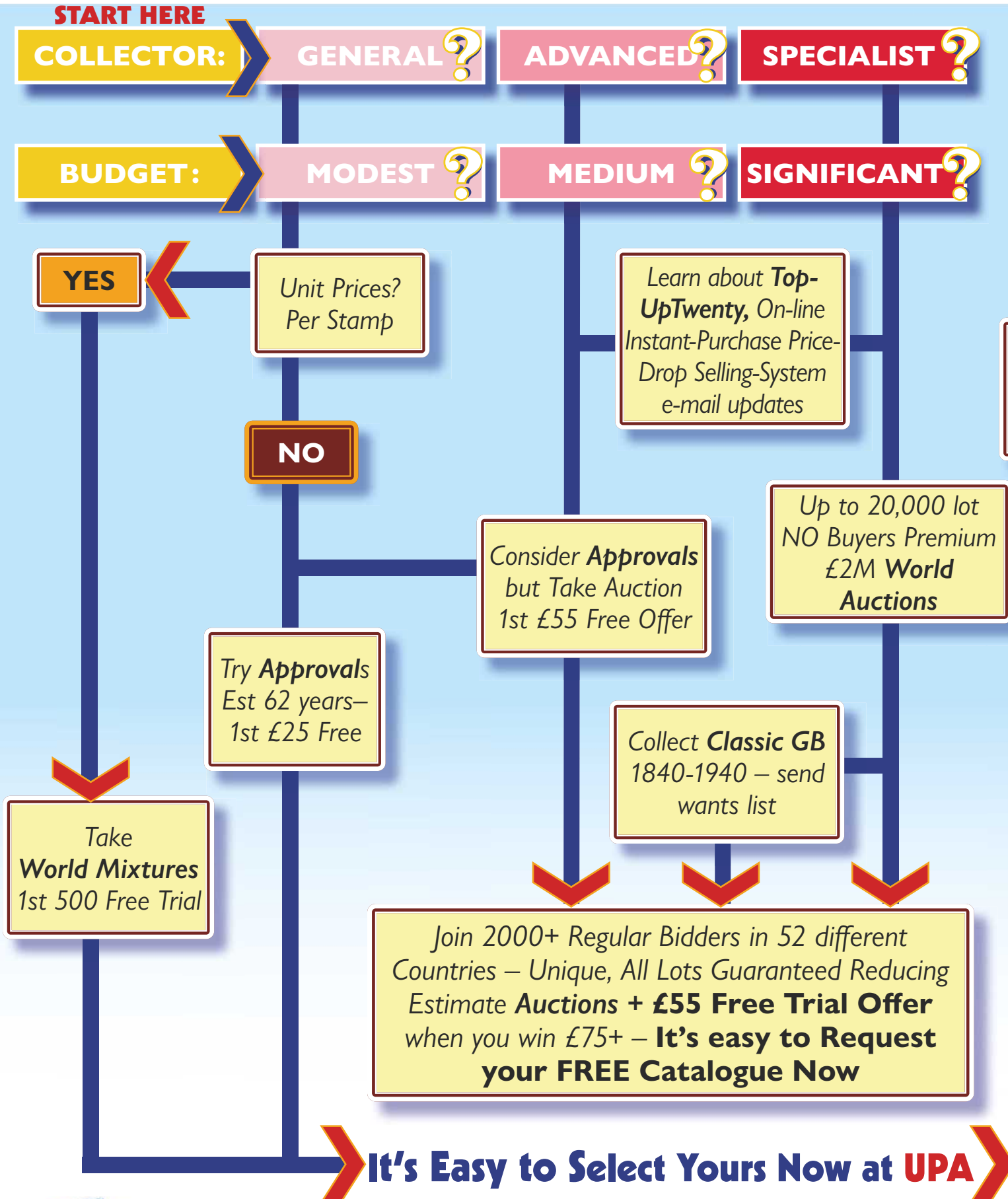
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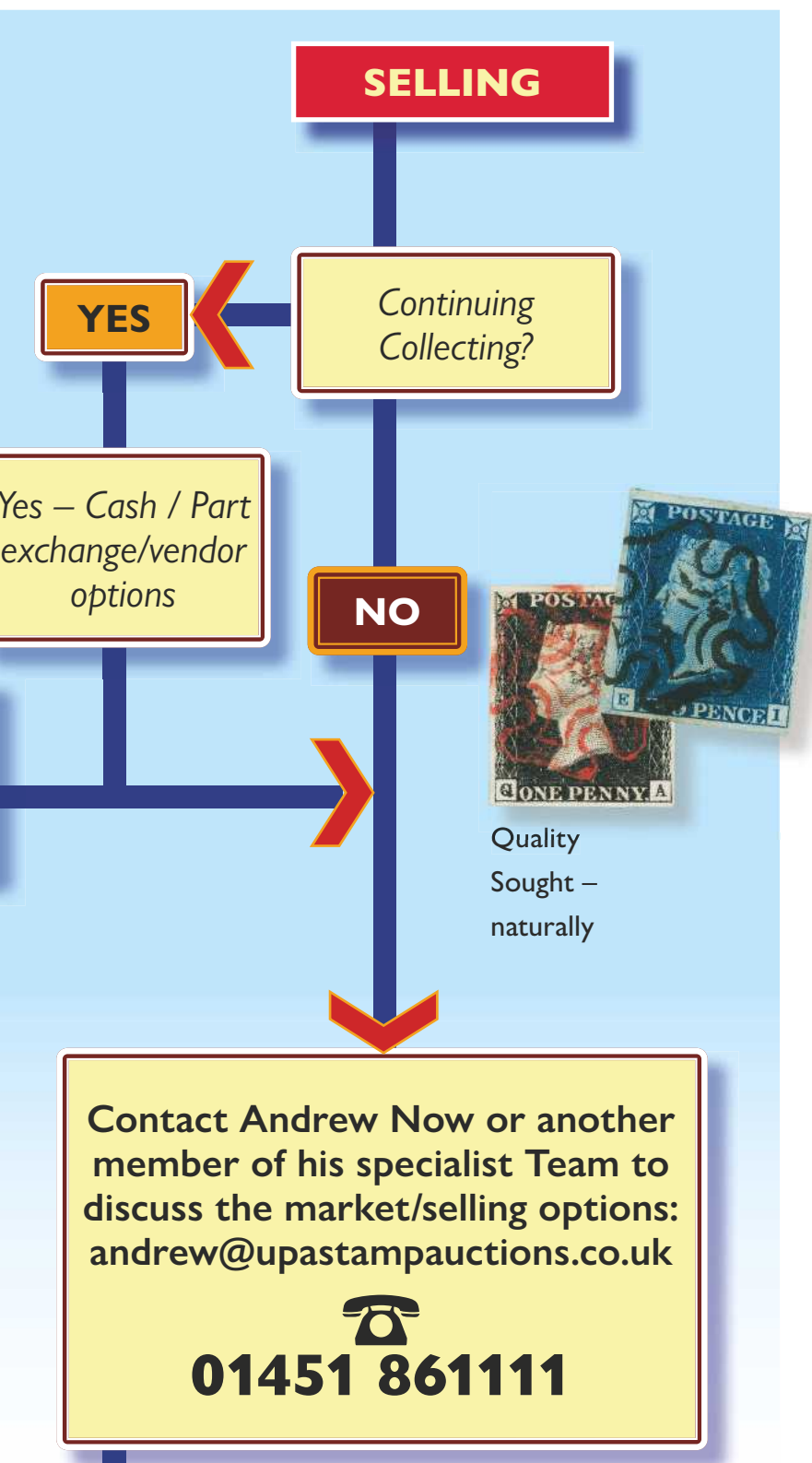
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# De-Mystifying Philately – QUIZ



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# A world transformed by industry and electricity

A commemorative issue from Royal Mail, released on August 12, celebrates Industrial Revolutions, highlighting the pioneering spirit behind some of the most ingenious scientific and engineering advances made in Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries.

A set of six stamps in counter sheets features ground-breaking inventions during what is now sometimes called the first industrial revolution, based on the exploitation of water and steam power, the use of new materials in construction, improvements in the efficiency of textile production and other manufacturing, and the development of canal and railway transport networks.

A miniature sheet of four entitled The Electric Revolution recalls how these advances were built upon by harnessing the power of electricity, to improve standards of living and speed up communications.

Designed by Common Curiosity, the issue was printed in litho by International Security Printers, with the counter sheet stamps available in three vertically se-tenant pairs.

## 2nd class BESSEMER PROCESS

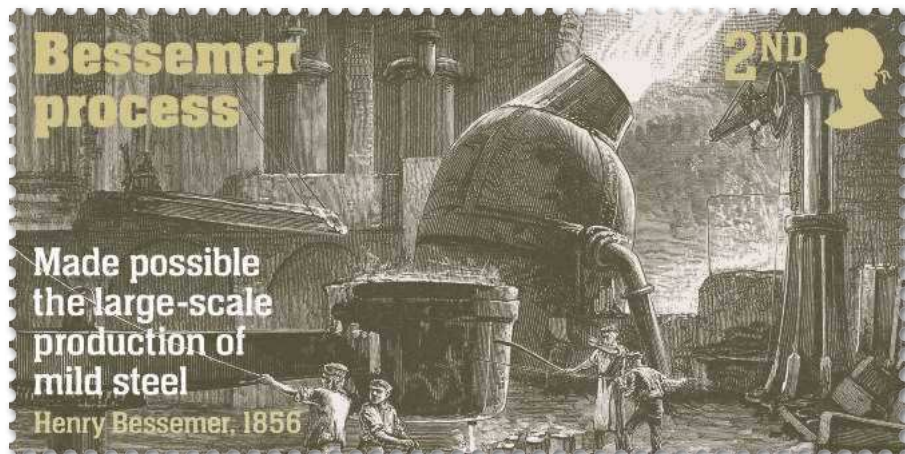
Sir Henry Bessemer discovered that blowing air through molten iron produced a violent exothermic reaction, removed impurities and created 'mild steel', which had most of the properties of wrought iron but could be produced on a large scale. In 1856 he patented the process, which was carried out in a pear-shaped 'Bessemer converter'.

## 2nd class WATT'S ROTATIVE STEAM ENGINE

Among the many contributions to the development of steam power made by James Watt, in partnership with Matthew Boulton, was an engine that could drive machinery directly using 'sun-and-planet' gearing, turning the linear motion of the engine into rotary motion. Steam propelled the piston in both directions in his double-acting engine of 1782, and his parallel-motion system of connecting rods between piston and beam was perfected in 1784.

## 1st class PENYDARREN LOCOMOTIVE

The first demonstration of a steam engine transporting a load on iron rails was



carried out by Richard Trevithick in 1804. The locomotive he built for the Penydarren Ironworks near Merthyr Tydfil pulled 10 tons of iron and about 70 men to the canal wharf at Abercynon, a distance of nine miles.

## 1st class SPINNING JENNY

In the mid-1760s, James Hargreaves invented the first practical multi-spindle spinning machine, which was a key element in the industrialisation of textile manufacturing. The operator used one hand to move a beam across the top of the frame, drawing and twisting the roving, and the other hand to turn a wheel which caused eight spindles to revolve, spinning it to produce coarse thread. The nickname 'jenny' was probably derived from a dialect pronunciation of the word 'engine'.

## £1.70 LOMBE'S SILK MILL

John Lombe and his half-brother Sir

Thomas Lombe built the first water-powered multi-storey textile factory in Britain around 1721, for the manufacture of silk. In the five-storey Derby Mill, the silk-throwing process took place on large machines that extended through the lower two floors, while smaller doubling machines worked on the three higher floors. Power was provided by waterwheels driven by the River Derwent.

## £1.70 PORTLAND CEMENT

The construction of tunnels and sewers was revolutionised by a new material patented in 1824 by Joseph Aspdin and later developed by his son William. Named because of its visual resemblance to Portland stone, Portland cement was made from clay and limestone, fired in a kiln and then mixed with gypsum. It became the world's most important building material, and an ingredient of concrete, mortar and grout.





built at Deptford in 1888–89 by Sebastian de Ferranti, using two generators driven by 1500hp steam engines to supply alternating-current electricity to properties in central London.

#### £2.55 LIGHT BULB

The incandescent light bulb was developed in Britain by Joseph Swan, who was granted a patent in 1880 and set up the Swan Electric Light Company factory in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His bulbs were soon lighting up public buildings, stately homes and city streets, adopted in preference to gaslight.

#### OTHER PRODUCTS

The presentation pack, written by historian Barrie Trinder, describes the inventions featured on the stamps and offers an insight into the people that created them.

Stamp cards and first day covers are also available as usual.

## MINIATURE SHEET

### 2nd class FARADAY GENERATES ELECTRICITY

In 1831, Michael Faraday demonstrated electromagnetic induction, generating a current using copper wire insulated in cotton wrapped around an iron ring.

### 1st class TRANSATLANTIC CABLE

The first transatlantic undersea cable for electric telegraphy was laid by the Atlantic Telegraph Company in 1858, from Ireland to Newfoundland, speeding up communications between Britain and North America from weeks to seconds. The 2,000-mile cable quickly failed, but a more

durable line was successful when it was laid in 1866.

### £1.70 DEPTFORD POWER STATION

Britain's first large-scale power station was

## PRICES

Set of 6 stamps	£6.42
Miniature sheet	£5.76
Presentation pack	£13.10
Stamp cards	£4.95
First day cover (stamps)	£8.35
First day cover (mini sheet)	£7.55

## VERDICT

### COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

Britain should be proud of the featured breakthroughs, some of which deserve more credit than they generally get

### QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

The illustrations have a period charm about them, even if the inscriptions are unusually wordy

### WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

It is doubtful whether many will be encouraged to take a closer look at the historic advances behind the images

# Tanks for the memories, in a big military parade



**R**oyal Mail issued a set of eight stamps and a miniature sheet on September 2 featuring British Army Vehicles.

The counter sheet designs follow the development of tanks since their introduction during World War I. They are illustrated by military artist Mick Graham, who served with the Royal Tank Regiment for 15 years.

The miniature sheet focuses on non-combat vehicles which play a key role in military operations, with specialist tasks such as patrol, reconnaissance, tactical support and engineering. These designs are based on photographs.

The British Army has always needed vehicles to transport munitions and supplies, but in World War I new weapons were required to break through trenches defended by barbed wire and machine guns. Tanks made their debut in September 1916.

By the end of the war, Britain had developed various other types of armoured vehicle, and at the outbreak of World War II it had the only fully mechanised army in Europe. By the end of that conflict it had 11 armoured divisions, and over 1.5 million vehicles in service.

The Cold War brought new requirements, including vehicles sealed against chemical and nuclear contamination, and new technologies, such as infrared or thermal

imaging. Recent times have seen the development of autonomous vehicles.

The sheet stamps, which are available in four horizontally se-tenant pairs, were designed Royal Mail Group, and the miniature sheet by Studio Up. The whole issue was printed in litho by International Security Printers.

## 1st class MkIV TANK

The first use of rhomboid-shaped MkI tanks on the Somme in September 1916 had mixed results, and the MkII and MkIII tanks were made in small quantities, but the MkIV proved its worth at Cambrai in November 1917. More than 1,200 were manufactured before the war's end, each crewed by eight men.

## 1st class MATILDA MkII TANK

The Matilda was the second in a series of infantry tanks put into production just before World War II, intended for attacking a defended position in co-ordination with infantry troops. It saw action in France, where its thick armour made it impervious to most German anti-tank guns, in North Africa, where it was dubbed 'The Queen of the Desert', and later in the Far East.

## 1st class CHURCHILL AVRE TANK

The Churchill infantry tank was converted

into an AVRE (Armoured Vehicles Royal Engineers), with fixtures allowing it be adapted to carry large loads or lay trackway, while the spigot mortar in its the turret could fire a 40lb demolition charge at defensive structures. The AVRE first went into action on D-Day, in June 1944, and was considered a great success.

## 1st class CENTURION Mk9 TANK

The Centurion was developed by the end of World War II and missed seeing wartime action by a month, but went on to have a long service life, including in the Korean War. Its Rolls-Royce Meteor engine gave it 650hp, double that of many rivals, and the Mk9 featured the powerful L7 105mm gun which became the NATO standard.

## £1.70 SCORPION TANK

Part of a family of vehicles designed in the 1960s with common components, the Scorpion saw action in the Falklands War and the First Gulf War. Small and light, and powered by the same Jaguar J60 engine as the E-type sports car, its top speed of 45mph made it a difficult target to hit as a reconnaissance vehicle.

## £1.70 CHIEFTAIN Mk5 TANK

Introduced in 1967, the Chieftain was Britain's main battle tank (MBT) through the





Cold War period, but saw action only in the hands of Iranian and Kuwaiti forces in the Gulf region. Its stabilised 120mm gun was very accurate, its steel armour was sloped for optimal protection, and its profile was low to present a smaller target.

#### £1.70 CHALLENGER 2 TANK

Developed by Vickers and introduced in 1998, the Challenger 2 has a secret composite arrangement of armour including ceramics, giving greater protection than steel alone. Its 120mm rifled gun can fire a range of ammunition types, it has a thermal imaging system to allow it to fight at night, and it is still being upgraded to respond to new threats on the modern battlefield.

#### £1.70 AJAX TANK

The scouting vehicle in a new family of medium-weight armoured machines now coming into service, with six variants based on a common chassis, the Ajax is fitted with state-of-the-art ISTAR (intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance) digital technology. Among its defensive systems are acoustic shot-detection sensors which can tell the crew the direction of incoming fire.

## PRICES

Set of 8 stamps	£10.20
Miniature sheet	£5.10
Presentation pack	£16.20
Stamp cards	£5.85
First day cover (stamps)	£12.90
First day cover (mini sheet)	£6.80



## MINIATURE SHEET

#### 1st class COYOTE

This tactical support vehicle with superb off-road capability is used for reconnaissance and patrolling. It has six wheels to allow it to carry a heavier load, including up to five soldiers.

#### 1st class ARMY WILDCAT

This reconnaissance helicopter can fulfil a number of roles, including command and control, battlefield surveillance and transport of up to six troops or supplies.

#### £1.70 TROJAN

This armoured vehicle of the Royal Engineers is equipped for clearing battlefield obstacles. It can have a dozer blade or a mine plough fitted to the front, and can position a fascine (a bundle of plastic pipes) to allow other vehicles to cross a trench or marsh.

#### £1.70 FOXHOUND

This light protected patrol vehicle can carry six people at speeds of up to 70mph. It has a

V-shaped hull to dissipate the blast from landmines or bombs.

#### OTHER PRODUCTS

Written by David Willey, a curator at The Tank Museum, the presentation pack explores the evolution of armoured vehicles, with details of the featured tanks.

First day covers and stamp cards are available as usual.

## VERDICT

#### COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

It's surprising that army vehicles have been ignored by the stamp programme for so long

#### QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

Commissioned paintings give the sheet stamps a touch of class

#### WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

Some of the designs are quite drab, although this is understandable given that drab is a military colour!

# Royal Mail bringing parcel postage labels to your front door...



Postmen are bringing pre-printed postage labels to customers' doors for the first time, in a trial linked to Royal Mail's embryonic Parcel Collect service.

The initiative allows customers who are unable to pay for postage online, or unable to print a label, to use the collection service which was introduced towards the end of 2020 (Dec/Jan issue, page 25).

The trial is being carried out in the Bath, Cheltenham and Doncaster areas in England, and Newton Mearns in Scotland. Self-adhesive labels will be supplied where customers request this option when booking a collection.

## ...as Post Office begins to handle mail for independent carriers

For the first time in its history, the Post Office has signed a deal to handle parcels for a company other than Royal Mail or its subsidiary Parcelforce.

The contract, with the French firm DPD, will see it operate a click-and-collect service for online shoppers.

DPD, which is owned by the French postal authority La Poste, will deliver parcels directly to local post offices, ready to be picked up by their addressees.

The service is being offered at 250 branches initially, but this number is expected to rise to 1,500 by Christmas.

The deal comes just eight months after the Post Office freed itself from its long-term exclusivity arrangement with Royal Mail (February issue, page 21), which had prevented it from handling mail on behalf of independent carriers.

The Parcel Collect service is offered by postmen and postwomen on their daily round. It is available six days a week, for a fee of 72p per parcel in addition to the usual postage rate (although a promotional rate of 30p applies until September 26).

Royal Mail says that about two and a half million parcels have been collected from doors since its launch, but there seems little prospect of the labels becoming mainstream collectables.

By allowing customers to dodge the inconvenience of having to visit a post office, Parcel Collect can be seen as one more step in the accelerating divorce between Royal Mail and the Post Office.



The 2nd Mails Distribution Agreement, which replaced the inaugural deal signed when Post Office Ltd was formally separated from the Royal Mail Group in 2012, allows for a continuing commercial partnership between the two organisations, but on a non-exclusive basis.

Although not unexpected, the DPD contract comes as a blow to Royal Mail, which has been making its own efforts to capitalise on the growing parcels market.



# Industrial Revolutions prestige book features doubled-ended layout

The prestige stamp book accompanying the Industrial Revolutions issue is a double-ended design with alternative front covers, and therefore with panes deliberately inverted in relation to each other.

One cover focuses on the industrial revolution, with a bleak black-and-white illustration of the smokestacks of the Black Country. Turn the booklet over and open it from the other side, and the alternative cover focuses on the electrical revolution, showing Joseph Swan's workshop in Newcastle, illuminated by incandescent light.

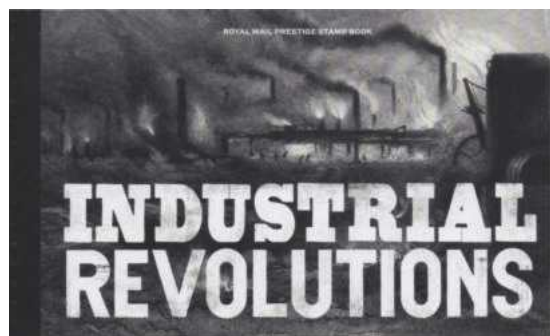
Two of the four stamp panes contain the six counter-sheet designs in se-tenant arrangements, with the two 1st class values duplicated to make up the numbers. Another pane has the four miniature sheet designs, in the same se-tenant arrangement but with a different border.

The definitives pane comprises three 10p, two 5p, two 20p and one £1.70 Machins, surrounding a non-postal label illustrating Swan's light bulb.

Written by historian Barrie Trinder, the text explores the industrial and electric revolutions in greater detail, including the story of the Atlantic Telegraph.

The 24-page booklet was printed in litho by International Security Printers and is priced £18.03.

One example has already been reported with the definitives pane missing.



## Restaurant named the best in the world has a philatelic heritage

The restaurant named the best in the world in Trip Advisor's annual awards is The Old Stamp House in Ambleside, Cumbria.

It takes its name from the fact that it occupies the former office of the celebrated poet William Wordsworth, when he served as Distributor of Stamps (that is, impressed-duty revenue stamps) for Westmorland from 1812-42.



## New edition of GB price guide

A new edition of *British Stamp Market Values* has been published, after a year's hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Put together by the team who bring you *Stamp Magazine*, this is the guide which gives realistic market prices for all stamps and philatelic products since 1840, rather than the inflated selling prices you'll find in some big dealers' catalogues.

Updated and improved from the 2020 publication, the 2022 issue lists definitives, commemoratives, regional issues, miniature sheets, booklets, business sheets, officials, postage dues, vending machine stamps, label sheets, presentation packs and yearbooks.

Better illustrated than ever before, it is more clearly laid out and cheaper than comparable guides, priced £15.99.

Order your copy at [www.mags-uk.com](http://www.mags-uk.com)

### NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ An investigation into claims that forged stamps were sold by a Hampshire post office (September issue, page 23), concluded that they were not forged but defective. The error was picked up by a sorting machine, which suggests they were missing phosphor.

➤ The Great Britain Philatelic Society will hold a joint on-line meeting with the Collectors Club of New York on October 13, with a series of displays by members of both institutions. Visit [www.gbpc.org.uk](http://www.gbpc.org.uk)

➤ International Security Printers had to invest in advanced hybrid printing, finishing and inspection systems in order to produce Great Britain's first matrix coded stamps (May issue, page 20).

➤ The leader of Leeds City Council, James Lewis, made the news when he shared an image online of a postcard he received, which had passed through the postal system bearing a photo of himself in place of a postage stamp.

➤ Sir Thomas Lawrence's 1825 portrait of Charles William Lambton, reproduced on the 4d value in the 1967 British Paintings stamp issue, has been purchased by the National Gallery for £9.3m.

➤ Police were called out to a sorting office in June to investigate a package that was unusually smelly, and discovered it contained cannabis wrapped in a sock. It is unclear whether the smell was emanating from the drug or the clothing!

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# Letters

## GET IN TOUCH

These pages are devoted to giving you the opportunity to have your say. Whether you want to praise or complain, suggest or advise, add information or correct it, or just get something off your chest, we'd love to hear from you.

Send your letters to:

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Or send an e-mail to:

[guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com](mailto:guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com)

The Editor reads all letters, but is unable to answer them all personally. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

## There's no obligation on Gibbons to catalogue Royal Mail stamps

Royal Mail is running a competition for schoolchildren to design a set of eight stamps hailing their heroes of the pandemic.

Does the country really need a set of eight stamps? Would not four be sufficient?

And what postal purpose will these stamps serve?

Post offices generally do not stock commemoratives, so few, if any, will be used for postage.

Royal Mail's attitude seems to be: 'We print 'em. You don't have to buy 'em.'

Maybe Stanley Gibbons' attitude should be: 'You print 'em. We don't have to catalogue 'em.'

**Cliff Jermyn-Francis, York**

## Distant sound of music

How come Royal Mail overlooked the 50th anniversary of the Glasonbury Festival, leaving Irish stamps (September issue, page 9) to fill the void?

**Roger Johnson, Epsom**

## LETTER OF THE MONTH

### Absurdity of stamps not being used for postage is a consequence of privatisation

Robin Lyons (August issue, page 28) asks what Rowland Hill would think about the non-availability of commemorative stamps for postage?

The answer is that he wouldn't care. Hill invented the definitive stamp. It was governments which later identified the marketing potential of special issues.

With the privatisation of Royal Mail, and its separation from the Post Office, the UK government is no longer involved in stamp issuing policy, leaving it to 'the market' to decide.

Hence we have the absurd situation of Royal Mail producing huge numbers of stamps each year, and the Post Office declining to sell them.

**Terry Davies, Caersws**



## Don't expect to be able to find commemorative issues in small-town post offices...

Having moved from West Sussex to Shropshire last year, my local post office now is in a small town south of Shrewsbury. It is located in the corner of the Co-Op supermarket.

As my seven grandchildren like stamps, I always try to put commemoratives on the letters I send to them. So I visited the post office to purchase some.

'Any kind,' I said, 'as long as they are 1st class commemoratives.'

'Sorry, we don't sell commemoratives at the moment,' I was told, 'but you can buy a presentation pack if you like!'

What a shambles! I thought the policy was to promote commemoratives. Obviously I was mistaken.

My grandfather, Sir Walter Womersley, was Assistant Postmaster General in the 1930s. I think he would be shocked at the poor service we get today.

**Peter Womersley, Craven Arms**

## ...or used commemoratives at Stanley Gibbons

I recently contacted Stanley Gibbons concerning its attitude to the unavailability of commemorative stamps at many post offices, with the inevitable result that they are now rarely used for postage.

The company responded that it understood my comments, but said these stamps remained widely available from larger post offices and from the philatelic bureau, and that it had no immediate intention of changing the way they are listed in its catalogues.

A follow-up question I asked of Gibbons was 'Where do you yourselves obtain used modern commemoratives?' The company's answer was 'Although we list them, we don't actually sell them.'

This is not stated in their catalogue, as far as I can see, and might surprise a lot of people. Anyone who unwittingly placed an order for recent issues in used condition would end up being disappointed.

**Gordon Hendry, Witney**



## SOAPBOX

The old hobby is dead, long live the new hobby! Philatelic life after the pandemic will never be the same again, argues Jack Hughes

Many people still believe that 'the new normal', after the coronavirus pandemic, will be much like the old normal. It won't be.

Huge societal changes are happening, which will have a profound impact on the way we live and work. Our hobby is not immune from this.

We need to look at the Covid-19 facts. It is easy to catch and kills people, and no-one can be sure for how long the various vaccines will provide protection. Face-to-face philately is on a very serious downhill path.

Local societies were already fading away before the pandemic started, and small and poorly ventilated meeting rooms are ideal breeding grounds for a virus, so how soon will members risk returning to them?

The philatelic world is a conservative world, but as more and more societies run decent websites and chatrooms, why attend a meeting where you might catch a deadly disease?

Stamp fairs, where many people are in close proximity and items are touched by many hands, could soon be extinct for the same reasons. You might like gossiping to dealers and rummaging through their stock, but will you feel safe doing so?

Competitive exhibiting will surely decrease, too. Without the bedrock of local society competitions, for many people the motivation to start building an exhibit will disappear.

Virtual shows will ensure that exhibitions continue for a while, but these do not have the same charm. As

current exhibitors die off, I doubt they will be replaced in the same numbers.

On the positive side, the essence of our hobby is the items we collect. I would not be surprised if auction houses and internet-based dealers were being accessed by significantly larger numbers than before the pandemic.

Collectors can present their material online, whether on their own websites, in blogs, in forums or via YouTube, and internet search engines can answer many philatelic questions from worldwide sources.

The current generation's job is to accept the changes which are happening, and oversee the transition. And we need to use more stamps, so the collectors of the future have something to explore.

**Jack Hughes**



ABOVE: Are crowds of collectors rummaging through dealers' stock at busy stamp fairs now a scene from a bygone age?

### What is the point of booklets which include special issues, if they are not widely available?

I have had retail booklets containing self-adhesive commemoratives on standing order from the Philatelic Bureau for some time, but wondered if it would be more sensible to buy them from a post office, saving the delivery charge.

I tried four local post offices. Three of them had no idea what I was talking about; the fourth at least knew what these booklets were, but admitted that they didn't stock them.

What is the point of these booklets if they cannot be purchased for postal use?

**Dr Jeff Newman, Higham Ferrers**



### Other countries put British postmarking to shame

Like most other collectors, I have many examples of British stamps which have been defaced by anarchic postal workers rather than being properly postmarked. Needless to say, I no longer both putting pictorial stamps on my mail!

Lots of other countries, for instance Austria and Japan, can still postmark stamps sympathetically... So why can't we?

**Susi Brain, via e-mail**



### Too much war, not enough soothing music

Royal Mail's stamp programmes have been abysmal in recent years.

I am fed up with the number of dark, dreary stamps, and those commemorating the two world wars. Very few of our loved ones now remain from those times, and this frequent celebration of war has become too much.

Meanwhile, other worthy themes are ignored, such as classical music.

Although there has been a long series of issues featuring modern music, major anniversaries of classical music and composers have passed by without being celebrated at all.

**Mark Jameson, Charvil**

### Is there solid evidence that mail doesn't spread the coronavirus?

When my latest purchase of stamps arrived here in New Zealand from Thailand, I got to wondering whether my overseas purchases could potentially pass on Covid-19?

Even if the stamps themselves don't have any virus load, what about their glassine coverings, or the postal packaging?

I haven't seen any discussion or scientific advice about this in my country, and it would be horrible for New Zealand to have done so well in keeping coronavirus at bay, only to introduce it by post.

Given that the Delta variant is more transmissible than other strains, has anyone seen conclusive recent research into this?

Bizarrely, is it actually a good thing from a public health perspective that it currently takes weeks to get a letter delivered here from anywhere in the world?

**Nik Rakels, Christchurch, New Zealand**

*In Britain, the focus has been increasingly on indoor human contact (and therefore social distancing), and the scientists have said less and less about transmission through inanimate objects (and therefore hand hygiene).*

*There seems to be little concern about spreading coronavirus through the post, but we're unclear whether that's a result of solid scientific evidence or the lack of it!*

*According to Royal Mail: 'Coronaviruses are thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Although the virus can survive for a short period on some surfaces, it is unlikely to be spread from domestic or international mail, products or packaging.'*

*However, this advice does not appear to have been updated specifically to take account of the Delta variant. -Ed*

## HOT TOPICS

You can debate the philatelic issues of the day, and exchange opinions and information with other collectors, in the Forums section on our website. Visit [www.stampmagazine.co.uk](http://www.stampmagazine.co.uk)





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India, 1893 5r handpainted essay, ex De La Rue archives.

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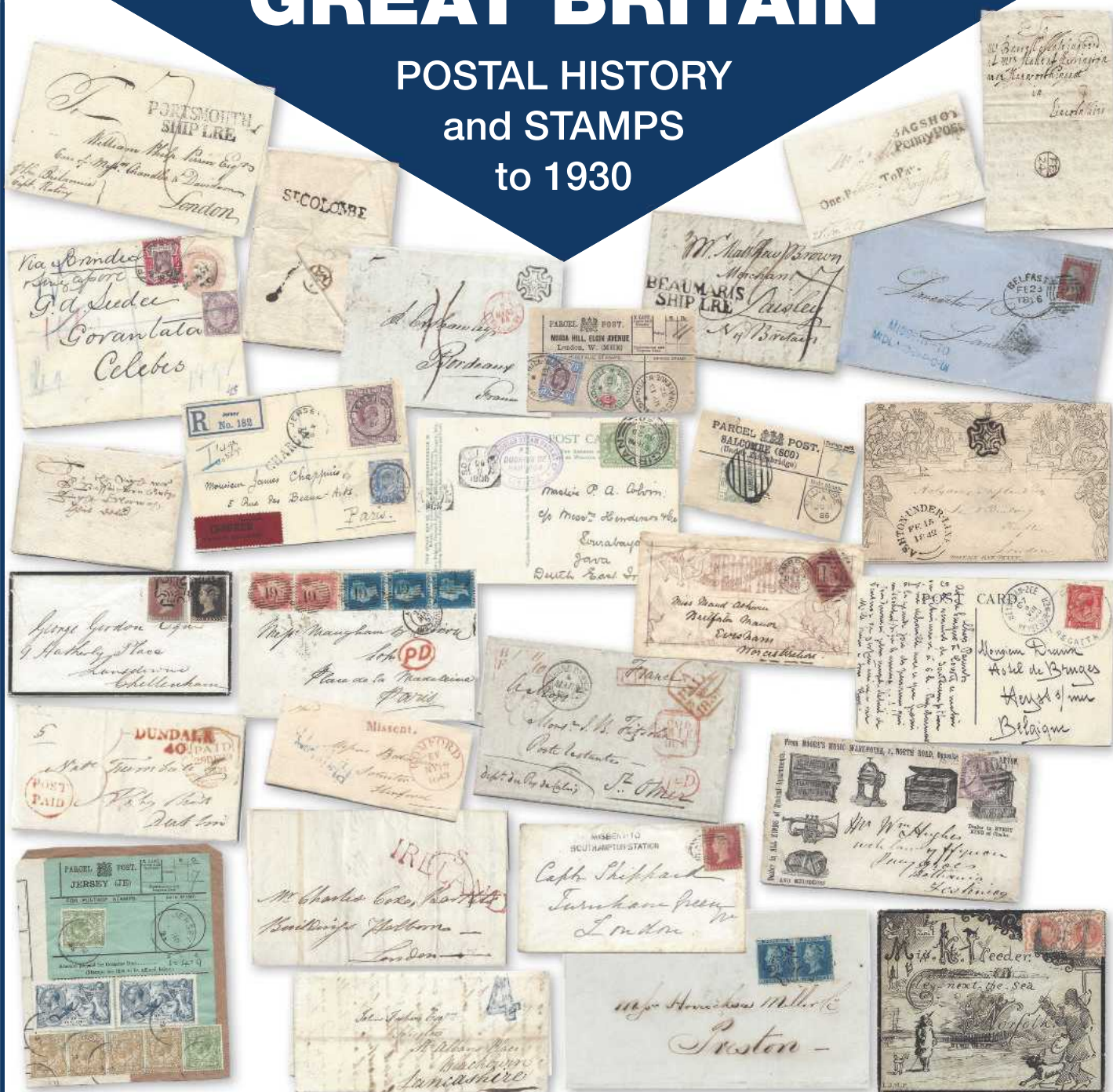
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## COMPETITION Spot The Stamp

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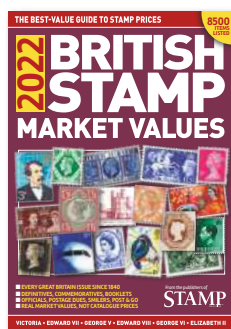
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We have a presentation pack of the Wild Coasts stamp issue to give away to each of 12 lucky winners, courtesy of Royal Mail.

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## QUESTION

Which of the animals featured in this set has a venomous bite to paralyse its prey?

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### Wars of the Roses presentation pack

The answer to our competition question in the July issue was the Battle of Tewkesbury, and the 12 lucky winners whose correct answers were drawn at random were Malcolm Matheson from Aberdeen, Mary Lucking from Bromley, Damien Hudson from Brighouse, Christopher Horne from Horley, Kieran Symons from Aberdeen, Ian Jones from Worcester, Kevin Williams from Goring by Sea, Muhammad Ehsan from Rochdale, James Gavin from Bishops Stortford, Nicholas Saxton from Westcliff-on-Sea, Andrew Rodwell from Kilburn, and Laura Corral from Norwich.

### Spot The Stamp

The Spot The Stamp winner from the July issue is Andrew Page from St Helens, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (right) as the 30p value from the 1993 Christmas set, illustrating scenes from *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.



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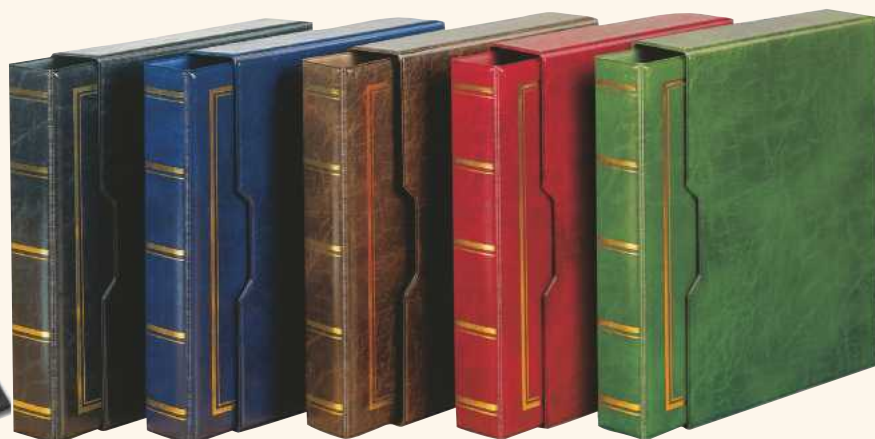
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# To hell and back

Venerated as the father of the Italian language, the poet and philosopher Dante is one of few medieval figures prominently celebrated on stamps. Besides portraits, they inevitably focus on his famously vivid descriptions of heaven and hell

■ Report by John Winchester

According to T S Eliot, 'Dante and Shakespeare divide the world between them. There is no third.'

Eliot's own work was certainly influenced and inspired by the poetry of Dante Alighieri, as were the writings of Geoffrey Chaucer, John Milton and Alfred Tennyson, the art of Sandro Botticelli, William Blake, Gustave Doré and Salvador Dalí, and the sculpture of Auguste Rodin, amongst many others.

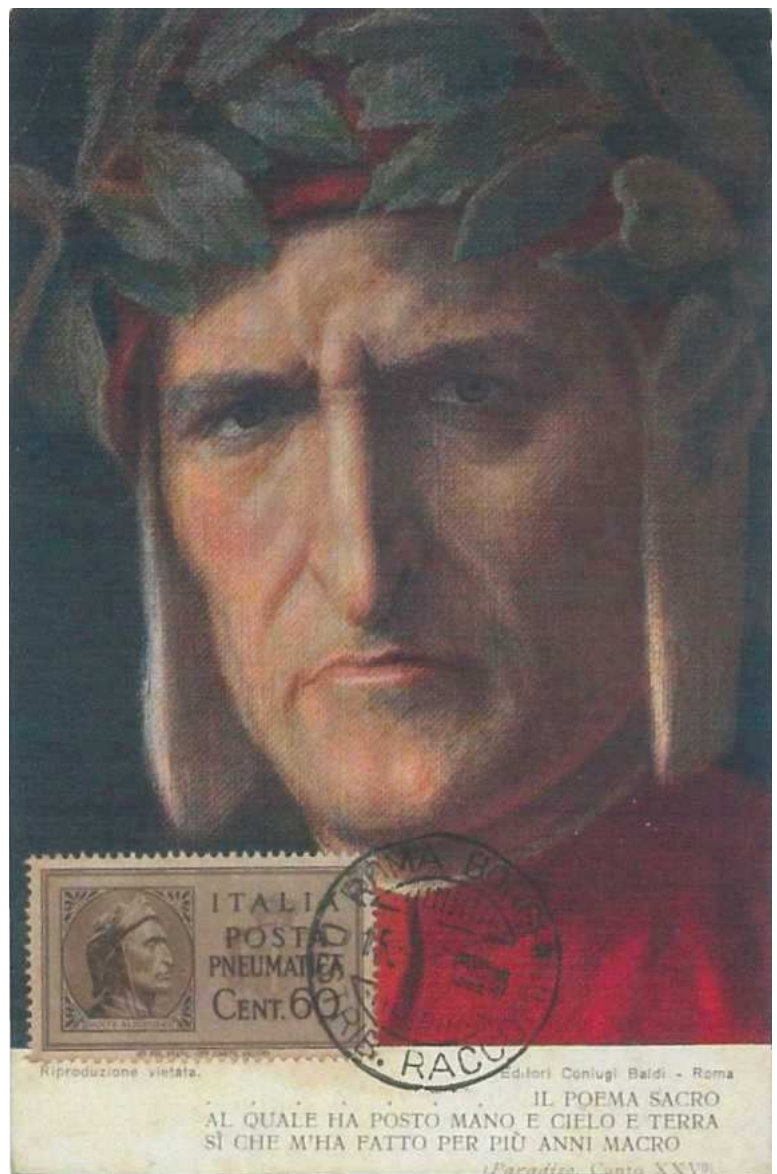
Dante is exalted as the father of the Italian language, writing in the vernacular at a time when most literature was written in Latin, and thereby making his works more widely accessible. He is also fêted as the initiator of the three-lined rhyme scheme known as *terza rima*.

His masterpiece, the *Divine Comedy*, gave devout Catholics of the late Middle Ages their most vivid and compelling literary images of heaven and hell. Even today, it is regarded as the greatest work in the Italian language.

As his legacy is reassessed on the 700th anniversary of his death, it is impressive to note the extent of his philatelic recognition, unusually rich for a medieval figure.

Dante was first celebrated on Italian stamps as early as 1921, and has been featured on issues from across the world in modern times. Central to any thematic collection will be the attractive sets issued by Italy, Vatican City, San Marino and

RIGHT: Postcard bearing a portrait of Dante Alighieri, and a quotation from *Paradiso*, Canto XXV, franked with Italy's 1945 Pneumatic Post 60c stamp honouring the poet



## DID YOU KNOW?

Dante himself named the *Divine Comedy* simply *Commedia* (Comedy). The adjective *Divina* was added later, by the writer Giovanni Boccaccio.

It is a 'comedy' in the traditional sense that its narrative progresses from a state of moral confusion to a happy ending, as distinct from a 'tragedy', where there is no happy outcome.

Monaco in 1965 and 1966 to mark the 700th anniversary of his birth.

### Love of a lifetime

Dante's own writing informs us that he was born under the sign of Gemini, in May or June of 1265.

His father Alighiero di Bellincione and his mother Bella were members of the minor nobility of the city of Florence, the cosmopolitan hub of the

prosperous Republic of Florence.

Little is known of Dante's early life, although his education certainly left him familiar with ancient Roman literature, contemporary Tuscan poetry and religious philosophy.

At the age of nine he fell in love with a girl named Beatrice Portinari, who would become his muse. His infatuation was an example of courtly love; their



## PORTRAITS



ABOVE: Postcard and Vatican City 1965 stamp featuring different reproductions of the same image of Dante Alighieri, from the fresco by Raphael in the Vatican's Stanza della Segnatura



ABOVE: Portraits of Dante from Italy's 1938 set marking the 2nd Anniversary of the Empire, and 1990 issue marking the centenary of the Dante Alighieri Society



ABOVE: Laureate bust of Dante in classical style on a stamp from the USSR in 1965



ABOVE: Portrait with allusions to Heaven and Hell on a stamp from the USA in 1965



ABOVE: Like Vatican City, Malta adopted a detail from Raphael's fresco for its issue of 1965



ABOVE: Similar reproductions of a less-chiselled portrait of a younger Dante were used for stamps in Romania's 1965 Cultural Anniversaries set and Panama's 1966 Famous Men set



ABOVE: Portrait by the French artist Gustav Doré, on a 1965 San Marino stamp



ABOVE: An alternative portrait of the poet by Raphael inspired both Mexico's 1965 issue and West Germany's 1971 issue



ABOVE: Andorra 2018 design celebrating the country's Italian community with a modernist re-drawing of a traditional portrait of Dante





LEFT: One of Italy's 1946 set remembering medieval Italian republics celebrated Florence by illustrating the Palazzo Vecchio, which was built during Dante's time

paths rarely crossed, they were contracted to separate marriages, and Beatrice died when she was just 24 years old.

Her significance lies in her enduring influence on his work, initially expressed in a collection of poems entitled *La Vita Nuova* (The New Life), published in 1294.

Dante's marriage was to Gemma Donati, who bore four children but played no role in his literature.

## Political ruin

The young Dante was a political animal, and political life in 13th-century Florence was fractious and polarised. It was caught up in the power struggle that engulfed much of northern Italy, with the Guelph faction generally showing allegiance to the Pope and the Ghibelline faction to the Holy Roman Emperor.

Enlisting as a cavalryman, Dante fought with Guelph forces at the Battle of Campaldino in 1289, where a decisive victory ensured the faction's dominance in Florence for the next decade and assisted his own rise to prominence.

By the end of the century he was one of the most influential magistrates in the republic, but the Guelphs were beginning to tear themselves apart, with a 'black' sect favouring more papal influence and a 'white' sect less.

The 'whites' took power, but when Pope Boniface VIII sent a Frenchman, Charles of Valois, to Florence as a peacemaker in 1301, they feared the worst. Dante was part of a delegation despatched to Rome to negotiate.

## INSPIRATION



ABOVE: Maximum card featuring Monaco's 1966 30c stamp honouring Dante, on a reproduction of British artist Henry Holiday's 1865 painting which imagined a fleeting encounter in Florence between the poet and his muse, Beatrice



ABOVE: Maximum card featuring Kyrgyzstan's 2015 50s Express Post stamp, which shows a detail from Holiday's painting, on a reproduction of an 1865 painting by Domenico Petarlini entitled *Dante In Exile*



ABOVE: The first stamps to honour Dante were issued by Italy in 1921. The 15c showed an eagle holding the *Commedia*, inscribed 'He who is above others as the eagle flies'. The 25c depicted an allegory of Italy, inscribed 'Honoured be the most exalted poet'. The 40c showed Dante himself, inscribed 'He shows that of which our tongue is capable'



## HELL



ABOVE: Dante's path is blocked by a she-wolf, a lion and a leopard in *Inferno*, on a Vatican City stamp of 1965 based on a drawing by Sandro Botticelli



ABOVE: The boatman Charon, who ferries souls across the river Acheron in *Inferno*, on a San Marino design of 1965 based on an illustration by Gustave Doré



ABOVE: Dante and Virgil cross the marsh of Styx by boat, as the wrathful wallow in the mire around them, on a Monaco stamp of 1966 engraved by Georges Bétemps



ABOVE: Sinners are imprisoned in hot tombs in the Plain of the Heretics, on an Italy stamp of 1965 reproduced from a medieval manuscript



ABOVE: Dante and Virgil emerge from *Inferno*, past the legs of Lucifer, on an Umm Al Qiwain design of 1972

While he was away, Charles entered Florence, and the 'blacks' reclaimed control. Convicted in his absence of corruption, and given a death sentence for refusing to pay a fine, Dante could never return to his home city. He would spend the rest of his life in exile, notably in Verona, Lucca and Ravenna.

### Evolution of a masterpiece

As Dante's political career faltered, his literary career took off.

Soon after 1302 he began an essay entitled *De Vulgari Eloquentia* (On Vernacular Eloquence), a groundbreaking work written in Latin on the subject of the Italian language, its dialects and forms. Four books were planned, although only two were completed.

He turned his attention to a philosophical work, *Convivio* (The Banquet), a mixture of poetry and prose written in Italian in 1304-07, but this project too was unfinished, stretching only to four parts rather than the proposed 15.

By 1308 a major new project had taken over Dante's mind, one that would consume most of the remainder of his life and produce his *magnum opus*.

The epic narrative poem known as *Divina Commedia* (the Divine Comedy), completed in 1320, was >

## FIRST EDITION

No original manuscript of the *Divine Comedy* in Dante's own hand survives, but there are hundreds of medieval copies. It was first printed in 1472, when 300 copies were produced in the town of Foligno, 14 of which survive.

To commemorate the 500th anniversary of this event, Italy issued three stamps in 1972 illustrating pages of early editions. Each features the opening lines of Canto I.



ABOVE: Italy 1972 *Divine Comedy* 50L, illustrating Canto I from the Foligno edition, published in 1472

*'Dante wrote in the vernacular at a time when most literature was written in Latin'*



a vision of the afterlife, and an allegory of the journey of the human soul towards salvation.

Presented in three books, each comprising 33 cantos, it related his journey through *Inferno* (Hell), *Purgatorio* (Purgatory) and *Paradiso* (Heaven), intermingling the medieval Catholic world view with ancient Roman mythology.

## Inferno

At the very start of Canto I, the line 'Nel mezo del camin di nostra vita' (at the mid-point of our journey through life) sets Dante's age at 35, and therefore the date at 1300.

Just before Easter, he finds himself in a dark wood (representing sin), within sight of a sunlit mountain (salvation), but driven back by three beasts: a leopard (sins of passion), a lion (sins of violence) and a she-wolf (sins of deceit).

He sees Hell in the form of a vast funnel descending to the Earth's core. To his aid comes the ghost of Virgil, his favourite ancient Roman poet, who will act as his guide on a journey through the underworld.

They pass through the Gates of Hell, with its famous warning 'Abandon all hope, ye who enter here', and enter a vestibule, where the souls of the indifferent and uncommitted are tormented.

Then they find themselves on the banks of Acheron, the first of Hell's four rivers. The gruff boatman

## PURGATORY



ABOVE: Dante dreams of an eagle carrying him to Purgatorio, on a San Marino stamp of 1965



ABOVE: Dante in the first circle of Purgatorio, where the arrogant cower under heavy weights and recite prayers in the light of the redemptive cross, on a Monaco stamp of 1966 engraved by Claude Durrens



ABOVE: Dante and Virgil come to a wall of fire at the end of Purgatorio, on an Italy stamp of 1965 based on a medieval codex



ABOVE: Dante standing with the *Divine Comedy* in front of Purgatorio, on a Paraguay stamp of 1973 reproducing part of a fresco by Domenico di Michelino on the north wall of Florence Cathedral

Charon ferries them across to begin their descent through the nine circles of Hell, where sinners are punished for eternity in ways which befit their sins.

In the first circle, Limbo, unbaptised and pagan souls (including classical philosophers) are suspended in a hopeless desire for what they can never attain. In the second and third, the lustful are buffeted by gales and the gluttonous flounder in stinking mud, mauled by the three-headed hound Cerberus.

In the fourth circle the greedy fight with heavy weights, and in the fifth the wrathful wallow in slime in the marsh of the river Styx, before Dante and Virgil enter Dis, the fortified city that stretches from the sixth to the ninth circles.

Here, the graver sins of the heretical, the violent, the corrupt (with a place reserved for Pope Boniface VIII), the hypocritical and the treacherous are punished in various ways.

Arriving at the lowest level of Hell, the culmination of all

wickedness, Dante sees Lucifer, with six wings and three heads, encased in ice and munching on traitors (including Judas).

## Purgatorio

A tunnel brings Dante and Virgil to the other side of the world, and they arrive in Ante-Purgatory.

Penitents cannot travel at night, so they sleep, and Dante dreams of an eagle carrying him aloft. When he awakes, Virgil informs him that St Lucia came and carried him to the gates of Purgatory.

The inverse of Hell, Purgatory is mountain island with seven terraces, where souls may be saved on the upward pathway to Heaven.

On each terrace, one of the capital vices (seven deadly sins) is purged, and Dante arranges these from bottom to top as pride, envy, wrath, sloth, avarice, gluttony and lust.

As they pass through the gates, a guardian angel brands Dante's forehead with the letter 'P' seven times; one will be removed for each purification accomplished.

On the first terrace, the hunched

## SET IN STONE

*The Thinker* and *The Kiss*, two of the most famous sculptures by Auguste Rodin, were part of an unfinished work, commissioned in France in 1880, intended to honour Dante's *Inferno*.

At one time, *The Thinker* was thought to be a representation of Dante himself.



ABOVE: *The Thinker* by Rodin, illustrated on a Japan stamp of 2017



## HEAVEN



ABOVE: Dante is guided through Paradiso by Beatrice, on a Vatican City stamp of 1965 based on artwok by Botticelli



ABOVE: St Bernard prays to the Virgin Mary on Dante's behalf, while Beatrice returns to her place among the flowers, on a 1966 Monaco stamp engraved by Michel Monvoisin



ABOVE: Dante and Beatrice meet St Peter in Paradiso, on an Italy stamp of 1965 based on an illustration from a 15th-century codex held by the British Museum



ABOVE: Dante is examined by St John on the subject of love, on a San Marino design of 1965 based on an engraving by Doré

figures of the proud carry heavy weights to and fro. On the second, the envious have their eyes sewn shut with iron wire. On the third, the wrathful are enveloped in acrid smoke. On the fourth, the slothful are forced into ceaseless activity, and on the fifth, the avaricious lie face-down reciting prayers.

After the sixth and seventh terraces, where the gluttonous are starved and the lustful must pass through a wall of fire, Dante enters Earthly Paradise, described as a divine woodland and clearly meant to resemble the Garden of Eden.

Here Dante is reunited with his muse, Beatrice, who will guide him into Heaven itself (as a pagan, Virgil cannot do so). In preparation for his ascent, he passes through the river Lethe, which erases the memory of past sin.

### Paradiso

In Heaven, Beatrice guides Dante through the nine celestial spheres, in a model of the universe reflecting medieval cosmology, with the Earth at its centre.

They pass the Moon, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the fixed stars and the Primum Mobile (outer sphere), one by one, giving Dante the chance to converse with blessed souls. Some of these are people he met in life, and others historical figures he knows by reputation (including the Emperors Constantine, Justinian and Charlemagne), and saints.

Finally they head towards the Empyrean, a region beyond physical existence and the abode of God himself. Here Beatrice returns to her place among flowers surrounded by angels.

Dante's guide now becomes St Bernard of Clairvaux, the 12th-century Cistercian monk. He prays to the Virgin Mary on Dante's behalf, and allows him to face God, who appears as three circles, representing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The *Divine Comedy* comes to a close with Dante trying to see how the circles fit together. Suddenly all becomes apparent, and his soul is aligned with God's love.

RIGHT: Florence's statue of Dante, erected for the 600th anniversary of his birth in 1865, was shown on a stamp of Argentina in 1965



### Crowning glory

While writing the *Divine Comedy*, Dante remained politically vocal, not least in *De Monarchia*, published around 1313, which advocated the merits of secular government over religious authority. It was later banned by the Church.

His last years were spent in Ravenna, where, on his return from a diplomatic mission to Venice, he fell ill with malaria. He died on September 13, 1321, aged 56.

He was interred in Ravenna's Church of San Pier Maggiore, and his body lies there to this day, in spite of later attempts to reclaim it by the city of Florence.

Despite inviting the antagonism of his home city and the leader of his faith, Dante came to be revered as the progenitor of Italian as a literary language, one of the first to break free from the hegemony of Latin. As such, he was a forerunner of the Renaissance. ■

## CINDERELLAS









ABOVE: Cinderellas featuring Dante include a Società Nazionale Dante Alighieri design of around 1908 showing the poet's 'death mask' and a quotation from *Purgatorio*, and a poster stamp issued in Germany advertising an Italian language guide



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... Carry on Collecting



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... most of us are



**Issued 1961**  
... aged 60  
... collection  
steaming ahead

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## TONGA

7754 : 1897-1953 mint (mainly hinged) range with 1897 Views and portraits to 2s, 1920 and 1942 various to 2/6 Bird (two shades), 5s View, 1953 set u/m (SG 101/14 cat £75) etc (52 stamps) .... £200



## TRIESTE Zone B

5534 : 1953 Esperanto top value (SG 98 cat £450) unmounted mint with sheet margin (illus) (1 stamp) ..... £125

## TURKEY

7201 : 1863-c2000 mint and used collection in Kabe printed album (pale brown springback, plain Kabe leaves), main emphasis on early and middle period, from 1863 SG1, good run of later 19th century to higher values, WWI ovpts, 1920 Angora, plenty 1930s to 19 50s, and some more recent, also Dues from 1863 20pa, Officials, Newspaper, Red Crescent, Air Fund. (weight 3½ kilos) ...£350

## VATICAN

7555 : 1929-1955 unmounted mint range with 1929 10L, 1931 Dues 60L on 2L, 1933 2L Pope Pius, 1939 Sede Vacante, 1949 35L, and others to 1955, cat £350 (80 stamps) ..... £85

## VATICAN

7553 : 1929-1979 mint collection on printed leaves (mixed Schaubek and Lighthouse, similar size), earlier to 1950s mainly hinged, later from 1960s mainly unmounted mint, also some used oddments, better include 1938 Archaeology, 1947 airs, 1949 to 100L plus express, 1951 Council (SG 168/72 cat £140), 1954 Marian Year, 1959 Bruxelles min sheet, from 1950s virtually complete, cat approx £1000 (weight 1 kilo) ..... £175

## VATICAN

7556 : 1929-1955 used range from 1929 First set (less cheap 20c), several 1931 Parcel Post, 1933 definitive set, 1935 Law Congress (SG 41/46 cat £170), 1938 Archaeology (SG 63/68 cat £80), a few postwar incl 1949 1000L UPU (G 150 cat £150), also 1952 Stagecoach min sheet (trimmed, not counted). Cat £750+ excluding Stage Coach. (85 stamps) ..... £175

## ALBANIA

5579 : 1920-1924 Regency with 1920 posthorn and besa ovpts, 1923 pictorial set mint, 1924 National Assembly set mint and used (SG 151/55 cat £210), the two Red Cross sets mint (SG 157/164 cat £215). Total cat £750. Also couple specialised articles on these issues. (50 stamps) ... £150

## ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7762 : c1895 complete set of 12 imperf Arms essays by Placido Ramon de Torres all in blocks of four (Jacques types 14/15), plus an extra single 5 Pesetas in darker shade, and also 1Peseta in block of four showing the error DEU PESETAS (10p) (Dallay cat 220 Euros just as a pair) (53 stamps) ..... £150

## ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7620 : 1932-1975 mint (mainly hinged, some u/m) range with 1932 Views various to 20F with better values, middle period definitives and views, and a few in the New Franc period to 1975. All different. Cat c£450 (110) ..... £100

## ANDORRA (FRENCH)

7394 : 1955 range of mint (light hinge) on leaves, with various Viewsto 65F, plus Airs 100F to 500F (SG 163/65). Cat £340. (16 stamps) ..... £80

## ANDORRA (FRENCH)

6811 : Dues, mint range (some unmounted) with 1931 set (SG D24/31), 1932 1F (SG D35 cat £55), 2F brown (SG D37 cat £130), 5F on 1F (SG D38 cat £55), and various 1940s to 50F (SG D151 cat £48). Difficult issues. Total cat £365 (31 stamps) ... £100

## ANDORRA (SPANISH)

7442 : 1948-1987 small selection mainly u/m (couple earlier are used), includes 1972 Europa u/m (Mi 71 cat £375 Euros), couple of Internal Post Europa sheetlets (40) ..... £65

## AUSTRIA

7335 : 1850-1971 mint and used collection in Dutch printed album (brown binder, peg), from classics incl 1860 FJ 2k and 3k used, 1864 Arms set perf 9½ used, 1869 FH tp 50k fine whiskers used (SG 66 cat £275), later 19th century, 1920s good range mainly mint incl 1922 Musicians, 1923 Artists, 1928 Hainisch, some 1930s incl 3s and 5s mint (SG 736/37), postwar are all mint light hinge good run incl 1949 Child Welfare (SG 1162/65 cat £110), PoW (SG 1170/73 cat £70) to 1971, Armies with 1917 Charles mint. Army in Italy unissued set (SG 20/33 cat £140), Romania, Serbia 1916 diagonal set mint, Lombardy 3s Arms perf 9½ used "as is" (SG 32 cat £950, postmark not guaranteed) and Bosnia. Comprehensive coverage (weight 2 kilos) ..... £300

## AUSTRIA

7771 : 1850-1982 mint and used collection in Schaubek printed album (blue peg binder) from Classics with 1850 2k four margins used (cat £140), 1858 3k black Franz Joseph used (SG 23 cat £325), 1860 oval Franz Joseph 2k and 3k used, 1867 Franz Joseph to 25k, most later 19th century definitives, 1908 most Jubileeto 2k mint, 1916 high values incl 10k deep violet used (SG265), interwar period most definitives and some airs plus a few commem sets mint (hinged) or used, postwar fairly complete mint (mainly u.m) or used. Printed pages go to 1971, later issues to 1982 u/m on stock pages. (Weight 3 kilos) ..... £250

## AUSTRIA

7204 : 1918-1981 mint (hinged) and used collection in two Safe printed albums (matching dark blue multiring binders, old-style printed leaves), with most 1920s incl 1928 Hainisch mint (hinged), some 1930s incl 1935 Winter Relief used (SG 778/81 cat £100), most postwar (except 1945 Hitler ovpts) mint hinged and used to 1951 incl 1945 Child Welfare mint hinged (SG 1162/65 cat £110), 1950 Plebiscite unmounted mint (SG 1212/14 cat £180), then used nearly complete through to 1981. (weight 5 kilos) ... £275

## BAHAMAS

7612 : Q Victoria 1s blue-green (SG44a) attractive block of four (two hinged, two u/m) with ONE QUARTO S. sheet inscription in margin ..... £75

## BAHAMAS

7617 : 1937-1952 good KGVII collection, all mint (mainly hinged) with 1938 definitives set to £1 (SG 149/57a cat £150), some extra shades, these counted as basic except noted £1 thick paper (SG 157 cat £250 brownish gum), 1942 Landfall of Columbus set (SG 162/75a cat £80), 1948 Tercentenary set (SG 178/93 cat £75), Silver Wedding u/m. Cat c£900 (110 stamps) ..... £265

## BELGIUM

7652 : 1865-1972 mint and used collection in small size "Byron" green springback album, with good range of middle and later 19th century to 1F, 1915 pictorials with 1F mint hinged and 10F used, 1925 Stamp Centenary set mint hinged, 1930s commems, postwar with 1953 Tourism set mint hinged (SG 1442/47 cat £95), 1953 Baudouin definitives set mint hinged (SG 1453/71 cat £375), later mint and used to 1972, also Railway etc (weight 1½ kilos) ..... £300



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# Victorian Edwardian

The only Australian state to produce stamps portraying King Edward VII was Victoria, but it did so quicker than Great Britain could manage

■ Report by John Winchester

**T**he six Australian colonies were federated as the Commonwealth of Australia on January 1, 1901, with control of their postal services passing to the new central government.

The pace of change had run well ahead of any plans to produce a unified stamp design, however, so the individual states would continue to print their own issues for the time being.

Just weeks later, the death of Queen Victoria presented them with a quandary. Should they design new stamps, or redesign existing stamps, to incorporate a portrait of the new monarch, King Edward VII? Or should they just wait for the federal government to resolve the matter by creating a definitive issue for the whole of Australia?

**For the State** of Victoria, at least, the answer was clear.

Its stamps had hitherto been inscribed 'Stamp Duty', but it needed to separate postal and fiscal charges, because revenue from the sale of postage stamps would now be passed to the Commonwealth. So a new series of definitives was already in preparation, with the inscription changed to 'Postage'.

These stamps recycled a motley array of old designs, using various different portraits of the late Queen, for values up to 5s. Two new high values were required, however, in a larger format.

This prompted what was, remarkably, the only venture by



ABOVE & RIGHT:  
Victoria 1901-10  
£1 carmine-rose and  
£2 deep blue



any of the Australian states to portray Edward VII on its stamps.

**Images of Edward** were not entirely new to postage stamps. As a boy, he had been depicted on an 1868 design for Newfoundland, and he later reappeared in the same colony's 1880-82 and 1897-1918 series, as a mature adult and then as an old man.

The last of these portrayals may have provided more than a little

*'The £1 was on sale by November 1901, six weeks before Great Britain issued its first Edward VII stamps'*

inspiration for the new high values being designed at the Stamp Printing Board of the Victoria Post Office in Melbourne.

Speed being of the essence, Samuel Reading got to work on engraving the die in record time, working from a photograph by William Stuart.

The circular portrait was enclosed in two elaborately decorated but contrasting frames, the £1 design being more floral and the £2 design more angular, both with the obligatory 'Postage' inscription joined by several different renditions of the value.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 80, arranged 10 x 8, on paper carrying the V Over Crown watermark of type IV pattern, sideways. They were line-perforated, either 12½ or 12x12½.

**The £1 carmine-rose** was ready to be put on sale by November 18, 1901, six weeks before Great Britain issued its first Edward VII stamps. The £2 deep blue joined it on June 2, 1902.

From 1905 the Crown Over A watermark was adopted, and both stamps can also be found with perforation gauging 11. Over the years, the colour of the £1 varied to rose and salmon.

Both values continued to serve the state (also being valid for use throughout the Commonwealth of Australia) until Reading directed his talents towards the creation of the unified Kangaroo & Map design in 1913. ■

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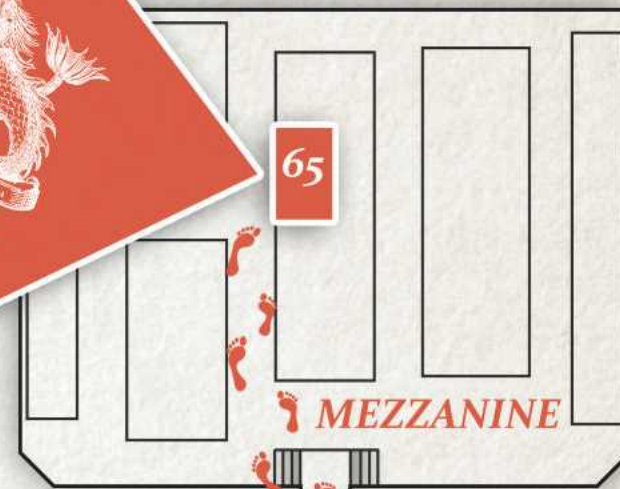
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Four Margin with RED 1844 Cancel  
BPA Cert RARE £3650



W204 1841 Penny Red (IE/IF)  
Plate 2 The UNIQUE UNUSED PAIR  
BPA Cert £11,500





M180349 SG113 10d Pale Red-brown  
Very Fine M/Mint Fresh Stamp £690



M193749 SG133 FIVE POUND  
ORANGE on BLUED Paper 1883  
Vere Street CDS £2550



M209227 SG197a 1/2d Jubilee Error  
Printed on Gum Side (Wmk Inv) U/M  
£1850



M210283 SG212 One Pound Green  
Wmk Three Imperial Crowns Used  
£310



M212157 SG128 10/- Greenish Grey  
wmk Maltese Cross Fantastic Colour  
£920



M216668 SG131var 10/- Die  
Proof Uncleared Corner Squares  
etc £830



M220518 SG266 One Pound Green  
Fine Used £300



M233585 SG126 5/- Rose Plate 2 Fine  
used with Good Colour £330



M233616 SG143 3d Rose Plate  
20 MINT (gum sweated) Attractive  
& Rare £140



M234913 SG127 5/- Pale Rose  
Plate 2 Superb Fresh M/M RPS  
Cert £6400



M234919 SG176 5/- Rose on  
Blued Paper Fine Fresh Mint  
(hinge remainder) £3650



M234921 SG180 5/- Rose Very  
Fine and Fresh U/M £740



M234924 SG212 One Pound Green  
Great Colour U/M £3200



M242037 SG82 4d Pale Red Plate 4  
(Hair lines) SUPERB Fresh Mint (o.g)  
£580



M242038 SG83 6d Deep Lilac  
Plate 3 Superb Fresh Mint  
Stunning Colour £1100







M204846 KEVII 4d Colour TRIAL  
Yellow-orange from Monocoloured  
Plate £2300



M208732 KEVII 1d Bright Scarlet  
DLR Control D4(l) Variety 4 almost  
Omitted £690



M209287 1906 Colour Trial 1d Dull  
rose IMPERF M/M Scarce £580



M209288 1906 Colour Trial 1d  
blue-green Very Fine M/M  
Scarce £600



M216663 SG276Wi 1911 2 1/2  
Harrison Perf 14 Watermark Inverted  
Fresh M/M £600



M234933 SG266 KEVII One  
Pound Dull Green-blue DLR  
Printing Well Centred U/M £1600



M234938 SG318 KEVII 5/-  
Carmine-red M52(1) Somerset House  
Printing Fresh U/M £500



M234939 SG318 KEVII 5/- Carmine  
M52 (2) Somerset House Printing  
Fresh U/M £500



M234941 SG319 KEVII 10/- Blue  
M54(2) Somerset House Printing  
SUPERB U/M £1050



M234987 SG266 One Pound Dull  
Blue Green DLR Printing Fine  
Used £300



M236098 SG183 10/-  
Ultramarine M/M (light) £690



M236584 KEVII SG301 6d Dull  
Purple Dickinson Paper Somerset  
Very Fine U/M £230



M236585 KEVII SGM34(2) 6d Dull  
Reddish Purple Dickinson Paper  
Somerset Fine M/M £160



M236603 KEVII M6 (6) 1d Deep Rose  
Carmine Harrison Perf 14 Very Fine  
U/M £320



M236608 KEVII M7 (3) 1d Intense  
Rose Red Harrison Perf 14 x 15  
Very Fine U/M £340





M180475 SG400a 2/6d Sepia-brown  
Waterlow Seahorse RE-ENTRY U/M  
£1400



M183086 1d Downey in Scarlet  
(fluorescent) Austrian Enamelled  
Paper Imperf Paper Trial £790



M188151 SG420bWi KGV 1 1/2d  
Red-brown Tete-beche Pair (gum  
bend) U/M £370



M205396 SG427Wi 9d Olive-green  
wmk Block Cypher INVERTED  
SUPERB U/M £510



M234883 SG438 1929 One Pound  
PUC U/M £600



M234885 SG450/2 1934  
Re-engraved Sea-horses Set  
SUPERB U/M £640



M234910 SG452 10/- INTENSE  
INDIGO Re-engraved Seahorse U/M  
with Cert £640



M234942 SG319 KEVII 10/- 10/- Deep  
blue M54(3) Somerset House Printing  
U/M £1050



M234943 SG320 KEVII One  
Pound Deep Green Somerset  
Printing Well Centred U/M £1600



M234945 SG403 One Pound  
DEEP Green Waterlow Seahorse  
N72(2) U/M £3000



M234946 SG403 One Pound  
Green Waterlow Seahorse  
Superb U/M £2950



M234947 N71 (3) 10/- Steel blue  
Bradbury Seahorse Superb U/M  
£810



M234950 N70 (3) 10/- Bright  
Cambridge blue DLR Seahorse  
Superb U/M £6000



M234951 SG413 10/- Pale blue DLR  
Seahorse Superb U/M £2250



M234953 SG411 10/- Deep Blue  
(worn plate) DLR Seahorse Superb  
U/M £2500



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M192070 SG478 1939 10/- Dark Blue  
U/M Marginal Block of Four £480



M234955 SG412 10/- Blue DLR  
Seahorse Superb U/M RPS Cert  
£2250



M234956 SG402 10/- Indigo blue  
N69(1) Waterlow Seahorse Superb  
U/M £1050



M234957 SG402 10/- Indigo  
N69(2) Waterlow Seahorse Superb  
U/M £1050



M234960 SG408 2/6 Sepia-brown  
DLR Seahorse Superb U/M £330



M234963 SG407 2/6 Grey  
Brown (worn plate) DLR  
Seahorse Superb U/M £340



M234964 SG407 2/6 Grey Brown  
(worn plate) DLR Seahorse Superb  
U/M £340



M234966 N64(9) 2/6 Cinnamon-brown  
DLR Seahorse Superb U/M £1750



M234968 N64 (14) 2/6 Blackish  
brown DLR Seahorse Superb U/M  
£1150



M234973 SG415a 2/6 Pale Brown  
Bradbury Seahorse U/M OFFSET  
REVERSE £170



M234975 N66 (2) Pale-carmine  
Waterlow Seahorse Superb U/M £640



M234976 SG415 2/6 Reddish  
Brown Bradbury Seahorse Superb  
U/M £230



M234978 SG409 5/- Bright Carmine  
DLR Seahorse Superb U/M £640



M234980 SG410 5/- Pale carmine  
(worn plate) DLR Seahorse Superb  
U/M £640



M242041 1912 1d Small medal  
head Die Proof State 1b RARE  
£790



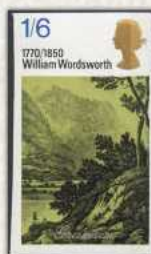
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STAMPS LTD







M242042 SG778a 5d British Ship  
BLACK OMITTED Superb U/M £1800



M242043 SG828 1/6 Dickens NPM  
IMPRIMATUR (Only 7 NPM  
known) U/M £560



M242045 SG X851a 1971 2.5p  
magenta (1 centre band) Imperforate  
Pair U/M £140



M242048 SG882a 1971 7.5p Ulster  
Paintings Pale Olive-grey Omitted  
U/M £180



M242049 SG904ya 1972 3p  
Churches Gold and Phosphor  
Missing U/M £170



M242054 SG905b 1972 4p  
Churches MISSING Violet-blue  
U/M £170



M242055 1972 3p Christmas Bright  
Green Partially Missing U/M £87



M242059 SG2042a 1998 26p  
Comedians Error Vermilion printed  
Double U/M £280



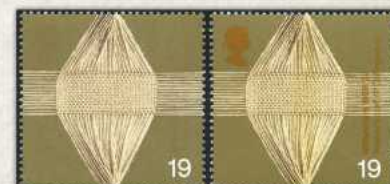
M242060 SG2085a 1999 26p  
Pilgrim Fathers and 26p Salt Mill  
IMPERF U/M £350



M242061 SG2085var 1999 26p  
Pilgrim Fathers Imperf Pair with  
Missing Silver U/M £170



M242062 SG2086 1999 43p  
Sailing Ships Imperf Pair Gold &  
Chocolate Omitted U/M £170



M242063 SG2088a 19p The  
Workers Tale Bronze (Queens  
head) omitted U/M £280



M242064 SG2115a 1999 19p  
Christmas IMPERF PAIR U/M £190



M242067 SG2516 2005 A British  
Journey ERROR face value 47p instead  
of 57p U/M £670



M242070 SGEN1a REGIONALS  
ENGLAND 2001 (2nd) IMPERF  
block of 4 U/M £260



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M205444 SGO66s 6d Jubilee Govt  
Parcel Opt SPECIMEN M/Mint £120



M208756 SGF28 1871 2d Pink Die  
A date plugs for 8.12.70 Superb &  
Fresh M/M £320



M235684 SGD26 2/6d Post Due wmk  
E8R U/M £210



M242068 SG2514 2005 40p A British  
Journey TRIAL thin 4 in 40 U/M £370



M189985 SG160 4d grey-brown on  
Cover to TRINIDAD £210



M233032 Cyprus SG Z38 2 1/2d Rosy  
Mauve 969 Duplex of NICOSIA on  
Cover £880



M233067 Ascension SGZ7 Penny  
Lilac on picture post card £280



M233068 Ascension SGZ2 Penny  
Plate on Concessionary Rate A Rarity  
£2550

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M240631 Australia SG713a 1979  
National Parks IMPERF PAIR U/M  
£510



M240646 Australia SG497ab 35c  
Black Omitted U/M (insignificant  
corner bend) £1150



M240638 Australia SG393b 15c Grey  
Omitted U/M RARE £1650



M240642 Australia SG431a 1968  
5c Christmas Gold Omitted U/M  
£470



Australia SG497ab 35c Black Omitted  
U/M (insignificant corner bend)  
£1,150



M240653 Australia SG444a 1969  
5c Christmas MAGENTA Omitted  
in Pair U/M £1050



M240649 Australia SG527ab 1972  
Pioneer 50c Black Omitted U/M  
£1250



M240650 Australia SG 530b 1972 7c  
Christmas Red-brown Omitted U/M  
£560



M240648 Australia SG525a 1972  
Pioneer 15c Black Omitted  
(Ordinary paper) U/M £1250



M240685 Australia SG348 5d  
Royal Visit Grossly Misperf Block  
U/M £250



M240695 Australia SG376 1965  
5d ITU Black Omitted RARE U/M  
£2800



M240706 Australia SG841a 60c  
background in blue-green solid  
colour U/M £140



M240705 Australia SG823 24c Imperf  
at left U/M RARE £530



M240697 Australia SG735a 28c  
pale blue Omitted U/M £110



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M240603 Australia SG533b 1973  
Metric Conversion with Yellow  
Omitted U/M £760



M240604 Australia SG545a 1973  
1c BLACK Omitted U/M (lightly  
toned) £190



M240608 Australia SG554ab 1974 7c  
Christmas Printed on the Gummed  
Side U/M £69



M240609 Australia SG567a 10  
Dollar with MASSIVE PERF SHIFT  
U/M £130



M240610 Australia SG575a 1974 7c  
Tennis Light Brown Omitted U/M  
£880



M240618 Australia SG641 1977  
20c Brown Shift to left U/M £87



M209303 2d Star (DA/DB) Wmk  
LC Perf 14 Plate 5 MAJOR  
RE-ENTRY (clearly visible) £120



M240616 Australia SG614b 1976 18c  
Nationhood GOLD OMITTED (die 1)  
U/M £200



M240611 Australia SG591a 10c  
printed on the gummed side U/M  
£69



M240614 Australia SG609b  
1975 45c Middle Stamp Yellow  
Green Omitted U/M £350



M240635 Australia SG382 1c  
Deep Brown FULL OFFSET Block  
U/M £110



M240636 Australia SG388a 7c  
FANTASTIC DRY PRINT Block of 4  
U/M £260



M240640 Australia SG407a 1966  
Christmas 4c Value Omitted PAIR U/M  
with CERT £4150



M240641 Australia SG418a 20c  
White (radio waves) Omitted U/M  
£530





M240256 Australia SG10 9d Violet  
Kangaroo wmk 1st Crown Var White  
Flaw left of A £210



M240355 Australia SG36ba 2 1/2d  
Indigo wmk 3rd Crown Var 1 of  
Fraction Omitted £8280



M240386 Australia SG39aw 9d Violet  
Die II Kangaroo wmk 3rd Crown  
Inverted U/M £280



M240395 Australia SG42c 5/- Grey  
& Pale Yellow Kangaroo Wmk 3rd  
Crown M/M (Toned gum) £120



M240399 Australia SG41 2/- Brown  
Kangaroo wmk 3rd Crown INVERTED  
Blue Cancel £230



M240402 Australia SG42b 5/-  
Grey & Deep Yellow Kangaroo  
Wmk 3rd Crown £63



M240406 Australia SG44a £1  
Chestnut and Bright Blue Kangaroo  
wmk 3rd Crown M/M £1550



M240487 Australia SG44 £1 Wmk 3rd  
Crown Var White Flaw Eastern side of  
Bright Tone Spots £640



M240488 Australia SG44 £1 light  
Brown & Pale Blue Wmk 3rd  
Crown Broken Coast in Bight £860



M240567 Australia SG73 6d  
Chestnut Kangaroo wmk 3rd  
Crown Broken Leg U/M £59



M240576 Australia SG75 £1  
Grey Kangaroo 3rd Wmk Light  
M/M (lightly toned) £350



M240577 Australia SG75 £1 Grey  
Kangaroo 3rd Wmk (Very lightly  
toned) U/M £630



M240578 Australia SG75 £1 Grey  
Kangaroo 3rd Wmk SPECIMEN Type  
B RARE M/M £1150



M240582 Australia SG75 £1 Grey  
Kangaroo wmk 3rd Crown CTO Large  
Part Gum £230



M241011 Australia SGO26 2/-  
Brown 1st Wmk Perfin Small OS  
M/M £82



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M240490 Australia SG45 £2 Black and Rose Kangaroo 3rd Wmk M/M (lightly toned) £2450



M240491 Australia SG45a £2 Grey & Crimson Kangaroo 3rd Wmk M/M (lightly toned) £1800



M240492 Australia SG45b £2 Purple Black & Pale Rose 3rd Wmk M/M (lightly toned) £2300



M240494 Australia SG45s £2 Purple Black & Pale Rose 3rd Wmk M/M SPECIMEN Type C £280



M240495 Australia SG45b £2 Purple Black & Pale Rose 3rd Wmk CDS Used £1400



M240862 Australia SG112 10/- Small Mult Wmk BW49 Broken Coast of Bonaparte Gulf M/M £460



M240864 Australia SG114 £2 Kangaroo Small Multiple Wmk U/M RARE £4600



M240894 Australia SG112 10/- Small Mult Wmk BW50 Very Short Spenser Gulf M/M £400



M240899 Australia SG138 £2 Kangaroo Wmk C of A just a trace of a hinge mark £3450



M240901 Australia SG138 £2 Kangaroo Wmk C of A M/M £2750



M241005 Australia SG011 2/- Brown 1st Wmk Perfin Large OS SUPERB M/M £370



M241020 Australia SGO45 3d yellow-olive Die II 3rd Wmk Perfin OS M/M £180



M241025 Australia SGO46d 6d Ultramarine Die IIB 3rd Wmk Perfin OS U/M (bend) £120



M241026 Australia SGO46dw 6d Ultramarine Die II 3rd Wmk INV Perfin OS U/M £370



M241091 Australia SG114 £2 Wmk Small Mult Variety Broken Coast in Bight £560

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M237338 Western Australia SG161 1d  
Rose-Pink (wmk upright) Perf  
12.5x11 Block RARE £1950



M237365 Western Australia SG87  
Red-brown Wmk crown CA  
(sideways) Plate PROOF U/M £82



M240229 Australia SG2daw 1d Red  
Die II Kangaroo wmk 1st Crown  
S/WAYS INV M/M £1050



M240235 Australia SG3 2d Grey  
Die I Kangaroo wmk 1st Crown  
INVERTED M/M £63



M240244 Australia SG5 3d  
Yellow-Olive Die I wmk 1st Crown  
INV M/M PAIR £210



M240245 Australia SG5e 3d  
Olive Die II Kangaroo wmk 1st  
Crown M/M £210



M240252 Australia SG6a 4d  
Orange-yellow Die II Kangaroo wmk  
1st Crown M/M £280



M240316 Australia SG26 6d  
Ultramarine Kangaroo wmk 2nd Crown  
M/M £91



M240319 Australia SG26a 6d  
Bright Blue Kangaroo wmk 2nd  
Crown M/M £210



M240995 Australia SGO4 2 1/2d  
1st Wmk Perfin Large OS PAIR  
Fine Used £180



M240997 Australia SGO6 4d  
Orange 1st Wmk Perfin Large  
OS M/M £160



M240999 Australia SGO7 5d 1st  
Wmk Perfin Large OS Colour Flaw  
Under LI U/M £550



M241001 Australia SGO09 9d Violet  
1st Wmk Perfin Large OS M/M  
(Slightly brown gum) £140



M241002 Australia SGO8 6d  
Ultramarine 1st Wmk Perfin Large OS  
Very Fine U/M £230



M241007 Australia SGO19 2 1/2d  
Indigo 1st Wmk Perfin Small OS  
U/M £330







M236712 Canada 10c Jacques Cartier  
Trade Sample sheet Proof Dull Purple  
Ex Pickering £350



M236713 Canada 10c Jacques Cartier  
Trade Sample sheet Proof  
Pale Yellow Ex Pickering £350



M237320 Barbados SG52 1d Blue  
Clean cut Perf 14.5-15.5 Mint Pair  
RARE Cert £350



M237323 Grenada SG45 1d. on 2/-  
orange Mint block of four RPS Cert  
(minor stain) £170



M237324 Grenada SG23 4d blue  
Perf 14.5 Wmk Large Star Mint Very  
Fresh £330



M237332 Grenada SG26 4d blue  
block of four Wmk Broad-Pointed  
Star Perf 14.5 £640



M237327 Barbados SG26a 4d Dull  
Brown-red No Wmk IMPERF PAIR  
(Perf 14-16) Cert £420



M237330 Barbados SG80 6d Yellow  
Wmk Crown CC (S/ways) Perf 14 Mint  
Cert £140



M237326 Barbados SG44 1d blue  
Wmk Large Star Rough Perf  
14-16 I Mint No gum £530



M237339 Tasmania SG10 1853  
Courier 4d orange Proof Vertically  
laid paper RPS Cert £2750



M237340 Tasmania SG10 1853  
Courier 4d orange Proof Vertically  
laid paper BPA Cert £3400



M237341 Grenada SG3a 6d Lake-red  
Plate Proof Perforated Perkins Bacon  
Machine (re-paired) £325



M237353 Grenada SG37 1d on 1  
1/2d Orange M/M PAIR £43



M237358 Grenada SG39 1d on 4d  
Orange Fine Mint PAIR Ex Walker £170



M237359 Grenada SG39 1d on 4d  
Orange Fine CDS used Cat 90 Ex  
Walker £41

Est. 1975



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M236832 Perak SG36a x 2 SG37b & 37c in used block of four £110



M237034 North Borneo SG85 5 Dollar Bright purple Fine used £170



M237035 North Borneo SG85 5 Dollar Bright purple Fine used £170



M237044 Malaya Japanese Occ SG SGJ241 8c Variety 8 to right of Malaya M/M Cert £140



M237058 Malay States SG82 \$25 Wmk Script M/M corner perf added £370



M237126 Orange Free State SG101h 1/2d on 1/2d Orange Double Opt M/M £73



M237322 Grenada SG42 4d on 2/- orange with 5mm spacing Mint RPS Cert £180



M237333 Grenada SG19 1d Green Wmk Small Star (s/ways) Perf 14.5 Mint Cert £370



M237321 Grenada SG26 4d blue Wmk Broad-Pointed Star Perf 14.5 Cert £690



M237128 Orange Free State SG103c 2d on 2d No Stop after I Mint (No Gum) £55



M237129 Orange Free State SG102f 1d on 1d I omitted with stops present Mint (No Gum) £64



M237432 Grenada SG6a 6d Rose wmk Small Star (s/ways) Rough Perf 14 to 16 £55



M237450 Grenada SG8 6d Dull Rose-red wmk Small Star (s/ways) Rough Perf 14-16 £46



M237335 Grenada SG2 1d Green No Wmk Rough Perf 14 to 16 Mint Cert £110





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Est. 1988

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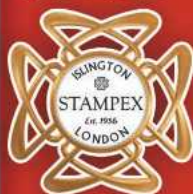


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# GREAT BRITAIN

Postage Stamps 1840 - Date

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54505 SG. 48/49. G4. "MJ". 1/2d Rose - red plate 9. A fine used example of this difficult plate number tied to small piece by a fine "488 numeral of KINGS LYNN".  
£275.00



55039 SG. 23. F2 n. "PG". 2d Blue plate 4. A very fine mounted mint example of this difficult early Victorian Line Engraved issue with the listed "Recut side line" variety. Complete with MIKE JACKSON certificate.. £4,995.00



54597 SG. 24. C3 (I). "NC". 1d Red Brown (Die II). Plate 3. A very fine used example of this scarcer plate. £85.00



55005 SG. 43/44. G1. "AK". 1d Rose - Red plate 225. A fine used example.  
£350.00



54534 SG. 8. BI (I). BS70. "EG EH FG FH". 1d red brown. Plate 81. A very fine used block of 4 with the "Tiny break at top of NE square" variety. A scarce block this fine. £175.00



52650 SG. 46. G3 (I). "AB AC". 2d blue. Plate 15. A superb UNMOUNTED MINT top marginal horizontal pair with inscription. £950.00



54606 SG. 24. C3 (I). "EC". 1d Red Brown (Die II). Plate 16. A fine used example of this RARE plate with the "Dot in upper margin above 'S' of 'POSTAGE' variety. £595.00



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52660 SG. 45. G2. " RC RD SC SD TC TD ". 2d blue. Plate 9. A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT vertical block of 6. A very scarce multiple these days. **£1,795.00**



52696 SG. I4. EI (2). ESI4. " AE ". 2d blue. Plate 4. A very fine mounted mint example complete with BPA certificate. **£2,895.00**



53002 SG. 27. F5. " GJ ". 2d blue. Plate 5. An average mint example of this RARE early Victorian line engraved issue. Complete with BPA certificate that states "small inclusion under 'O' of 'POSTAGE' ". **£4,750.00**



55008 SG. 43/44. G1. " GK ". 1d Rose - Red plate 225. A fine used example. **£350.00**



53393 SG. 48/49. G4. " EA ". 1d rose - red plate 6. A super UNMOUNTED MINT left hand marginal inscriptional example. **£125.00**



53359 SG. 36a. F8. " CJ ". 2d blue plate 6. A very fine mounted mint example of one of the hardest mint Line Engraved Victorian issues to obtain. Complete with BPA certificate and a RARE stamp in this grade.. **£6,995.00**



54543 SG. 7. AS59. " OD OE OF OG ". 1d red brown. Plate 9. A very fine used horizontal strip of 4. All stamps clearly showing the "' O ' flaw " variety. Multiples of this plate are very scarce especially this fine. **£850.00**



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Great Britain 1840 – Date mint & used



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52639 SG. 4. DI (I) uc. DSI d. "SD SE TD TE". 2d Deep Blue. Plate I. A fine used block of 4. 'TD' with the listed "shifted transfer" variety. Light vertical bend but a RARE multiple and complete with BRANDON certificate. **£5,950.00**



54639 SG. 3. AI (3). AS72. "AG". Id Greyish - Black. Plate ELEVEN. A very fine used example of this the scarcest of the Penny Black plates cancelled by a black maltese cross on small piece dated "3rd March 1841 FARNHAM". Complete with RPS certificate. **£2,750.00**



54984 SG. 2 & 7. AI (2) & A2. AS66 & AS68. "JC". Plate IO. A fine used matched pair cancelled by black maltese crosses. With the "'O' flaw and square footed 'J'" varieties. **£275.00**



52732 SG. 3 & 7. AS72 & AS74. "IL". Id grey black & Id red brown. Plate ELEVEN. A very fine used matched pair of this scarce plate. With the "Ray flaw 7 NE square" variety. **£2,450.00**



54944 SG. 2 & 7. AI (2) & A2. AS66 & AS68. "NE". Plate IO. A SUPERB used matched pair cancelled by black maltese cross. With the "'O' flaw" variety. **£495.00**



54956 SG. 2 & 7. AI (2) & A2. AS66 & AS68. "MC". Plate IO. A very fine used matched pair cancelled by black maltese cross. With the "'O' flaw" variety. **£450.00**



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52749 SG. 2 b. AI (2) g. AS23 b. "RG".  
Id black. Plate 4. A very fine used  
example cancelled by a red maltese  
cross. With the listed variety "Double  
letter 'R' ". Also with the " Dot on 'T' of  
' POSTAGE " variety. **£325.00**



52750 SG. 2 c. AI (2) h. AS23. "GH". Id  
black. Plate 4. A very fine used example  
cancelled by a red maltese cross with  
the listed " Vertical guide line NE square  
"variety. Also " Faint mark on lower  
margin below 'P' of 'PENNY' " variety.  
**£275.00**



52752 SG. 2. AI (2). AS20. "HI". Id  
black. Plate 3. A very fine used example  
cancelled by a red maltese cross.  
**£350.00**



54820 SG. 2. AI (2). AS25. "OB". Id  
Black. Plate 5. State I. A SUPERB used  
example cancelled by an upright red  
maltese cross. With the " Left side line  
weak in places and the right side line of  
the NE square weak " varieties. **£375.00**



54961 SG. 2. AI (2). AS66. "LG". Id  
Black. Plate 10. A SUPERB used example  
cancelled by a black maltese cross.  
With the "' O 'flaw and vertical scratch  
in NW square " varieties. **£450.00**



54974 SG. 2. AI (2). AS66. "KD". Id  
Black. Plate 10. A very fine used  
example cancelled by a black maltese  
cross. With the "' O 'flaw " variety.  
**£350.00**



54979 SG. 2. AI (2). AS66. "JI". Id  
Black. Plate 10. A SUPERB used example  
cancelled by a black maltese cross.  
With the "' O 'flaw and 'J'flaw "  
varieties. **£495.00**



55041 SG. 2 c. AI (2) h. AS41. "RI". Id  
Black. Plate 6. A very fine mounted mint  
example with the listed "Vertical guide  
line NE square" variety. Also "Dots in  
upper margin" variety. Complete with  
MIKE JACKSON certificate. **£3,950.00**



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52386 SG. I21. J120. "EG". 2/- Brown.  
A very fine "2nd April 1880 LOMBARD STREET" CDS used example of this scarce Victorian issue. **£1,495.00**



52533 SG. 57. H2 (I). 10d Brown. Die 3.  
A very fine lightly mounted mint example of this difficult mint Victorian Embossed issue. Complete with BRANDON certificate. **£5,500.00**



53703 SG. 77b. J26 (3) c. "BG". 3d Pale Carmine - Rose. THICK PAPER. A superb upright "6th June 1863 BIRMINGHAM" CDS used example. **£350.00**



54302 SG. 109. J77. "DH". 6d Mauve. Plate 9. A fine UNMOUNTED MINT example. **£595.00**



54728 SG. 54. H1 (I). 1/- Pale Green. Die I. A superb mounted mint example complete with BPA certificate. A VERY RARE stamp in this grade. The finest example we have handled in 33 years. **£14,995.00**



54757 SG. 86. J92 (I). "EL". 9d Bistre. A superb UNMOUNTED MINT bottom insriptional marginal example. Complete with HOLCOMBE certificate. A RARE stamp in this grade. **£6,250.00**



55060 SG. I24a. J80 (2). "EL". 6d PALE CHESTNUT. Plate I2. ABNORMAL". A very fine used example of this RARE Victorian issue complete with BPA certificate. **£2,750.00**



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52387 SG. I2I. JI20. "SA". 2/- Brown. A fine used example of this scarce Victorian issue. **£1,450.00**



53360 SG. 98 variety J95. "MJ". 9d straw. Plate 5. "ABNORMAL". A fine mint example of this RARE victorian issue complete with BPA certificate. **£10,995.00**



53392 SG. 62. J47. 4d carmine. "IMPRIMATUR". A very fine example of this scarce Victorian issue. **£3,995.00**



53653 SG. 70. J70 (3). 6d lilac. A superb "18th August 1859 GLASGOW" CDS used example. A scarcestamp to find CDS used. **£165.00**



53708 SG. II2. J97 (I). "HK". 10d Red Brown. Plate I. A very fine "17th March 1875 CAMBERWELL GREEN" CDS used example. **£325.00**



53765 SG. 97. J73 (2). "GG". 6d Lilac. Plate 5. A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT example of this scarce Victorian Mint issue complete with BRANDON certificate. **£995.00**



54502 SG. 48/49. G4. "KX". 1/2d Rose - Red plate 9. A very fine "3rd June 1872 NORWICH" CDS used example of this difficult plate numbe on small piece. **£425.00**



54502 SG. I39. J3. "BI". 2 1/2d rosy mauve. Plate 3. A very fine mounted mint example. **£395.00**







52264 SG. I37. J128a. "CM". £5.00  
Orange. A superb "12th December 1901  
BOLTON" CDS used example complete  
with BRANDON certificate. £3,450.00



53212 SG. I29. J126. "DI". £1.00  
Brown - lilac. Plate I. A superb "26th  
July 1882 GLASGOW" CDS used  
example. Complete with RPS  
certificate. £2,850.00



52663 SG. I37. J128a. "BF". £5.00  
Orange. A superb "3rd January 1903  
BURTON ON TRENT" CDS used  
example. £3,450.00



52271 SG. I37. J128a. "DL DM". £5.00  
Orange. A superb "27th October 1892  
BELFAST" CDS used vertical pair  
complete with BRANDON certificate.  
£6,500.00



53213 SG. 319. M54 (2). 10/- Blue. A  
very fine UNMOUNTED MINT top  
marginal example complete with BPA  
certificate. £1,495.00



54161 SG. I41. J8. "JH". 2½d Rosy  
Mauve. Plate 7. A fine UNMOUNTED  
MINT example. £425.00



55032 SG. I36. J127a. "CA". £1.00  
Brown - Lilac. A SUPERB used example  
cancelled by a very fine "28th June 1883  
RICHMOND" CDS. A RARE stamp in  
this grade. £5,995.00







53634 SG. I29s. J126 t. "HJ". £1.00  
Brown - Lilac. Plate I. A very fine lightly  
mounted mint example overprinted  
SPECIMEN type 9. £3,250.00



55076 SG. I31s. J125 t. "GD". 10/-  
Greenish - Grey (Blued paper). A very  
fine mounted mint example  
overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 9.  
Complete with BPA certificate.  
£5,500.00



53784 SG. I37. J128a. "AD". £5.00  
Orange. A superb "23rd September 1902  
DARLINGTON" CDS used example.  
£3,450.00



53777 SG. I37. J128a. "DH DI". £5.00  
Orange. A very fine "11th January 1900  
CHESTER" CDS used vertical pair. A  
very scarce multiple these days.  
£4,750.00



55050 SG. I35. J125a. "EB". 10/-  
Greenish - Grey. A fine "7th December  
1883 GLASGOW" CDS used example.  
£1,775.00



54167 SG. I41. J17. "LG". 2½d Rosy  
Mauve. Plate 16. A fine mounted mint  
example. £175.00



55063 SG. I32. J127. "GE" £1.00 Brown -  
Lilac. (Blued Paper). A SUPERB "26th  
April 1883 GLASGOW" CDS used  
example complete with BPA certificate.  
A RARE stamp in this grade. £6,500.00







52899 SG. I47. J83. "TA" 6d Grey plate I3. A superb UNMOUNTED MINT (mounted in the margin only) bottom left hand corner marginal example. Complete with RPS certificate. RARE in this grade. £750.00



54055 SG. I56. J9IA. "OL" 8d Orange. A SUPERB upright "30th August 1879 STALYBRIDGE" CDS used example. £295.00



54752 SG. I42. J19. "PG" 2½d Blue. Plate I7. A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT bottom marginal example. £525.00



54828 SG. I62. K8B f. "MH" 6d on 6d Lilac. Plate I8. A fine CDS used example with the scarce listed variety "MH, late state, first dot very small". £125.00



53619 SG. I44. J42. "OF" 3d Pale Rose plate I8. A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT example. £495.00



54617 SG. I77a s. KI3 (2) t. "JE" 10/- Cobalt (blued paper). A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT example overprinted SPECIMEN type 9. £3,255.00



54760 SG. I52. J62. "JC" 4d Vermilion plate I5. A fine UNMOUNTED MINT bottom insriptional marginal example. £2,950.00



54828 SG. I68. K5 (I). 2d Pale Rose. A fine UNMOUNTED MINT example. £295.00







53202 SG. 142. J22. "LH LI MH MI".  
2½d blue. Plate 20. mA fine mint (2  
stamps UNMOUNTED MINT) block  
of 4. A scarce multiple these days.  
£1,495.00



53724 SG. 143. J40. "GA". 3d Rose plate  
I6. A very fine used example cancelled  
by a small part BLUE cancel leaving a  
super clear profile. £55.00



55019 SG. 158. J45. "LF". 3d Rose. Plate  
20. A fine mounted mint example.  
£275.00



54837 SG. 146. J83. "SG". 6d Deep  
Grey. Plate I3. A very fine  
UNMOUNTED MINT example.  
£525.00



53719 SG. 158. J45A. "GK". 3d Rose.  
Plate 2I. A very fine "29th March 1882  
TULLAMORE" CDS used example.  
£95.00



55062 SG. 176. KII. "BC". 5/- rose  
(blue paper). A SUPERB "30th  
December 1888 LEEDS" CDS used  
example. Complete with RPS  
certificate. £2,250.00



55068 SG. 153. J65. "BA - EC". 4d Sage  
- Green. Plate I6. A very fine (8 stamps  
UNMOUNTED MINT) block of 12. A  
RARE multiple these days. Complete  
with BPA certificate. £11,500.00







5289I SG. VI. VRI. " PL ". 1d black. VR Official. A very fine mounted mint four margined example. RARE in this grade and one of the rarest of all the Officials. Complete with RPS certificate which states soiled bottom left which is incredibly harsh. **£14,995.00**



52974 SG. O35. L35. 10d Dull Purple & Carmine. O.W. OFFICIAL. A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT example of this RARE Victorian Official complete with RPS certificate. **£5,250.00**



5322I SG. 212. K17. 1d.00 Green "MC". A superb lightly mounted mint example of this popular stamp complete with RPS Certificate. **£1,895.00**



54740 SG. O71. L26. 4½d Green & Carmine. GOVT. PARCELS. A fine UNMOUNTED MINT top marginal example of this difficult mint Official. **£275.00**



53448 SG. I86. K16. " KB LB MB NB OB ". 1d.00 Brown - Lilac. A fine "14th May 1889 WESTBOURNE GROVE" CDS used vertical strip of 5. A VERY RARE multiple of this difficult Victorian high value. **£8,950.00**



55075 SG. O12s. L10 s. " BA ". 1d.00 brown - Lilac. " I.R. Official ". A SUPERB UNMOUNTED MINT left hand marginal example of this VERY RARE Official overprinted specimen type 9. A RARE stamp in this grade. **£5,950.00**



55045 SG. I83. K14 (2). " MB ". 10/- Ultramarine. A SUPERB upright "17th October 1896 DEWSBURY" CDS used example. **£225.00**







53399 SG. 212wi. K17b. £1.00 Green "MA". INVERTED WATERMARK. A fine used example of this RARE Victorian watermark variety. **£7,995.00**



54561 SG. VI. VRI. "AA AB". Id black. VR Official. A fine mounted mint top left hand corner marginal pair with plate letter "A" and marginal inscription. Tiny fault at base. Ex Seymour collection and complete with BPA certificate. A superb exhibition piece **£75,000.00**



54492 SG. O72. L30. 1/- Green and carmine. GOVT. PARCELS. A very fine mounted mint example complete with RPS certificate. **£395.00**



55038 SG. O16. L11. "HD". £1.00 Green. I.R. Official. A SUPERB upright 1894 ABERDEEN CDS used example complete with WENVOE certificate. **£1,295.00**



54618 SG. O35. L35. 10d Dull Purple & Carmine overprinted "O.W. OFFICIAL". A very fine "3rd October 1904 PARLIAMENT STREET" CDS used example of this scarce stamp. Complete with BPA certificate. **£975.00**



53767 SG. I86. K16. "KB LB MB NB OB". £1.00 Brown - Lilac. A fine "14th May 1889 WESTBOURNE GROVE" CDS used vertical strip of 5. A VERY RARE multiple of this difficult Victorian high value. **£8,950.00**



55069 SG. I82. K14 (I). "KH". 10/- Cobalt. A SUPERB 5th July 1884 COVENT GARDEN CDS used example of the scarce Victorian shade variety. Complete with BPA certificate. **£4,250.00**



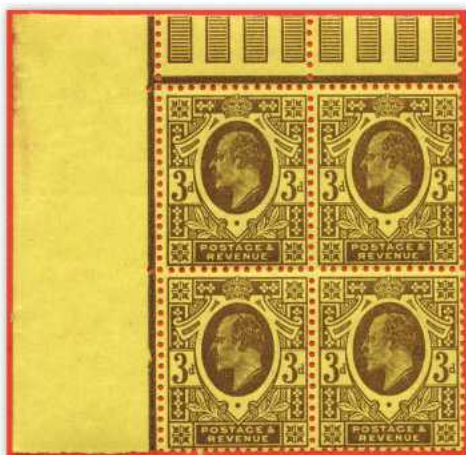




53222 SG. 255a. M43 (2) b. 10d slate purple & carmine ©." No Cross on Crown. A Superb UNMOUNTED MINT example complete with RPS certificate. £595.00



53374 SG. 263. M5I (1). 5/- bright carmine. A superb "30th July 1908 SHEPHERDS BUSH EXHIBITION" CDS used example. £125.00



53089 SG. 277 variety M2I (4). 3d Dull Red Purple & Lemon. A fine mint (2 stamps UNMOUNTED MINT) top left hand corner marginal block of 4. A scarce multiple these days. £725.00



53526 SG. 313wi. M47 (2) b. 1/- Deep Green & Scarlet. A superb UNMOUNTED MINT left hand marginal block of 4 with INVERTED WATERMARK. A scarce multiple and complete with HENDON certificate. £695.00



55072 SG. 235. M23 (1). 4d Green & Grey Brown. A very fine mounted (1 stamp UNMOUNTED MINT) mint top right hand corner marginal horizontal pair. £95.00



54506 SG. 215. M1 (1). 1/2d dull blue green. A fine mounted mint control bottom right hand corner marginal block of 6 showing a superb example of the "EXTRA BEATS OF THE PERFORATION COMB" variety. A lovely ERROR. £375.00



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52198 SG. 309. M44 (2). 10d Dull Purple & Scarlet. A fine mounted mint bottom right hand corner marginal example complete with RPS certificate. £85.00



53376 SG. 264. M51 (2). 5/- Deep Bright Carmine. A very fine "8th December 1903 BIRMINGHAM" CDS used example. £125.00



53378 SG. 260wi. M48 (1) b. 2/6 Lilac. INVERTED WATERMARK. A fine "1902" CDS used example of this RARE Edwardian watermark variety. £1,795.00



53449 SG. 275. M6 (8) 1d Aniline Pink. A super (3 stamps UNMOUNTED MINT) left hand marginal block of 4 of this RARE Edwardian shade variety. A VERY RARE multiple especially well centred. £3,500.00



54182 SG. 316. M50 (2) 2/6 Dull Reddish Purple. A very fine UNMOUNTED MINT (mounted in the margin only) bottom left hand corner marginal example. £475.00



54183 SG. 266. M55. £1.00 Dull Blue - Green. A super UNMOUNTED MINT top left hand corner marginal example. £2,195.00



54629 SG. 226 variety MII (5). 2d Grey Green & Scarlet Vermilion. A super UNMOUNTED MINT example of this newly listed Edwardian shade variety. Complete with HENDON certificate. £425.00



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# Getting together

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is back on the calendar after an enforced absence last year. What is there to collect from the event's long back-catalogue?

■ Report by Alan Spencer

**T**he Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is the country's most enduring annual event. Since 1909, only three things have prevented it happening: two world wars and a pandemic.

A roving event, held at a different venue every year, Congress is an opportunity to meet up with fellow collectors from around the country for a relaxing few days in pleasant surroundings.

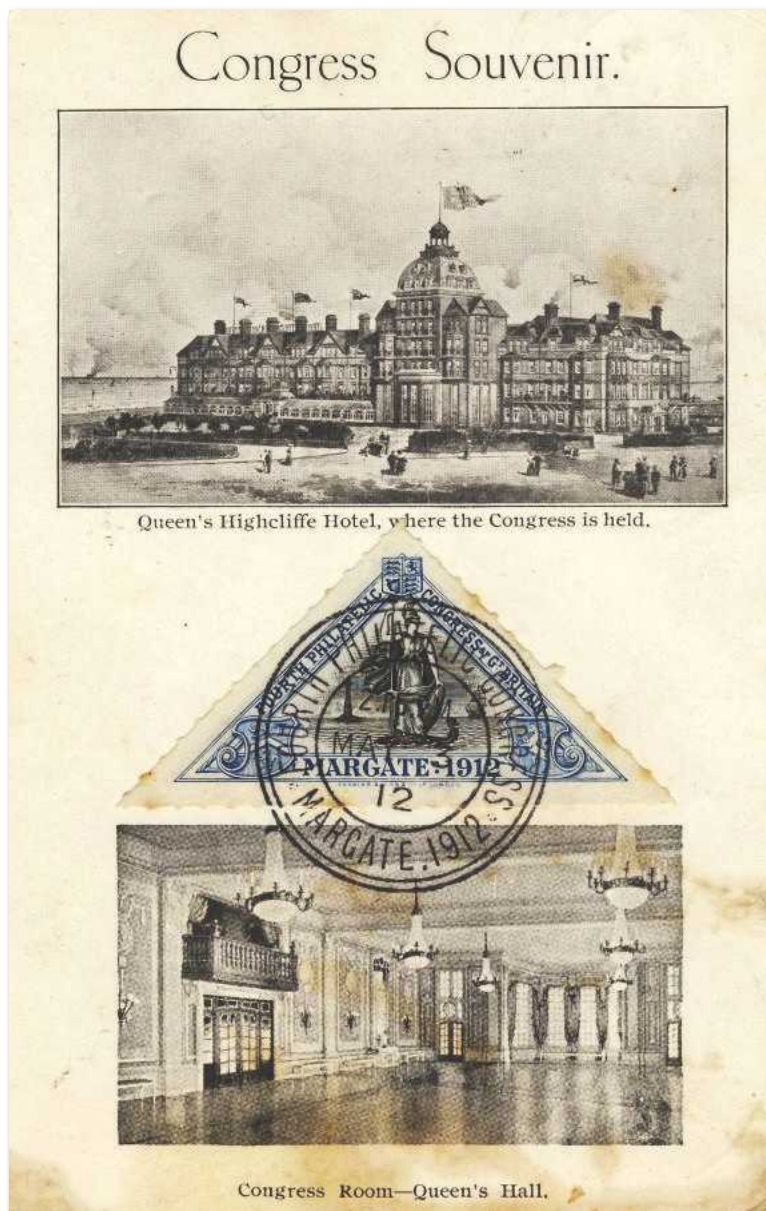
Originally organised by the Junior Philatelic Society, later by the British Philatelic Federation and in recent years by the Association of British Philatelic Societies, its scheduled components include lectures, displays and discussions, but also visits to local attractions and a banquet.

There are ceremonial functions, too, often linked to a civic reception arranged by the host town or city. The ABPS Congress Medal is presented in recognition of the recipient's voluntary service to British philately at a national level, and Awards of Merit for service at a local or specialist level. In the international sphere, a select few nominees each year are invited to become signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

This is regarded as the pre-eminent philatelic honour in the entire world. Some 365 philatelists

**RIGHT:** Souvenir postcard from the 4th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held at the Queen's Highcliffe Hotel in Margate in May 1912, with images of the venue, the triangular souvenir label and a commemorative postmark

**BELOW:** Unusual postcard posted at not one but two GB Congresses, with the special handstamps of Bath in 1935 and Brighton in 1948 cancelling stamps of two different reigns. T G Rimmington was from Leicester Philatelic Society



*'A typical GB Congress includes lectures, displays, discussions, visits to local attractions and ceremonial functions'*

from 40 countries have achieved the distinction, but there are unlikely to be more than 75 signatories alive at any one time.

A wide variety of memorabilia has been generated by the various Congresses over the years, in the form of cinderellas and ephemera. It can make an interesting and rewarding sideline collection for historians of organised philately. ▷



## Souvenir labels

Souvenir labels have been produced for many of the Congresses, most of them attractively designed and well printed and perforated. The quantities available are relatively small in comparison with postage stamps, yet they are generally inexpensive.

The first such cinderellas were issued for the 1910 Congress held in London, and illustrated a young Queen Victoria. They were printed in a choice of four colours by Perkins Bacon.

The second set was produced for the 1911 Congress in Birmingham, showing the Town Hall. They were printed in four different two-colour combinations by the Artist Engraving Co, which gave delegates a demonstration of the printing technique.



## Special postmarks

Commemorative postmarks were a feature of the Congress from the very start, after the Postmaster General granted permission for a special handstamp to be made available for the inaugural event in Manchester in 1909.

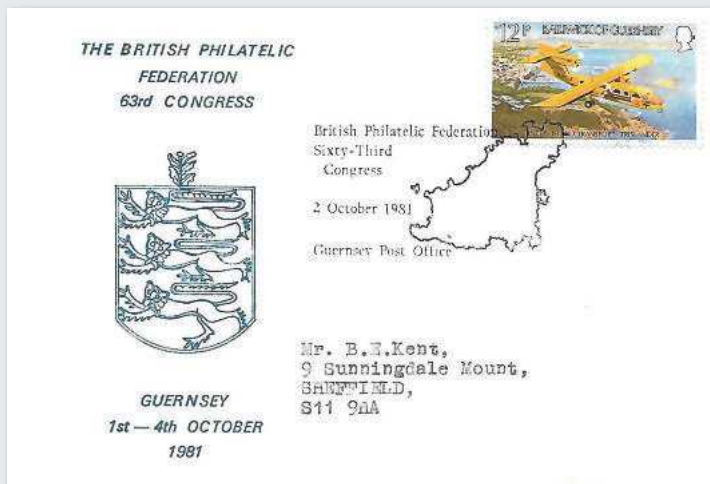
A temporary branch office was opened for the three days of the meeting at Hulme Town Hall, from February 18-20, and letters and postcards sent from there are gems of postal history.

## Commemorative covers

Decorated postcards and envelopes have also been produced for various Congresses, from 1909 onwards. Among the most attractive were the covers offered in 1981, when the Congress was held on the Island of Guernsey.

Envelopes with a commemorative inscription and Guernsey's coat of arms were available in three different colours, one for each day of Congress. Sold for 35p each, they could be cancelled by the Guernsey Post Office with a special handstamp.

They were designed by Michael Todd, who had also designed the envelope for the previous year's Congress in Cambridge.

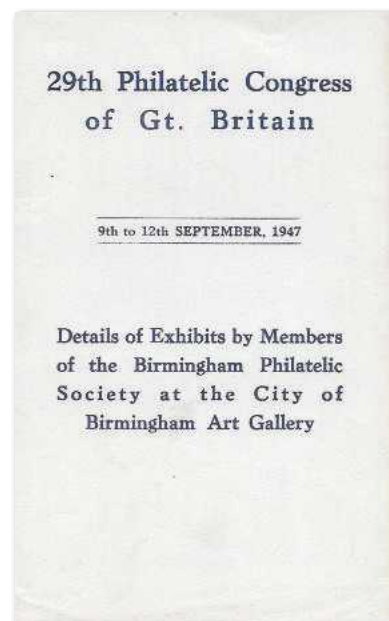


## Exhibition guides

A major attraction of Congress since its inception has been the opportunity to see displays of world-class stamps and postal history. The depth and scope of these can best be appreciated by studying the respective programmes.

The exhibition in connection with the 1947 Congress in Birmingham, for example, which was organised by members of the local philatelic society and held in the City of Birmingham Art Gallery, offered some tasty morsels.

They included a Penny Black cover of May 6, 1840, the earliest known Birmingham postmark, dated 1712, and rarities from the early stamp issues of British North America.



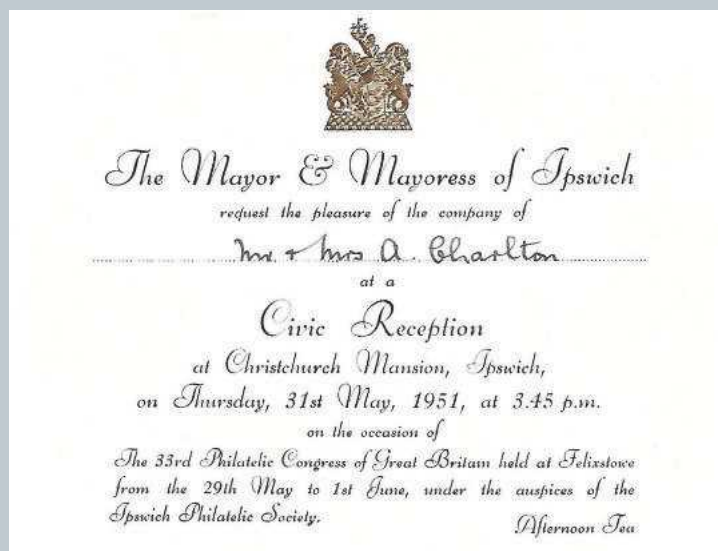


## Reception invitations

Civic receptions were often granted by officials of the host town or city, and formal invitations to these may survive.

A typical example is the invitation sent to delegates on behalf of the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich, when nearby Felixstowe hosted the 1951 Congress. Afternoon tea appears to have been the order of the day, rather than evening aperitifs.

This particular guest, Mr Charlton, was the Manchester Philatelic Society's delegate and a collector of Grenada and Gambia.

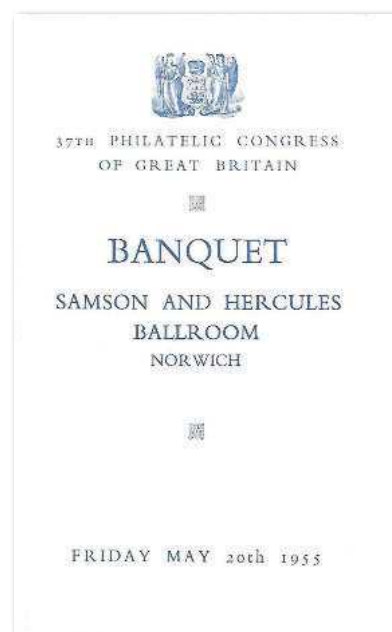


## Banquet menus

Congress banquet menus might sound like an unlikely collectable, but some of them were lavishly printed, perhaps decorated with reproductions of famous stamps, and a tradition arose of getting them signed by those in attendance.

The banquet at Norwich in 1955 was held in the Sampson & Hercules Ballroom, a timber-framed building constructed around 1657 with statues of the mythical strongmen standing at the entrance.

Those who attended must have enjoyed the mouth-watering menu, which consisted of oxtail soup, plaice Florentine, roast Norfolk chicken with all the trimmings, peach Melba and, to finish off, cheese and biscuits.



## 2021 CONGRESS

The 102nd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is being held in the picturesque spa town of Harrogate in North Yorkshire from September 23-26.

The event will be based at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, and the organisers are promising an unmistakably Yorkshire feel to the occasion.

A landmark moment will be the centenary signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, with a twist; since the 2020 Congress had been cancelled due to the pandemic, two groups of signatories will be honoured this year.

A wide variety of presentations have been planned, with material for all interests. The traditional 'Four sheets to tell a story' competition will be followed by displays by the

Harrogate Philatelic Society and a dealers' bourse.

The Kay Goodman lecture, which considers a significant issue within the hobby each year, will focus on the future of philately after the pandemic, which has forced a rethink for local, national and international meetings.

Outside the venue itself, the town of Harrogate has many attractions, including the Valley Gardens, developed as a health walk for visitors to the spa, and the Royal Hall, a fine Edwardian theatre. Most famous of all is probably Bettys Cafe Tea Rooms, a fashionable spot for afternoon tea since 1919.

For further details contact Steven Harrison, ABPS Vice Chairman. E-mail: [sharrison500@btinternet.com](mailto:sharrison500@btinternet.com). Or visit [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)





## Tour tickets

The social side of Congress has frequently included organised trips to tourist attractions in the locality, helping to provide extra entertainment for delegates' husbands and wives, and make the event something of a mid-week or weekend getaway.

In Nottingham in June 1927, for example, there were coach tours to Southwell Minister on the Tuesday, Welbeck Abbey on the Wednesday, the Boots pharmaceutical factory on the Thursday and the Raleigh Motor & Cycle Works on the Friday.

**FOURTEENTH PHILATELIC CONGRESS,**  
Nottingham, June 20th to 24th, 1927.

VISIT TO  
**SOUTHWELL MINSTER,**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 21st.

Meet Trinity Square 2.15 prompt.

## Delegates' passes

In addition to organised tours, it has not been unusual for the local town or city council to support a Congress by issuing 'free passes' to certain local amenities.

This example from Buxton in 1968, for example, gave delegates free entry to the Pavilion Gardens, free use of the bowling and tennis facilities, and access to the local golf club as guests.

50th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain  
Buxton 4th to 7th June 1968

### DELEGATE'S PASS

This ticket admits the bearer into the Pavilion Gardens free of charge during the period of this Congress and provides free Bowling and Tennis facilities. Free parking of vehicles is also provided. Delegates wishing to avail themselves of Guest facilities at the High Peak Golf Club should produce this card to the Steward when entering the Club House.

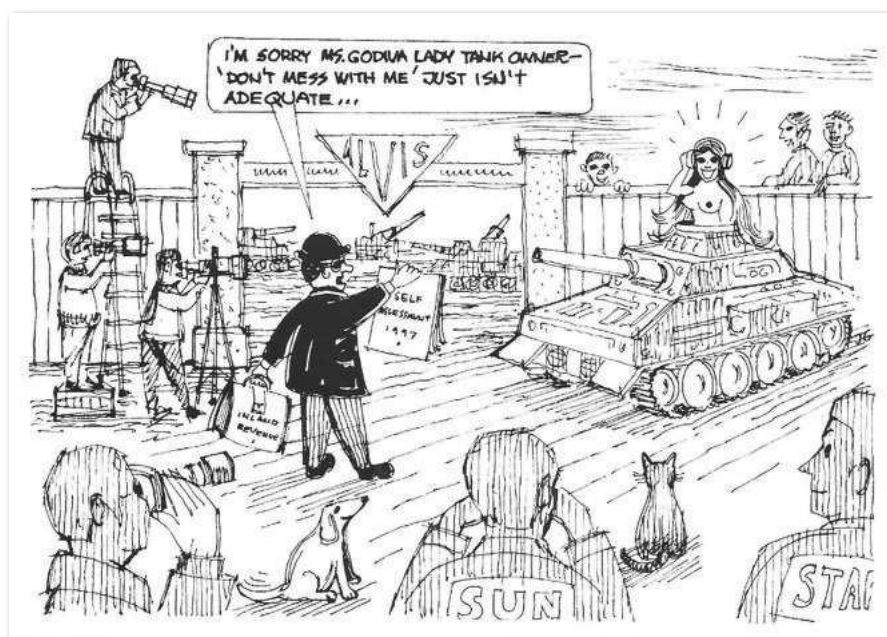
Issued by the Publicity and Entertainments Department, Buxton Corporation

*'Civic receptions have often been granted by officials of the host town or city'*

## Humorous extras

Not all interesting souvenirs of past Congresses are official items. A decidedly unofficial and risqué memento, for example, was created by Victor Short for the 1997 Congress in Coventry.

This illustrated card took the form of a modern reimagining of Lady Godiva's legendary unclothed protest against oppressive taxation in the city in the 11th century, with the heroine driving a tank manufactured at the local Alvis factory.



## VENUES

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain has now been held 101 times, at 55 different venues. The most frequent host towns and cities have been:

London	8
Cambridge	6
Brighton	5
Harrogate	5
Bath	3
Birmingham	3
Bournemouth	3
Folkestone	3
Norwich	3

## STUDY GROUP

Collectors of Congress material are catered for by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Study Group.

For more information, contact the author at [alan.spencer9@btopenworld.com](mailto:alan.spencer9@btopenworld.com)



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# Dots to admire

Equally at home illustrating people or wildlife, Lars Sjööblom confounded many traditionalists by perfecting a radical style of stamp engraving

■ Report by Adrian Keppel

Lars Sjööblom was at the top of his game when Sweden's postal authority decided in 2016 to stop recess-printing postage stamps.

Even if he never engraves another stamp, however, he has made his mark as one of his country's foremost exponents of the art, with a distinct style of his own.

**Born in Lidköping** in 1956, Sjööblom became interested in graphic arts while attending the Stockholm School for Advertising in his early 20s.

A tutor spotted how artistic he was, and encouraged him to enrol on a training course at the School of Engraving, which was a joint project set up by the postal administration and the banknote printers Tumba Bruk.

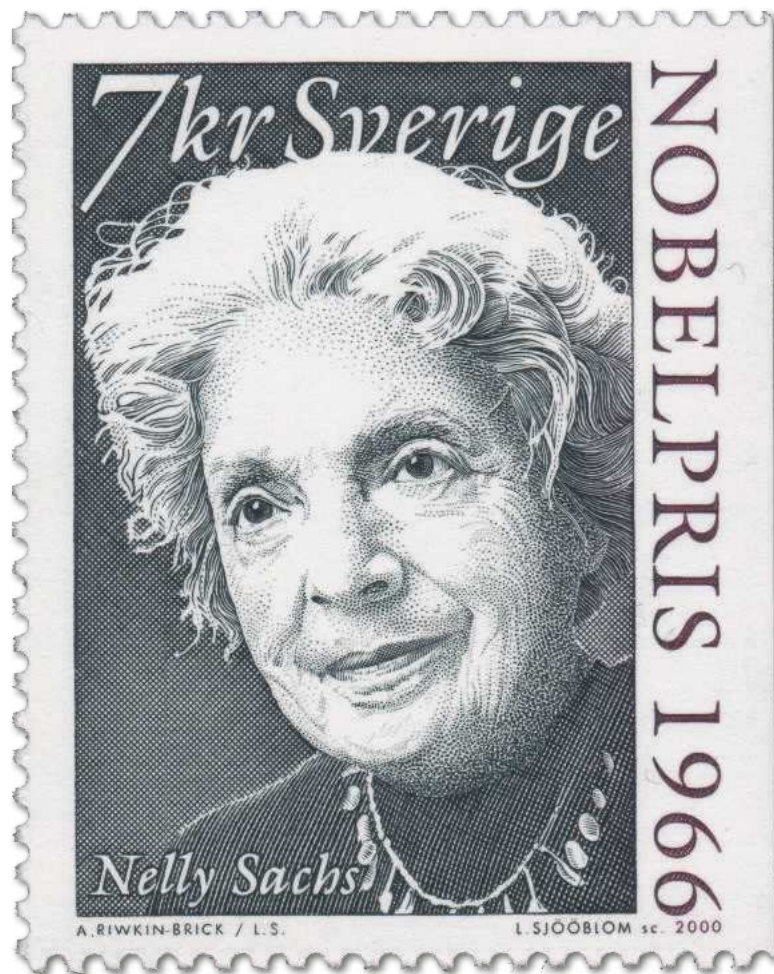
There, from 1979-81, Sjööblom had the good fortune to be taught the art of engraving by the famous stamp engraver Arne Wallhorn.

Wallhorn became a role model for him, while art history classes instilled a deep admiration for artists such as Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt.

At the end of the course he was offered a job at Tumba Bruk, but ultimately his future was to lie not in banknotes but in stamps.

**Sjööblom entered** a competition to design a stamp for Sweden's 1982 Europa issue, and won. His portrait of the astronomer and physicist Anders Celsius, praised for its light-handed but assured engraving, was duly issued, and a year later he was offered

**RIGHT: Sweden 2000 Nobel Prize Winners for Literature stamp portraying Nelly Sachs, one of Lars Sjööblom's favourite engravings**



permanent employment at the postal authority.

Over the next three decades, he would engrave stamps for more than 150 issues of Sweden, and also issues for Norway, Finland, Denmark, Åland, Greenland, Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

After working at first with a number of colleagues, including Wallhorn, he would eventually become the only engraver employed by the organisation full-time, any others being commissioned on a freelance basis.

**Sjööblom soon became** renowned for his engravings of animals and

nature, which were subjects close to his heart.

He tells a story that he was walking the hills one day and found an angelica plant so beautiful that he took it home with him to try to capture it in his art. It ended up on a Swedish stamp of 1984, in the Mountain World set.

Another lovely image was that of a red fox, for the 1996 Wildlife set, although it could be argued that his crowning glory was a stunning engraving of a golden eagle for a folded booklet issued by the postal authority in 2004 titled *Four Engravers Under A Magnifying Glass*.

**Equally, however, Sjööblom** enjoys working on portraits.

*'Sjööblom is an advocate of dot-engraving, as distinct from line-engraving, for more fluid transitions between darker and lighter parts of a design'*





LEFT: Sjööblom's interest in nature was piqued by a fragile angelica flower, which he illustrated for a stamp in Sweden's 1984 Mountain World set

Indeed, he says his favourite stamp is a portrait design, a 7kr value depicting Nelly Sachs in the 2000 set honouring Nobel Prize Winners for Literature.

In 2006 he was given the honour of engraving the stamps marking King Carl XVI Gustaf's 60th birthday, and he created a memorable portrait using the etching technique of aquatint.

This unusual approach was born

of necessity: the photographic material from which he was working lacked real nuances, so he recreated that effect by engraving thousands of small strokes. The end result appeared more like blocks of colour than traditional line-engraving.

Sjööblom has picked up awards for his portraiture, for example in the international polls organised by the Government Postage Stamp



ABOVE: A striking image of a red fox, from Sweden's 1996 Wildlife set

Printers' Association.

In 2006 he won the Best Intaglio Stamp category for his 2005 engraving of the author Hans Christian Andersen for Denmark, and in 2014 he won the Best Combination Stamp category (for stamps which are only partially recess-printed) for his 2012 image of the actress Johanne Luise Heiberg, also for Denmark.

**The Andersen stamp** is one of many fine examples of Sjööblom's individual engraving style.

He is an advocate of dot-engraving, as distinct from line-engraving, for more fluid transitions between darker and lighter parts of a design. In this instance he combined lines (for swirling hair) with dots (for skin complexion) in a superbly effective way.

At the beginning of his career, this non-traditional style of engraving was frowned upon, but now Sjööblom is celebrated as a pioneer in the technique.

In 2014, he was one of five engravers invited to contribute to a Belgium miniature sheet celebrating the Grand Place in Antwerp, with the idea that this international collaboration should showcase contrasting engraving styles. His stamp was engraved almost entirely in dots.

**In 2016 Sjööblom** was riding a wave of success when, out of the blue, Sweden's postal authority abandoned recess printing.

The loss of work was a shock, but he has reinvented himself as a freelance illustrator and still lands some stamp design commissions for Sweden and Åland. ■

BELOW: Sjööblom's award-winning 2005 portrait of Hans Christian Andersen for Denmark





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  <p><b>REF T602</b> <b>WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX</b></p> <p>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)</p> <p>£299.50 PLUS £15.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.</p>	 <p><b>REF T510</b> <b>THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS</b></p> <p>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</p> <p><b>HAVE YOU TRIED ONE YET FOR</b> £999.00 PLUS £28.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>			
<p><b>REF T623</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b></p> <p>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+</p> <p>£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T624</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b></p> <p>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+</p> <p>£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T626</b> <b>FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b></p> <p>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+</p> <p>£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>		
<p><b>REF T627</b> <b>ALL WORLD WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b></p> <p>INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM &amp; GREAT BRITAIN WITH STOCKBOOKS, COLLECTIONS, ALBUM PAGES, FIRST DAY COVERS STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER BOXES AND PACKETS OF UNSORTED MATERIAL. AUCTION LEFT-OVERS A GOOD SORT FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ STATED TO RETAIL £400+</p> <p>£299.50 PLUS £20.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p><b>REF T607</b> <b>ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/4 BOX</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>£79.50 PLUS £12.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p><b>REF T622</b> <b>WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>£24.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE</p>		

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# Cancel culture

Postal clerks received clear instructions for use of the Maltese cross cancellation on Penny Black covers. Nevertheless, some were excessively heavy-handed

■ Report by Norman Watson

**T**he introduction of the Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue in May 1840 was accompanied by that of the world's first canceller: the handstamp known to philatelists as the Maltese cross.

An instruction distributed to sorting staff stated that this 'obliterating stamp' was to be used 'to efface the postage stamp on every letter despatched from your office'.

According to the instructions issued to all postmasters, however, each adhesive was to be struck 'separately' and 'carefully'.

This three-line whip from the hierarchy at the General Post Office ensured that the vast majority of early stamped covers feature adhesives with single cancellations, in many cases quite neatly.

But among the enduring curiosities of the postal reform period are stamps which the official obliterator has struck more than once.

**Clerks typically applied** a strike to each stamp in turn as they worked downwards through a bundle of letters. So why would they sometimes wallop an adhesive multiple times?

Chris Hibbert of the Great Britain Philatelic Society has drawn up a list of possible reasons for this odd practice. They include a lack of familiarity with the new system, correcting unclear cancellations, pressure of work, and problems with the cancelling ink.

To this might be added making sure beyond doubt that a stamp could not be fraudulently reused, or perhaps simple end-of-day tedium. Maybe it was a case of



practice makes perfect, or perhaps even taking an opportunity for mischief when the inspector's back was turned?

**Sometimes the canceller** was wielded with such a flourish that it is difficult to count the cancellations. An example is the cover illustrated here.

Sent between two small receiving offices in the Scottish Borders, this entire is franked with a Penny Black printed from plate 6, with check letters L-E, conventionally affixed towards the upper right corner.

A straight-line Greenlaw village handstamp is struck in red, and there is a boxed Dunse (Duns) despatch datestamp of March 5, 1841.

After being forwarded to the larger office of Duns, however, it

**ABOVE: Penny Black** from plate 6 struck no fewer than six times with a Maltese cross cancellation in black, on a cover of March 5, 1841

appears to have been struck there with no fewer than six impressions of the Maltese cross in black. This is among the highest number recorded tying a Penny Black to a cover.

**Although rarely seen,** numerous strikes of the Maltese cross have a habit of detracting from the attraction of a piece of postal history.

Purist collectors of the world's first postage stamp would normally wish for a single clear strike of the cancellation, leaving as much as possible of William Wyon's beautiful portrait of Queen Victoria visible.

As time wore on, though, post office staff seem to have become a little less diligent and a little more careless in their use of the small brass handstamps with which they had been issued.

Then again, the Post Office as a whole is guilty of a lack of care in its own way, because only one of these historic devices is known to have survived. ■

*'Why would postal clerks sometimes wallop an adhesive multiple times? Was it pressure of work? Was it end-of-day tedium?'*





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# WHAT'S ON: EXHIBITIONS

## UK & WORLDWIDE EXHIBITION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEPTEMBER 17-19 USA

#### Greater Houston Stamp Show

**Venue:** Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas 77338, USA.

**Contact:** Houston Stamp Club  
info@houstonstampclub.org  
www.houstonstampclub.org

### SEPTEMBER 23-26 UK

#### Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

**Venue:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, King's Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 1XX.

**Contact:** Association of British Philatelic Societies  
sharrison500@btinternet.com  
www.abps.org.uk

### SEPTEMBER 24-26 AUSTRIA

#### Ovebria 2021 Multilateral Exhibition

**Venue:** VAZ St Pölten, Kelsengasse 9, 3100 St Pölten, Austria.

**Contact:** Gernot Abfalterbach  
ausstellungsleiterm21@voeph.at  
www.voeph.at

### SEPTEMBER 29- OCTOBER 2 UK

#### Autumn Stampex

**Venue:** Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.

**Contact:** Philatelic Traders Society  
info@thepts.net  
www.thepts.net

### OCTOBER 1-3 USA

#### Indypex

**Venue:** Hamilton County Fairgrounds

& Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, Indiana 46060.

**Contact:** Indiana Stamp Club, PO Box 20005, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220-0005, USA  
rmarcy1@comcast.net  
www.indianastampclub.org

### OCTOBER 15-17 IRELAND

#### Stampa 2021 Irish National Stamp Exhibition

**Venue:** Griffith College Conference Centre, South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

**Contact:** PO Box 12624, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, Republic of Ireland  
www.stampa.ie

### OCTOBER 21-23 SOUTH AFRICA

#### Vrijstaart 2021 National Exhibition

**Venue:** Kopano Nokeng Conference Center, 14 Mazelspoort Road, Bloemfontein 9326, South Africa.

**Contact:** Joof van der Merwe  
jnc1@vodamail.co.za  
www.stampssa.africa

### OCTOBER 22-24 USA

#### Napex 2021

**Venue:** Hilton McLean, Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Road, McLean, Virginia 22102, USA.

**Contact:** Napex 2021  
wcfortiii@aol.com  
www.napex.org

### NOVEMBER 19-21 USA

#### Chicagopex 2021

**Venue:** Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Boulevard, Itasca, Illinois 60143.

**Contact:** Kathy Johnson  
kjj5217@gmail.com  
chicagopex.org

### NOVEMBER 19-22 GREECE

#### Notos 2021 European Philatelic Exhibition

**Venue:** Zappeion Conference & Exhibition Centre, Leof Vasilissis Olgas, Athens 105 57, Greece.

**Contact:** Jon Aitchinson, UK Commissioner  
britishlocals@aol.com  
www.hps.gr/notos2021

### DECEMBER 16-18 NETHERLANDS

#### Hertogpost 2021

**Venue:** Brabanthallen, Diezekade 2, 's-Hertogenbosch 5222, Netherlands.

**Contact:** Hertogpost 2021  
Tel: +31 73 629 3911  
info@hertogpost-event.nl  
www.hertogpost-event.nl

### JANUARY 21-23 USA

#### Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition

**Venue:** Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida, USA.

**Contact:** Liz Hisey  
Tel: +1 941 444 0777  
lizhisey@comcast.net  
www.sarasotastampclub.com

### FEBRUARY 19-26 UK

#### London 2022 International Exhibition

**Venue:** Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH.

**Contact:** London 2022  
admin@london2022.co  
www.london2022.co

### MARCH 25-27 USA

#### St Louis Stamp Exposition

**Venue:** Renaissance St Louis Airport, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St Louis, Missouri 63134, USA.

**Contact:** St Louis Stamp Expo  
www.stlouisstampexpo.com

### MARCH 31-APRIL 3 HUNGARY

#### Hunfilex 2022

**Venue:** Balna Centre, Fovam Ter 11-12, 1093 Budapest, Hungary.

**Contact:** Bill Hedley, UK Commissioner  
Tel: 01892 531516  
ewlhedley@gmail.com  
www.hunfilex2022.com

### APRIL 22-23 UK

#### ASPS Scottish Congress

**Venue:** Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH.

**Contact:** Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies  
www.scottishphilately.co.uk

### MAY 6-10 TAIWAN

#### Taipei 2022 International Stamp Exhibition

**Venue:** Hall 1, Taipei World Trade Center, Hsin-Yi Road, Xinyi, Taipei City, Taiwan.

**Contact:** Richard Tan, FIAP Co-ordinator  
www.asiaphilately.com

### MAY 18-22 SWITZERLAND

#### Helvetia 2022

**Venue:** Padiglione Conza Convention Centre, Via Campo Marzio, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland.

**Contact:** Chris King, UK Commissioner  
chris.king@postalhistory.net

info@helvetia2022.ch  
www.helvetia2022.ch

### MAY 27-29 AUSTRALIA

#### Newcastle 2021 Stamp & Coin Expo

**Venue:** Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

**Contact:** John Moore, Commissioner  
moore.john@optusnet.com.au  
www.newcastlephilatelic  
society.org.au

### JUNE 9-12 CANADA

#### Capex 2022

**Venue:** Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario.

**Contact:** Frank Walton, UK Commissioner  
frank@frankwalton.com  
www.capex22.org

### JUNE 10-12 BELGIUM

#### Antverpia 2022

**Venue:** Hall 1, Antwerp Expo, Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 191, 2020 Antwerpen, Belgium.

**Contact:** Antverpia 2022  
exhibition@antverpiade2020.be  
www.antverpiade2020.be

### AUGUST 4-9 INDONESIA

#### Indonesia 2022

**Venue:** Indonesian Parliament Complex, Jalan Jenderal Gatot Subroto No1, Jakarta 10270, Indonesia.

**Contact:** John Jackson, UK Commissioner  
john.w.jackson@care4free.net  
www.indonesia2020.com



ABOVE: Stampex is back on the calendar, opening on September 29 at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.







## UK & WORLDWIDE AUCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEPTEMBER 11 CHESHIRE STAMP AUCTIONS

**Venue:** online only.  
**Contact:** Sandafayre Ltd  
Tel: 01565 653214  
stamp@sandafayre.com  
www.sandafayre.com

### SEPTEMBER 11 SOUTH WEST PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

**Venue:** Harewood House, Ridgeway, Plymouth, Devon PL7 2AS.  
**Contact:** SWPA.  
Tel: 01752 698089  
richardswpa@outlook.com  
www.swpa-stamp-auctions.com

### SEPTEMBER 14-16 DUTCH COUNTRY AUCTIONS

**Venue:** 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19803, USA.  
**Contact:** Russell Eggert  
Tel: +1 302 478 8740  
auctions@dutchcountryauctions.com  
www.dutchcountryauctions.com

### SEPTEMBER 15 SPINK

**GB Stamps & Postal History**  
**Venue:** Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.  
**Contact:** Spink  
Tel: 020 7563 4005  
auctionteam@spink.com  
www.spink.com

### SEPTEMBER 15-18 CORINPHILA-VEILINGEN

**Venue:** Mortelmolen 3, 1185 XV Amstelveen, Netherlands.  
**Contact:** Corinphila Veilingen  
Tel: +31 20 624 9740  
info@corinphila.nl  
www.corinphila.nl

### SEPTEMBER 16-18 CLASSICPHIL

**Venue:** Hardtgasse 25/14, 1190 Vienna, Austria.  
**Contact:** Classicphil  
Tel: +43 1 89 00 638  
office@classicphil.com  
www.classicphil.com

### SEPTEMBER 20 VIENNAFIL

**Venue:** postal only.  
**Contact:** VF-Auktionen  
info@viennafil.com  
www.viennafil.com

### SEPTEMBER 20-25 HEINRICH KÖHLER

**Erivan collection of German States**  
**Venue:** Hasengarten Strasse 25, 65189 Wiesbaden, Germany.  
**Contact:** Heinrich Köhler  
Tel: +49 611 34 14 90  
info@heinrich-koehler.de  
www.heinrich-koehler.de

### SEPTEMBER 21 FILATELICA LLACH

**Venue:** online only.

**Contact:** Filatelica Llach  
filllach@filateliallach.com  
www.filateliallach.com

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**Pearce collection of Grenada**  
**Venue:** online only.  
**Contact:** Spink  
auctionteam@spink.com  
www.spink.com

### SEPTEMBER 26 PROVINCIAL PHILATELICS

**Venue:** Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ.  
**Contact:** Provincial Philatelics.  
Tel/Fax: 01235 511083  
www.provincialphilatelics.co.uk

### SEPTEMBER 28 FRANÇOIS FELDMAN

**France & French Colonies**  
**Venue:** online only.  
**Contact:** François Feldman  
francoisfeldman@wanadoo.fr  
www.francoisfeldman.com

### SEPTEMBER 28 STANLEY GIBBONS

**Indica Collection of India**  
**Telegraphs**  
**Venue:** 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX.  
**Contact:** Stanley Gibbons  
Tel: 020 7557 4452  
auctions@stanleygibbons.com  
www.auctions.stanleygibbons.com

### SEPTEMBER 28-30 H R HARMER

**Gary B Nash collection of British Commonwealth**  
**Venue:** Suite 2607, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, 630 5th Avenue, New York 10111, USA.  
**Contact:** H R Harmer  
info@hrharmer.com  
www.hrharmer.com

### OCTOBER 1-2 POSTILJONEN

**Grosjean collection of Denmark, Finland, Norway & Sweden**  
**Venue:** Hotel Savoy, Norra Vallgatan 62, SE-211 22 Malmö, Sweden.  
**Contact:** Postiljonen  
stampauctions@postiljonen.se  
www.postiljonen.se

### OCTOBER 5-6 CAVENDISH

**Duncan collection of 6B Line-Engraved**  
**Venue:** Dowgate Hill House, 14-16 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SU.  
**Contact:** Cavendish  
stamps@cavendish-auctions.com  
www.cavendish-auctions.com

### OCTOBER 5-6 UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC

### AUCTIONS

**Venue:** online only.  
**Contact:** UPA  
info@upastampauctions.co.uk  
www.upastampauctions.co.uk

### OCTOBER 5-7 GROSVENOR

**Venue:** 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT.  
**Contact:** Grosvenor  
info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk  
www.grosvenor-auctions.com

### OCTOBER 6-7 SPINK

**Alan Holyoake collection of GB International Registered Mail**  
**Venue:** Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.  
**Contact:** Spink  
auctionteam@spink.com  
www.spink.com

### OCTOBER 6-7 WARWICK & WARWICK

**Venue:** The Court House, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW.  
**Contact:** Warwick & Warwick  
info@warwickandwarwick.com  
www.warwickandwarwick.com

### OCTOBER 6-7 PHILEA

**Venue:** online only.  
**Contact:** AB Philea  
bids@philea.se  
www.philea.se

### OCTOBER 7-8 BOLAFFI

**Venue:** Spazio Bolaffi, Corso Verona 36/D Turin, Italy.  
**Contact:** Aste Bolaffi  
francobolli@astebolaffi.it  
www.astebolaffi.it

### OCTOBER 9 BIL & CO

**Venue:** Washingborough Community Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire LN4 1AB.  
**Contact:** Bil Tilbury  
auctionsbil@btinternet.com  
www.bilandco.co.uk

### OCTOBER 13 AJH STAMPS

**Venue:** The Dunkenhall Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.  
**Contact:** AJH Stamps  
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk  
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

### OCTOBER 14 DAVID FELDMAN

**British Guiana**  
**Venue:** 59 Tote de Chancy, 1213 Petit Lancy 1, Geneva, Switzerland.  
**Contact:** David Feldman SA  
Tel: +41 22 727 0777  
info@davidfeldman.com  
www.davidfeldman.com

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www.mpastamps.com

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www.mowbrays.co.nz

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www.brian-reeve.com

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www.sandafayre.com

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This is accompanied by De La Rue's earliest mock-ups of the 'double head' concept, in the form of two hand-painted essays in watercolour and Chinese white, with denominations of 8a and 50r.

The estimate is £2,500-£3,000.





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## UK STAMP FAIR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEPTEMBER 11 DERBY

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** Nunsfield House  
Community Hall, 33 Boulton  
Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
Tel: 01909 562927

### LIVERPOOL

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** St Columba Church Hall,  
Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross,  
L25 0NR.  
Time: 10am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** Terry Barnett  
Tel: 0151 4862610

### SUTTON COLDFIELD

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** South Parade,  
B72 1QY.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** JRS Fairs  
Tel: 01785 259350

### SEPTEMBER 15 EAST GRINSTEAD

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Chequer Mead Arts  
Centre, De La Warr Road,  
RH19 3BS.  
Time: 10am-3pm  
**Contact:** Malcolm Green  
Tel: 01342 327554

### SEPTEMBER 18 HULL

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** St James Centre,  
169 First Lane, Hessle,  
HU13 9EY.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
Tel: 01909 562927

### PLYMOUTH

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Plymstock Community  
Centre, 6 Memory Lane,  
PL9 9GH.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** Peter Eagles  
Tel: 01395 516060

### SEPTEMBER 19 DRONFIELD

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** Coal Aston Village Hall,  
Eckington Road, Coal Aston,  
S18 3AY.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
Tel: 01909 562927

### SEPTEMBER 25 GUILDFORD

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Onslow Village Hall,  
Wilderness Road, GU2 7QR.  
Time: 9.30am-3pm

**Contact:** Chris Rapley  
Tel: 07711 677760

### MORLEY

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** St Mary's Church Hall,  
Commercial Street, LS27 8HZ.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
Tel: 01909 562927

### WICKHAM

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** The Wickham  
Community Centre, Mill Lane,  
PO17 5AL.  
Time: 10am-4pm  
**Contact:** Julian Jones  
Tel: 01794 514902

### SEPTEMBER 26 PETERBOROUGH

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** The Holiday Inn,  
Thorpe Wood, PE3 6SG.  
Time: 10am-3pm  
**Contact:** Richard Lewis  
Tel: 01945 700594

### OCTOBER 2 BECKENHAM

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Azelia Halls,  
Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.  
Time: 9am-3pm  
**Contact:** Ray McQuade  
Tel: 020 8395 9285

### DURHAM

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Bowburn Community  
Centre, Bowburn, DH6 5AT.  
Time: 10am-4pm  
**Contact:** Graham Whitewick  
Tel: 07849 904353

### SHREWSBURY

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Barnabas Church  
Centre, Longden Coleham,  
SY3 7DN.  
Time: 10am-4pm  
**Contact:** Tony Marland  
Tel: 01743 860910

### OCTOBER 3 WOLVERHAMPTON

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** Bradmore Social Club,  
60 Church Road, WV3 7ER.  
Time: 9.30 am-2.30pm  
**Contact:** John Coaten  
Tel: 07808 864297

### WORTHING

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Heene Community  
Centre, 122 Heene Road,  
BN11 4PL.  
Time: 9.30am-3pm  
**Contact:** Chris Rapley  
Tel: 07711 677760

### OCTOBER 9 DERBY

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Nunsfield House  
Community Hall, 33 Boulton  
Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
Tel: 01909 562927

### NORTON

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Norton Methodist  
Church Hall, High Street,  
TS20 2QQ.  
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm  
**Contact:** Graham Whitewick  
Tel: 07849 904353

### SIDMOUTH

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** Sidford Social Hall,  
Byes Lane, EX10 9QX.  
Time: 10am-4pm  
**Contact:** Peter Eagles  
Tel: 01395 516060

### OCTOBER 15-16 SALISBURY

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Five Rivers Leisure  
Centre, Hulse Road, SP1 3NR.  
Time: 10am-5pm Friday,  
10am-3.30pm Saturday  
**Contact:** Arun Stamps  
Tel: 01328 829318

### OCTOBER 16 HULL

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** St James Centre,  
169 First Lane, Hessle,  
HU13 9EY.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
Tel: 01909 562927

### KETTERING

(stamps, postal history)

**Venue:** ISE Lodge Community  
Centre, St Vincent's Avenue,  
NN15 5DR.  
Time: 10am-4pm

**Contact:** Gordon Tregidgo  
Tel: 01536 746800

### RUISLIP

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Methodist Church  
Hall, Ickenham Road,  
HA4 7BZ.  
Time: 10am-4.30pm  
**Contact:** David Milton  
Tel: 01895 637283

### SITTINGBOURNE

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Carmel Hall,  
Ufton Lane, off West Street,  
ME10 1JB.  
Time: 9.30am-3pm  
**Contact:** Chris Rapley  
Tel: 07711 677760

### OCTOBER 17 DRONFIELD

(stamps, postal history,  
postcards)

**Venue:** Coal Aston Village  
Hall, Eckington Road,  
Coal Aston, S18 3AY.  
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
**Contact:** H V Johnson & Co  
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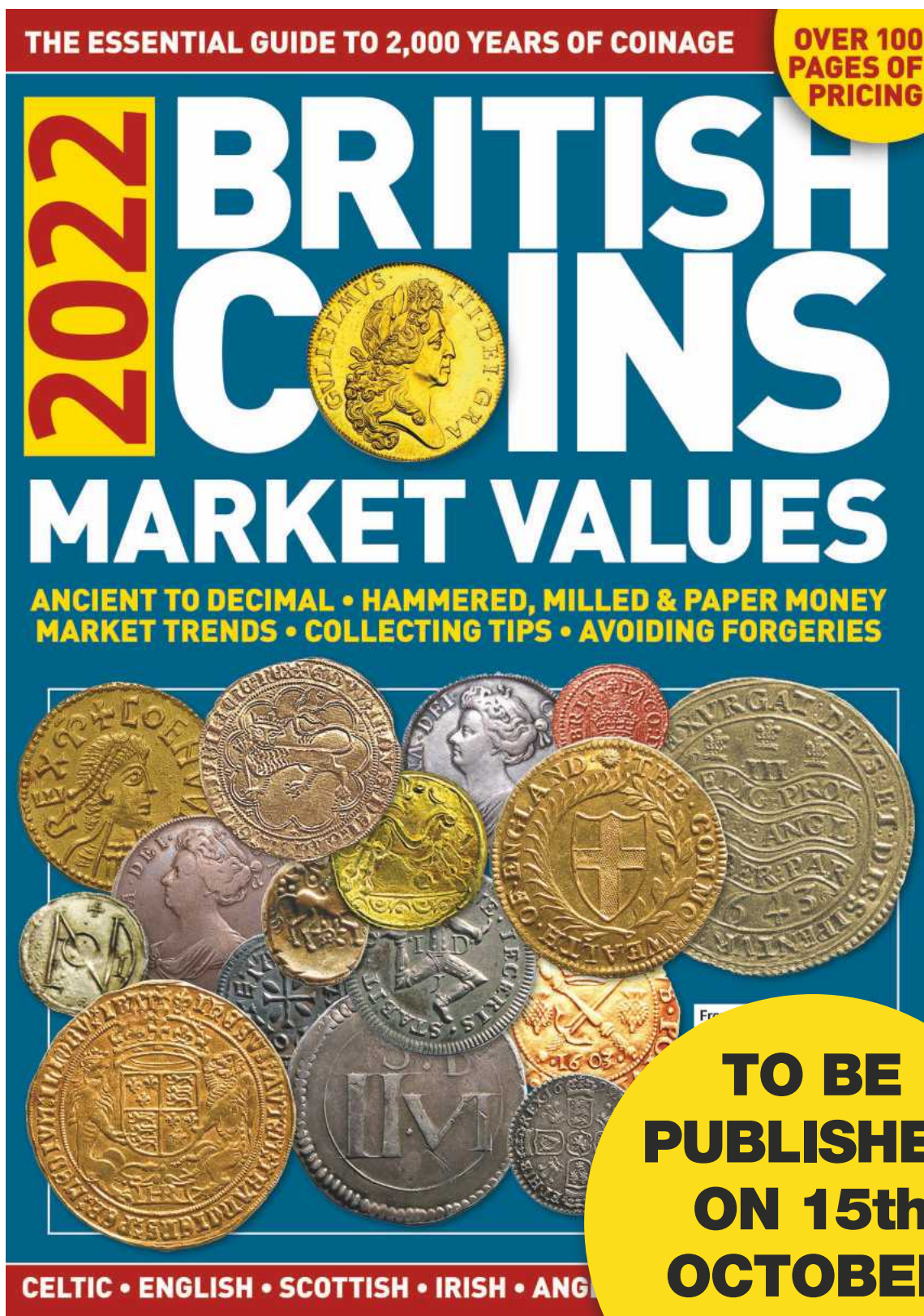
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# The repair man

Some restorers went to extraordinary lengths to 'fix' damaged stamps or covers. Some collectors went to extraordinary lengths to avoid falling foul of fraud

■ Report by John Winchester

**T**he bane of many collectors in the early 20th century were the repair artists who could 'fix up' a damaged item and pass it off as pristine.

One of the most notorious was Sam Singer of New York, whose repair bench resembled that of a master watchmaker.

For Singer, re-gumming used stamps and mending torn ones were everyday tasks. Re-perforation could be achieved using round-pointed punches of various sizes, and a missing portion of a damaged stamp could be re-engraved if necessary.

Probably his highest-profile commission came in 1926 when a New York dealer, J Murray Bartels, acquired the only known example on cover of the 90c value from the United States 1869 pictorial series, depicting Abraham Lincoln.

Treatment of what is now dubbed the 'Ice House cover' involved repairing the stamp, which was torn almost in half, and adding back a 10c value which was thought to have fallen off it.

Some collectors were determined to fight back against this kind of practice, none more so than Colonel 'Ned' Green. From America's largest optical manufacturer he ordered a magnifying



ABOVE: USA 1873 Ice House cover, thought to have been repaired in the 1920s by the philatelic 'fixer' Sam Singer

glass so powerful that it would 'enlarge a one-inch stamp to a size of four feet square'. It took weeks to grind the lens, and when it was delivered to Green's mansion the door frame had to be removed to get it inside.

The 'fixers' had the last word, of course. Despite being universally acknowledged as having been 'repaired', the Ice House cover still fetched \$375,000 plus commission when it was last auctioned in 2009. ■

## NEXT MONTH

### Waste not!

In times of war or economic crisis, how postal services and their customers have reacted to paper shortages



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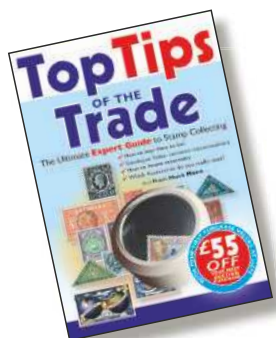
If you read stamp magazines, or receive our e-mails – in future, you may see a lot more emphasis upon Philatelic **UPA|VIP|**'s. But reading about a concept does not create fulfilment, does it? You can expect our team at Universal to deliver; we won't promise what we cannot deliver. Guaranteed.

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Happy Hunting from my wife and Super Team at UPA. Thank you for rating UPA on Google if you like what we do. Don't forget to tell me if you don't!

Best wishes,

Andrew McGavin, Author,  
Managing Director  
Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA



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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

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

# This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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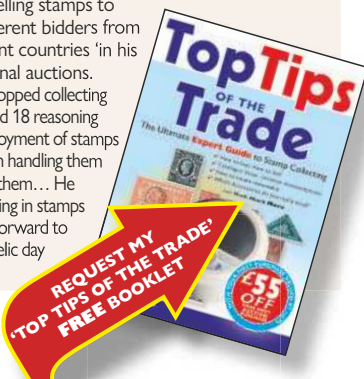
**1▶ If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –**

**Presentation** ✓ **Place** ✓ and **Price** ✓

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

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

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

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Contact UPA: 01451 861 111**

**UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:**

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely  
D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

**15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?**

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

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

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

**18▶ What Should I Do Next?** Discuss your collection with U P A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now...



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

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

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

*Andrew*

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

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Catalogue  
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