



STAMP COLLECTOR

THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

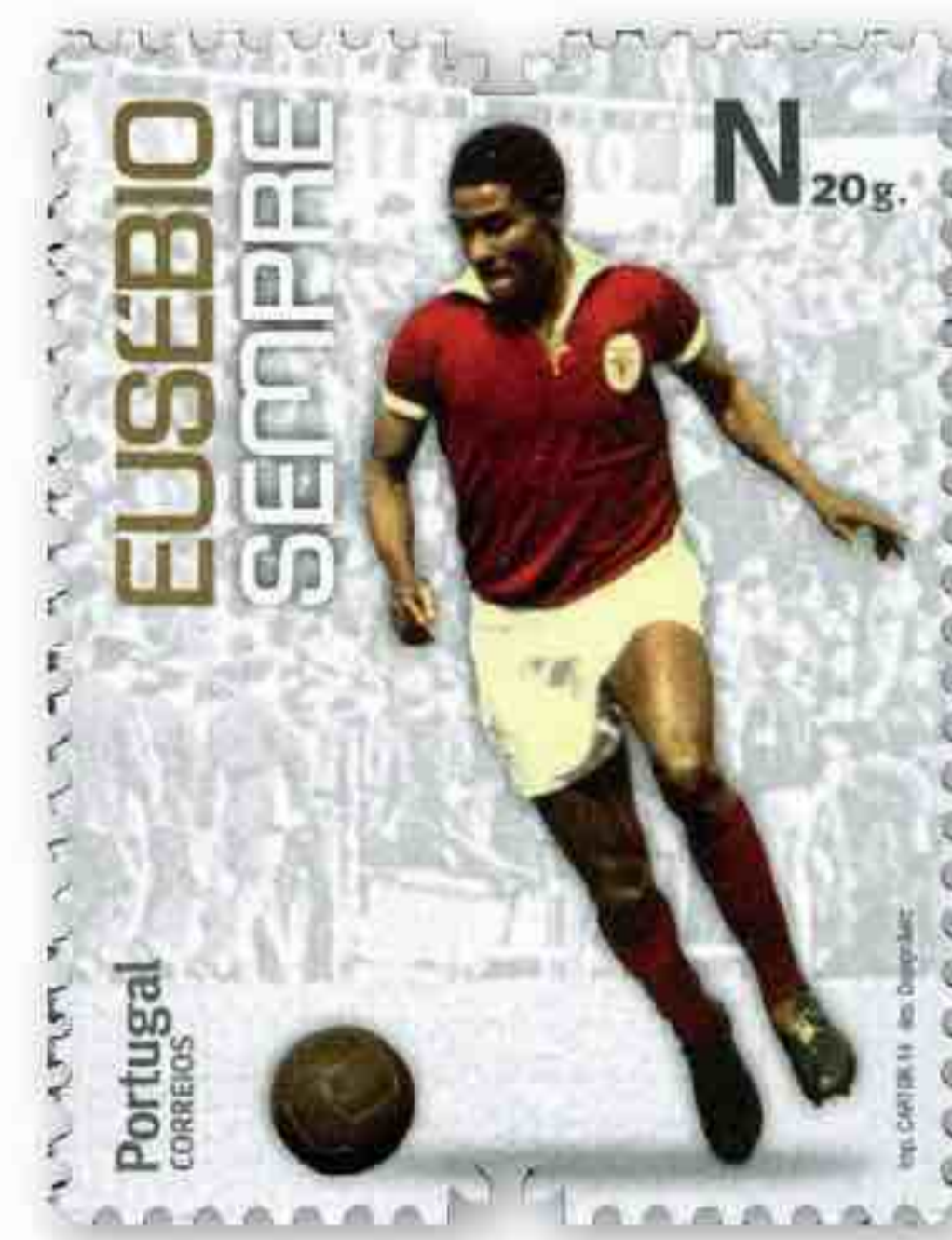
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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

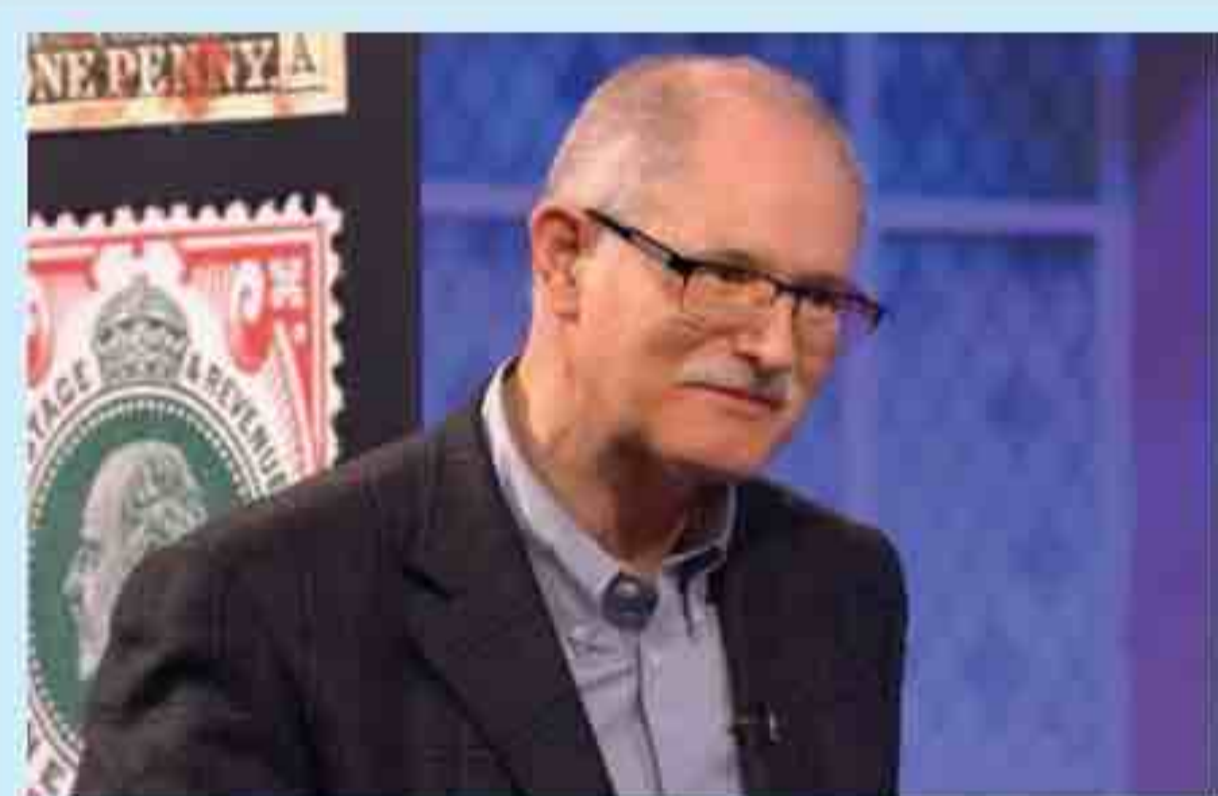
Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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

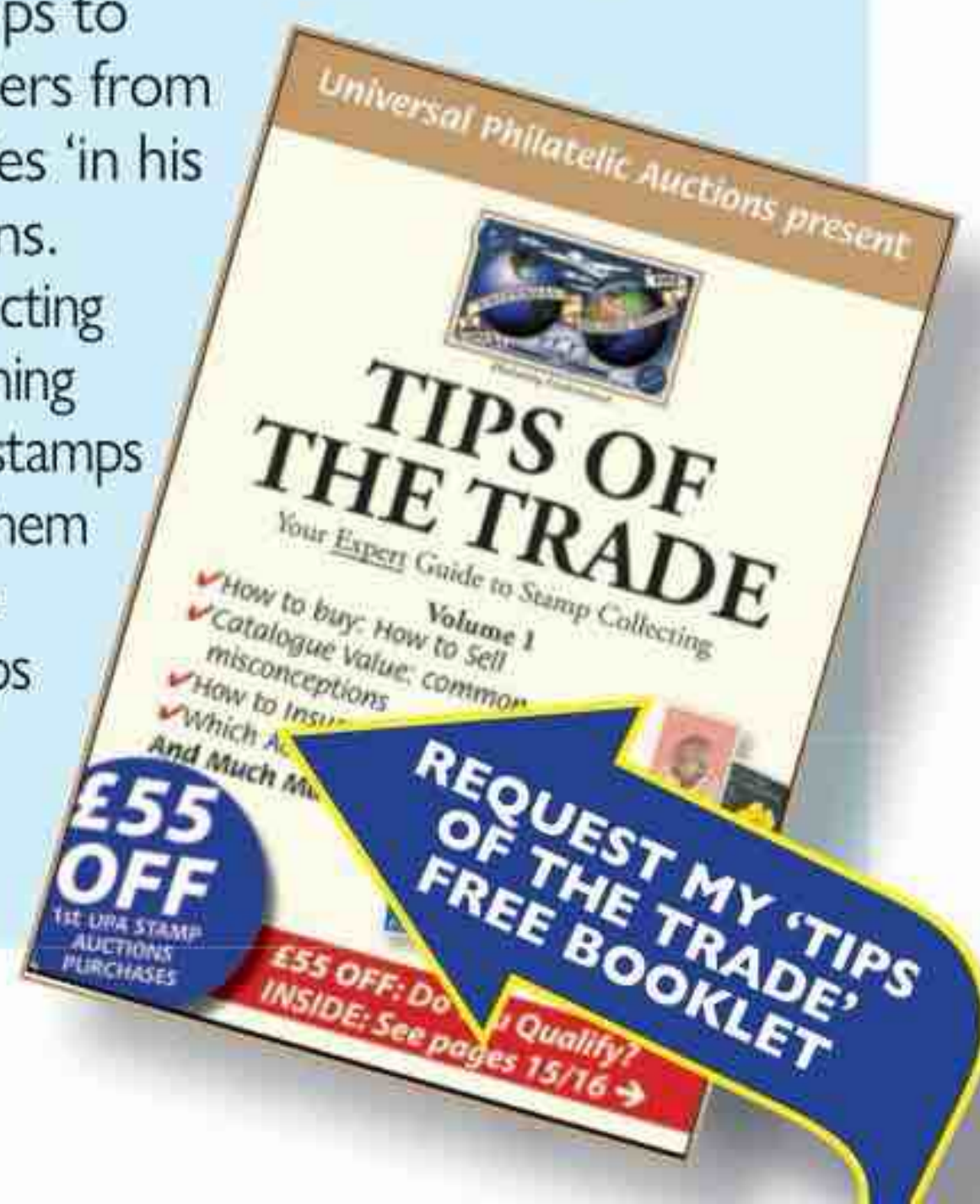
1 ▶ **If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for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

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



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 ▶ **Understanding the problem...** I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' – Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked - in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called "The Philatelic Exporter". There's nothing that special about it – and you won't learn much or find massively reduced prices by subscribing – **BUT** – it is 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 publish my own articles there...

Recently 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 our former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

15 ▶ **OK, What Do I Do Next?**

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

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

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

18 ▶ **What Should I Do Next?**

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



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

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

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

Andrew

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

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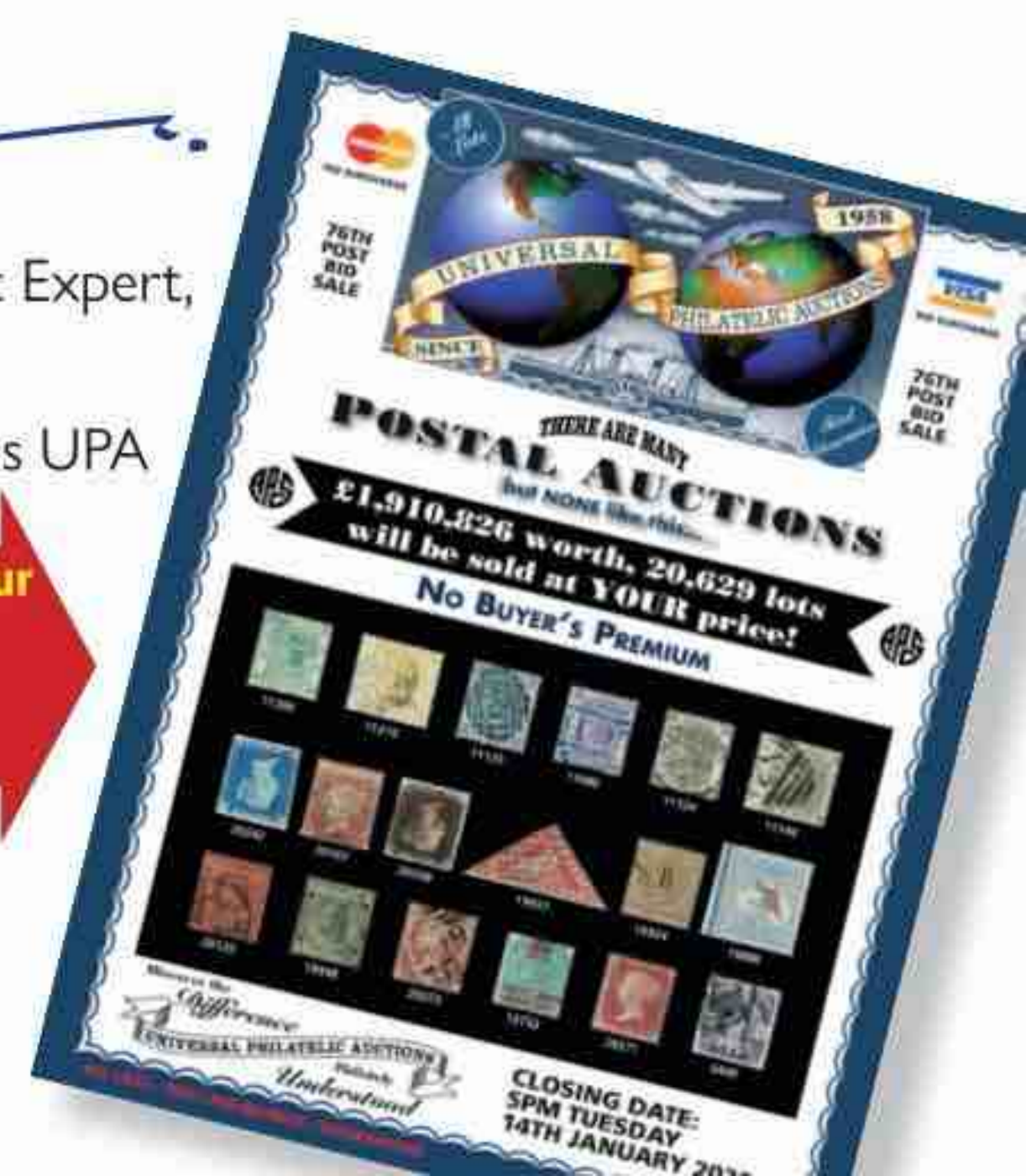


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PRINTED BY

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

DISTRIBUTION BY

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

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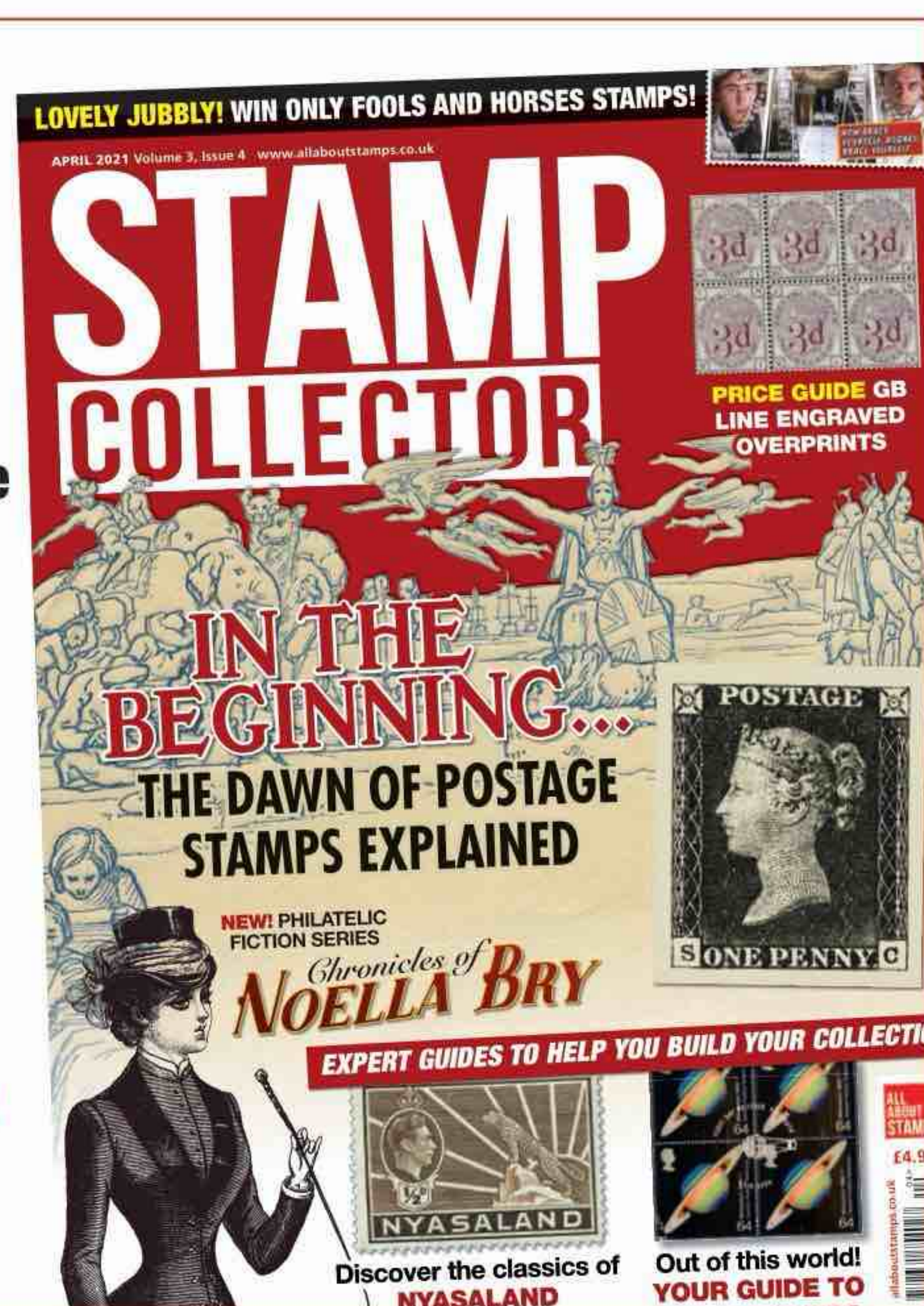
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See page 62 for details or give us a call: 01778 392030



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Mark Dean 07503 707023
mark.dean@warnersgroup.co.uk



Welcome

WILL WE GET A CAPTAIN TOM STAMP AFTER ALL?



Royal Mail recently announced details of a stamp design competition which challenges young people to come up with artwork for a set to celebrate the heroes of the pandemic.

The accompanying guide gives the entrants some ideas and reads: 'The subjects are wide ranging. Children may choose to illustrate frontline

workers who work in health or social care. They may also want to celebrate some of the millions of key workers who have helped keep the UK connected during this time... There have also been many volunteers who have helped in their local communities or raised money for charity, such as Captain Sir Tom Moore.'

As regular readers will know, we recently launched a campaign and petition in a bid to convince Royal Mail to honour the late British Army officer with a stamp. Of course, there's no guarantee that the winning designs will honour Captain Tom, and the idea of featuring the inspirational fund-raiser on a stamp was not solely ours, so we're not claiming any kind of victory here. But maybe, just maybe, the *Stamp Collector* community helped push the decision-makers in the right direction; time will tell. Now if only Royal Mail would consider issuing a charity stamp to raise funds for good causes, whilst also raising awareness of our hobby. Do share your thoughts on this.

Of course, over the years many stamps have changed people's perceptions, highlighted good causes, and honoured heroic people. It's no exaggeration to say that postage stamps can, and have, changed the world, and we feature some examples in this issue. Our exploration of anti-apartheid stamps (page 56) shows how the fight for equality was brought to the attention of the public via stamps. Meanwhile, our latest article on civil war stamps shows how those in charge on both sides used stamps to spread their message.

Stamps can, and do, change the world, and we collectors are the custodians of these fascinating pieces of history.

Matt Hill, Editor

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

Writing in this issue...



Nicola Davies is Head of Collections at the Royal Philatelic Society London, the oldest philatelic society in the world, established in 1869. Nicola writes about Royal's collection each month in our exclusive column (page 55), this time looking back on the career of one of the Society's most celebrated members.



Author Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and *Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album*, and writes our Stamp Story on page 49.



Laura McInerney was a teacher, a newspaper editor and now runs a polling company. As a child she received a letter each week from her nan, beginning a lifelong love of letter-writing and, now, stamps. In her latest column (page 32) Laura explores how art and stamps connect.

SCHOOL CHILDREN CHALLENGED TO DESIGN PANDEMIC HEROES STAMPS

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Royal Mail today announced the launch of a stamp design competition for UK schoolchildren to mark the important role played by key and frontline workers, as well as others, during the pandemic.

The competition will give children, aged four to fourteen, the chance to design an official Royal Mail stamp as part of a special set of eight. Children will be asked to think about who their hero or heroes are, and to design a stamp in their honour.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: 'The last year has been one of the most difficult any of us can remember, but throughout it all our Covid Heroes have been there for us, inspired us and done so much for others. From our family members, teachers, doctors and nurses to our vaccine scientists and fundraisers, we want to recognise and remember them.'

'That's why we're launching a special competition with Royal Mail for children across the country to design a new stamp collection featuring their Covid Heroes – so we can honour their tremendous work.'

Children may choose to illustrate a range of subjects, with suggestions including: frontline workers who work in health or social care; key workers who have helped keep the UK connected; Volunteers who have helped in their local communities or raised money for charity, such as Captain Sir Tom Moore, who was subject of a recent 'A Stamp for Captain Tom' campaign.

Only four times in the company's 500-year history have children designed official Royal Mail stamps – in 1966 and 1981, 2013 and 2017. As with all Special Stamps issued by Royal Mail, the final eight stamps will be sent to Her Majesty The Queen before they can be printed and issued.

How the stamp competition works

The competition is open to children through school entries or independently via parents and home educators. Childminders, volunteer leaders, carers and clubs can also enter children into the competition.

Schools, and parents/guardians of home-schooled children, can sign-



Honouring the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic...on stamps

up to the competition online or by returning the application form in a pack sent to them by iChild, the online educational resource centre, in association with Royal Mail.

Applications for the 6,000 available resource packs will be sent out on a first-come, first served basis. Entries must be received by the closing date of Friday 28 May 2021.

The winners of the competition will be announced in the autumn and the stamps will be available in the spring of 2022.

Royal Mail will select 120 regional runners-up across the UK. They, and their schools, will each receive prizes of £100 for the school and £100 gift vouchers for the child.

From those 120 runners-up, a shortlist of 24 finalists will be chosen. They and their schools will receive prizes of £500 for the school and £500 of gift vouchers for the child.

From the finalists eight winners will be chosen. They will also receive prizes of £1,000 for the school and £1,000 in vouchers for the child.

Full details can be found at www.royalmail.com/stampcompetition

WAR OF ROSES STAMPS REVEALED

Royal Mail recently revealed a set of eight stamps being issued to mark the 550th anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury, one of the defining battles of the Wars of the Roses.

The stamps feature illustrations by Graham Turner, a leading medieval and military artist, and re-imagine eight key battles across the years of the Wars. Royal Mail also worked with writer, historian and researcher, Dr David Grummitt on the stamp issue David Gold, Royal Mail, said: 'The Wars of the Roses fascinated both Shakespeare and historians alike. These striking illustrations bring to life a period of British history that was steeped in drama, betrayal and a quest for power that still enthral today.'

The Wars of the Roses were fought between the two rival cadet branches of the royal House of Plantagenet: the House of Lancaster and the House of York, and were named – many years later – after the supposed emblems of the contending parties: the white rose of York and the red rose of Lancaster. The full set of eight stamps retail at £12.40 and are issued on 4 May.

Find out more in next month's issue of *Stamp Collector*.





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OF OUR 2021 CATALOGUE**
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CAT £375



CAT £90

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CAT £900

REF T503

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

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REF T504

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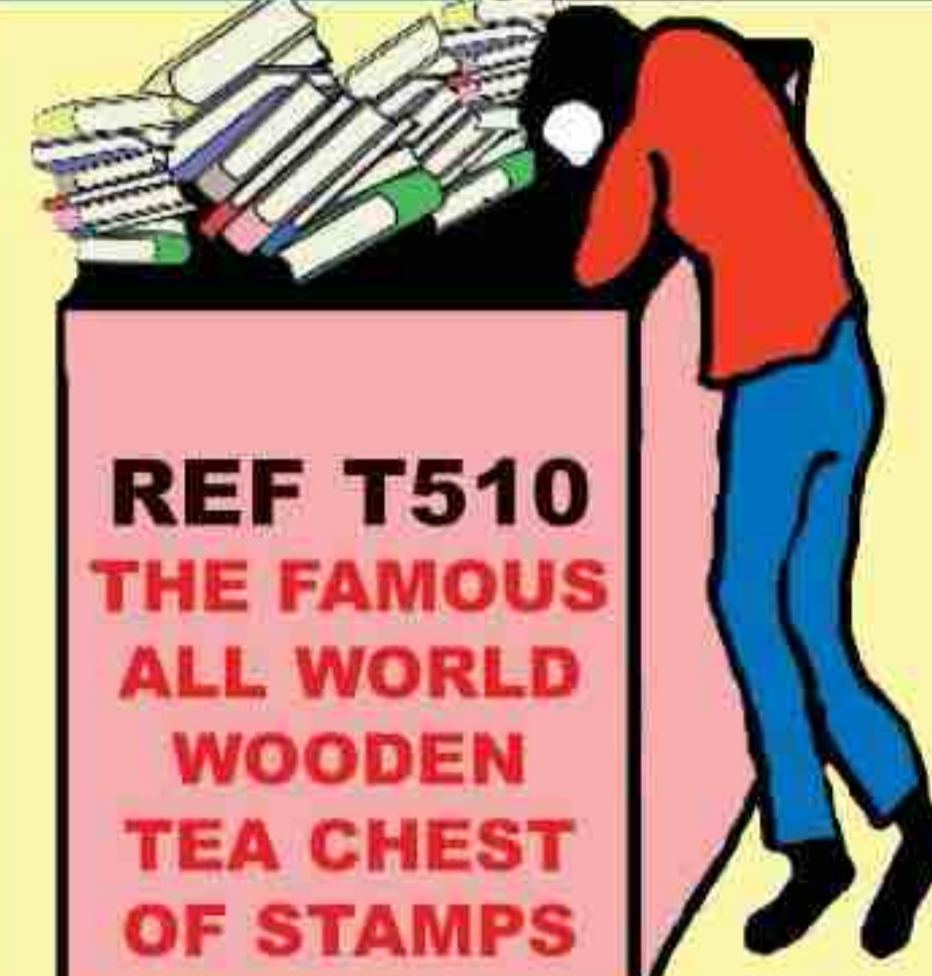
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REF T624

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£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T626

FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST

CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON & OFF PAPER, & SINGLE STAMPS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £800+

£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T627

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REF T607

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A REMARKABLE LIFE ON BRITISH STAMPS

The late Prince Philip has appeared on numerous stamps during his 73 years as husband, companion and consort to The Queen, whose own portrait on stamps is one of the most reproduced images of all time.

Naturally the Royal Family have been honoured on stamps for many years, not just in their home nation but across the British Commonwealth, and Prince Philip's long service means there are hundreds of designs to collect. Of course, the Duke of Edinburgh, who sadly died at the age of 99 on 9 April 2021, was used to taking a supportive role to his the Queen, and of course, Elizabeth II had appeared on many British stamps before her husband was also depicted on our postage.

By the time Prince Philip appeared on a British stamp, in 1972, figures such as William Shakespeare, Winston Churchill and Robert Burns had all appeared beside the familiar portrait of the Queen. Yet, the humble Duke would no doubt have been pleased and honoured with the pair of special stamps.

Issued to mark the royal couple's Silver Wedding Anniversary, the stamps featured a photograph of the pair facing left, Jeffery Matthews' simple design leaving the subtly smiling faces to tell the story of their loving partnership, as they joined forces to serve the public. The 3p and 20p stamps were issued on 20 November 1972.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has challenged and inspired millions of young people and, as its name suggests, it was founded by the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1956, and is now active in more than 140 countries. In 1981 four stamps were issued to celebrate the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a charity which sees young people take on self-improvement exercises. The stamps depicted 'Expeditions' (14p), 'Skills' (18p), 'Service' (22p) and 'Recreation' (25p).

Prince Philip returned to British stamps 25 years later, on 13 November 1997, to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary. The set of four stamps featured two photographs; a 1947 wedding photograph on the 20p and 43p values, and a 1997 photo of the couple on the 26p and 63p stamps. The 1997 set was due to be issued on 7 October but was delayed due to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. A five-stamp set for Diana followed in February 1998.

The 2005 'Trooping the Colour' set included a £1.12 value featuring a photograph of Prince Philip, taken the previous year, in ceremonial costume in carriage beside the Queen.

A year later, the Queen celebrated her 80th birthday, and a set of eight stamps featured black and white photographs giving a glimpse into the less formal life of the royals. The Queen and her loyal husband are seen on one of the 72p values, which reproduces a photograph from 1950.

Issued to commemorate the Queen's Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary on 16 October 2007, a ten-stamp set featured a range of photographs of the royal couple, including a four-stamp miniature sheet showing them enjoying family life.

Whilst not a commemorative stamp set, Prince Philip's 90th birthday was celebrated by Royal Mail, in the form of a stamp sheet featuring ten 1st Class Union Flag stamps alongside photographs taken throughout his life. Naturally, Philip is seen on the eight stamps marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, issued in May



2012. The stamps show the Queen at a range of events, and the appearance of the Duke of Edinburgh on two of the stamps, in his supportive role, reflects the nature of the couple's relationship, the Queen taking centre stage but her husband always by her side.

Similarly, Prince Philip is seen on one value from the April 2016 set marking the Queen's ninetieth birthday.

The following year the couple's Platinum Wedding Anniversary was celebrated on British stamps, that's an incredible seventy years of marriage. The six stamps recalled the couple's engagement on two values (1st class and £1.57), the wedding on a further two (1st class and £1.57), and their honeymoon in on the final 1st class and £1.57 values.

Just weeks before post offices across the world prepared to celebrate Prince Philip's 100th birthday, the Duke of Edinburgh passed away, on 9 April. Buckingham Palace issued a statement reading: 'It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty The Queen announces the death of her beloved husband. The Royal Family join with people around the world in mourning his loss.' Meanwhile, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid homage to the Duke of Edinburgh's 'extraordinary life', a life that has been celebrated on a collection of elegantly produced British stamps.



COLLECTORS HELP SAVE ST HELENA STAMP ARCHIVES

For the first time in its history the ABPS Congress Medal in 2021 has been awarded jointly to two collectors who worked as a team. Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett visited St Helena on two occasions to preserve the philatelic records and stamps of the island.

Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett visited St Helena to research the island's postal history and stamps but after three weeks had found very little new information on the stamps or workings of the St Helena Post Office.

But before they left the island, they were shown a cellar containing a large selection of boxes and folders of paperwork that was in need of being properly archived. With no resources on the island to do this work, Barry and Bernard agreed to return and create the archive themselves.

In 2013, after hearing that the St Helena Government was planning to remove and destroy the files, Barry and Bernard and two fellow philatelists returned to St Helena and spent five weeks sorting the paperwork and ledgers and putting them into archive boxes.

Due to the size of the task, Barry and Bernard returned to the island to complete the job, and to write up the Government stamp collection consisting of Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha stamps. The collection had been kept in very poor conditions on old non-acid-free card but



by the end of four and a half weeks 996 album pages had been written up and mounted. There is now a permanent philatelic display in the museum which is changed on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, the ABPS Awards of Merit have been awarded to three collectors who have 'worked tirelessly for local societies, specialist societies and federations'. Congratulations to Michael Dobbs nominated by the Forces Postal History Society; Eddie Mays nominated by Southampton & District Philatelic Society; and Richard Smith nominated by Leeds Philatelic Society

With thanks to the ABPS, The Sentinel and South Atlantic Services Ltd (SAMS).

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR LONDON 2022 EXHIBITION

Plans for the London 2022 international stamp exhibition are progressing, following the postponement of the event that was originally planned to take place in May 2020.

Writing on the London 2022 website (www.london2022.co/) Frank Walton, Chairman of the London 2022 Organising Committee said: 'The COVID-19 situation in the UK continues to improve, with some face-to-face philatelic events starting again in July 2021. This allows the Organising Committee to be even more confident that London 2022 will happen.'

The Literature Class has been reopened for further applications, with a fee of just £25, and only one copy of a book required. All new applications must be submitted to the relevant National Commissioner, who must then submit them to the Commissioner General by 31 May. Literature application forms can be downloaded from www.london2022.co/literature.

Meanwhile, the large majority of jurors who had planned to attend the 2020 event will be coming

to London next year. Frank said: 'I am delighted to say that every selected juror has been contacted inviting them to confirm that they will come to London next year. Of the 80% of replies received, so far only one has declined.'

As previously announced, the official catalogue of the international exhibition will be published by the team behind *Stamp Collector* and will include details of all the exhibits to be featured at the event. We can now confirm, the catalogue will be included with the February 2022 issue of the magazine, giving all subscribers of *Stamp Collector* the chance to plan ahead and guarantee a copy of the publication.

You can also keep up to date with the latest London 2022 news via the new social media channels at: twitter.com/2022London and www.facebook.com/London2022.

The London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition will take place between 19 and 26 February 2022 at the Business Design Centre, Islington London.

IN BRIEF

The Postal Museum is preparing to re-open following the relaxation of some government restrictions and tickets are now on sale for visits from 20 May until the end of the year, which include access to the temporary exhibition *Wish You Were Here: 151 Years of the British Postcard*. A spokesperson for the Postal Museum said: 'If you have ticket credit with us from a visit previously cancelled due to COVID-19 closures, check your inbox for a message from our Box Office Team, or contact us at boxoffice@postalmuseum.org.

The US Postal Service is said to be considering issuing a stamp for singer Florence Ballard who founded and sang with the Motown group The Supremes during the 1960s. Fellow Supreme Mary Wilson said: 'Florence Ballard was such a wonderful person. It's my sincere hope that we can get the Postal Service to honour her now.' Ballard died in 1976 at the age of 31.

Croatian Post has selected its most beautiful postage stamp of 2020. The stamp commemorating the 125th anniversary of the HNK building in Zagreb was chosen as Croatia's favourite stamp of the year. The design combines a modern and period photograph of the building.



Canada Post are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the country's JUNO Awards with a new stamp. Allan Reid, President and CEO, CARAS/ The JUNO said: 'We are ►

► thrilled to partner with Canada Post to celebrate the 50th Annual JUNO Awards. Collaborating with this historical institution allows us to celebrate Canada and our nation's renowned musical talent. Our new golden statuette will stand proud on the limited-edition stamp and we can't wait for music lovers across the country to get their hands on one.' The annual awards recognise Canada's top music artists.

Midpex 2021 is set to take place on 3 July at the Warwickshire Event Centre. The major Midlands show, sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, is held every two years and brings together specialist philatelic societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of philately. Organiser, Steve Harrison, said: 'We have been through some difficult times with the Covid 19 pandemic. As the vaccination programme continues, there is renewed confidence that the event can go ahead safely. Dealers are enthusiastic about the show and many of them, as well as the Specialist Societies, have confirmed they will take part. All of this is subject to any future government restrictions, of course, but the outlook seems extremely promising.' For more information and booking forms please contact Steven Harrison by email: sharrison500@btinternet.com. Additional details of the venue with views of the hall and site location including parking, can be accessed at www.warwickshireeventcentre.co.uk

According to reports, members of the Viet Stamp Club, have written to Vietnam's Ministry of Information and Communications, informing it that Taiwan's 2020 stamps violate Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa Archipelago. The set includes a design showing a lighthouse which was built on Ba Binh Island by Taiwan in 2015, despite Vietnam claiming sovereignty of the region.

FEPA search for best philatelic website

In the last year there has been a tremendous expansion in the use of online facilities to enable philatelic activities to continue in the face of the draconian restrictions imposed around the world to combat the Coronavirus pandemic, writes Bill Hedley, FEPA President. Exhibitions, meetings, auctions and friendly conversations have all taken place online regularly and in many ways they have linked the philatelic world together to a greater extent than ever before, even if it was not possible to accompany this with a friendly drink at the bar.

As a result many philatelic organisations at all levels have had to think hard about how their digital offerings should be developed, recognising that many recent innovations are likely to become permanent even after the restrictions have been lifted and the world has returned to normal. Expectations among philatelists have been raised and a good online presence will also be essential to future efforts to connect philately with the wider world.

There have been many outstanding achievements by philatelic organisations in developing online offerings of high quality, often at short notice, and FEPA has decided to give recognition to this new branch of our activities by

awarding a medal to the philatelic website that it judges to be the best in 2021. The FEPA Board will be assisted by a panel of expert advisers in selecting the websites that should be considered. The FEPA Member Federations will also be invited to submit nominations. The winner will be announced later this year and the medal will be presented at the FEPA Congress in Athens on 23 November.

The process for awarding the new medal in 2021 will be experimental and will be reviewed in the light of this year's experience. To keep in touch with developments in online philately FEPA is also continuing to study the development of virtual exhibitions and is surveying the use of social media in promoting youth philately.

FEPA already awards a medal each year for exceptional philatelic study and research, as demonstrated in publications during the previous two years. This will now be complemented by an award for digital creativity and we are delighted to announce that the new medal will be named

The Francis Kiddle Medal for the Best Philatelic Website 2021 is supported by Máire Kiddle. It is our great honour hereby to keep alive the memory of the

Closing date for latest competition extended

The closing date for the latest All About Stamps Competition has been extended, giving collectors until 21 May to submit their entry for the one-page challenge.

The competition challenges collectors around the world to produce a one-page entry using modern stamps – we're limiting the stamps you can use to those issued during or after the year 2000, with the overall winner receiving the All About Stamps Medal and a selection of modern stamps from around the world.

Philatelists regularly enter competitions, often of eight or even sixteen frames – that's pages upon pages of philatelic material and knowledge. To keep things a little simpler and to encourage everyone to enter, whatever your experience of exhibiting or collecting, the All About Stamps Competition is just one page.

What you choose to exhibit is really up to you, though this time we're asking that entrants use modern stamps to tell a brief story, explain a particular aspect of stamps, stamp collecting, production or design. Since the start of the millennium thousands of modern stamps have been issued, covering all manner of subjects, so there's plenty of scope for a really engaging and interesting one-page display.

The competition is open to anyone, and it's free to enter! Non-philatelic material (such as ephemera, documentation, tickets) is also permitted, provided there is a philatelic element to the entry.

How to enter

Put simply, you need to create a philatelic presentation on a single page (A4 or slightly larger to accommodate covers or larger items) and email it over to us by 21 May 2021. Here are a few further requirements:

All entries should be scanned or photographed at a resolution of at least 300 dpi (not sure? don't worry, just drop us an email and we'll be happy to help); email your entry to matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk with the subject line: 'All About Stamps Modern Stamps Competition Entry'; be sure to submit your entry by email by the new deadline of 21 May 2021.



Reader Wayne Cox was the winner of the last All About Stamps Competition which focussed on British stamps



Tony Lester

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QATAR

World Cup countdown

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Philatelic Programme has been launched with the issue of two stamps showing the Qatar 2022 logo.

The first two stamps celebrating the holding of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, set to kick off in Qatar on 21 November 2022 but, at the time of going to press, set to be disrupted by cynical plans for a European Super League, have been released.

The two stamps each feature the official emblem of the football tournament. According to FIFA, the sport's world governing body, the emblem represents 'the undulations of desert dunes and the unbroken loop depicts both the number eight – a reminder of the eight astonishing stadiums that will host matches – and the infinity symbol, reflecting the interconnected nature of the event.

'Besides echoing the shape of the iconic FIFA World Cup Trophy, the emblem's central form takes inspiration from a traditional woollen shawl. During winter months, shawls are worn around the world and in the Arab

and Gulf region in particular by a variety of people and in various styles.'

The stamp series will continue in 2022 with stamps celebrating the Qatari stadiums, the capital city Doha, the Official Mascot, Official Poster and the 'fascinating history of Qatari football' – cynics who have questioned Qatar's football heritage may suggest this history could fit on a postage stamp.

Meanwhile, FIFA have also stated that further designs will highlight the heritage of the World Cup. FIFA's Head of Licensing & Retail, Sarah Bohner said: 'In Qatar, the FIFA World Cup Philatelic Programme will allow people to share their excitement on a daily basis. The striking designs will provide locals with a daily reminder of the game-changing global football spectacle that is on the horizon. For collectors around the world, the stamps will build anticipation ahead

of Qatar 2022 and inspire memories that will last a lifetime.'

Issue date: 1 April 2021, qatarpost.qa



ISLE OF MAN

The late Prince Philip

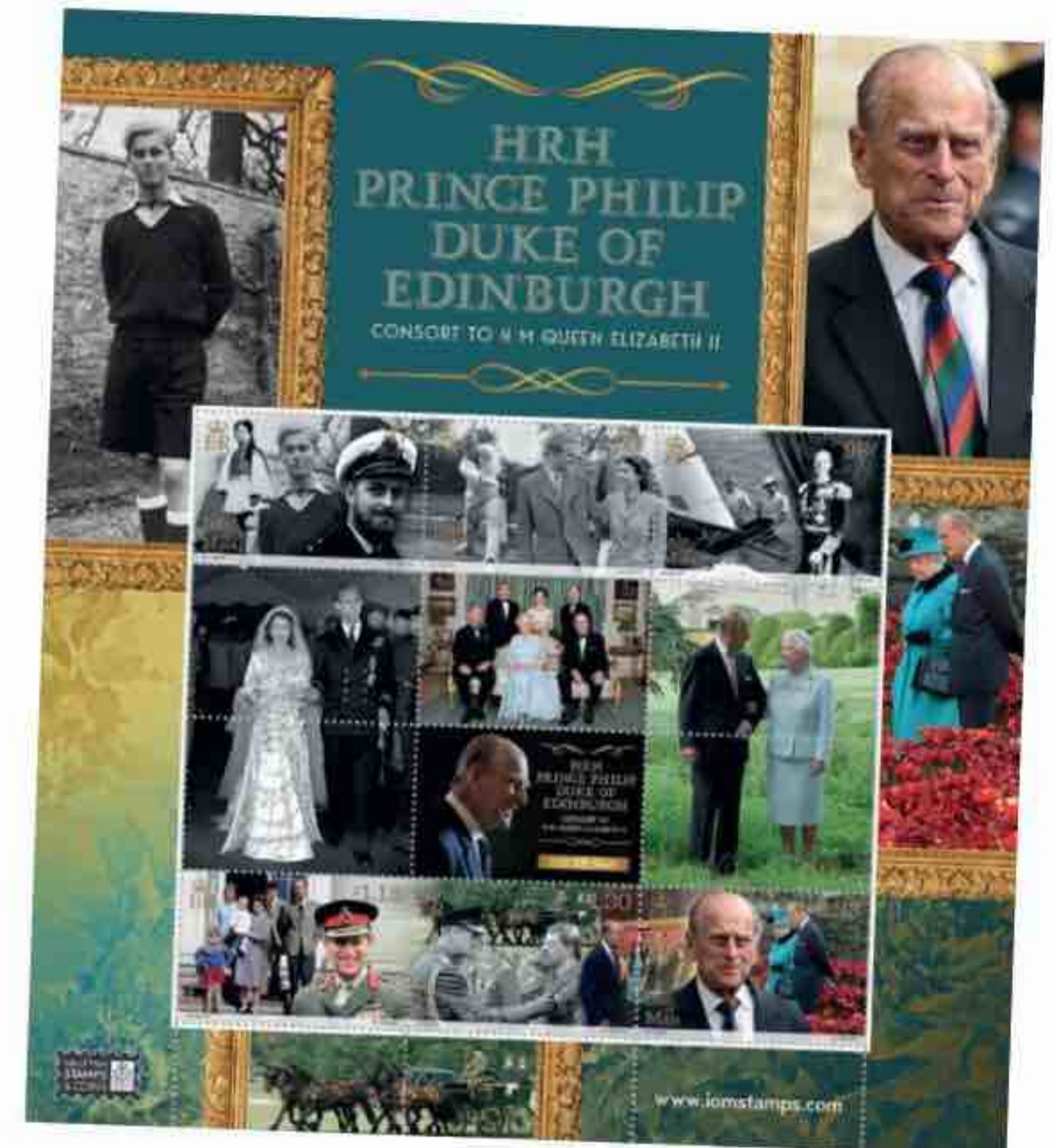
The Isle of Man Post Office commemorated the achievements and commitment of HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh, in the year that would have seen him celebrate his 100th Birthday, with a special sheetlet in support of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The sheetlet, issued before his sad passing, presents the late Duke of Edinburgh at various stages throughout his life including his military background and his marriage to HM Queen Elizabeth II.

This year also marks the 65th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme introduced by HRH, a voluntary youth award that recognizes young people aged between 14 and 25 for completing a series of self-improvement exercises. The scheme presents an

opportunity to discover new interests and talents and is a tool to develop essential skills for life and work. It was first delivered to the Isle of Man in 1958 and has to this day seen approximately 470 Gold Awards presented on the Island.

The sheetlet is limited to 3,000 copies which are numbered and certified. The first three stamps are valued at 47p, 80p and 98p. They depict the Duke of Edinburgh in black and white photographs during his childhood and youth, playing cricket, sailing and with HM the Queen. The last three stamps portray Prince Philip with his family, during a variety of royal duties and landmark events, alongside HM the Queen, Queen Elizabeth II. They are valued at £1.18, £1.30 and £2.33.



Issue date: 31 March 2021, www.iompost.com

JERSEY

Happy birthday Ma'am

In celebration of the 95th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, six commemorative stamps from Jersey focus on different aspects of her life, using the titles: Princess, Coronation, Marriage, Leisure, Pageantry and Royal Duties.

Of course, the birthday celebrations will be tinged with sadness following the passing of Prince Philip. Each stamp features the words 'devoted to your service', taken from the famous and heart-warming speech Princess Elizabeth gave on 21 April 1947, her 21st birthday. As reported in last month's issue, the issue is part of a joint collection with ten other Crown Dependencies, Commonwealth countries and British Overseas Territories, all of whom have come together to celebrate Her Majesty's milestone birthday.

Issue date: 21 April 2021, www.jerseystamps.com



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GUERNSEY

Highlighting endangered wildlife

Guernsey Post's latest stamps feature species that are locally registered from critically endangered through to near threatened. The stamps, which are the post office's contribution to the 2021 Europa theme, feature a range of creatures, from the Black-backed meadow ant to the Basking shark.

Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post said: 'These delightful stamps, designed by artist Wendy Bramall, depict just some of the species found on the island of Guernsey and its surrounding waters, including the Basking shark and European eel, both of which bear the Europa logo.'

Sadly, the beautiful illustrations point to the ongoing decline in numbers of these animals. The European herring gull used to be Guernsey's most common gull, but is now listed as 'Near Threatened'; whilst the Atlantic Beach Cricket is one of the rarest species of cricket and is now considered vulnerable.

Basking sharks, the world's second-largest fish, are now protected in EU waters and under some international agreements; and numbers of the once common European eel are now less than one percent of historic levels. Staying in the water, the Harbour porpoise are shy and elusive marine animals and are vulnerable.

The coastal habitat of the orange and brown chequered Glanville fritillary butterfly is disappearing at an alarming rate. More common in Alderney than anywhere else in the British Isles, it is happily making a comeback in Guernsey and can be spotted on warm days on the island's cliff sides.

Date of issue: 7 April 2021, www.guernseystamps.com



FAROE ISLANDS

Cattle farming in the Faroes

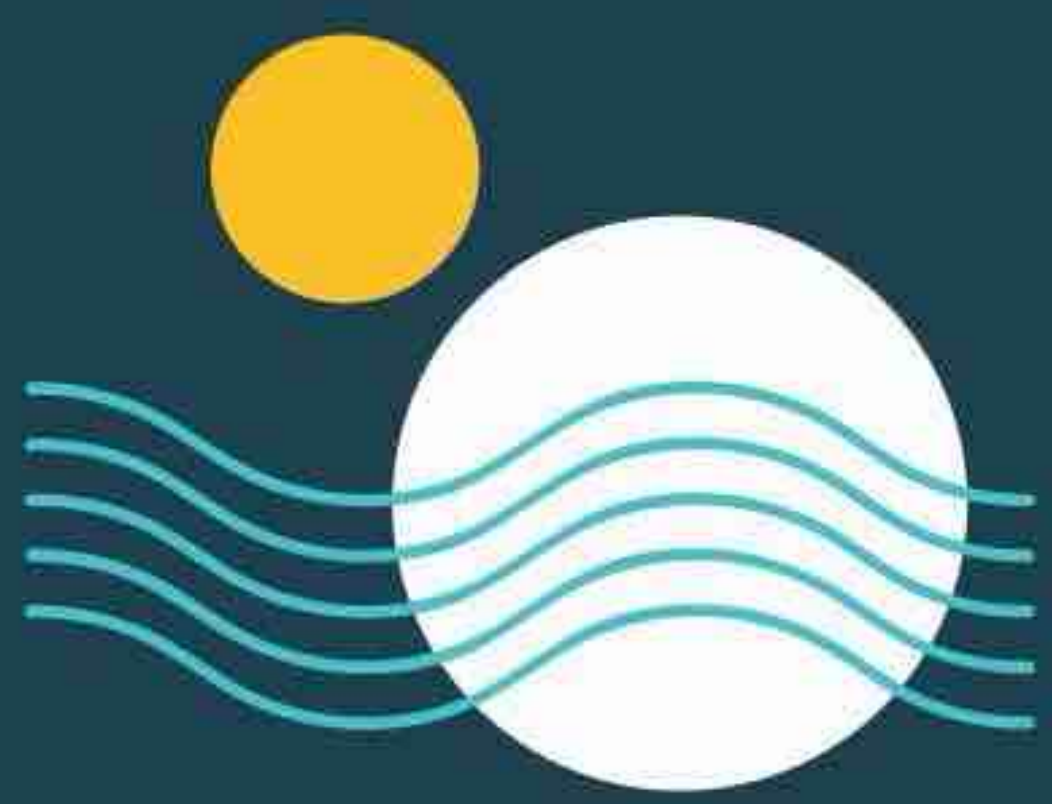


Milk, and thus the peasant's cow, are at the heart of the original Faroese economy, according to the team at Posta Faroe Islands who point out that a 1999 study of food composition with figures from 1813 shows that cow's milk accounted for about 45% of daily energy intake.

The importance of milk and of cattle farming is celebrated with three new stamps showing local cows and the farming process. We see a woman milking the cow in the stable on one value, and a typical Faroese cow and bull in the field as they would have been seen in the late 1800s, on a second stamp.

The third stamp brings together the elements of farming, showing the head of a cow, the yield of grain, hay and milk, and in the background the 'infield cycle' surrounded by fertilizer which, yes, includes cow dung. According to the Faroese post office, workers carried the cow dung on their backs out onto the field and sprinkled it on top of the terrace-shaped lawns. The mixture was then combined with soil, treated, and eventually, the fields became sufficiently fertilized for the production of grass and hay to last for the next five or six years.

Issue date: 26 April 2021, en.stamps.fo



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GB STAMPS

Sci-fi pioneers

Royal Mail celebrate six classic science fiction novels by British writers with a new set of stamps featuring specially commissioned illustrations depicting key moments in the evolution of the genre

This new set of stamps is issued in the year that marks the 75th anniversary of the death of HG Wells and the seventieth anniversary of the publication of John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids*.

The classic novels featured in the set go back as far as *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, published in 1818, and guide us through some British favourites ending with Doris Lessing's *Shikasta*, which was first read by science fiction fans in 1979.

The daughter of radicals, Mary Shelley wrote her most famous book when she was just nineteen, in a famous ghost-story competition with Percy Shelley and Lord Byron. *Frankenstein* switched the Gothic romance from religious terror to secular scientific horror.

The famous novel is represented with an illustration by Slovenian artist



Sabina Šinko. The artist's work has tackled subjects including migration, refugees and ecological disaster, and this balance of reality and surrealism is captured on the stamp image, showing a portrayal of Frankenstein's monster far removed from the less serious caricatures that have represented the doomed character in more recent times.

A young writer from the first generation of those with formal scientific training, HG Wells jumped into the new journals and magazines of the 1890s and helped fashion the British 'scientific romance' in his disturbing exploration of futures near and far.

The Time Machine, published in 1895, follows a Victorian scientist, only known as the 'time traveller' who goes into the future and discovers a rural, overgrown, and seemingly peaceful version of society inhabited by a group of friendly, but naive childlike creatures, only to find another race with a more nefarious outlook. Illustrated by London-based Chilean artist Francisco Rodríguez, the stamp shows the time traveller in the centre of a barren landscape.

Aldous Huxley was a satirical novelist who, in horrified reaction to Wells's outline of scientific utopia, created in *Brave New World* one of the most enduring novels of dystopia. He explores a future where



technology oppresses rather than liberates humanity.

Huxley's *Brave New World* (1931) is another classic of British fiction, which describes a dystopian world where humans are engineered from artificial wombs and the population is kept passive with the use of a drug known as Soma. Often compared to George Orwell's *1984*, the book regularly appears in lists of the world's best English language novels and has long been studied by literature students. The stamp illustration, by Thomas Danthony, a French artist based in London and Barcelona, depicts the book's sinister 'hatchery' or baby factory.

John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids* (1951) may be a more formulaic approach to the genre, with the human race being confronted by an evil, blood-thirsty foe, but the book strikes an original, unique

tone since the enemy is an aggressive species of plant cultivated in the USSR and brought to life after a strange meteor shower. This book was a major influence on what became known as post-apocalyptic fiction. Mick Brownfield's artwork captures the carnivorous plants wreaking havoc on the capital, Big Ben dwarfed by the wicked weeds.

In ecstatic visions of expansion into outer space and evolutionary leaps for humanity, Arthur C Clarke combined a longing for transcendence with an interest in the mechanics of technology. This strand is often termed 'hard SF', for extrapolating possible futures from known science.

Clarke's *Childhood's End* (1953) is represented with an illustration by Dorset-based illustrator Matt Murphy who uses bold colours and delicate textures to create mysterious worlds in his renowned artwork. The stamp shows a figure looking to an orb in the sky, representing the arrival and rule of the 'Overlords', an alien species who bring peace to Earth before gradually putting plans in place to introduce a new species at the cost of the human race.

A hugely versatile novelist, Doris Lessing turned to science fiction in the 1970s to explore questions of gender, colonisation and power. Women have always been involved in science fiction, but Lessing's generation gave the genre new avenues of social criticism. *Shikasta*, represented with an



illustration by Sarah Jones, is presented as a series of historical reports on the planet of the same name, charting the destruction of culture and a terrifying world war. The book was the first in a series of five novels and whilst it received a mixed response when first published, it has gone on to be considered a classic of the genre.

Royal Mail worked with British writer and academic, Roger Luckhurst, on the stamp issue. Roger is a Professor in Modern and Contemporary Literature in the Department of English and Humanities at Birkbeck, University

of London and was Distinguished Visiting Professor at Columbia University in 2016. His summary of the books covered is featured in the presentation pack.

The postmarks for the issue include the Tallents House, Edinburgh, design featuring an illustration of Frankenstein's hand, and a design with London NW1 as the location – where HG Wells worked and also died – and an illustration representing the time machine in his famous novel.

STAMP DETAILS

- Issue date:** 15 April 2021
- Design:** Webb & Webb Design Limited
- Stamp size:** 34.7mm (w) x 34.7mm (h)
- Printer:** International Security Printers, lithography
- Perforations:** 14.5 x 14.5
- Phosphor Bars:** as appropriate
- Gum:** PVA
- 1st - *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- 1st - *Time Machine* by HG Wells
- £1.70 - *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley:
- £1.70 - *The Day of the Triffids* by John Wyndham
- £2.55 - *Childhood's End* by Arthur C Clarke
- £2.55 - *Shikasta* by Doris Lessing

WIN THE STAMPS!

We have presentation packs to give away in our regular competition, courtesy of Royal Mail. The pack includes the complete collection of six *Classic Science Fiction* stamps.

For your chance to win just visit the allaboutstamps.co.uk website and answer the following question:

Which of the featured authors also wrote the 1968 novel and film 2001: A Space Odyssey?

Ten winners will be picked at random from correct answers. Editors decision is final. Good luck. Closing date: 11 June 2021.

Enter online, just visit: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/competitions



King Christian X arrives in
Tórshavn in June 1921

Faroe Islands Stamps

New Stamp Issues in April 2021



Royal visit 1921: King Christian X in the Faroe Islands

King Christian X visited the Faroes on more than one occasion. The first of these was in June 1921 when the King accompanied by Queen Alexandrine and their sons Crown Prince Frederik and Prince Knud visited the Faroes.

Design: Old postcards



Cattle farming in the Faroe Islands

A study of food composition with figures from 1813 shows that cow's milk accounted for about 45% of daily energy intake. Milk was the most stable food which places milk and thus the peasant's cow at the heart of the original Faroese economy.

Design: Ole Wich

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MARKET INSIGHT

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

W. T. ROBEY
1420 HARVARD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 18, 1918.

Elliott Perry,
Box 333
Westfield, N. J.
Dear Sir:

Did you receive my telegram. I have secured a sheet of 100 with inverted center, the only one in existence at this date. Are you interested?

Yours very truly
W. T. Robey

Examples of the USA's most famous error, the Inverted Jenny, come onto the market often, but Robert A Siegel's recent auction featured much more than just the rare inverted stamps themselves. The sale of just twelve lots included the original letter written by William T Robey on 15 May 1918 and sent to Elliott Perry, announcing Robey's historic discovery of the 24c inverted airmail stamp. The letter reads: 'Dear Sir. Did you receive my telegram. I have secured a sheet of 100 with inverted center, the only one in existence at this date. Are you interested.' Interestingly, the letter also features a draft reply from Perry on the reverse with the lines crossed out and the text 'Not sent', this note states: 'Yes I am interested in sheet of inverts and would like you to forward it on approval at once, stating net price for any [crossed out] all or any part. Can [crossed out] Will give you an immediate answer.' The sale also featured a telegram sent by Caroline Robey to Elliott Perry, informing Perry where to meet her husband to examine the sheet; and Elliott Perry's copy of his letter to Robey. However, it was the 15 May letter that was described as 'arguably the most important artefact of the Inverted Jenny discovery known to exist.'

SOLD FOR £41,139

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



HR Harmer recently sold The Bedford Collection of USA and Canada, which they described as 'one of the most exciting properties we have handled for quite some time. Amongst the highlights was a USA 1872 90c Carmine block of four, said to be 'certainly one of the nicest of the few blocks extant' and with 'radiant colour'.

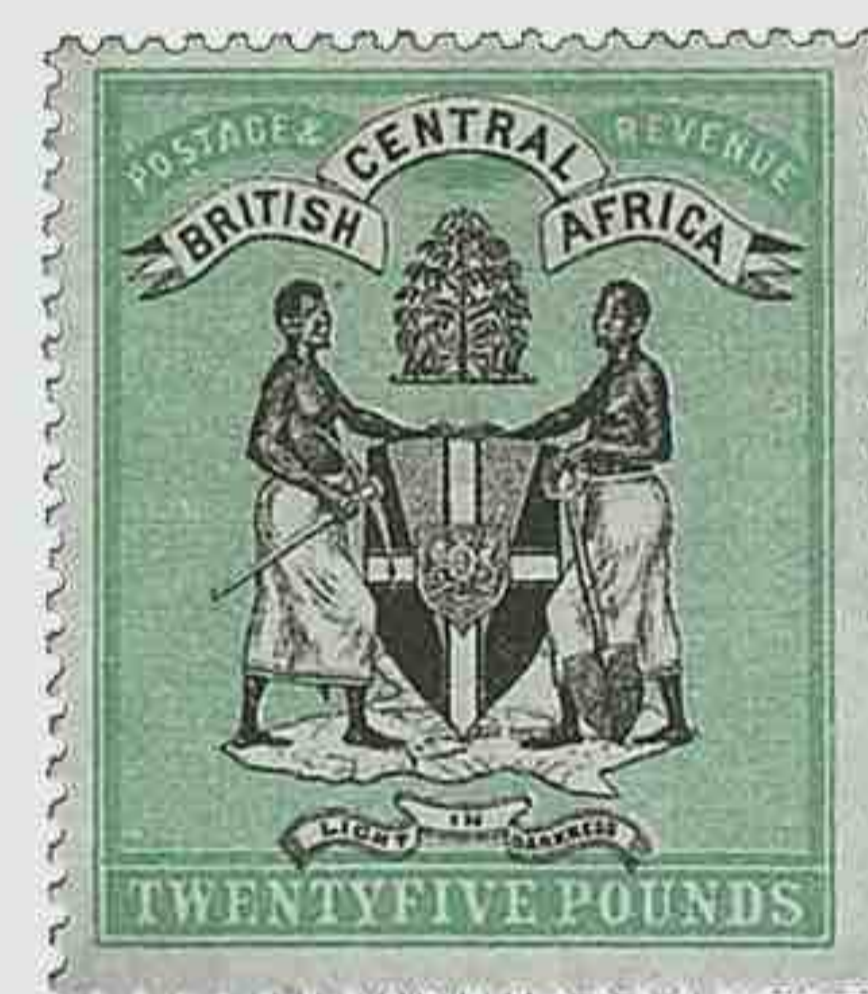
SOLD FOR £9,300



The 'Blanic' Collection of Nyasaland and Rhodesia was recently sold at Spink. Examples of the 1898 British Central Africa 'Cheque' stamp issue included an inverted example – one of only fifteen to exist – described as being 'one of the major rarities of British Central Africa philately'. The unusual stamp design was created after a case of stamps went missing on its journey to Africa, leaving the Postmaster to improvise. Read more about the 'Cheque' stamp at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides

SOLD FOR £15,000

Amongst the highlights of the 'Blanic' Collection of Nyasaland and Rhodesia sale at Spink was an unused £25 black and green stamp from the Nyasaland 1896 Arms Issue. The stamp was described as having large part original gum, fairly well-centred and of lovely vibrant colour and was said to be 'a very fine example of this exceptionally rare and desirable high value denomination.'



SOLD FOR £19,000

STAMP DETECTIVE

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



The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan joined the stamp issuing nations in 1962. It soon developed into a pioneer in the production of unusual postage stamps. Some were simulated three-dimensional using plastic overlay, others were embossed on gold foil or printed on silk cloth.

In 1973 the stamp agents took Bhutan's stamps to a new level by issuing a set of seven self-adhesive stamps in the form of real phonograph records. The philatelic press of the day reported on the novelty which was condemned as a gimmick by many collectors (one really wonders what they would say about last year's Austrian souvenir sheet printed on toilet paper?).

The stamps can actually be played and the contents include Bhutan's history, the national anthem and Bhutanese folklore music.

As new issues the set of seven sold for about a pound each but they proved to be a very good investment. Today dealers ask a minimum of £400 for a complete unmounted mint set.

At a recent internet auction, a short UMM set of five (the two key airmail values were missing) saw lively bidding, eventually selling for £129 or about two-thirds of the catalogue value.

The talking stamps were, of course, produced with the philatelic marketplace in mind. Their large size made them difficult to use on ordinary letters. They do exist individually on large First Day Covers with a special pictorial cancel but these FDCs are far from common today so, again, worth looking (and listening) out for.



In order of sale date, we start with 1 March, seller Citystampmontreal sold an XFU Nova Scotia Scott #7, \$6,000 catalogue value, for \$4,995, with a fresh 19 January 2021 VGG certificate. When asked for a quote, seller Robert Cooperman said, 'The one shilling stamp of Nova Scotia has always been a popular rarity. Over the years we have encountered perhaps a dozen examples, however very few were in the condition of the example

we recently sold. It has four lovely margins and deep rich colour and completely fault free. It is truly worthy of the finest collection!'

SOLD FOR £3,632



The next day, 8 March, seller Cjmce1 sold a stampless folded letter dated 1844 from Hawaii via the ship Peck & Co forwarded to the United States from a son to his father. The auction had a starting price of \$3, and the cover realised a final hammer price of \$6,346.

SOLD FOR £4,615



On 7 March, seller Calnationcoin sold a rare mint China #15 margin block of sixteen, with a catalogue value of \$8,000 priced at singles, at auction, for \$9,900. The auction started at 99c with no reserve. Seller Mr Helena explained: 'Discovered recently in a large mint and used worldwide mixture of primarily on paper Chinese stamps nicknamed by me as the Carlowitz Hoard as most the envelope fragments bore the address Carlowitz & co. Shanghai. A German engineering

company in Shanghai and other German cities in China. New to the market as it has not seen the light of day for over 100 years.'

SOLD FOR £7,200



In 2019, NobleSpirit, a USA-based rare stamps dealer, partnered with eBay to create the Stamp Market Index (SMI), a free database for public access that records every stamp sale on eBay since 2004. With over 63 million philatelic items sold since 2004, eBay's position in the market as the largest distribution platform for stamps and philatelic material is unquestionable. Stamp Market Index is powered by NobleSpirit and managed by the company's stamp experts. This new monthly column will focus on five of the most interesting individual stamps and collections reported in the daily highest sales from eBay each month, helping readers keep their finger on the pulse of the current and ever-changing stamp market.

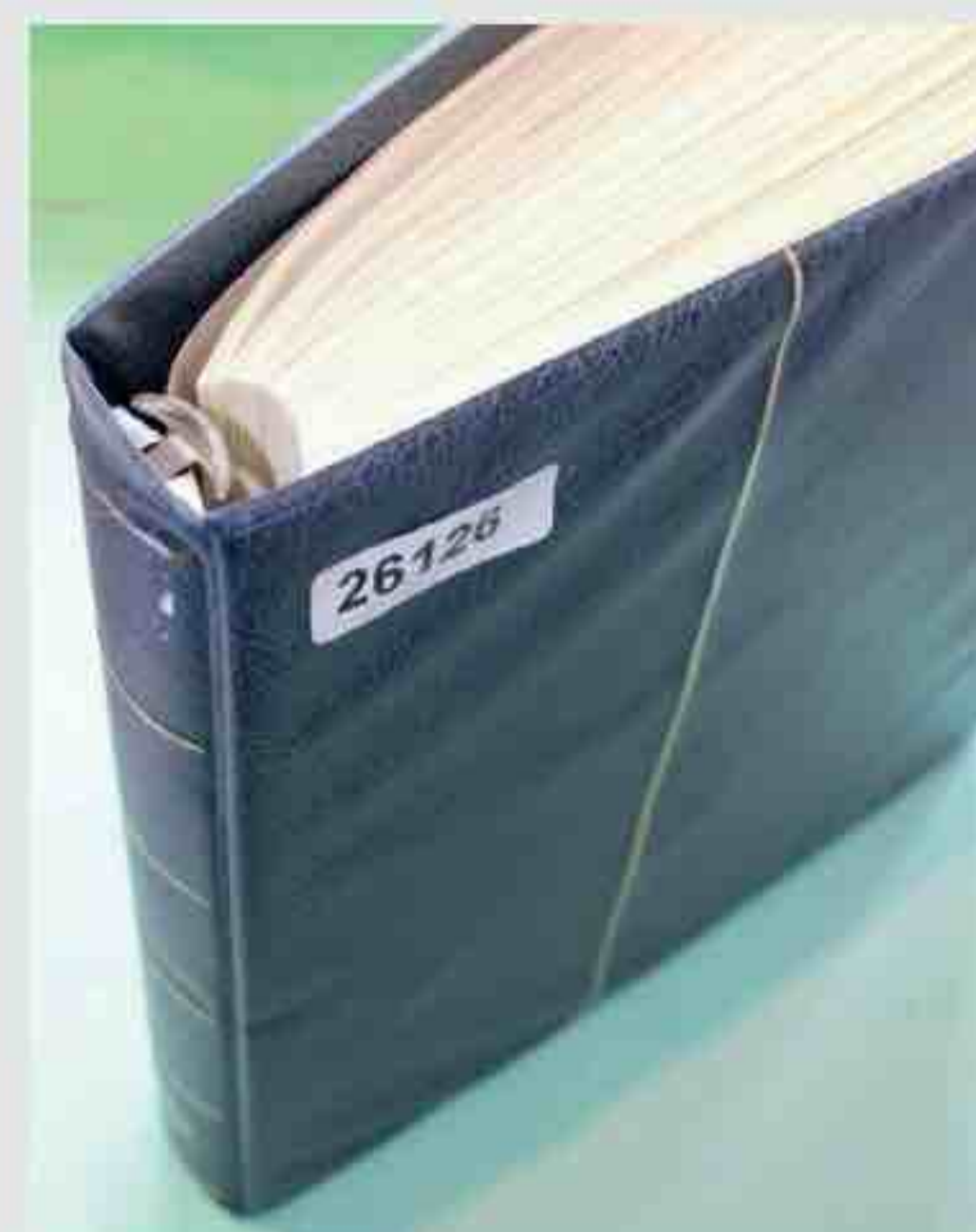
Find out more at: www.stampmarketindex.com



On 16 March, seller Andrewglajerstamps sold a mint Great Britain Penny Black, plate #1b, with PD initials and original gum, with a catalogue value of £12,500. The sale was made through Buy It Now for £1,945. The stamp in question was described as a superb unused example, clear

to good margins. It came with a 2018 BPA certificate. Everyone knows the story of the Penny Black, over 68 million printed, and yet coming across gem mint copies such as this is always an exciting find.

SOLD FOR £1,945



The final feature item of the month was sold by eGlobals-Stamps, a beautiful FALKLANDS 1872 MH Overcomplete w/ Centenary Set PREMIUM Stamp Collection. It sold for almost £8,000 within one week of being posted. It's rare that such a complete and pristine collection like this hits the market, with first set 1878 including 1P MH Signed, 1898 MH Set + MH Set

Specimen + Fine Used 5 Sh, Complete set 1929 + 1 Pound Extra. Seller Maarten Bass said: 'This was a collection built up by a collector with good taste, time and opportunity to get the highest quality.' Maarten's company can be found at www.eglobals.net.

SOLD FOR £7,996



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1 fr carmine-brown
Ex Ferrary, Burrus & "Lafayette"



"Woodblock" 1d unique unused block of four
Ex Dale-Lichtenstien & Indhusophon



1913 Zarrinch die essay



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LATEST INTERNET SALES

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



France, 1f Cérés bright vermilion 1849 used (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £3,613



Netherlands, 1 Gulden blue green 1898 Coronation MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £1,335



Germany, Airmail 'Chicagofahrt' issue 1933 MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £890



Spain, Set of 'Battle of Lepanto' dark purple & green black 1938 imperf. sheetlets MNH

SOLD FOR £578



Reunion, 1891 definitive set, stamps from former French colonies overprint. 'REUNION' MH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £649



Sweden, 80ö black Gustav V 1918 MNH (only 1000 copies issued) (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £712



Kerguelen Isl. (Indian Ocean), Rare Letter from the Bossière brothers franked 50c cancelled 'Résidence de France' 1912 to Le Havre (France) via Cape Town

SOLD FOR £556



Italy Papal States, 3c gray-pink 2nd issue 1867 MH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £473



Luxembourg, Letter franked with 2 pairs of 10c black William III from Luxembourg 1853 to Lyon (France) (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £569



Canada, \$5 olive-green QV 1897 Jubilee issue MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £347



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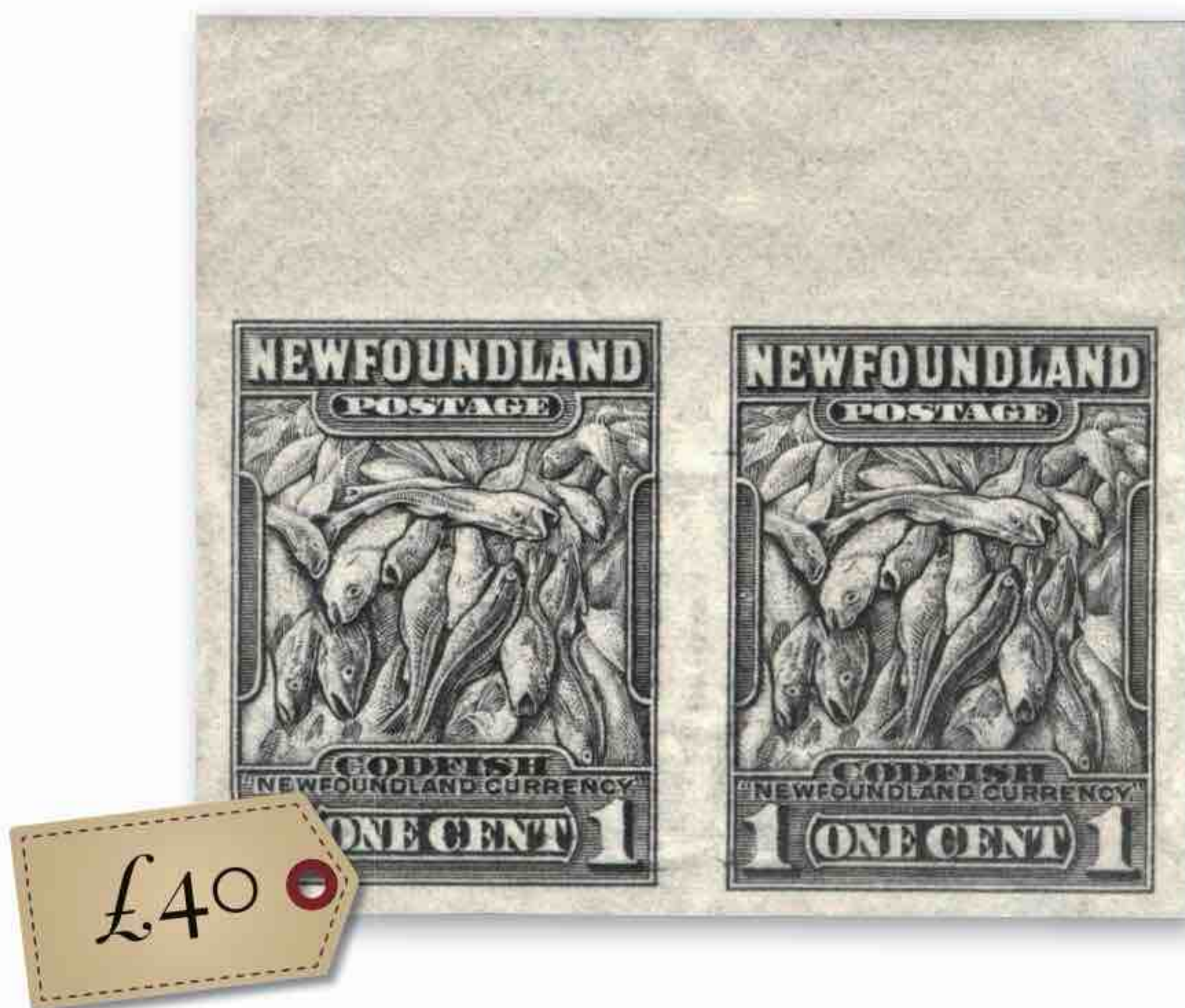
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The 1¢ value, described on the stamp as 'CODFISH: NEWFOUNDLAND CURRENCY', this true-to-life display of a cod catch, also reminds us that during the depression years when this stamp had currency, fishing crews often had to accept their wages as portions of the catch. Some have described the stamp as the ugliest issued by Newfoundland. US eBay seller 'dvesn of Oregon' asked US \$54.95 plus \$1.85 international postage for this dark grey, imperforate pair, described as having excellent colour, fresh appearance and well-centred within very adequate margins.



2¢. A portrait in profile of King George V in dress uniform. US eBay seller 'dvesn of Oregon' asked US \$29.95 plus \$1.85 first class international postage for this 1932 2c rose KGV, perf 13.2 x 13.2, (being one of the scarcest), described as having good colour and appearance, with decent centring, and light cancelling.



3¢. A portrait of Queen Mary wearing a tiara and necklaces. UK eBay seller myhobbys, of Birmingham, offered this example of the 3c, describing it as lightly hinged and highly collectable. The asking price was £1.25 plus £1.38 economy shipping.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

The Newfoundland 1932 First Resources set

In this month's market guide to a noteworthy set to add to your collection, Ed Fletcher charts the intriguing history of Newfoundland, and examines the set and the different ways to buy examples of these interesting stamps

Climatic changes two and a half thousand years ago probably brought the first humans (ancestors of Inuit tribes) to the Arctic regions of Canada. Five hundred years earlier they had crossed the frozen Bering Straits to reach North America from Asia as they followed migratory herds of caribou across the continent, hunting them with bows and arrows. Extended families settled in the eastern coastal regions of what is now Canada where they developed barbed weapons and canoes that improved fishing and seal hunting techniques. Igloos and carved stone oil-lamps encouraged some groups to overwinter in semi-permanent coastal camps.

Newfoundland, an island just off Canada's eastern mainland, has about the same land area as England without Scotland and



Above: map of Newfoundland

Left: 5¢ 'Caribou: Monarch of the Wilds'. Based on a statue in Bowering Park in St. John's, a caribou stag is portrayed in profile standing on the barrens as if he was trying to catch a scent from the wind. UK eBay seller atticusphilately, of Richmond, Surrey offered this marginal block of six; perf 13½, described as mint never hinged, with full original gum. The selling price was £2.25 plus £1.10 for standard postal delivery.



£8.60

4c. A portrait of the Prince of Wales in dress uniform (later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor). Another of US eBay dvesn of Oregon's lots, this 4c rose lake with inverted watermark; was described as extremely fine and mint never hinged. The offer price was US \$89.95, plus \$1.85 first class international mail.



£65

Wales. Europeans (English, Scottish, Irish, French and Scandinavians, for example) were attracted to its waters in medieval times by huge cod catches brought home by early adventurers to meet the demands of Christians for fish on Fridays. They soon squabbled over territorial ownership, with England first of the contenders thanks to John Cabot's claim in 1497 on behalf of England's King Henry VII; but it was not until 1583, during the reign of Elizabeth the First, that explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert took formal possession of Newfoundland as an English colony. Throughout the 17th century fishermen from England's western ports had settled along much of Newfoundland's east coast, while the southern and northern coasts were in the hands of the French until 1713 when they were ceded to England to leave the entire island under London's control.

The remainder of the 18th and much of the 19th century witnessed economic growth, with cod, fish oils, walrus ivory, seal skins, timber and fur trapping all booming. Politically the island progressed from a crown colony in 1825, to a self-governing colony in 1855, and to a dominion in 1907. Alas, World War One and the depressions of the 1920s and 1930s brought a disappointing slowdown. The island's population divided politically on solutions. Some saw closer links with the USA – perhaps even in becoming a state of the Union – as probably beneficial to the economy, given Newfoundland's geographical position at a crossroads between

Above left: 6c. Princess Elizabeth of York aged six, (later Queen Elizabeth II), holding a teddy bear. This was the first likeness of the Princess on any postage stamp; and described for some years as one of the most popular stamps in the world. US eBayer stamps-plus of Las Vegas, Nevada recently offered this stamp, described as mint never hinged, for US \$12

North America and Europe for ocean and air transport; and for increasingly important radio communications which the USA would probably exploit vigorously in the coming years. Others wished to remain part of the British Commonwealth (created in 1931), but with much greater effort put into promoting the growth of Newfoundland as more than a fish exporter.

Postage stamps provided extraordinarily effective publicity opportunities. Philately, at that time a major international hobby, helped

Newfoundland's administrators to bring the island to the world's attention, with many modestly priced stamps displaying attractive pictorial designs, and showcasing the island's geography, history and natural resources in ways to attract tourists, settlers and investors. Some of the wildlife images went on to become stamp collectors' gems; while a string of royal portraits helped to stress continuity from mid-Victorian to 20th-century reigns.

Our focus here spotlights the 1932 set of twelve values (1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 10c, 14c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c) known somewhat prosaically as The First Resources Issue. The stamps were recess printed by Perkins Bacon; perf 13½, on paper watermarked with the official coat of arms. The designs encompassed those that collectors had come to expect from



£30

10c. 'Salmon "King of the Rivers"' An Atlantic salmon is poised mid air attempting to leap a waterfall. Recently offered on eBay by imperium-stamps of Tamworth, Staffs, this 1932 10c black-brown unmounted mint block of four (mounted in margin only); and with an inverted watermark; had a selling price of £30, with free economy delivery.



£2.95

14c. 1932 Newfoundland Dog UK eBayer, roger5732 of Ely, Cambridgeshire, recently offered this 1932 SG216, 14c Newfoundland Dog; perf. 13.5, and described as mounted mint. The 'Buy It Now' price was £2.95 plus £0.85 economy delivery.



20c. 'Cape Race Transatlantic Beacon'. Located at the extreme southeast corner of the Island closest to the transatlantic shipping lanes, Cape Race served as the chief landmark for navigators crossing the Atlantic aboard sailing ships. eBayUK seller scott philatelics of Leicester recently offered this Newfoundland 1932 20c Transatlantic Beacon issue, described as mint hinged, for £1.50 plus £1 shipping.

Newfoundland – the royal family; landscapes; natural resources, commercial activities and wildlife. The set also included a stamp that earned a reputation among some critics as the ugliest stamp ever issued by Newfoundland; as well as a stamp which for most of 1932 achieved the accolade the most loved stamp among non-collectors around the world. With a little bit of internet digging one can usually find the full set, described as mint never hinged for £40 to £50. Closer inspection might reveal imperfect centring, or nibbed perforations, or other minor imperfections that still leave you with a £40 to £50 decent purchase without further effort required to find a complete set. If on the other hand you have the time and inclination to quest for individual stamps, and to build your set from scratch, you can spend lots of philatelic fun-time, and probably more money, finding the twelve stamps you want in your perfect set. Here are some we found from the set; each with potential and each meriting closer attention ...



30c. 'Leaving For The Banks'. Ten two-masted schooners under full sail are depicted passing through the Narrows. Since their crews fished offshore on the Grand Banks the vessels were named bankers. Historically, some storms in this region caused the deaths of hundreds of fishermen. US eBayer dvesn of Oregon recently offered this 1932 30c ultramarine Fishing Fleet stamp, described as very fine, mint never hinged. The price was US \$49.95 plus \$1.85 first class international mail.



A full set! Australian eBay dealer pecanstamps of New South Wales recently offered this 1932 set of twelve (1c to 30c), describing them as fine mint hinged, with original gum. The selling price was AU \$59.88 plus \$4.20 international postage.

30c. 'Leaving For The Banks'. Ten two-masted schooners under full sail are depicted passing through the Narrows. Since their crews fished offshore on the Grand Banks the vessels were named bankers. Historically, some storms in this region caused the deaths of hundreds of fishermen. US eBayer dvesn of Oregon recently offered this 1932 30c ultramarine Fishing Fleet stamp, described as very fine, mint never hinged. The price was US \$49.95 plus \$1.85 first class international mail.

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Bahrain	Dominica	Montserrat	Seychelles
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Basutoland	Fiji	New Guinea	Singapore
Bechuanaland	Gambia	New Hebrides	Somalia
Bermuda	Ghana	New Zealand	South Africa
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British Honduras	Gold Coast	North Borneo	Sudan
British Levant	Great Britain	Northern Rhodesia	Swaziland
Ex Italian Colonies	Grenada	Nyasaland	Tonga
British Solomons	Hong Kong	Pakistan	Trinidad + Tobago
British Virgins	India + States	Papua + New Guinea	Tristan da Cunha
Brunei	Isle of Man	Pitcairn	Turks + Caicos
Burma	Jamaica	Rhodesia	Zanzibar
Canada	KUT	St Helena	
Caymans	Kuwait		
Ceylon			

REST OF WORLD

Algeria
Belgian Congo
Brazil
Egypt
French Colonies
Honduras
Italian Colonies
Japan
Korea North
Lebanon
Morocco
Netherlands Colonies
Portuguese Colonies
Somalia
Thailand
Tunisia
USA
Venezuela
Yemen

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

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Page 34 Post & Go from Estonia



POSTCARDS

100 and not out!

Most collectors will know the postcards that feature the town or village notable residents, the kind of people who were known to everybody within the parish and almost nobody beyond, writes Richard Stenlake. In the anything goes world of Edwardian postcard publishing this also included cards of the local worthies, ordinary folk marked out by some foible or eccentricity. This was fuelled by the constant demand for new cards at the height of the postcard craze between 1904 and 1906. Hence most cards of centenarians and the very old, date from these few years.

I have quite a few of these cards and innocently thought this would be a safe theme to write about. Instead, I have discovered that there is considerable academic study into whether there were any centenarians in the pre-industrial age. This is not helped by the registration of births not being compulsory until 1812 and apparently a tendency to stretch the truth as longevity was a source of pride to the individual, their family and, as the popularity of these cards at the time shows, their community also. These lies would also often be evidenced by false recollections of famous events as proof.

What is the case is that if you wander around any old graveyard there is the occasional stone to somebody who made it to a ripe old age, unlike today when we have over 13,000 centenarians in the UK. Wales has the highest proportion and two of my cards are from there. 'Gower's oldest inhabitant', born in 1805, supposedly was still making hay 100 years on. Quite an achievement, but not enough for her to be named! Meantime in Cardiganshire these pensioners were still at Sunday School. It looked more fun across the border in Frodsham, Cheshire where the oldest inhabitants had gathered to have a wee sherry!

SOCIETY UPDATE

The Royal Philatelic Society London is pleased to announce the recipients of its medals for 2021. Each medal is awarded for an outstanding presentation given to the Society, or article published in its journal, *The London Philatelist*, during 2019 and 2020. The Tapling Medal for the best article was awarded to Keith R. Klugman FRPSL for 'Natal: Use of 1857 Embossed Stamps'. The award for the best afternoon display, the Tilleard Medal, goes to Colin Hoffman RDPSA, FRPSL for 'Rhodesia 1890-1924'. The Lee Medal for the best presentation has been awarded to Mark Schwartz FRPSL for 'Boston Postal History of the War of Independence'.

Throughout the period from March 2020 the Society has naturally been unable to hold its normal meetings. However, it has continued to provide its members with a full programme of presentations online. These have been so extremely popular that they will continue when normal meetings resume. With a worldwide membership, such presentations can be enjoyed by all members, especially those unable personally to visit the Society's premises at 15 Abchurch Lane in the City of London.

As a result a new award has been created for the best digital presentation, the first winner of which is Cheryl Ganz RDP, FRPSL for 'Zeppelin LZ-129 Hindenburg's On Board Post Office'.

Those who have provided exceptional services to the Society are recognised each year by the London Medal. The recipients in 2021 are: Gwynn Harries FRPSL for his work in the Society's library; Michael Pitt-Payne FRPSL who has been the main Society photographer for more than fifteen years; Nigel Gooch FRPSL for facilitating major donations to the 'Tomorrow's Royal' appeal, created to ensure the Society's position as the world's leading philatelic society.

The Channel Islands Specialists' Society



For further information about membership, society news, auctions, meeting programme and publications produced by the Society please visit the Society's website at www.ciss.uk

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

The GBFDC was started over 25 years ago in 1994, to enable GB First Day Cover Collectors to contact each other, enjoy sharing knowledge and benefit from joint events and activities. Find out more at: www.gbfdc.co.uk



Want to be included in the Society Directory and as a Featured Society on the www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website? Please contact Kay Cotterill on 01778 395065; email: kay.cotterill@wamersgroup.co.uk to find out more.

Test your stamp knowledge!

In this month's stamp quiz we challenge you on the printers of the world's first ever postage stamp, test your knowledge of early Australian issues, and see how well you know your women on stamps. Good luck and check the answers on the website

- 1 What was the full name of the firm that printed the 1840 Penny Black?
- 2 What are the symbols depicted on the GB 75th UPU Anniversary 1s stamp of 1949 ?
- 3 Which bird appears on the 1889 8d value in the Centenary of New South Wales set?
- 4 What is the name of the vignette on the Bahamas GV 1938 4d stamp?
- 5 Where were the first stamps of the Crown Colony of British Guiana designed and printed?
- 6 Name the two types of transport that feature on the Newfoundland 1931 15c stamp.
- 7 What is the scene depicted on the 1½d 1939 Gilbert and Ellice Islands stamp?
- 8 What type of building features on the Sweden 1903 5k stamp?
- 9 What was the face value of Switzerland's first stamp?
- 10 Who was the first woman to feature on a United States postage stamp?



How did you do?

You can check your answers right now over on the website, just visit:
www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides

CINDERELLAS

Hill and Concorde on 'Eritrean' stamps

The East African nation of Eritrea declared its independence on 24 May 1993, writes Christer Brunström, after many years of struggle by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). Local stamps had been issued as early as 1978 for some of the liberated areas.

In recognition of the country's colonial past, the stamps had text in Italian (POSTE ERITREA LIBERA), Arabic and Amharic.

In 1980 dealers offered a single 1.50b stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the death of British postal reformer Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879). The design also includes a drawing of Concorde in flight and the logo of the LONDON 1980 stamp exhibition. On these stamps the text in Italian is limited to 'POSTE ERITREA'. The Eritrean flag is also shown.

To make the most of it, the stamp was issued both perforated and imperforate as well as in a deluxe sheet. Additionally there were

perforated and imperforate versions of a numbered souvenir sheet which also featured an 1840 British mail coach and the logo of the UPU.

Numerous legitimate stamps were issued in 1979 in memory of Hill but there is little evidence that this particular stamp was ever used in Eritrea. It was undoubtedly printed and sold by an enterprising stamp dealer. Whether they had any sort of understanding with the EPLF is unknown but seems unlikely.

There were additional Eritrean issues in the 1980s commemorating various British royal events. They are just as bogus as the Hill issue.



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The Black Empress

Described as a ‘Mona Lisa of philately’ and ‘the epitome of perfection’, the Canada 1851, 12d black ‘Chalon Head’ is one of the world’s most revered stamps and, as Devlan Kruck explains, the famous stamp is one of many philatelic treasures to have a connection with Geneva

Just a few sentimental issues ago we were reminiscing about Sean Connery’s role in the Bond movie *Goldfinger* (*Stamp Collector*, March 2021 issue), where we marvelled at the seemingly mystical, gravitational pull there is towards Geneva, and certainly back then our Prussian Blue cover fitted our assertion.

However, this month’s featured rarity, ‘The Black Empress’, is going to tip that pronouncement on its head, quite literally on its Chalon head. Because one of the rarest Canadian postage stamps in existence, the ‘unique’ 1851 12d Black unmounted mint example, which featured in a David Feldman Charity Auction, owes its origins to a man from Geneva who lived his life in London.

Alfred Chalon (1780 to 1860) was a Swiss-born portrait painter, whose work attracted the eye of Queen Victoria so much so that she commissioned him to paint her portrait for a gift she gave to her mother, which ultimately became the basis of the Queen’s head used on the postage stamp engraved for this Canadian icon and also for many of the British colonies, known philatelically as ‘The Chalon Head’.

The original portrait shows Queen Victoria wearing her State robes, the Garter sash and the George IV State Diadem, standing on a terrace, at the occasion of her first official act, which was the closing of the Parliamentary session on 17 July 1837. Apparently Chalon made an initial sketch of the Queen and then produced three similar paintings. The first, we’ll call the ‘original’, was gifted to the Queen’s mother as planned, and presented to her a month later on 17 August 1837, and

the other two copies formed gifts for the then King of Prussia and the King of Portugal.

The Prussian example was apparently indiscriminately destroyed by an RAF raid during the Second World War, and the Portugal copy made its way back to the UK when the King of Portugal’s successor, King Manuel, abdicated in 1910 and came to England. Incredibly this copy was later sold to a philatelic icon, Robson Lowe, in 1947.

Lowe’s interest in this archetypal painting needs no explanation. The original was given to the Prince Consort, by the Duchess of Kent (the Queen’s Mum), and after Prince Albert’s premature death in 1861 was then gifted to King Leopold I of Belgium, who died in 1865.

I’m sure these two deaths aren’t in any way related to the painting, but it does make you wonder if the next owner fared any better. He did, thankfully.

Whilst it is now hanging in the Belgian Royal Collection it was initially passed to King Leopold II. But, hang-on, if you know your Chalon Heads then you might be asking how come the ‘original’ painting made a cameo appearance at the 1897 Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Exhibition at the Royal Academy? The answer comes not from the world of philately but the world of art; the picture was loaned courtesy of Leopold II, and immediately after the exhibition left the British shores once more.

Chalon, on the other hand, stayed in England and the original sketch he used to develop the three paintings never left his adopted island and was discovered, ironically, by a British stamp collector and sold to Cyril Harmer, a London-based stamp auctioneer.



The Chalon Head portrait of Queen Victoria was used on stamps across the British Empire, including the stamps of New Zealand, as detailed in the price guide in last month’s magazine

The other irony here is that his original portrait painting of the eighteen-year-old Queen Victoria is actually a colourful affair, full of radiant hues and adorned in rich red and gold, capturing her in that magical ‘youthful’ moment in time. Yet ‘The Black Empress’, produced in 1851,

a direct descendant of Chalon’s portrait, somehow encapsulates the whole story of Queen Victoria’s reign; because we philatelists know that she took the throne as a fresh-faced teenage princess in 1837, but spent half her life as the Queen who wore ‘black’, being in a state of mourning from 1861 to 1901.

Queen Victoria is no longer with us, but the finest mint example in the world of this stamp is, and crucially has a mystical, gravitational pull on the very essence of her reign. The Black Empress is today, amusingly, in Geneva. Only in the March issue did we proclaim that most allusive and prized philatelic treasures get sent to Geneva. You see it’s true, it’s just Chalon who turned that on its head.

M MUSEUM OF PHILATELY

The Museum of Philately is a unique digital platform that captures and preserves award winning collectors, collections and rarities, as well as providing the facility to track provenance and pricing information. Find out more at: www.museumofphilately.com

CONVERSATIONS WITH PHILATELISTS

Our transatlantic hobby

In reflecting upon March's episodes, I'm impressed by how much ground Michael and I were able to cover in terms of highlighting philately's past, present, and future, writes Charles Epting.

We bookended the month by speaking to two extremely accomplished Brits: John Scott, the former keeper of the Queen's stamp collection, *Stamp Collector* contributor, and a respected postal history and ephemera dealer, and Chris King, past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London and an accomplished collector and exhibitor.

Since I've been raised in the American philatelic scene it always fascinates me to speak to collectors from the United Kingdom, as it's sometimes surprising to see how differently two different cultures can treat the same hobby.

Both Don Denman (of Stamp Smarter) and Casey Jo White touched on the future of the hobby. Denman's website is an exceptional resource for collectors, utilizing the internet's potential to disseminate information at no cost. White, a relative newcomer to the hobby, has immersed herself completely in all aspects of stamp collecting, from researching century-and-a-half-old local posts to producing her own first day covers. Both conversations were thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening for Michael and I.

Touching on philately's past, Marcus Orsi and Devlan Kruck of David Feldman gave Michael and I some insight into their Museum of Philately



project, which seeks to preserve important collections digitally and trace the provenance of the hobby's most significant items. The

website (www.museumofphilately.com) is a must-visit for collectors looking to understand how far the hobby has come over the last 150 years.

And lastly, I was thrilled to be able to attend my first stamp show in over a year in St. Louis. Being able to touch base with Michael via FaceTime (and bring Alex Haimann on with me) was an exciting opportunity to provide some real-time reporting on the current state of our beloved hobby.



In the popular podcast 'Conversations with philatelists' Michael Cortese of NobleSpirit and Charles Epting of H.R. Harmer interview philatelists around the world. Find out more and watch the episodes at: www.philatelypodcast.com and read updates on the interviews in every issue of Stamp Collector magazine.

POSTMARKS

To Mayotte ...and back

Obtaining a postmark often results in an interesting item as this month's example demonstrates, writes David Gwynn. One way of getting a postmark is to send a cover 'Poste Restante' to the appropriate post office, hoping it will be postmarked before being sent back.

I wanted to try this method once again, as it has been quite a few years since I last tried it. I had success then, and luckily I had success this time. The postmark I wanted was from Mtzamboro on the island of Mayotte. Mayotte chose to remain part of France when the Comoros became an independent state.

So I sent a cover to a fictitious person 'Poste Restante' at the post office there. I just put my return address on the back and waited. I sent this off in October and it must have been held at the post office for about three weeks before being returned to me. It acquired a self-adhesive label explaining why the cover was being returned and a decent strike of the '976 MTZAMBORO/MAYOTTE' datestamp. The stamp I had used on the cover had not been postmarked here in the UK, so as an added bonus, it was

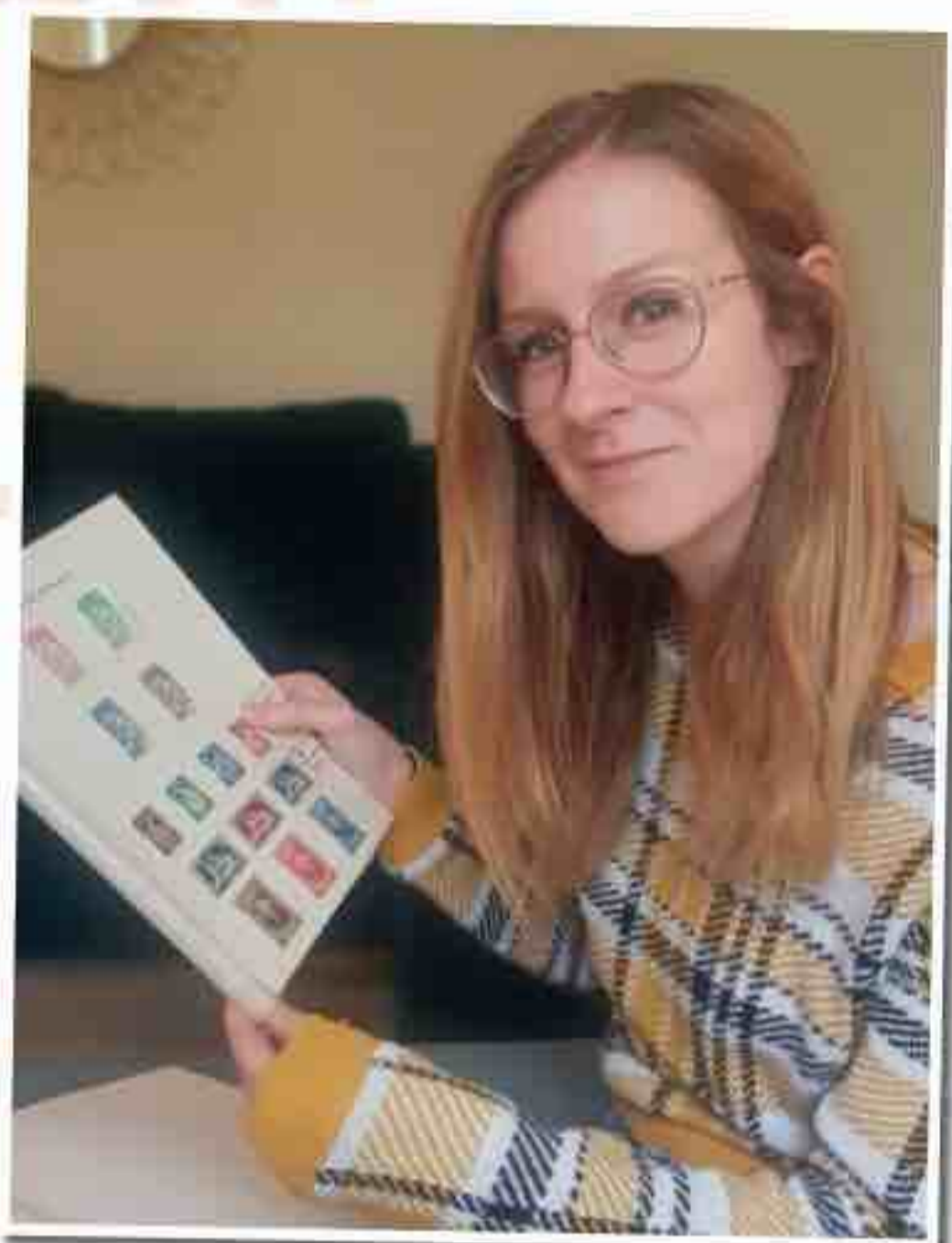


noticed on its way back and cancelled with a 'LA POSTE 4572*/FRANCE' datestamp. This might have been done on Mayotte, but it is more likely that it was applied in France before onward transmission to the UK.

The result of my efforts is a nice cover with decent postmarks and a bit of a story too. Try this yourself and see what happens, and if you're successful be sure to let us know!

Adventures of a STAMP NEWBIE

COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS



One of the joys of collecting is that it's a cheap way to amass little pieces of art, writes Laura McInerney. Each piece of paper is its own beautiful object. Yet, the small size of the items makes them challenging to show off. Collectors of pottery, or paintings, or model toy cars, can easily display their wares. What options are there for a stamp collector?

As a newbie, I was delighted to discover that Suzanne Rae, who is also the chair of The Philatelic Traders' Society, has been on a mission to make stamps more visible for many years. Her website, Art Stamped (www.artstamped.com), shows a gallery full of artworks created using stamps. Pandas, cricket balls, the London skyline: if you can think of it, she can recreate it in philately! If you have a partner who is jealous of the attention your collection gets, then it might be worth nicking Suzanne's idea of making a heart-shaped card out of stamps depicting things that are meaningful to your partner. Think about their favourite hobbies, places, or colours. And if you can find a stamp marked with their birthdate, that's a big win.

If hanging stamps on your wall is too dramatic, how about wearing them? Signature Stamps sell tiny metal and glass frames that house individual stamps and can be turned into a charm for a necklace. Or, add a large ribbon to the frame and use it as a bookmark to keep your place in the latest stamp auction catalogue that's turned up at your door.

Should you want something more classic, then a final option is to check out Tonia Jillings' (www.toniajillings.co.uk) brilliant paintings, which take a modern stamp as their inspiration and then builds the scene outwards. For example, a 1979 GB stamp of bluebells under a tree becomes a full-blown countryside scene once in Jillings' hands.

Of course, there is a downside to these projects. The stamps are not treated as frail objects. They're shredded, clipped and painted over. But all three artists use stamps which are in fulsome supply and, with a new generation of collectors starting to come through, they will likely value transformations as much as, if not more, than hidden collections. Indeed, Rae's website currently shows a beautiful frieze of a Tiger made from modern, used British and Netherlands definitives. On their own, the stamps would be worth less than £50. Put together, the picture's price tag is £3,000. Value, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.



Examples of Stefan van Zoggel's fantasy Star Wars stamps, see more at his website: stefanvanzoggel.myportfolio.com

Each month we answer Laura's questions about the hobby, feel free to send in your advice!

'Stamp Art' might seem like sacrilege to many philatelists, but as Laura points out, nobody is painting over rare £5 Oranges or snipping away at examples of the 1935 Prussian Blue. The artists that use postage stamps to create new pieces of art are almost always collectors too, and their clever use of the medium can enhance the original stamp designs, or at least add a new angle to the aesthetics of a certain stamp. No wonder more and more collectors are adding these slightly larger pieces of art to their albums, or perhaps to their living room walls.

There's another way in which art and stamps collide that, once again, celebrates the stamp format and history whilst adding a whole new, intriguing element.

Artistamps, also referred to as faux or fantasy stamps, take the familiar format of the postage stamp and create brand new designs. Some artists create stamps issued by imaginary nations or worlds, creating dramatic landscapes, characters and events from fictional worlds; others come up with their own designs for existing entities; and then there's the satirical designs that poke fun at politics.

Take London-based graphic artist Stefan van Zoggel, for example. He combined his love of the Star Wars universe with philately and created imagined stamps issued by planets in the film series; he even created a postmark featuring droid R2D2 as the postmaster general of the galaxy. It might sound a little frivolous, but the stamp designs are clearly influenced by real classic stamps; they could almost go unnoticed in an album of early British Empire.

Taking a more serious approach, British artist Steve McQueen, the director of the Oscar-winning film *Twelve Years a Slave*, created his 'Queen and Country' artwork, a set of 155 sheets of stamps, each sheet commemorating a soldier who was killed in the Iraq War between 2003 and 2008. The work was a co-commission between the Manchester International Festival and the Imperial War Museum. Speaking to *The Guardian* newspaper when the artwork was revealed in 2007, McQueen said: 'I was thinking of something else, relaxed, sticking a stamp on my tax return in Amsterdam. The stamp had a picture of Vincent van Gogh on it. And then it hit me – a stamp has a beautiful scale, the proportions are right, the image, it is recognisable, and then it goes out into the world, who knows where. Perfect. Wonderful.' We'd have to agree.

Artistic envelopes

In this fascinating article from the archives, John Tingey, author of *The Englishman Who Posted Himself and Other Curious Objects*, describes the wonderful world of Mail Art

When I first started collecting the postal curios of W Reginald Bray I had never heard of the expression 'Mail Art' or its relevance to Bray's postal activities. Early on in my research I encountered an artist whose interest in Bray was partly due to coming across a Churchmans' Cigarette card that described how he had sent various curious items through the post, including himself. The more I found out about Bray and his antics, the more I realised that he was an early pioneer of an art form that hadn't even been defined yet.

It is generally accepted that the term 'Mail Art' was first coined back in the 1960s when an American, Ray Johnson, became a leading pioneer in the free interchange of art through the international postal system. The origins can probably be traced back to 1840 when the Post Office introduced the illustrated pre-paid envelopes and letter sheets designed by William Mulready. They were much derided by the general public and soon a variety of privately-produced caricatures, lampooning the overly patriotic design, started to appear on the market. It was the enhancement of these, by hand-colouring, that could be regarded as the birth of Mail Art. It did not take too long for talented individuals to realise that they were not restricted to sending plain envelopes through the post and that they could enhance them with their own paintings and drawings.

So, what exactly is Mail Art? Finding an answer is not straightforward since there does not seem to be a universally agreed definition but rather a loose collection of principles and etiquette. The simplest way is to think of it as 'art that uses the postal system as its medium', though that doesn't make it much clearer. Another version could be 'art in a form that can be appreciated by all those who handle it as it travels through the post' – in other words, it should be visible to the handler and not concealed inside protective wrappings such as an envelope, packet or carton. However, even this is not definitive since some mail-artists do send their artwork inside plain envelopes. But, to be fair, most Mail Art is visible as it travels through the postal system. Mail Art can also be referred to as Postal Art or Correspondence Art.

Mail Art is usually, but not always, non-commercial. This means that it is created and sent free of charge by the artist to the recipient who keeps it. The etiquette is that they are honour-bound to reciprocate by posting some Mail Art back to the sender. An exception to this is the Mail Art 'call' where an artist invites submissions, often themed, to be sent to them for display and inclusion in a catalogue or online blog.

This just leaves the question of the actual format that Mail Art takes; what does it look like? Again, there are no hard and fast rules, but it usually falls

into one of two main categories. The first of these, and less common, is where an ordinary object is sent though the post 'unwrapped'. The sender simply writes a name and address on the object, sticks on the postage stamps, and pops it into a post-box or takes it down to the local Post Office and persuades the counter clerk to accept it as legitimate. As long as it does not contravene the regulations the item should eventually end up at its intended

destination, very much as Bray's hat, shoe, cigarette, bicycle pump and rabbit's skull travelled through the post unscathed. The second, and by far the most prolific, takes the form of decorated envelopes, cards and even cardboard boxes.

Amongst the techniques used for adornment are hand-drawn or painted artwork, collage, rubber stamp impressions and computer art. Using a good variety of pictorial stamps is common practice. Mail-artists are also fond of creating their own postage stamp-like labels. These 'artistamps' are similar to poster stamps but are privately produced and, as with the artwork itself, non-commercial. Whilst the best artistamps are printed on professional-looking gummed, perforated, paper it is quite acceptable to print them out and separate them with a pair of craft 'stamp' scissors.

Soon after my book about Bray was published I started receiving e-mails from mail-artists from around the world expressing how pleased they were to be able to read about his pioneering efforts. Many of them very kindly sent Mail Art to me. Of course, the etiquette demanded that I respond in kind but since I have limited artistic talent I had to find a style that would be appropriate. The answer lay with Bray; I decided to create cards with the recipient's address presented in puzzle form. Using a mixture of computer graphics, collage, rubber stamp impressions and my own artistamps, I set about creating and despatching Mail Art to all parts of the globe.

One of the great appeals of Mail Art is in rediscovering the joys of what might be delivered by the postman. So much of our mail these days is bland commercial white envelopes or junk (or both) with only the occasional definitive postage stamp which has probably not even been cancelled by the Royal Mail. Mail Art takes me back to the childhood delight of seeing letters arrive from strange places adorned with an array of unusual stamps. Even the postman seems to be amused by some of the strange items that he has delivered. In addition to receiving beautifully illustrated cards and envelopes I have been sent a handkerchief, a beer mat, a cassette tape, a packet of Christmas flags and even the cardboard tube from inside a roll of kitchen towel.

Anyone can create Mail Art; all you need is a bit of imagination and a friend to send it to. Hopefully you will receive something in return that will bring a smile to your face. You never know, you could even be creating a collectable of the future.



N, S, T, A, E, T, I, I



Puzzle card sent to Matthew Hill at *Stamp Collector* with the address in the form of a scrabble board. The techniques used include computer graphics, an artistamp and a rubber stamp impression. Sadly this cover never arrived at the magazine's Leeds office

POST & GO

Estonia joins the Post & Go club

Towards the end of 2020 Estonia became the latest nation to begin using Post & Go stamps, writes Stuart Leigh. Omniva is an international post and logistics company based in Tallinn, Estonia, the company was previously called Eesti Post. Omniva retains the name Eesti Post for the division of the company responsible for the postal service of Estonia, and that is the name on their stamps.

Estonia's first stamp kiosk, supplied by Intelligent AR (similar to those seen at exhibitions like Stampex) is located in Tallinn. You can choose between four different values from the machine, national standard letter rate of €0.90, national large letter rate of €1.75, international standard letter rate of €1.90 and international large letter rate of €4.85.

The first set of stamps has the title 'Visit Estonia' issued on 26 November 2020. They use photographs by renowned Estonian photographers, the first three

by Kaupo Kalda and the fourth by Krister Rajandu.

The first image is the well-known Old Town of Tallinn, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the second is selected as a contrast to Tallinn's new and modern skyscraper quarter, the third is in the photographer's gallery entitled 'Summer Evening in Hiiumaa' and in the foreground the Flower Windmill. The fourth is also a sunset photographed in Hiiumaa, and the Tahkuna lighthouse can be seen in the distance.

The second issue was a Christmas issue on 8 December 2020, with a single design depicting traditional Christmas cookies with the same denominations.

There are two kiosks, one carrying the machine designation EE01, which is located at the Post Office – Pallasti 28 – 10001 Tallinn. The second is a back office unit EE04 at the Philatelic Bureau in Tallinn which does not issue receipts.



FIRST DAY COVERS

Creating a 1937 Coronation Master List

We need Your help, writes Brian Austin. At Buckingham Covers, we love our early First Day Covers. Over the last 35 years I have heard many times there are over 200 different illustrations on the 1937 Coronation issue, but has anyone ever tried to prove this?

Well at Buckingham Covers we have taken up this challenge. We have put together all the scans we could find on a special page on our website: www.buckinghamcovers.com/1937 and now we need your help; do you

have any illustrated covers which we have not listed on the website, could you supply us with scans of any?

The 1937 Coronation website idea has been nagging away at me for a few years. The catalogue producers of the 1970s and 1980s (Jeffrey Booth, Bernard Townsend and Tony Buckingham) always stated that there were over 200 different illustrated covers, but where did they get this figure and what did it included are now lost in the mists of time.

I like to think of 1937 as a great time for collectors, with a stamp shop in every town and lots of collectors and dealers wanting to mark the Coronation with a first day cover, with, in addition to that, some people just using random envelopes to get a first day cover.

My guidelines are that the cover has to have the British stamp on it and dated 13 May 1937 with an illustration of some sort, this could be printed, hand painted or even advertising. In an ideal world we would love a scan saved as a jpg file saved at 300dpi, if not possible send, the best you can or even a good close-up photograph from a mobile phone.

Email any you have to betty@buckinghamcovers.com with the subject '1937 Coronation'. Our hope is this will create a great archive of this classic issue with free access for everyone. We'll keep *Stamp Collector* readers updated on our progress.

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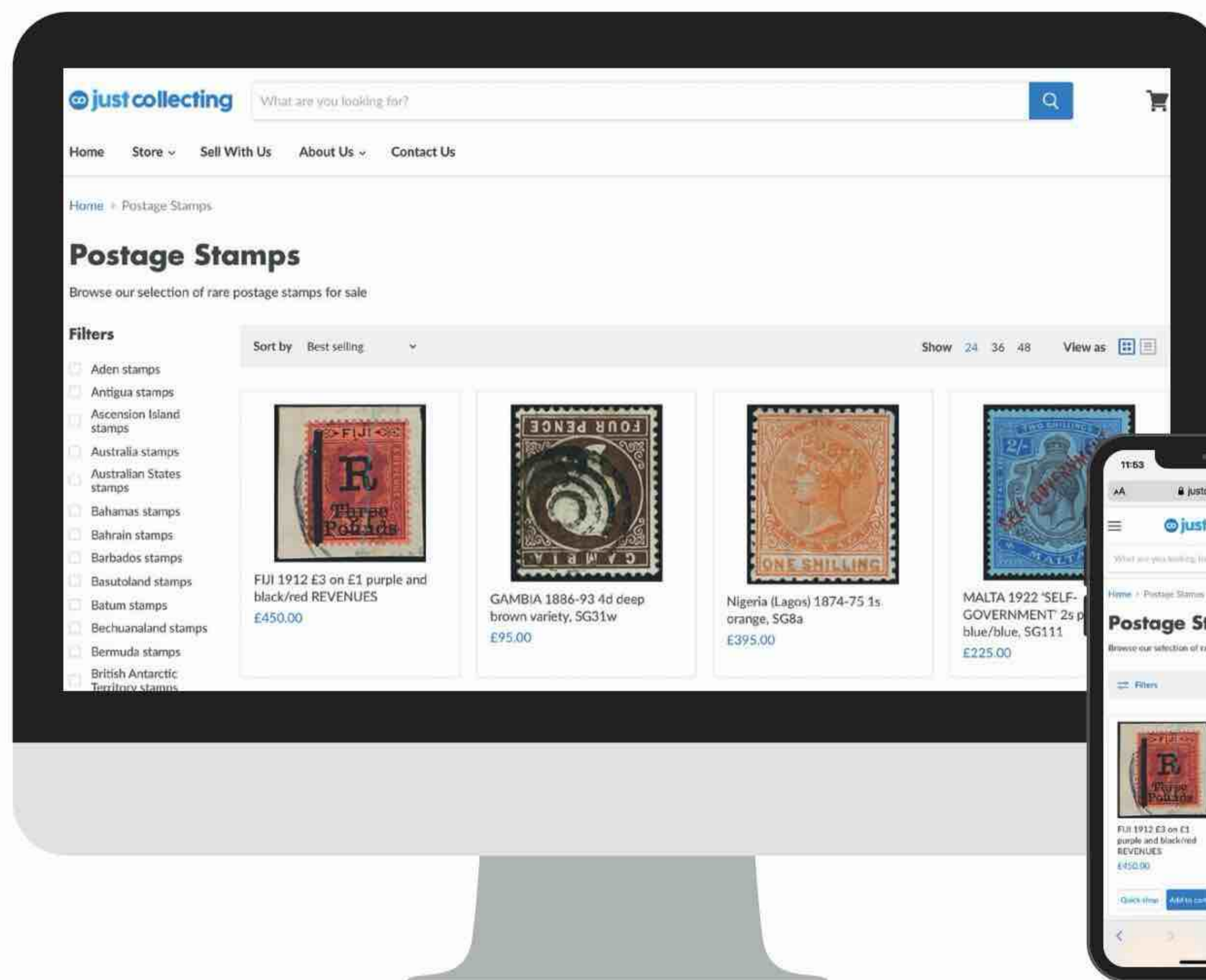


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Unrest in Bangladesh

In the second part of our series on stamps and postal history that reflect and recall national unrest, David Bailey takes a look at Bangladesh and Spain

The partition of India in 1947 created two countries spread across three areas. West Pakistan comprised Baluchistan and Sindh plus part of what had been the Punjab. East Bengal (later East Pakistan) comprised part of Bengal. Between them lay India, with its Hindu majority.

However, the two halves of the country had very little in common. Bengal had a long history and had evolved its own language and culture. It also had an agrarian economy, while West Pakistan was becoming increasingly industrialised. The two halves also began to diverge over the one thing they had in common: religion. West Pakistan saw a greater role for Islam in public affairs than the more secular Bengalis.

The country was ruled from the West. More money was spent on the West and as Pakistan's institutions evolved, two thirds of the country's elite civil servants came from the West.

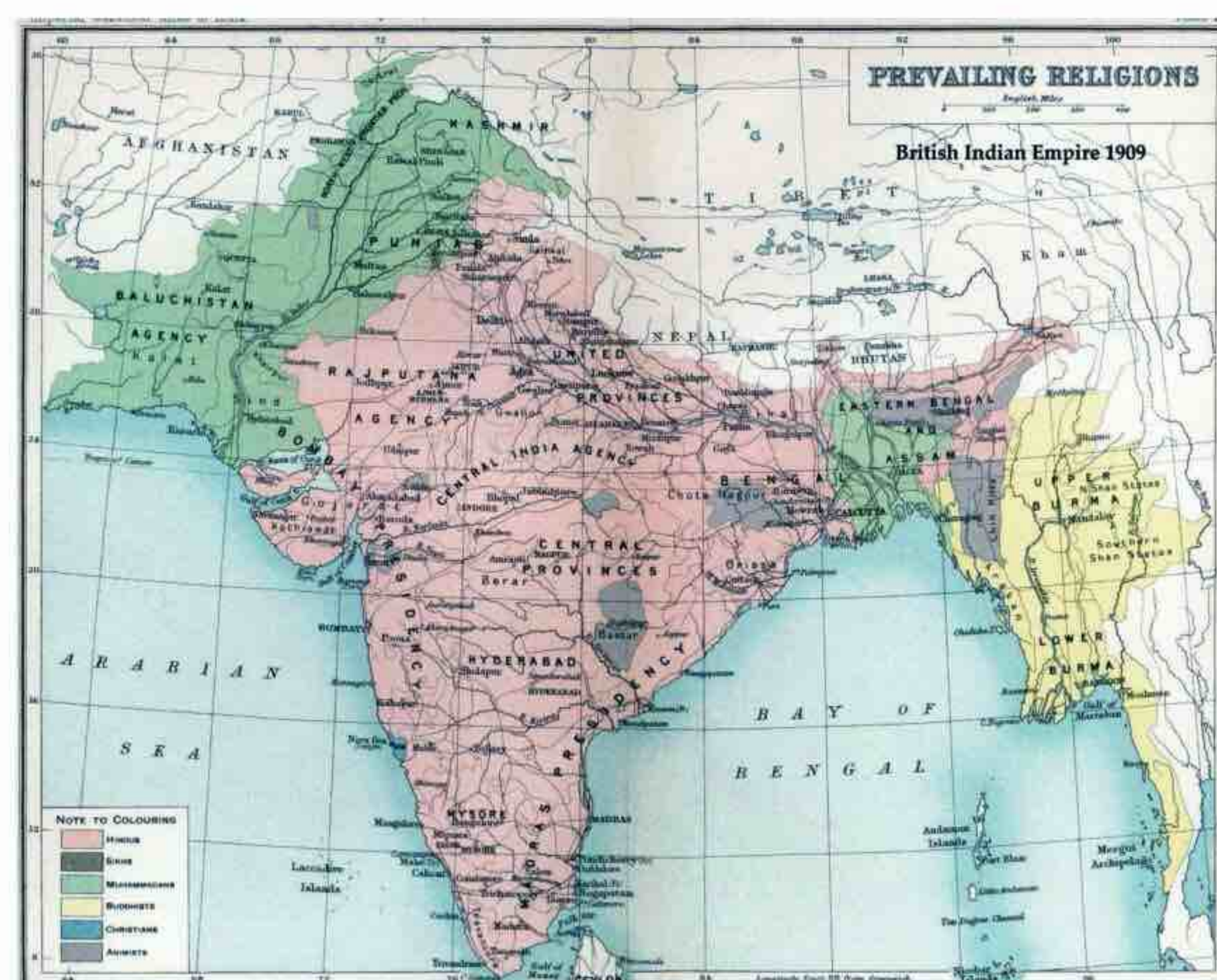
Widespread dissent and disaffection found its figurehead in Mujibur Rahman (Sheikh Mujib), a founding

member of the Awami League. The party was set up in 1949 as a reaction to the language controversy, when Mohammed Ali Jinnah has tried to make Urdu the one and only language of Pakistan. But it soon became a purely separatist party.

On the evening of 12 November 1970, the Bhola Cyclone came ashore in Bengal at the same time as high tide. The low-lying Ganges Delta was devastated and between 300,000 and 500,000 people lost their lives. The response from West Pakistan was seen as wholly inadequate and East Pakistan politicians accused it of 'gross neglect, callous and utter indifference.'

A General Election was held, as scheduled, in December, when the Awami League won 167 out of 169 seats, which gave it a majority in the national parliament. West Pakistan refused to recognise the result. Talks failed and Mujibar Rahman called a General Strike as unrest grew. Then on 25 March 1971, Pakistan's Operation Searchlight tried to crush Bengal by force, which triggered all-out war.

India, inevitably, got involved. Pakistan's tactics had hit the Hindu



Prevailing Religions of the British Indian Empire, 1909, showing Hindu in pink, Muslim in green, Sikh (small area in Punjab) in yellow, Buddhist (Burma and Chittagong Hill Tracts) in blue, Christian (Goa) in purple. Taken from *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Oxford University Press, 1909

population of Bangladesh and millions of refugees had crossed the border. This left Pakistan to face a lethal combination of conventional and guerrilla warfare. They surrendered on 16 December.

When war broke out, post offices and banks around the country began to overprint or handstamp the name 'Bangladesh' on their stocks of Pakistani stamps. These were in use from 1971 to 1973 and are found in black, green purple and red.

There is a bewildering variety of these, with the country names in English or Bengali or both. Specialists have done much work in cataloguing them. However, some base stamps are suspiciously old (1962 Malaria Eradication), handstamps are easy to make and up till at least 2015, they could be bought by the hundred in bags of Bengali mixture. So forgeries must be very common.

In India, the refugee crisis was causing





The first Bangladesh set on a special First Day Cover: a useful revenue earner; and the three 'Bangladesh Liberated' overprints sold in Bangladesh

Previous page: India Refugee Overprint levying the 5p tax; the refugee stamp design; and three types of overprint – on the current definitives of Pakistan and an early commemorative

massive problems; they suddenly had around 10 million extra mouths to feed. The government responded by levying a 5 paisa tax on all correspondence except postcards; this lasted until 1973. First, the 5p definitive was overprinted in red with four different overprints. This was followed by a special stamp showing refugees.

Bangladesh's first stamps were issued on 29 July 1971, while the war was still on and were designed to rally the people at home, encourage support from abroad and raise money. Of its designs, the Dacca University Massacre came during Operation Searchlight and the 98% figure on the ballot box is the Awami league's share of the vote.

After independence, the whole set was overprinted 'Bangladesh Liberated' for sale in London but only the 10p, 5r and 10r values were sold in Bangladesh.

Spanish Civil War



Spanish children preparing for evacuation during the Spanish Civil War, some giving the Republican salute. The photograph was donated to Wikipedia Commons by the estate of Olga Brocca Smith, and is dedicated to all innocent victims of war (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license)

In the years leading up to the Civil War, Spain alternated between left-wing and right-wing coalition governments. But as the pendulum swung, it swung a little further each time.

Politics became polarised as common ground shrank. Extremist parties gathered support at both ends of the spectrum and measures taken by governments seemed designed to reward supporters and punish opponents, rather than to govern in the interests of all.

The centre-left coalition of 1936 took this to extremes. As US Historian Stanley Payne wrote: 'The frequent overt violations of the law, assaults on property, and political



Cover from Huelva to Belfast with a 50pta definitive and a local stamp reading 'Cocinas Economicas' – a fund-raising effort for poor relief, generally for food

until the end of the war. And many historians consider that the Nationalist Corpo Truppo Volontarie (mostly Italian) had the best equipment and the most advanced tactics in the war.

Aided by the Axis powers, the Nationalists advanced to conquer ever more of Spain, consolidating their positions with frequent atrocities. There were atrocities by Republicans, too, mainly against the Church, but the Nationalists used terror tactics as a matter of course, to eliminate future opposition to their regime

Another factor was cohesion. When General Franco inherited the leadership, Nationalist forces stayed united under him. But the Democrats wasted much time, lives and ammunition by fighting among themselves, with anarchists and Marxists vs socialists and Moscow communists in a 'Civil War within a Civil War'.

In June 1938 came an echo of the US Civil War, when a push towards the Mediterranean split the Republican territories in two. When Barcelona fell in January 1939, the cause was hopeless. Madrid surrendered on 29 March 1939.

Civil War Stamps

The Spanish Civil War generated more stamps and postal history than

violence in Spain were without precedent for a modern European country not undergoing total revolution. These included massive, sometimes violent and destructive strike waves, large-scale illegal seizures of farmland in the south, a wave of arson and destruction of property, arbitrary closure of Catholic schools, seizure of churches and Catholic property in some areas, widespread censorship, thousands of arbitrary arrests (and) virtual impunity for criminal action by members of Popular Front parties.'

A group of army officers based in Spanish Morocco decided that enough was enough and planned to restore order by launching a military coup.

Coups were not a new phenomenon in Spain. In 1923, Manuel Primo de Rivera had launched a successful coup to make himself dictator and there was a failed attempt by José Sanjurjo in 1932. There was even an accepted way of launching them. This was the 'Pronunciamiento', a declaration of military opposition which had been used since the 19th century in Spain, Portugal and Latin America.

The coup began in Morocco on 17 July, giving the rebels a secure overseas base and Spanish units rebelled the following day. However, many military units stayed loyal to the Government while others, notably in Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao, failed to take control of their towns. This was not the quick takeover they had anticipated. Two thirds of Spain remained in Republican hands and their forces

were evenly matched. This was going to be a long, bloody conflict, where outside support would be crucial.

Fearful of the war spreading across Europe, over two dozen countries signed a non-intervention pact – they included Russia, who continued to support the Republicans and Germany and Italy, who supplied the Nationalists with men and material, seeing the war as a chance to test out new weaponry and tactics in battlefield conditions. Foreign volunteers fought for both sides in the conflict – and often with distinction. The charismatic International Brigade conducted the successful defence of Madrid up



Above: fund-raising stamps from Antequera. Without the specialist catalogue, it is not always easy to tell which side produced which stamps. From left: charity stamp overprinted by Nationalists celebrating a victory; and a 1937 stamp promoting the far-right Falange 'Phalanx' party, showing its symbol of a yoke and five arrows and its founder, Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera, who had been tried and executed by the Republican Government the year before



The set of submarine stamps and, below, on a cover dated 14 August 1938, and sold by HR Harmer for \$425 (approximately £300)

Left: an airmail FDC with the stamp commemorating the anniversary of the US Constitution.



any other. As the USA society for Spanish stamps says: A catalogue of Spanish stamps from 1850 to 2019 has around 5,500 entries. A specialised catalogue for 1936 to 39 has twice that number.

Stamps – for surface mail, airmail and submarine

The Republican Government maintained a steady flow of new issues throughout the war, for postage, propaganda and, increasingly, fundraising. By 1938, there was a particular need for foreign currency, to buy armaments, medical supplies and food; nationalists controlled most of Spain's agricultural areas. They therefore set up the Agencia Filatelia Oficial in Barcelona, which would sell stamps for foreign currency only.

Meanwhile, there was trouble in the Balearic Islands. Menorca stayed loyal to the Government but Majorca and Ibiza had gone over to the Nationalists and Nationalist ships were blockading Port Mahon

Head of the Agencia, Don Arturo Noguera, came up with an idea:

use a Republican submarine to run the blockade, bring much-needed supplies to the island, score a propaganda victory, and carry letters, with very special stamps.

Local firm Olivia de Vilanova produced a set of six values in single colours plus a miniature sheet that showed three values in two colours. All were valid for normal postage but were only available at the Agencia – and for twice face value.

At 8pm on 12 August, submarine C4 set sail, carrying 400 covers and 100 postcards. It arrived at Port Mahon at 1pm a day later; it remained in port until the 17th and was safely back in Barcelona by the 18th. It carried a passenger: US Journalist Werner Kell, who

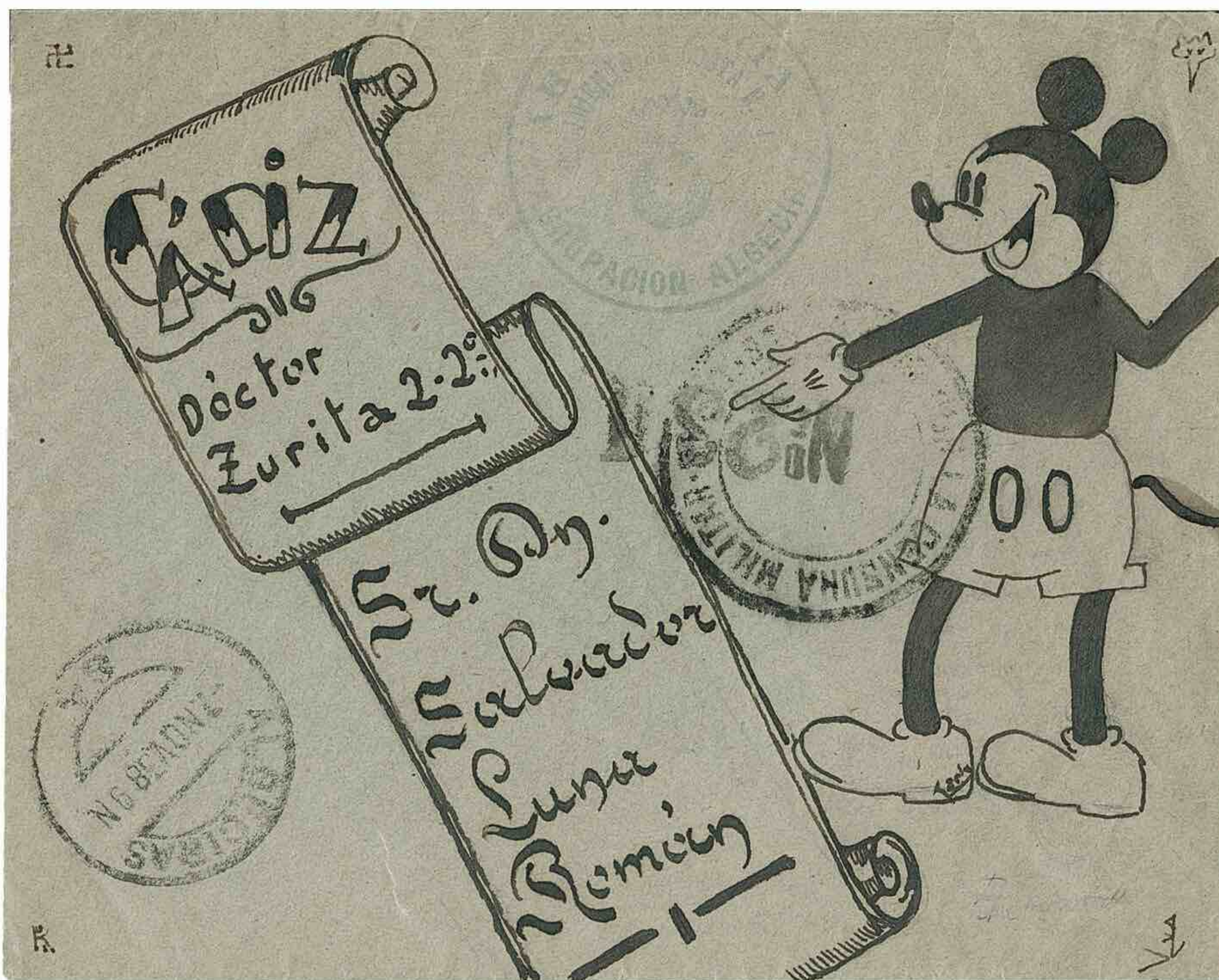
recorded the voyage and its cargo in detail and wrote it up for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Nationalist authorities were also issuing stamps from September 1936: firstly as the 'Junta of National Defence' and then simply as 'Spain'. But inevitably, there were shortages, so many revenue stamps were used for postage

This was officially authorised in Nationalist areas from November 1936. Elsewhere, it was allowed by post offices when no other stamps were available.

Local issues

As the country fragmented into warzones, individual towns and cities started issuing their own stamps for a



variety of purposes; for postage, to boost morale, promote a particular faction or raise money for medicines or munitions.

Gibbons Spain and Colonies catalogue lists stamps from twenty areas, whose use was authorised by the local authorities. Most of these are overprints on stocks of Republican stamps and trace the course of the war as territories changed hands. These are known as 'Patriotic Overprints' in Spain.

Spain's various separatist movements saw the war as their chance to break away; seven of them issued stamps. And then there are the Poster Stamps with no postal validity, created to promote a cause.

In the 90-odd years since the war ended, all these issues have been studied, authenticated and categorised, allowing collectors to identify, or specialise in particular stamps.

Even errors and varieties have been

A little light relief: a stampless cover sent from Algeciras to Cadiz, complete with an Algeciras circular date stamp, military censor handstamp, and hand-drawn Mickey Mouse (image courtesy of Robert Siegel Auctions)

Right: Republican propaganda stamps often feature strong colours and graphics

Left: Republican charity stamp for the defence of Madrid, which was available as a stamp or mini-sheet. As with the US Constitution stamp, the airmail overprint is frequently forged



researched: and understandably, there are a lot of those.

Postal history

Here again, there is a mass of material. Both sides ran POW camps, or labour camps; there were even prison ships, with collectable letters to and from their inmates. The Spanish Navy was divided between both sides, and mail from warships forms a distinct collecting category. Many Republicans sought refuge in France and wrote home from refugee camps. Mail from the International Brigades is also eagerly collected.

On the Nationalist side, there is mail from German troops, as well as from the Corpo Truppe Volontarie. And everywhere, there are censor marks, which are a study in themselves.

The Spanish Civil War is collected widely across Europe and in the USA, but not so much in this country. The leading specialist in these stamps, Colectalia, is based in Spain; their website makes an inspiring introduction to the field. And of course, eBay and Delcampe have an international reach and list a wide range of material.



Thanks to Colectalia, the Stamp Forum, Robert Siegel Auctions, Spanish Philatelic Society for information and images used in this article

GB 1924-2016 COMMEMORATIVES UM

DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M
1924	Wembley	11.50	1970	Cottages	0.20	1982	Christmas	1.00	1993	Greetings	8.50	2001	Christmas	4.30	2009	Eminent Britons	8.50
1925	Wembley	33.00	1970	Anniversaries	0.30	1982	COMPLETE YEAR	6.50	1993	Clocks	1.20	2001	COMPLETE YEAR	42.50	2009	Olympics	8.50
1929	P.U.C.	12.50	1970	Dickens	0.40	1983	Fishes	0.90	1993	Orchids	1.40	2002	Kipling Stories	8.50	2009	Christmas	6.50
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	140.00	1970	Games	0.30	1983	Commonwealth	0.90	1993	Art	1.20	2002	Golden Jubilee	4.30	2009	COMPLETE YEAR	66.00
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	40.00	1970	Philympia	0.30	1983	Engineering	0.65	1993	Roman	1.20	2002	Occasions	4.25	2010	Album Covers	8.50
1935	Jubilee	3.50	1970	Christmas	0.20	1983	Uniforms	1.10	1993	Canals	1.20	2002	Coastlines	3.00	2010	Royal Society	8.50
1935	Jubilee Inv.	18.00	1970	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1983	Gardens	0.95	1993	Autumn	1.40	2002	Queen Mother	3.30	2010	Dogs and Cats	8.50
1937	Coronation	0.10	1971	Ulster	0.20	1983	Fairs	0.95	1993	Holmes	1.20	2002	Circus	4.25	2010	Stewart	6.00
1940	Centenary	2.70	1971	Literary	0.20	1983	Christmas	1.00	1993	Christmas	1.50	2002	Aircraft	4.25	2010	Mammals	8.50
1946	Victory	0.10	1971	Gen. Annivs	0.25	1983	COMPLETE YEAR	6.00	1993	COMPLETE YEAR	18.00	2002	C.wealth Games	4.25	2010	LONDON 2010(6v)	9.00
1948	Wedding	12.50	1971	Universities	0.30	1984	Heraldry	0.95	1994	Railway	1.50	2002	Peter Pan	4.25	2010	Britain Alone	6.50
1948	Liberation	0.10	1971	Christmas	0.20	1984	Cattle	1.10	1994	Greetings	8.50	2002	London Bridges	4.25	2010	Stuart	6.00
1948	Olympics	1.50	1971	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1984	Urban Renewal	0.95	1994	Paintings	1.50	2002	Pillar Boxes	4.25	2010	Olympics	8.50
1949	U.P.U.	0.30	1972	Explorers	0.30	1984	Europa	0.75	1994	Postcards	1.50	2002	Christmas	4.25	2010	Railways	5.50
1951	Festival	0.10	1972	Gen. Annivs	0.25	1984	Summit	0.30	1994	Tunnel	1.20	2002	COMPLETE YEAR	50.00	2010	Medical	5.50
1953	Coronation	9.00	1972	Churches	0.40	1984	Meridian	0.95	1994	D-Day	1.25	2003	Birds of Prey	8.50	2010	Pooh	5.50
1957	Scouts	2.00	1972	BBC	0.30	1984	Royal Mail	0.80	1994	Golf	1.50	2003	Occasions	5.00	2010	Christmas	7.00
1957	Parliament	0.20	1972	Christmas	0.20	1984	Council	1.00	1994	Four Seasons	1.50	2003	The Secret of Life	4.30	2010	COMPLETE YEAR	87.50
1958	Games	0.50	1972	S. Wedding	0.30	1984	Christmas	1.15	1994	Medical	1.30	2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	8.50	2011	Gerry Anderson	6.00
1960	G.L.O.	1.20	1972	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1984	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	1994	Christmas	1.50	2003	Endeavours	4.75	2011	Musicals	7.50
1960	Europa	1.25	1973	E.E.C.	0.30	1985	Trains	1.30	1994	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	2003	The Coronation	8.50	2011	Magical Realms	7.00
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.50	1973	Tree	0.10	1985	Insects	1.30	1995	Cats	1.50	2003	Prince William	3.10	2011	WWF	8.50
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10	1973	Explorers	0.45	1985	Composers	1.00	1995	Springtime	1.50	2003	Scotland	4.70	2011	Shakespeare	6.00
1961	Parliament	0.70	1973	Crickets	0.30	1985	Safety at Sea	1.00	1995	Greetings	8.50	2003	Pub Signs	4.00	2011	Morris	6.00
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.50	1973	Paintings	0.35	1985	Royal Mail	1.00	1995	N.Trust	1.50	2003	Transport Toys	4.00	2011	Thomas	6.00
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	8.50	1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	1985	Legends	1.00	1995	Europa/Peace	1.20	2003	British Museum	4.70	2011	Olympics	8.50
1963	F.F.H. (O)	0.50	1973	Parliament	0.25	1985	Film Stars	1.30	1995	Science Fiction	1.30	2003	Christmas	5.50	2011	Crown Jewels	7.50
1963	F.F.H. (P)	8.50	1973	Wedding	0.25	1985	Christmas	1.00	1995	Shakespeare	1.25	2003	COMPLETE YEAR	60.00	2011	Hanover	6.00
1963	Paris (O)	0.10	1973	Christmas	0.70	1985	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1995	Communications	1.40	2004	Locomotives	3.80	2011	UK A-Z Part 1	10.00
1963	Paris (P)	1.50	1973	COMPLETE YEAR	2.80	1986	Industry	1.00	1995	Rugby League	1.50	2004	Occasions	4.25	2011	Christmas	8.00
1963	Nature (O)	0.10	1974	Tree	0.10	1986	Comet	1.00	1995	Christmas	1.75	2004	Lord of the Rings	8.50	2011	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
1963	Nature (P)	0.80	1974	Fire	0.35	1986	Birthdays	1.00	1995	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	2004	Northern Ireland	4.70	2012	Olympics - 4v	8.00
1963	Lifeboat (O)	0.75	1974	UPU	0.30	1986	Nature	1.00	1996	Burns	1.40	2004	Entente Cordiale	1.00	2012	Roald Dahl	6.00
1963	Lifeboat (P)	15.00	1974	Britons	0.35	1986	Medieval Life	1.00	1996	Greetings	8.50	2004	Ocean Liners	4.60	2012	Windsor	5.50
1963	Red Cross (O)	1.50	1974	Churchill	0.35	1986	Sports	1.30	1996	Greetings (Phos)	17.00	2004	Horticultural	4.70	2012	Britons	8.50
1963	Red Cross (P)	20.00	1974	Christmas	0.30	1986	Royal Wedding	0.30	1996	Wildfowl	1.50	2004	Wales	3.40	2012	Comics	8.50
1963	Cable (O)	0.50	1974	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1986	Parliament	0.35	1996	Cinema	1.50	2004	Society of Arts	3.50	2012	UK A-Z Part 2	11.50
1963	Cable (P)	4.00	1975	Charity	0.05	1986	R.A.F.	1.30	1996	Football	1.80	2004	Woodland Animals	8.50	2012	Fashion	8.50
1964	Shakes (O)	1.20	1975	Turner	0.30	1986	Christmas 6v	1.10	1996	Olympics	1.30	2004	The Crimean War	4.30	2012	Diamond Jubilee	10.00
1964	Shakes (P)	3.50	1975	Architecture	0.40	1986	COMPLETE YEAR	8.80	1996	Women/Europa	1.50	2004	Christmas	4.30	2012	Dickens	8.00
1964	Geog (O)	0.90	1975	Sailing	0.35	1987	Flowers	1.00	1996	Childrens TV	1.50	2004	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00	2012	Space Science	7.00
1964	Geog (P)	8.00	1975	Railway	0.35	1987	Newton	1.00	1996	Cars	1.80	2005	Farm Animals	8.50	2012	Lest - Poppy	1.20
1964	Bot (O)	0.90	1975	Parliament	0.15	1987	Architecture	1.00	1996	Christmas	2.85	2005	S. West England	3.50	2012	Christmas	9.00
1964	Bot (P)	8.00	1975	Austen	0.40	1987	St Johns	1.00	1996	COMPLETE YEAR	37.50	2005	Jane Eyre	4.20	2012	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.10	1975	Christmas	0.40	1987	Heraldry	1.00	1997	Greetings	8.50	2005	Magic	3.50	2013	London Underground	6.00
1964	F.R.B. (P)	1.75	1975	COMPLETE YEAR	2.20	1987	Victorian Britain	1.00	1997	Tudor	1.90	2005	World Heritage	5.25	2013	Jane Austen	6.50
1965	Churchill (O)	0.15	1976	Telephone	0.45	1987	Pottery	1.00	1997	Faith	1.70	2005	Trooping The Colour	4.30	2013	Doctor Who	9.00
1965	Churchill (P)	0.60	1976	Reformers	0.45	1987	Christmas	1.20	1997	Terror Legends	1.40	2005	Motorcycles	3.50	2013	Great Britons	8.50
1965	Parliament (O)	0.30	1976	USA	0.10	1987	COMPLETE YEAR	7.50	1997	Architects of the Air	1.90	2005	Battle of Trafalgar	3.90	2013	Football Heroes	9.50
1965	Parliament (P)	0.20	1976	Roses	0.45	1988	Linnean Society	1.10	1997	Horse	1.50	2005	Christmas	4.30	2013	Coronation Anniversary	8.00
1965	Army (O)	0.25	1976	Culture	0.45	1988	Welsh Bible	1.10	1997	Post Offices	1.50	2005	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00	2013	Butterflies	8.50
1965	Army (P)	0.50	1976	Caxton	0.45	1988	Sports	1.10	1997	Enid Blyton	1.85	2006	Animal Tales	5.25	2013	Auto Legends	8.00
1965	Lister (O)	0.25	1976	Christmas	0.40	1988	Transport	1.10	1997	Christmas	2.85	2006	England	8.50	2013	Merchant Navy	7.00
1965	Lister (P)	0.50	1976	COMPLETE YEAR	2.60	1988	Australia	1.00	1997	Golden Wedding	1.60	2006	Brunel	3.40	2013	Dinosaurs	9.00
1965	Arts (O)	0.25	1977	Sports	0.45	1988	Armada	0.90	1997	COMPLETE YEAR	22.50	2006	Ice Age Animals	3.50	2013	Christmas	8.50
1965	Arts (P)	0.70	1977	Chemistry	0.45	1988	Lear	1.10	1998	Endangered	2.20	2006	Queen's Birthday	5.25	2013	Childrens Christmas (2v)	2.50
1965	B.O.B. (O)	2.75	1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.55	1988	Christmas	1.25	1998	Diana	1.30	2006	World Cup Winners	3.60	2013	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	3.50	1977	Government	0.15	1988	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1998	Queens Beasts	1.30	2006	Architecture	3.60	2014	Childrens TV	12.00
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.10	1977	Wildlife	0.50	1989	Birds	1.10	1998	Lighthouses	1.90	2006	Portrait Gallery	8.50	2014	Working Horses	7.00
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.10	1977	Christmas	0.50	1989	Greetings	4.00	1998	Comedians	1.90	2006	Victoria Cross	4.40	2014	Remarkable Lives	8.50
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.25	1977	COMPLETE YEAR	2.40	1989	Food	1.10	1998	Health	1.50	2006	Sounds of Britain	3.60	2014	Buckingham Palace	6.00
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.50	1978	Energy	0.45	1989	Anniversaries	1.10	1998	Fantasy	1.90	2006	Smilers	5.50	2014	Great British Film	8.00
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.25	1978	Buildings	0.45	1989	Microscopes	1.10	1998	Carnival	1.50	2006	Christmas	5.50	2014	Sustainable Fish	9.00
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.40	1978	Coronation	0.45	1989	Mayor	1.00	1998	Speed	1.80	2006	COMPLETE YEAR	56.00	2014	Commonwealth Games	9.00
1966	Burns (O)	0.15	1978	Horses	0.45	1989	Christmas	1.20	1998	Christmas	1.70	2007	Beatles	4.50	2014	The Great War	9.00
1966	Burns (P)	0.50	1978	Cycling	0.45	1989	COMPLETE YEAR	12.00	1998	COMPLETE YEAR	16.00	2007	Sea Life	8.50	2014	Seaside Architecture	8.00
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20	1978	Christmas	0.45	1990	150th Anniv.	1.50	1999	Inventors	1.50	2007	Sky At Night	4.20	2014	Prime Ministers	9.50
1966	Abbey (P)	0.05	1978	COMPLETE YEAR	2.50	1990	RSPCA	1.20	1999	Travellers	1.50	2007	Inventions	4.40	2014	Christmas	10.00
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.20	1979	Dogs	0.45	1990	Greetings	4.00	1999	Patients	1.50	2007	Slave Trade	4.20	2014	COMPLETE YEAR	92.00
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.20	1979	Flowers	0.45	1990	Europa	1.00	1999	Settlers	1.50	2007	Seaside	4.00	2015	Alice In Wonderland	13.00
1966	W. Cup (O)	0.15	1979	Elections	0.45	1990	Queens Award	1.00	1999	Workers	1.50	2007	Grand Prix	4.40	2015	Smilers	13.50
1966	W.Cup (P)	0.15	1979	Racing	0.45	1990	Gardens	1.20	1999	Entertainers	1.50	2007	Harry Potter	6.00	2015	Inventive Britain	10.00
1966	Birds (O)	0.15	1979	Year Of Child	0.45	1990	Hardy	0.20	1999	Royal Wedding	0.85	2007	Scouts	4.00	2015	Bridges	9.00
1966	Birds (P)	0.15	1979	Rowland Hill	0.45	1990	Birthdays	1.20	1999	Citizens	1.50	2007	Birds	8.50	2015	Comedy Greats	9.00
1966	Winners	0.05	1979	Police	0.50	1990	Gallantry	1.00	1999	Scientists	1.50	2007	Uniforms	5.00	2015	Great War	9.00
1966	Technology (O)	0.15	1979	Christmas	0.55	1990	Astronomy	1.10	1999	People and Place	2.50	2007	Diamond Wedding	4.50	2015	Magna Carta	8.00
1966	Technology (P)	0.20	1979	COMPLETE YEAR	3.50	1990	Christmas	1.30	2000	Stone and Soil	2.50	2007	Christmas - 8v	7.00	2015	Battle of Waterloo	7.50
1966	Hastings (O)	0.40	1														



CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

CELEBRATED SETS

Bahawalpur... between India and Pakistan

In his latest guide to a notable stamp set to add to your collection, David Bailey discovers how a former Indian State used a brief period of independence to produce two brilliant sets

The Nawabs of Bahawalpur were some of the richest men in pre-partition India. They were members of the Abbasid family, descended from the Caliphs of Baghdad, who had taken over this area in 1746. The state lay at the junction of trade routes from the east, south-east and south. And the fertile plain of the Sutlej river, known as the Sindh, produced a rich harvest of saleable cops.

They used their wealth to endow the country with spectacular fortresses, palaces, mosques and other public buildings; many of which have deteriorated since partition. They were also connoisseurs of cars; in 2004, 26 classics acquired by the late Nawab Sadiq Mohammed Khan V were sold at auction for over 10m rupees. Many of these were Rolls Royces, but relations between the Nawab and the company had not always been good. The story goes that the Nawab visited their Bond Street showroom incognito and was offended by the treatment he received. He later made an 'official' visit, bought every car on display, shipped them out to Bahawalpur and had them used as dust-carts, carrying garbage round the city. This caused

Rolls Royce so much embarrassment that they made a full apology.

Bahawalpur stamps

The Nawabs of Bahawalpur had been wanting to issue their own stamps since the 1930s. A set was prepared by De la Rue in 1934, but the Indian Government refused to allow its use, so the (unwatermarked) stamps were used for revenue purposes.

In 1945, the stamps were re-issued as Official stamps, with an overprint in red and printed on paper with the star and crescent watermark. Later in the year, two of these stamps were also overprinted in black, with changed values. These are shown at the top of page 45.

Partition happened on 15 August 1947 and Bahawalpur became attached to Pakistan, but not fully a part of it.

Now, it could issue its own definitives but they would only be valid for mail within the state, otherwise, Pakistani stamps were used. Nevertheless, this set remains a philatelic tribute to the Nawabs, their state and their legacy of fine architecture.

The Official set 1/2a. Panjnan Wier

Bahawalpur is in the western Punjab, whose name means 'five rivers' and





which is known as the ‘breadbasket of Pakistan’. Wiers, or barrages are at the heart of the state’s irrigation system, enlarging its fertile area by millions of acres.

1a. Dromedary and calf

The single-humped dromedary is the tallest of the camel species and still used to carry loads and people in difficult terrain, as well as for racing. Female dromedaries give birth to a single calf after a 15-month gestation period. Today, all in Asia are domesticated. The only wild camels are found in Australia.

2a. Blackbuck

The blackbuck, or Indian antelope is native to Indian subcontinent – but is now extinct in Pakistan and largely confined to protected areas in India. It inhabits grassy plains and lightly forested areas where it eats sedges, fall witchgrass and mesquite. The males are noticeably larger and darker than the females – but females may also grow horns.

4a. Eastern White Pelicans

These large birds may look ungainly on land – but are streamlined, elegant fliers and swimmers, when they scoop up fish in their enormous bills. They turn pink in spring due to a change of diet and to signify readiness to mate. Two eggs are laid each year and the hatchlings are a dark grey colour.

8a. Friday Mosque Fort Derawar

Fort Derawar is a massive, square structure that towers over the Cholistan Desert. First constructed in the 9th century, it was rebuilt by the Abbasids in 1742, with forty massive bastions. The Friday Mosque is made of white marble and stands in front of the fort. It was built in 1849.

1r. Pattan Munara Temple

This is one of a string of Hindu temples along the banks of the Indus and in the Salt Range Mountains. They were built between the 6th and early 11th centuries, but much about them remains unknown. For



instance, it is not certain whether this structure is the tower (minar) or the temple itself.

The definitive set (3p, ½ a, 9p, 1a, 1½a, 1r, 2r and 5r. HH The Amir (formerly Nawab of Bahawalpur)

Sadeq Muhammad Khan Abbasi V was the twelfth and last ruler of Bahawalpur and was born in Fort Derewar in 1904. On 5 October 1947, he signed the accession agreement with Pakistan. It was formally accepted on the 9 October and Bahawalpur became the first state to fully join the new country. He was also a major benefactor. He gave 70M rupees to the treasury and paid all the civil servants’ wages for one month.

2a. Tombs of the Amirs

Situated near the Derawar Fort, this complex houses the graves of all the ruling Abbasid family. Mostly, they are topped by a dome, sitting on an





octagonal base. Many stand on plinths of white marble – and all of them are beautifully decorated with colourful tiles and intricate calligraphy.

4a. Mosque in Sadiq-Garh

The Palace complex at Sadiq-Garh covers 125 acres and was built in the late 19th century by Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV. Much of it is on Italianate lines and is said to have taken 15,000 labourers ten years to build, at a cost of 15M Rupees. The palace is now empty and neglected, having been stripped of all its treasures. Its Mosque is in the same state: decrepit and standing in overgrown grounds.

*Acknowledgements.
Many thanks to
Colnect.com,
Stanley Gibbons,
and myBahawalpur.
com for images and
information used in
this article*

6a. Fort Derewar

This shows the bastions of the fort mentioned above, which stand up to 30m high. Other features lie below ground level; it had a network of tunnels linking it to other forts in the Cholistan desert – but most of these are blocked up now. Despite its status as a major visitor attraction, it is in dire need of maintenance and repair.



8a. Nur-Mahal Palace

Commissioned by Sadig Muhammad Khan IV, it was designed by a British architect in the Italian style and its building materials and furnishings were mostly imported from England and Italy; it was completed in 1875. Legend has it that the palace was built for the Nawab's wife, Noor. But after seeing a graveyard from her balcony, she only spent one night here.

It is currently owned by the Pakistan Army, who use it as a state guesthouse for holding durbars and hosting meetings with foreign delegations. It is also open to the public.

and Lord Mountbatten, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi all enjoyed the hospitality here. The complex has four main buildings, laid out in vast – but perfectly symmetrical gardens. The main palace is finished in white marble, ornamentally carved – and the overall design is a perfect blend of east and west. Its massive chandeliers were a gift from Queen Victoria.

10r. The Nawabs

Sadeq Muhammad Khan Abbasi V is flanked by two ancestors; 10th Nawab Mohammad Khan VI and the 11th: Muhammad Bahawal Khan V. Mohammad Khan V died in 1966.

12a. The Palace, Sadiq-Garh

Sadiq-Garh was built on a grand scale to impress foreign dignitaries



STAMPS IN DETAIL

Officials

- ½ a black and green
- 1a black and carmine
- 2a black and violet
- 4a black and olive green
- 8a black and brown
- 1r black and orange

All stamps were recess-printed by De la Rue in London, on Star and Creacnet watermarked paper.

Definitives

- 3p black and blue
- ½ a black and claret
- 9p black and green
- 1 ½ a black and violet
- 2 a green and carmine
- 4a orange and brown
- 6a violet and blue
- 8a carmine and violet
- 12a green and carmine
- 1r violet and brown
- 2r green and claret
- 5r black and violet
- 10r scarlet and black

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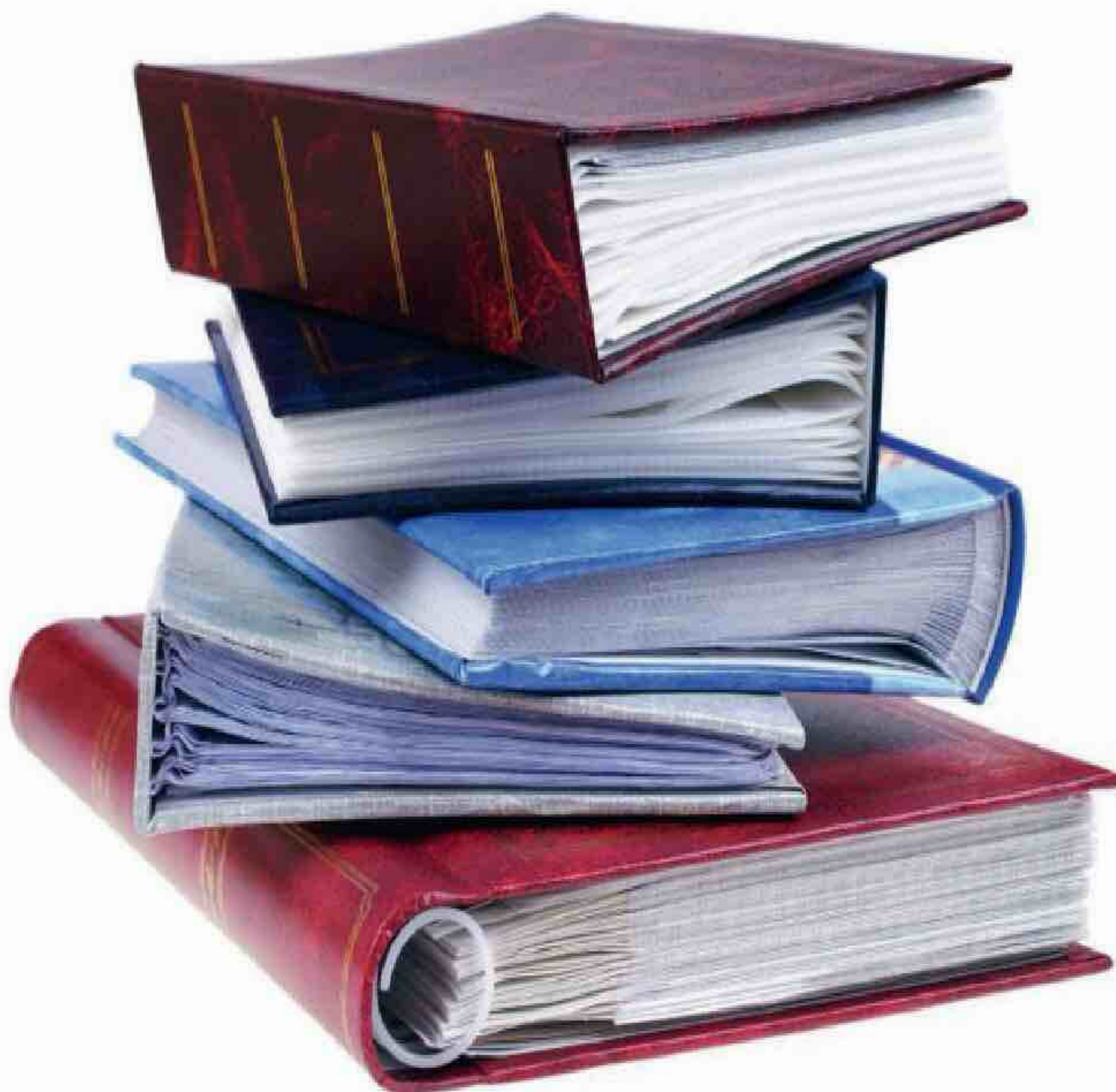
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More than just tea

In October 2014, Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps featuring Prime Ministers. Seven of them were well known – the series included figures such as Gladstone, Churchill and Mrs Thatcher – but one was not. So who was Charles Grey? Chris West investigates

Charles Grey turns out to have been a remarkable PM. Two of the most important pieces of legislation in British history were enacted under his watch. These were the Great Reform Bill of 1832 and the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833.

The Reform Bill got rid of the old ‘rotten’ and ‘pocket’ boroughs, which could be bought as ways into parliament, and replaced them with constituencies that returned members on the principle of one (moderately wealthy) man one vote.

Grey had been the beneficiary of the old system, being ‘elected’ to represent Northumberland at the age of 22 as a member of the Whig party, the equivalent of modern liberals. Having entered parliament by a method that required no ability, he proved to be an excellent speaker and administrator. In 1806, he became Foreign Secretary. However, a year later, his government fell, due to arguments with George III. The Whigs would remain in opposition for over two decades.

Given his remarkable achievements and his colourful personal life, it is a surprise that Grey is not better known

The transatlantic trade in slaves had been abolished in 1807 – Grey had played a key role in getting that through parliament – but slavery persisted in British colonies. When the Whigs returned to power in

1830, with Grey as their leader, they were determined to make it illegal. They had to wait until after the Reform Bill, as slave-owning interests controlled too many of the old rotten boroughs. But once that was passed, a new parliament was free to pass the Abolition act.

Grey’s administration also passed the Factory Act, also in 1833, the first piece of legislation to seriously challenge child labour in the booming, ruthless workplaces of the Industrial Revolution.

Grey’s time in office ended in 1834. He threatened to resign if a law was passed which effectively transferred money from Catholics to Protestants in Ireland. It was passed, and he left. Grey’s critics say that he was weary of politics by then, and was keen to return to family life in rural Northumberland, then several days’ journey from Westminster.

So, he was a key figure in his era. His personal life was notable, too. His affair with Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, was something of a national scandal, and the subject of the 2008 movie, *The Duchess*, starring

Keira Knightley. Georgiana was unhappily married to the domineering Duke, and only terminated the affair once he threatened to prevent her from ever seeing her children again. Grey subsequently married and had



Grey appeared in the Prime Ministers stamp set of October 2014, alongside William Pitt The Younger, Robert Peel, William Gladstone, Winston Churchill, Clement Atlee, Harold Wilson, and Margaret Thatcher

sixteen children.

Given his remarkable achievements and his colourful personal life, it is a surprise that Grey is not better known. Maybe it was his relatively short time in office. His name does live on, however – in the popular upmarket tea blend, Earl Grey.

Exactly how the blend, a mixture of dark tea and bergamot oil, got this name is a mystery. Several major tea companies claim to have been invited to create the blend by Grey. Another story says that the recipe was the gift of a Chinese Mandarin, grateful for the rescue, from drowning, of his son by Grey. A great story, but Grey never visited China. More likely, there is some connection with the China trade, as another act of Grey’s government was to open up that trade, removing the long-standing monopoly of the East India Company.

Grey Street, the beautiful Georgian thoroughfare that curves gently up one bank of the Tyne in Newcastle, is also named after him.



FIJI

Fiji in the South Pacific

Ed Fletcher travels in the wake of Abel Tasman, Captain Cook and Captain Bligh in search of sandalwood, sea-cucumbers... and stamps



If you were to set out from the Solomon Islands, east of Papua New Guinea, and sail south-eastwards for 1,300 miles, as the crow flies, you would reach a group of more than 300 volcanic islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Now known as Fiji, they have a combined land area about the size of Wales, with the two largest islands (Viti

Levu and Vanua Levu) making up more than 90% of the total. Archaeologists and other researchers believe that the first humans to make that journey left South East Asia around 1300 BC and drifted or paddled in dugout canoes from island to island across the ocean to reach the Fijian archipelago. In excess of 2,000 years would then elapse before the descendants of those first settlers

Above, right: *The Fiji Times* set up its own postal service and printed these simple stamps in 1870. This is the 6d value

developed the technology to carry humans southward to New Zealand: a double-hulled canoe (a drua in their language) capable of sailing against the prevailing wind.

Fijians who preferred not to sail southward spent the next few hundred years (c.AD 1200 – c.AD 1600) developing their fishing skills around the archipelago, as well as waging inter-tribal wars, with a little cannibalism and other cultural behaviours thrown in. They remained oblivious to world events until the 1640s when Dutch explorer Abel Tasman completed his mapping of the eastern coastlines of New Zealand, then headed northwards into the South Pacific hoping to find the fabled Terra Australis. Instead, in early 1643, he chanced upon the Fiji Islands. Tasman later reported that Fiji's forests held large stands of sandalwood, prized to this day for its aromatic oil. Captain James Cook, the British navigator, made a brief visit in 1774; but it was not until 1789 that the islands were charted and mapped by Captain William Bligh of HMS *Bounty* renown.

Following publication of navigation



King Cakobau issued Fiji's first postage stamps in 1871



One of King Cakobau's stamps overprinted VR 12 cents in 1874



charts, European trading vessels began calling at the islands to load sandalwood and dried sea-cucumbers. (An Asian delicacy abundant in Fijian coastal waters, they could be traded for Asian spices) Captains of merchantmen also picked up and delivered the first ship letters carrying mail addressed to and from Britain and from New South Wales. Methodist missionaries, active in Fiji from 1835, also corresponded regularly with their headquarters in London. All ship mail – commercial and religious – was carried to Sydney or to Auckland where stamps to the correct value were applied before the letters were placed in the postal system.

European presence undoubtedly began to influence the behaviour of islanders. A tribal chief named Ratu Seru managed to defeat a number of rival neighbouring tribes (perhaps with the help of European weapons) and to unite them to achieve a major

From left: An 1881 issue depicting Queen Victoria. This is a 1s pale brown; the final Victoria issues depicted a native canoe; an example of Edward VII's key plate issues

George V followed in his father's philatelic footsteps

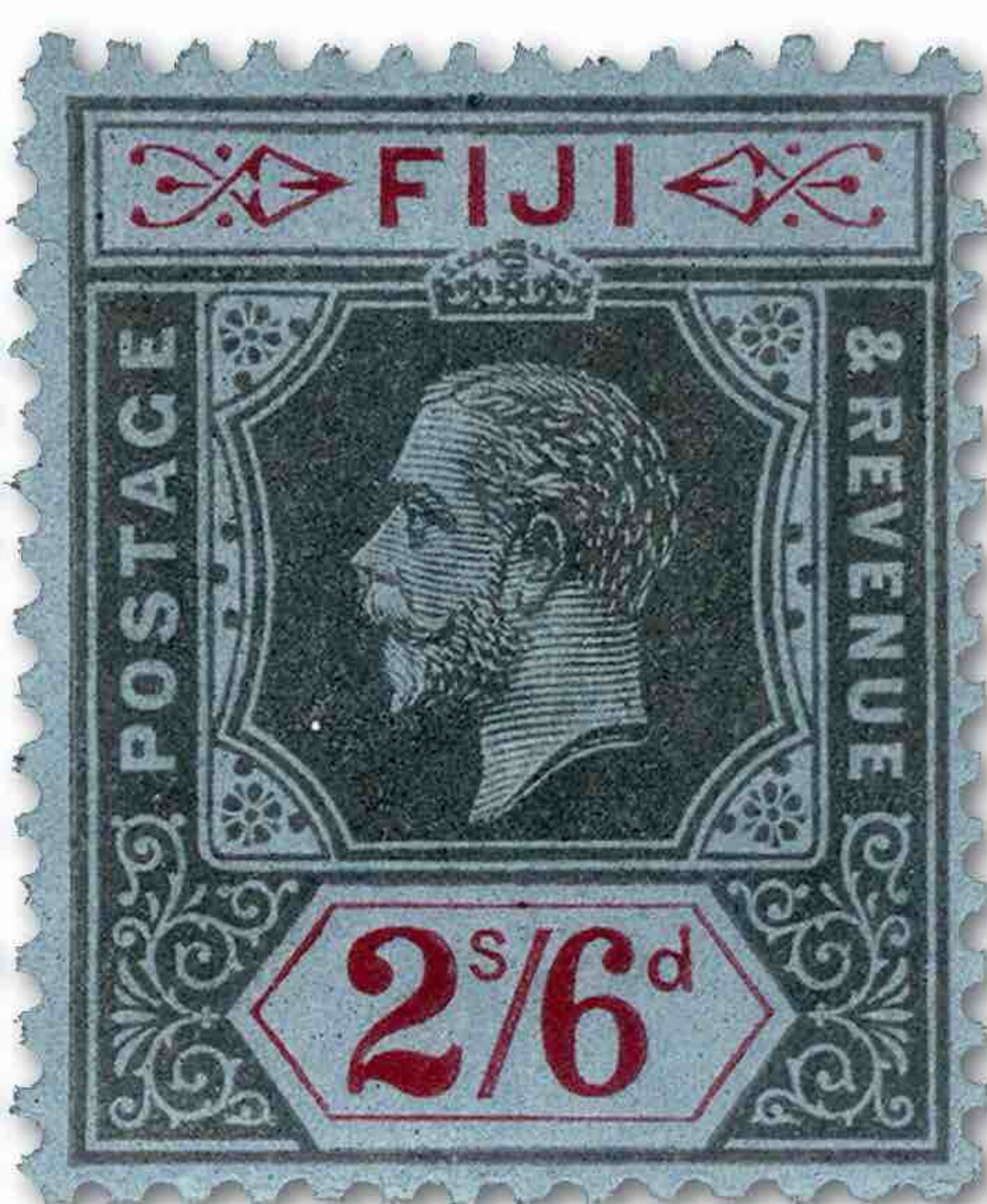
victory against other Fijian leaders that eventually left him the sole ruler of almost the whole archipelago. His followers gave him the name Cakobau, which translates as destroyer of the enemy. In 1854 he renounced cannibalism, converted to Christianity, and awarded himself the title, King Cakobau Of Fiji. He later fell into debt and offered to cede his kingdom to Britain. The British Government declined his offer at that time, but did appoint a British Consul. The government official arrived in 1858 and soon established a Consular Post Office using New South Wales stamps on its mail from 1863.

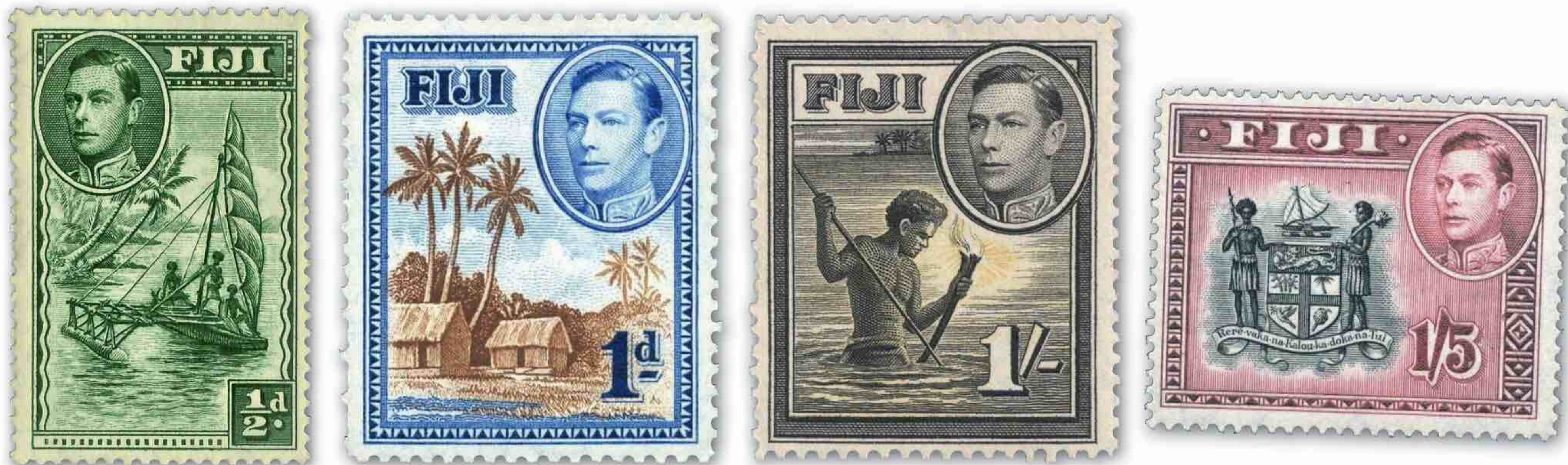
The distant American Civil War (1861-1865) had unexpected consequences in Fiji. Destruction of plantations in the American Confederate States led to a shortage of cotton, a crop that grew well in Fiji. American cotton buyers arrived in the islands during 1870 and their

presence and commercial activities increased demand for postal services. Local newspaper *The Fiji Times* set up a post office and began printing its own postage stamps (1d to 1s values). This prompted King Cakobau, influenced by powerful British and New South Wales business interests, to establish a functioning government administration throughout Fiji. Soon the country had law courts, tax offices, its own currency, and a postal service. He also founded a new capital at Levuka on the island of Ovalau. A second new capital was later created at the port of Suva, which is today probably the largest city in the South Pacific region. Fiji's first stamps were printed in Sydney and carried a design which displayed a crown with the initials CR (for Cakobau Rex) beneath. Values were 1d, 3d and 6d, issued in December 1871. On 13 January 1872 all three values were overprinted with local currency values 2c, 6c and 12c. Four days later *The Fiji Times* service ceased; and the British Consular Post Office closed a few months later.

Increasing numbers of press reports on blackbirding – the duping of native labourers into believing they had been hired for waged employment; only to find themselves shipped to plantations where they had to work under conditions of near-slavery – resulted in a change in British policy concerning the Fiji Islands. For example, in January 1870 London newspapers published the following dispatch by Foreign Secretary Earl Granville respecting the growth of blackbirding in the South Sea Islands:

It is quite clear that a slave trade is being gradually established by British speculators for the benefit of British settlers [...] The British Consul at Fiji





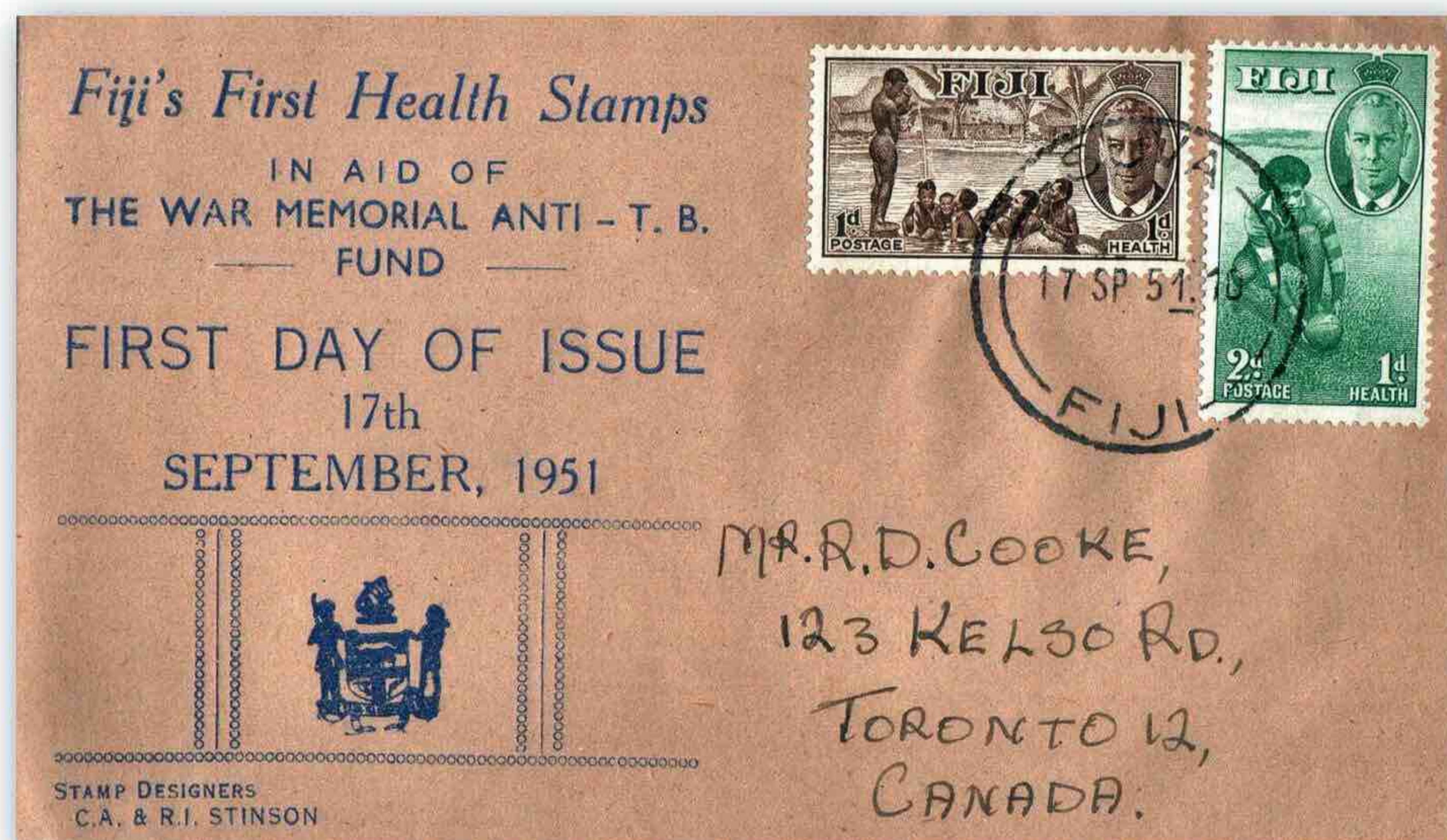
has intervened to prevent abuses in the past, but it has become evident that his restraints are now openly defied. I have therefore instructed Consul March to throw upon this matter all the light in his power. Any suggestions he may offer, either for placing the traffic on a sound footing, or for putting an end to it altogether, will be well received by Her Majesty's Government.

Following further flouting of the employment laws by British, American and Queensland plantation owners, Great Britain solved the problem at a stroke by declaring Fiji a Crown Colony in 1874. King Cakobau ceded his title as Paramount Chief of Fiji to the person of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, while he took the title of Second Most Senior Chief. His monogram CR on all remaining postage stamps was overprinted VR and used until supplies exhausted in 1878, when new stamps bearing a Crown VR design only replaced them. Queen Victoria's profile appeared on later 1s and 5s stamps issued in 1881.



During the 20th century Fiji followed the well-trodden path of issuing key plate classics during the reigns of Edward VII and George V. In 1938 the reign of George VI introduced a 22-stamp set with values from ½d to £1. The pictorial designs showed

Above: George VI pictorials pleased young collectors in the 1930s



A First Day Cover for Fiji's First Health Stamps of September 1951

Fijian lives, scenery and culture; all very much welcomed by British Colonials collectors throughout the world at that time. Following precedents set by New Zealand and Australia, Fiji added two surcharged health stamps (1d+1d and 2d+1d) to its pictorials in 1951. One showed children bathing; the other publicized Rugby Football, which by that date had become Fiji's top outdoor sport, apart from fishing. In 1970 the nation became the independent Republic of the Fiji Islands.

Thanks to the following stamp dealers for use of images. They regularly offer Fiji stamps in their stocks: eBayUK dealer *Stuacy*; *Empire Philatelists of Henley-on-Thames*; *Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, London*; eBayUK dealer *1st4stamps1840*.

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Current Market Values



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FACE VALUE (FV)	Buy % of FV	Criteria
Stamps 1p to 49p	55%	Sorted by value
Stamps 50p to £2.99	65%	Sorted by value
Stamps £3 to £10	68%	Sorted by value
GB MNH Decimal Stamp Collections	52%	UNSORTED - Pre 2000
GB MNH Decimal Stamp Collections	62%	UNSORTED - Post 2000
Unsorted MNH Stamps 1971-2020	60%	Made up in Bags of £50, £100 and £500 face value
First (1st) Class NVI Stamps (lick and stick gum)	62%	All 1st class stamps with lick and stick gum, definitive, commemorative regional and Christmas.
First (1st) Class NVI Stamps (self-adhesive)	65%	All 1st class stamps with self-adhesive gum, definitive, commemorative regional and Christmas.
First (1st) Class NVI Stamps (lick and stick)	50%	Ditto 85p with NON-ELLIPTICAL perf pre 1993
Second (2nd) Class NVI Stamps (Lick and stick gum)	72%	All 2nd class stamps with lick and stick gum, definitive, commemorative regional and Christmas.
Second (2nd) Class NVI (Self-adhesive gum)	72%	All 2nd class stamps with self-adhesive gum, definitive, commemorative regional and Christmas.
Second (2nd) Class NVI Stamps (lick and stick)	55%	Ditto (66p) with NON-ELLIPTICAL perf pre 1993
First Class LARGE NVI (self-adhesive)	72%	ALL TYPES (£1.29)
First Class LARGE NVI (lick and stick)	70%	ALL TYPES (£1.29)
Second Class LARGE NVI (self-adhesive)	72%	ALL TYPES (96p)
Second Class LARGE NVI (lick and stick)	70%	ALL TYPES (96p)
1st Class Signed For Stamps (standard & large)	70% Standard 75% Large	All types (£2.25 and £2.69) poor sellers
Special Delivery Stamps	70% up to 100g 75% up to 500g	(£6.85 > 100g and £7.65 > 500g poor sellers)
Europe up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps & W/W up to 10g (postcard)	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams and W/W up to 10g (£1.70)
Worldwide up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams (£1.70)
Europe 'E' Rate up to 20g Stamps	95p ea	'E' Rate Stamps (£1.70)
Europe & Worldwide NVI Stamps up to 100g	E 95p ea W £1.50 ea	Up to 100g (e £1.70 & w/w £2.55)
Presentation Packs	55%	from 1971 to 1999
Presentation Packs	62%	from 2000 to 2015
Presentation Packs	66%	from 2016 to 2019
Presentation Packs	75%	2020
Royal Mail Year Books	60%	1984 to 2000
Royal Mail Year Books	65%	2001 to 2020
Prestige Booklets	55%	up to 1999
Prestige Booklets	65%	2000 to 2017
Prestige Booklets	75%	2018 to 2020
Booklets with Stamps up to 29p	52%	folding & retail etc
Booklets with Stamps from 30p to 68p	60%	folding & retail etc
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INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

WORLD

Few 100's in 4 continental appro books with G.B inc virtually 4 M'gin 1d black, K.Ed £1, 6d Army Official (M) Jap Occ of Malaya 3c 'due' Tripolitania 5L Zepp FU, useful bits and pieces of Albania, mint 1930's Spain etc **£320.00**

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

QE2 ranges in 3 New Age albums to 1970. Too large for a detailed description but many sets either mint or FU to mid/top vals, many early commem sets, Red Cross, ITU, particularly strong Churchill. A clean lot worth expanding **£350.00**

Few 100's inc better British Guiana. Ceylon KG5 Pictorials to 1R (M) KG6 to 2R (mainly m) Malta from QV, 1920 to 2/=-, 1926 to 2/=-, KG6 to 5/=-, useful Mauritius from QV 1938 set (M) etc Cat £1220 **£155.00**

Many 100's all KG6 on leaves with much useful. Aden Dhows to 1R, Antigua to 5/=-, Ascension to 5/=-, Basutoland to 2/6, Bech to 5/=-, good Falklands inc 1938 to 2/6, 1952 to 2/6, Deps thin Map set, Pitcairns set etc. Mainly mint, some duplicated for FU. A super lot Cat £3800 **£475.00**

BRITISH AFRICA

Few 100's on leaves with V good S. Rhodesia inc Admirals to 5/=- (inc 1d coil - scarce) 1931 to 1/=-, 1935 Jubilee, then Zululand with 1894 to 1/=- (M) Sudan inc Gordon to 10pi, Tanganyika 1917 most to 5R (M) etc. Good lot Cat £1710 **£265.00**

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA

Some 100's on leaves with good range Transvaal inc K.Ed to £1, useful arms types (£5 value ignored) S. Africa 1913 to 10/=-, Voortrekker Fund set, 1935 Jubilee 6d pair (FU) dues and officials, S.W Africa O'Prints to 1/=-, Officials. All singles and vertical pairs not counted Cat £1630 **£235.00**

ALBANIA

Mainly mint range (160+) from 1913 Hand stamped types (no 5gr) Independence Anniv set, Skanderbeg set, 1914 surcharge set, 1923 Pictorials, 1925 Republic set, Air set, 1927 Air Republic set, dues etc. A very clean lot Cat £1360 **£225.00**

ANDORRA

Some 100's all mint from O'Prints on France most to 2Fr., 1932 set, 1936 Shields set, 1944 Pictorial set, 1950 Air 100Fr, 1955 set with Airs etc to 1990's. A super basis Cat £3500+ **£475.00**

ANTIGUA

Large lot (many 100's) from 1937 Coro - 1988 inc KG6 to £1 with some better shades (M) RSW, 1953 to \$4.80 (M & FU) early Commems, 1963 W'Mk Change set, 1966 set etc. Similar range for Anguilla and Barbuda Cat £1100 **£150.00**

AUSTRALIA

States several 100's unchecked in detail but offering S. Australia from imperfs, side face to 6d, long issue to 1/=-, Officials inc perf'd S.A, Tasmania from imperfs, further Chalons to 1/=- (3) extensive pictorials, Victoria from imperf, extensive W. Australia Swans etc Valuable lot **£435.00**

BAHAMAS

Many 100's from 1938 to £1, Columbus, Eleuthera, 1954 and 1964 sets (M and most FU) 1967 set with some better 'white papers' then a good deal of completion to 1982. A fine clean lot Cat £1840 **£265.00**

FRANCE

Many 100's all lightly mounted mint from 1900 inc Merson 5Fr, Sowers, 1916 granite paper set (no 50c) 1917 War Orphans to 35c, 1918 Red Cross set 1923 Pasteur set (no 50c) 1917 War Orphans to 35c, Art Exhibition sets, 1927-9 Sinking Fund sets, 1929 high vals to 10Fr (2 different) good Commems inc 1937 Exhib, Museum pair, Intellectuals in sets, later to 1960 with good range Famous Men, Red Cross etc. An outstandingly clean lot Cat £5620 **£700.00**

GERMANY

P.O's Cols 64 inc P.O's in China 1905 set FU (scarce) Turkey from earlies, Colonies mainly low vals all apparently FU with interest in cancels Cat £875 **£145.00**

Occupation of Dalmatia 37 all mint but 2 with Oct. 1943 most to 2L55, War Propaganda types, Airs to 2L Imperial trio, 4th November propaganda set, Express pair etc. Rarely offered Cat £2540 **£410.00**

Occupation of Serbia 150+ plus M/S with 1941 (5th June) set M & FU (scarce) dues (M) Airs (M) (1st Sept) set M & FU Smederevo M/S pair (M) P.O.W and anti Masonic sets 1943 War Invalids M/S pair, dues set (M & FU) etc Cat £5750 **£725.00**

SINGAPORE

100's 1938-93 inc KG6 to \$5 (2) RSW (M) 1953 set (FU) and to \$1 (M) good early Commems often mint and FU, a very good basis Cat £1550 **£225.00**

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Some 100's from British Admin with 1939 set (M) RSW, 1956 set (M) and to 10/=- (FU) 1963 W'Mk change set, 1965 set, 1966 W'Mk sideways set etc to 1970's. Nice clean lot Cat £600 **£85.00**

TRIESTE

Zone B 100's fairly complete mint or UNM from 1948 Labour Day (scarce strip of 3) scarce Postage due Red Cross surcharge, 1949 Pictorial set, 1950 'long set', 1951 Postage due Red Cross, 1952 Olympics, 1953 Esperanto pair (the 300d x 2) etc. Also a few Istria etc Cat £3820 **£465.00**

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TREASURES AT THE ROYAL

Early catalogues in the John Sacher Library

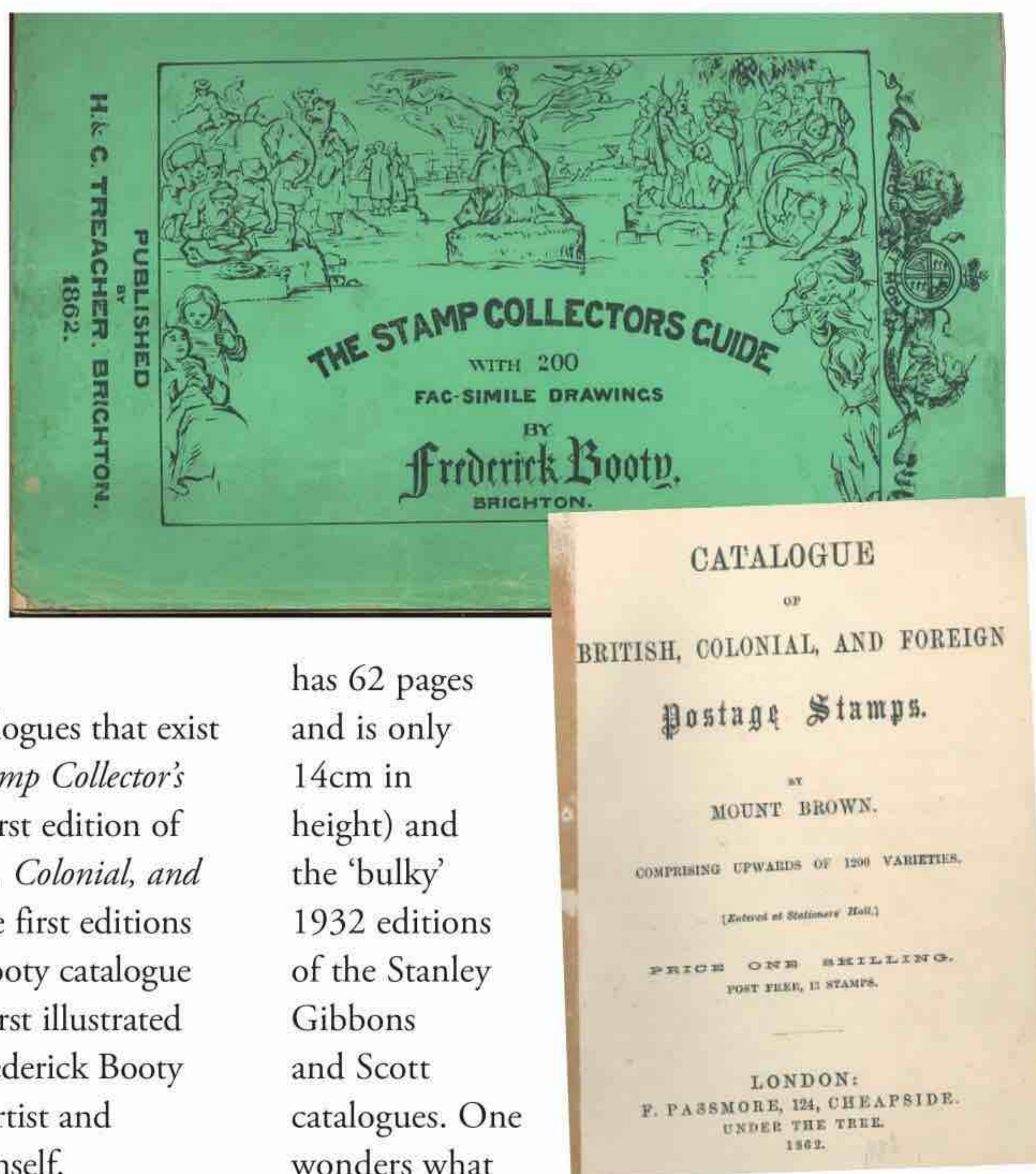
In her regular insight into the Collections at the Royal Philatelic Society London, Nicola Davies reveals the origins of the Society's library and the very first stamp catalogues to be added

On 3 March 1932, KT Cotherill presented a short paper to the Royal Philatelic Society London entitled, 'Some Notes on the Resources of the Society's Library'. He remarked that this was a particularly unusual paper as it was not accompanied by the passing around of philatelic material. His aim was to promote the use of the library and to draw attention to some of the resources that may be of particular interest to RPSL members.

Cotherill highlights the early catalogues that exist within the RPSL collection: *The Stamp Collector's Guide* by Frederick Booty and the first edition of Mount Brown's, *Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps*. Both of these first editions were published at 1862, with the Booty catalogue claiming its place in history as the first illustrated stamp catalogue to be produced. Frederick Booty (1841-1942) was a Brighton-born artist and illustrated the 46-page catalogue himself.

Mount Brown was born in 1837 in Stepney and was educated at the City of London School. He was a stamp collector and part-time dealer. He attended the philatelic meetings held at the Rectory of All Hallows Staining, hosted by Reverend Francis John Stainforth. These meetings would become the foundation of the Philatelic Society, London. The knowledge of the philatelists at these meetings, and the material in their collections of great help to Brown when compiling his catalogue. The catalogue was financed by subscription and was published by Brown's employer, F. Passmore. It was well received with five editions being released within two years; the library holds a copy of each edition.

In 1932, Cotherill muses on the comparative sizes of these early catalogues (the Mount Brown



has 62 pages and is only 14cm in height) and the 'bulky' 1932 editions of the Stanley Gibbons and Scott catalogues. One wonders what he would make of the size of the present day edition of Stanley Gibbons' *Stamps of the World*.

Further reading: www.abps.org.uk/who-was-who-in-philately; The London Philatelist, vol.41, no. 483 (1932); Birch, Brian. Biographies of Philatelists and Dealers. 9th edition. Standish, Wigan: 2008

For further details about the library's holdings, please see our online catalogue: www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue

For further information about the RPSL collections please visit our website <http://www.rpsl.org.uk/home.asp>. Follow the RPSL on Facebook @royalphilsoclondon and Twitter @The_RPSL

EXHIBITION NEWS

The Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect international exhibitions with some being postponed but other proceeding and adapting to current circumstances. The following update from the ABPS gives the latest position and shows which international exhibitions are currently accepting entries from the United Kingdom. Several have an imminent entry deadline so if you would like to enter any please contact the UK commissioner shown at the bottom of each as soon as possible. All exhibits must have already achieved at least a vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national show to qualify.

SAVPEX 2021 is the South African virtual one-frame exhibition from 22-25 July 2021. The deadline for entries is 16 May 2021. Entries should reach the Secretary of SAVPEX 2021, Joof van der Merwe, at jncl@vodamail.co.za by that date. The competition is heavily subsidised so the frame fee is only US\$35. Further information and forms can be found on their website at <https://stampssa.africa>. There is no UK commissioner; entries go directly through their website.

PHILANIPPON 2021. Japan World Stamp Championship Exhibition 2021. Held at Pacifico Yokohama Hall B/C, Yokohama, Japan from 25 – 30 August 2021. A full international exhibition under FIP patronage and FIAP auspices. Website www.japan2021.jp Entries are now closed with 16 UK entries accepted. There may be travel restrictions on overseas visitors as there are with the ►

The fight for equality

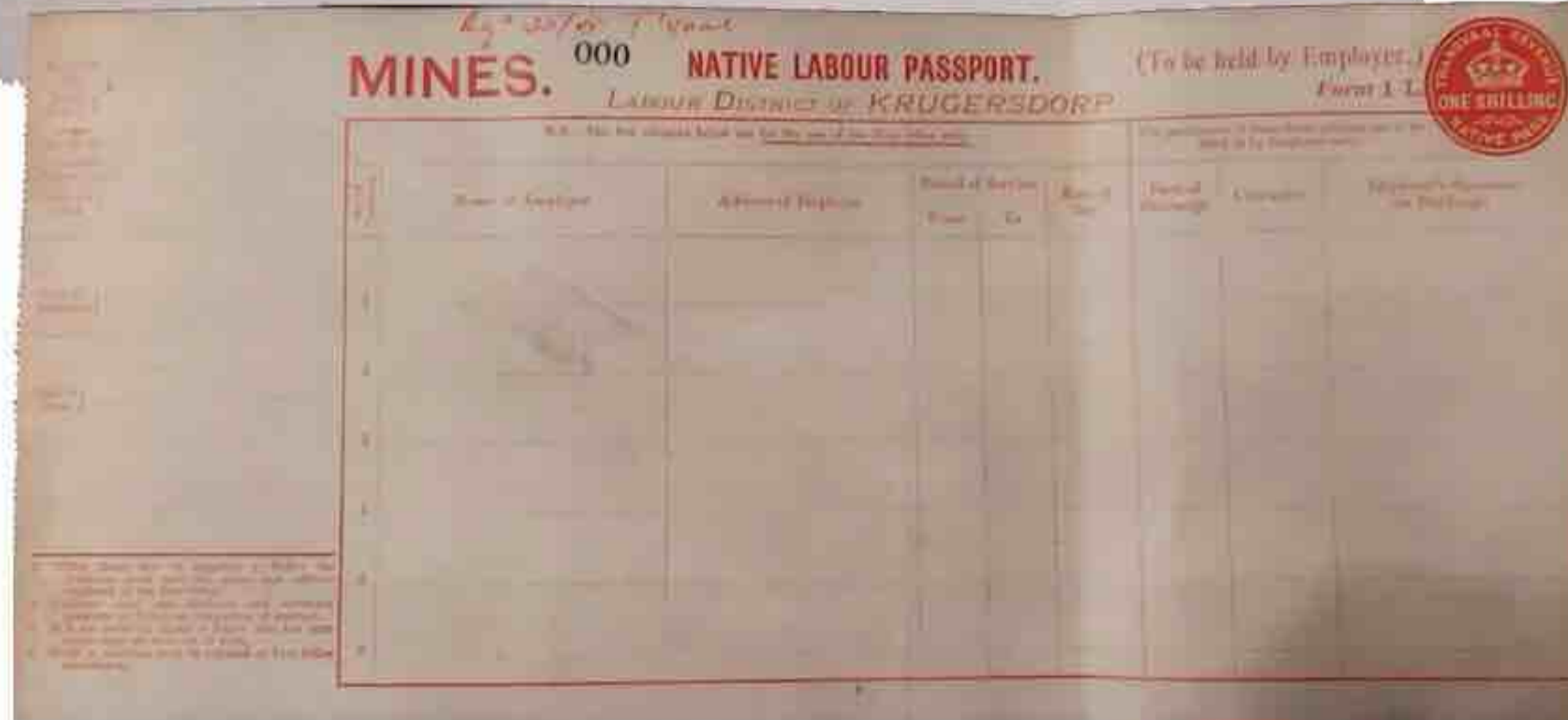
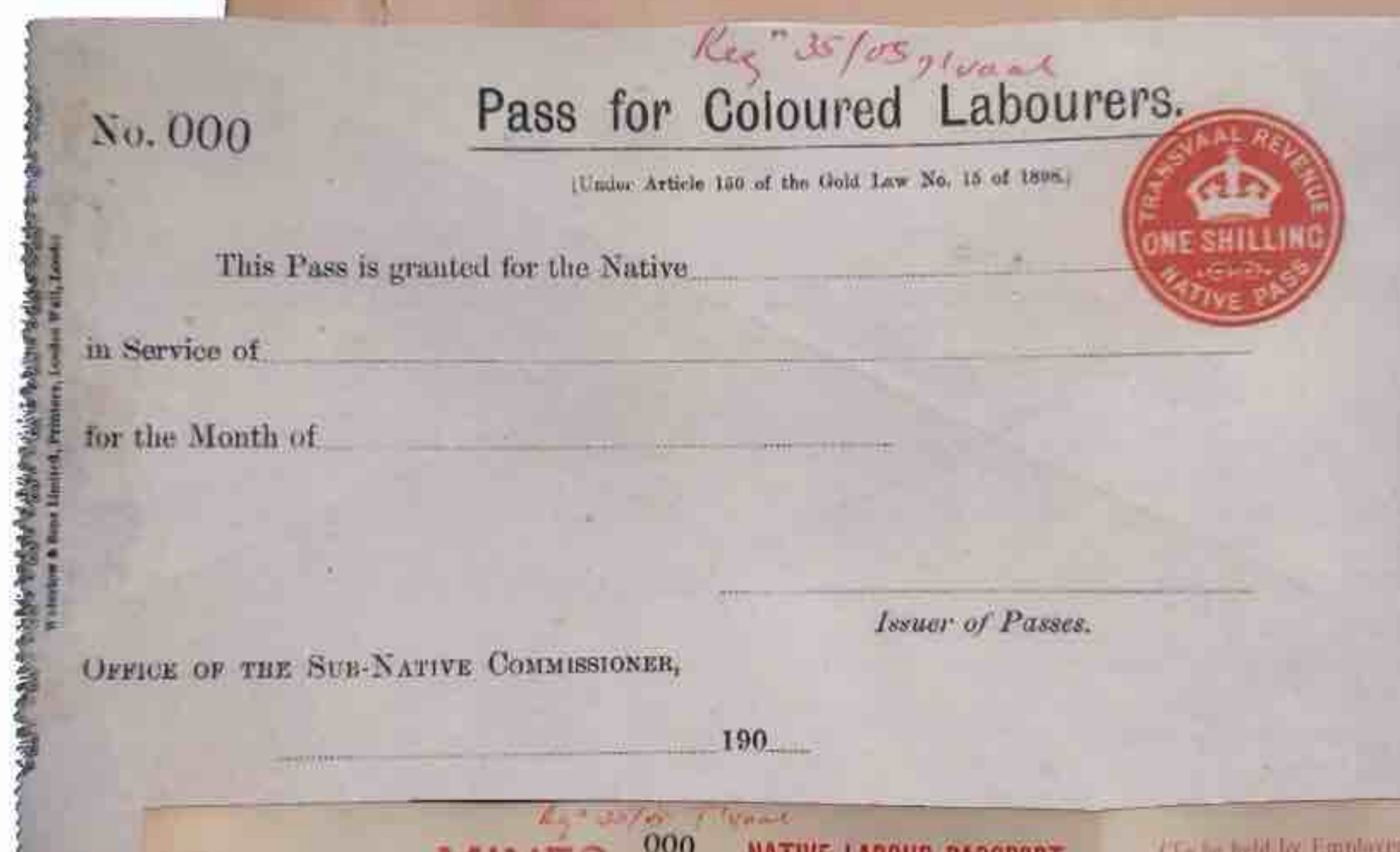
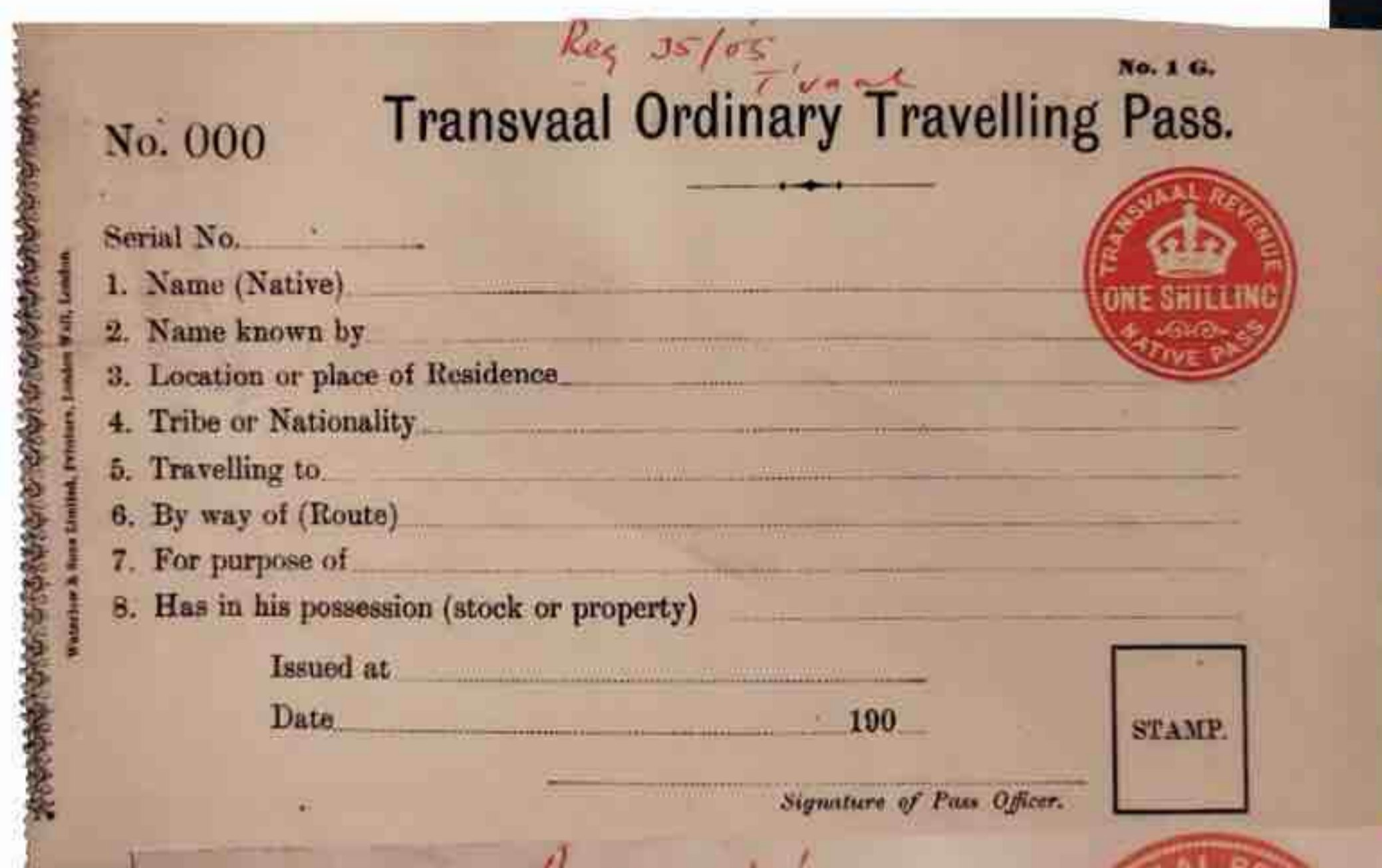
In a special feature for *Stamp Collector*, Richard Scott Morel, Curator, British Library's Philatelic Collections, describes the stamps that tell the difficult history of South African apartheid and the international anti-apartheid movement

Various stamps are intimately linked with the development of apartheid, an institutionalised system of racial segregation and white supremacy practised in South Africa during the 20th century. Colonial administrations in territories now comprising the modern post-colonial nation state of South Africa introduced successive 'Pass Laws' segregating and controlling populations and their movement along racial lines.

Enslaved Africans in Cape Colony had legally been required to carry passes authorising travel between rural and urban areas since 1760. Shortly after returning from his historic Embassy to China, George Macartney was appointed Governor of Cape Colony (figure 1). On 27 June 1797 he established South Africa's first internal passport system as an attempt to control the movement of non-white Africans into the colonial settlement.

This system grew and was adopted by other colonial administrations in the region. By the turn of the twentieth century, Transvaal Colony possessed a complex internal passport system comprising: 'Ordinary Travelling Passes,' 'Travelling Passes,' 'Passes for Coloured Labourers' and 'Mines Native Labour Passports.' Several specimen copies are held within the British Library's Philatelic Collections, all manufactured in 1905 by the security-printing firm Waterlow & Sons Limited, one of the world-leading stamp and paper money printers at the time (figures 2 to 5).

As South Africa's apartheid system formalised from 1948 onwards, such documents played an important role in enforcing segregation up until their eventual abolition in 1986. They were also a powerful mechanism for controlling urbanisation and exploiting labour. Such 'economic benefits' encouraged the Transvaal Government to levy taxes on internal passports, a fact attested by the presence of 'Transvaal Revenue Native



Pass' One Shilling stamps on each specimen. The expression 'Native Pass' within the revenue stamp's legend reveals it was created for the sole purpose of raising government funds from official policies of racial segregation (figure 6).

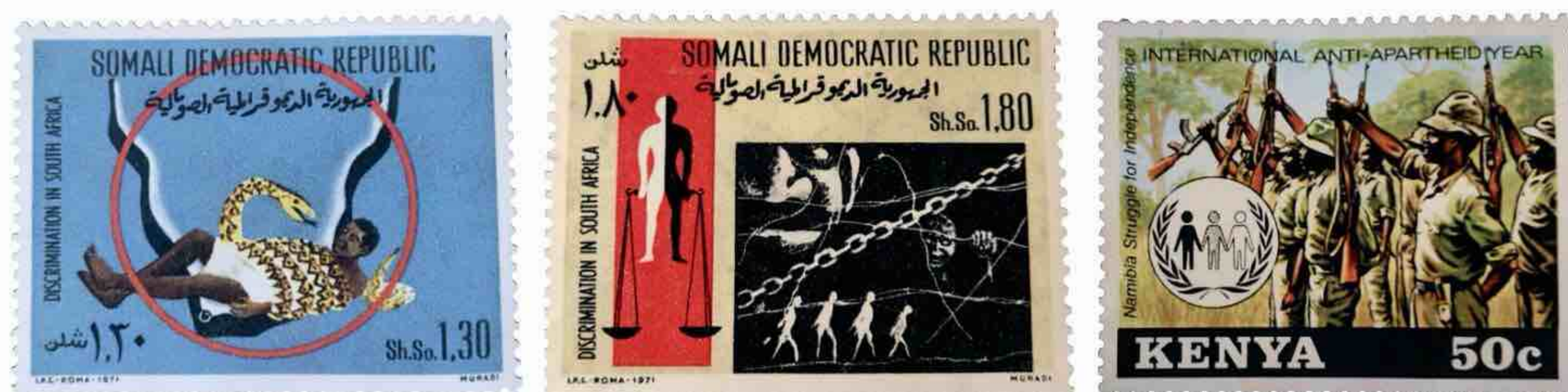
As the 20th century progressed, international political momentum against the South African government's policies on race grew. Postage stamps became an important propaganda medium utilised by postal authorities worldwide to disseminate messages in support of the anti-apartheid movement. The United Nations General Assembly designated 1971 as the 'International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.' In response various countries issued stamps on this theme, including the Somali Democratic Republic which issued two stamps on 20 June 1971. Designed by Muradi and photogravure printed in Rome, each one addresses the topic of 'Discrimination in South Africa' arising from the apartheid system (figures 7-8).

Several years later, the United Nations appointed 1978 as 'International Anti-apartheid Year.' Postal authorities worldwide again responded, issuing visually striking and emotive stamp designs on the subject. Kenya released a set of five such stamps on 11 December 1978 developed by prolific international stamp designer L. Curtis, all lithographed by the Security-Printing Firm Questa. The Kenyan Postal Authority

From top:

- Transvaal Ordinary Travelling Pass, 1905
- Transvaal Travelling Pass, 1905
- Transvaal Pass for Coloured [sic] Labourers, 1905
- Transvaal Mines Native Labour Passport, c. 1905
- Transvaal Revenue Native One Shilling Stamp





commissioned the artist to create designs illustrating historic and contemporary struggles against apartheid within Africa. The 50c stamp highlights Namibia's War of Independence against South African rule and the 1/- stamp depicts the International Seminar on Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in South Africa (figures 9-10).

The 2/- stamp is effectively a memorial to anti-apartheid activist Bantu Stephen Biko who died the previous year whilst detained by the South African Police. It is followed by a 3/- stamp promoting the plight of South Africa's future president, Nelson Mandela imprisoned at the time for his Anti-apartheid activities (figures 11-12).

Lastly, the 5/- stamp commemorated the expulsion of Bishop Donal Raymond Lamont, a long-term critic of Rhodesian white minority rule. He was expelled from Rhodesia on 23 March 1977 after pleading guilty to providing medical assistance for black guerrilla fighters and won the Nobel Peace Prize soon afterwards (figure 13).

Symbolic stamp designs

Other nations adopted a more symbolic approach towards their stamp designs. Ethiopia had issued Nelson Mandela with a passport under the name of David

Motsamayi during the early 1960s. This facilitated his international travel activities to raise support, funds and obtain training for resistance against the apartheid regime. It is therefore unsurprising that in 1978, they also issued a single 30c stamp. Developed by prolific Ethiopian stamp designer, Bogale Belachew it depicts manacled hands beneath the anti-apartheid emblem (figure 14).

Tanzania released a set of four anti-apartheid stamps on 24 October 1978. Lithograph printed by Harrisons & Sons Limited in London, each design was produced by an unidentified Tanzanian artist, whose work was adapted for use on postage stamps by G. Hutchins. The design of the 50c stamp represents 'Racial Suppression,' the 1/- 'Racial Division,' the 2/50 denomination 'Racial Harmony,' and the 5/- value 'Fall of suppression and rise of freedom' (figures 15-18).

In Europe, the German Democratic Republic also produced a single International Anti-Apartheid Year 20ph stamp illustrating the profile portrait of a black male behind barbed wire with the word 'NO' in red capitals. Developed by the artist Lola Gruner, it was adapted for use on the postage stamp by H. Detlefsen (figure 19).

In 1981, the Anti-Apartheid (United



Olympics beforehand, so if you are considering attending please check the latest situation before booking.

For further details please contact the UK Commissioner Simon Richards at simon@sidebell.co.uk IPEX 2021 International Philatelic Exhibition, Cape Town, South Africa. Was to have been held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 9 – 13 November 2021. This exhibition has now been postponed for a second time but revised dates have not been announced yet. For details contact the UK commissioner, Jon Aitchison at britishlocals@aol.com

NOTOS 2021 European Philatelic Exhibition, Athens, Greece. Held at Zappeion (venue change) from 19 – 22 November 2021. Website hps.gr/notos2021 A full European international with FEPA patronage and FIP recognition. Two and three fame exhibits will be accepted as well as the usual one, five or eight. All FEPA and FIP classes are accepted at 30 euros per frame and 30 euros per literature entry plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 31 May 2021. For entries contact the UK commissioner, Jon Aitchison at britishlocals@aol.com

HUNFILEX 2022 Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition. Budapest, Hungary. Held at Bálna (The Whale), Budapest, Hungary from 31 March to 3 April 2022. The exhibition has FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. Website www.hunfilex2022.com Available classes are World Championship Class, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Revenues, Thematic, Open Class, One Frame and Literature. Frame fees 70 euros or 75 euros for literature and 100 euros for one frame exhibits. UK handling and transport charge is £25 per frame. The entry deadline is 23 June 2021. For entries contact the UK commissioner Bill Hedley at ewlhedley@gmail.com

HELVETICA 2022 Specialised World Exhibition, Lugano, Switzerland. Held at the Padiglione Conza Convention Centre, Lugano, Switzerland from 18 to 22 May 2022. The exhibition has FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. Website <https://www.helvetica2022.ch> Available classes are World Stamp Championship Class, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Thematic, One Frame and Literature. Frame fees are CHF 80 per frame or CHF 100 for one frame entries and Literature Class. UK handling and transport charge is £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 23 September 2021. For entries please contact the UK commissioner Chris King at chris.king@postalhistory.net

CAPEX 2022 International One Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition, Toronto, Canada. Held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from 9-12 June 2022. Hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada under the Patronage of FIAP with FIP recognition. Website www.capex22.org. All One-Frame sub-classes plus literature. The frame fee for One-Frame exhibits is US\$125 and literature is US\$80, plus the UK handling charge of £30. Youth entries are free. Deadline for entries is 30 November 2021. Contact the UK commissioner Frank Walton at Frank@FrankWalton.com

LIBEREC 2022, European Stamp Exhibition and Polar Salon, Czech Republic. To be held at the Wellness Hotel Babylon, Liberec, Czech Republic from 13-16 October 2022, with FEPA patronage and FIP recognition. Website liberec2022.eu. Available classes are Grand Prix, Traditional, Postal History, Thematic, Open Philately, Picture Postcards, Youth, Literature and One-Frame. Two and three frame exhibits are accepted as well ▶



Nations Convention) Act for the suppression and punishment of the crime of apartheid was passed. That year Nigeria issued two stamps designed by G. Osuji in support of the movement, both carrying violent images of police brutality and racism. The 30k value (figure 20) recalls the 1976 Soweto Riots. That year, black African students disaffected by and unhappy with the apartheid regime took to the streets in protest. After killing a police dog which was set upon the crowd, South African police retaliated triggering riots. Many youngsters were killed and injured sparking international shock, outrage and condemnation at the time. The 45k stamp depicting



two white policemen violently beating a black man with clubs is more ambiguous, possibly being upon the same or a similar event (figure 21).

Five years later the United States Congress passed the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 imposing sanctions against South Africa until it met five conditions which would end its apartheid system. In 1986, Senegal issued a set of three anti-apartheid stamps developed by Aslam and Edila. The 130f value depicts the hand of the international community restraining the bloodied hand of apartheid, which has dropped a blood-stained dagger next to a map of South Africa in blood (figure 22). The 140f stamp illustrates a hand rising out of a pool of blood clenching a bloodied and broken chain (figure 23); whilst the 145f stamp provides an allegorical representation of Death as apartheid being chased off of Earth by a dove symbolising Peace (figure 24). Each denomination also carries a portrait of Nelson Mandela highlighting his imprisonment.

Finally, in 1987 the German Democratic Republic issued a Solidarity Anti-apartheid 10+5ph charity stamp designed by J. Bertholdt depicting a young mother holding a baby beside the words 'APARTHEID NO' (figure 25). The +5ph surcharge on this particular stamp raised funds to support the Anti-apartheid campaign.

Forming an integral part of humanity's material and visual cultures, some stamps are inevitably encountered within racist and anti-racist contexts. As cultural containers, their historic messages mirror the values of governments and postal authorities commissioning them. Together, they

Eminent Philatelists

The Uncle of Philately

Last month we painted a picture of the King at the head of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist, and admired the landscape in which George V inhabited, with those majestic royal blue albums he so skilfully sculpted. And the next portrait we must sketch out is a man that spent many an evening alongside HRH King George sorting stamps. Henry J. Duveen (1854 to 1919), a Dutch-born partner in the famous art firm



Duveen Brothers, had a contemporary eye for all things fine and rare.

As well as joining our King on that Roll as one of the original fathers of philately in 1921, Duveen amassed a collection estimated at the time to have been second to only that of Tapling, and if you've followed this series closely, you'll know that in his day Tapling had the world's greatest collection.

Duveen was amongst the philatelic elite and produced a world collection, all pre 1896 material, which included many rarities, such as the British Guiana 'Miss Rose' cover franked with a pair of cotton reels and more than one mint example of the Post Office Mauritius, which Duveen purchased from the Avery collection.

Duveen also had 'The Hawaiian Missionary' 2c and 13c stamps on piece, and with a philatelic expressionism he etched aesthetically pleasing studies of British Guiana, Great Britain, German, France, New South Wales, and the Transvaal, and also covered the even abstract aspects of Shanghai, Japan and Switzerland with a futurism that made items from his collection sort after by the likes of Liechtenstein, Hind and even King George V all who acquired material from the Duveen collection, and some of which is now held in the Royal Philatelic Collection.

The Duveen Brothers business rapidly became successful on both sides of the Atlantic and the wealth generated for Henry Duveen enabled him to have the pick of the material which became available around the late 1890s and early 1900, and he preferred pristine mint stamps, in large blocks and multiples, although he did have a broad collection that included many used items. He purchased from the collections of Ferdinand

Breitfuss, William Avery, George Worthington, the Earl of Crawford and John Seybold. It was recorded that his collection soon included over 250,000 items.

With such a large selection of material, Duveen recognised that he was assembling a world renowned collection and employed the expert help of Edward Denny Bacon (who is to feature in our series soon), who later became the curator of the Royal Philatelic Collection between 1913 and 1938, to assist him prepare for exhibits

and displays. These won Duveen a silver medal at the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1906 in London, and then a Grand Prix at the International in New York in 1913, and in addition, with the help of Bacon he won Gold medals for his Mauritius and Great Britain entries as well as seven other Gold medals.

As a man Duveen was genial, engaging and likeable, and his benevolence prompted clients to affectionately call Duveen 'Uncle Henry', and these customers were the real personalities of this era, because Duveen attracted the famous and rich to his New York art gallery and was known to regularly rub shoulders with the likes of J. Pierpont Morgan, Benjamin Altman, Henry Frick, Jay Gould and John Rockefeller.

After his death in 1919 it took Phillips over four years to sell Duveen's collection; it was that immense, and it raised over \$680,000, the proceeds of which were donated to the Royal Ear Hospital in London. The image you get from viewing Duveen's portrait today is a man who had a colourful palette, could turn his hand to all the philatelic genres, and was just as conceptual as he was contemporary in his composition of rarities. If Henry Duveen was around today he would no doubt be the catalyst for a renaissance in all things philatelic, not necessarily because he had that eye for detail and an artistic flair for capturing the very best material. No. Because Duveen was popular and relatable. In fact so much so, that he'd be known as the Uncle of Philately.

Devlan Kruck is Regional Representative for the UK for David Feldman International Auctioneers. Find out more about the auction house at the website: www.davidfeldman.com

as the usual one, five and eight. Frame fees are 40 euros per frame for 5 or 8 frame exhibits, 45 euros for 3 frame, 50 euros for 2 frame and 55 euros for one frame and literature, with Youth exhibits being free. The UK handling charge of £25 per frame also applies. The deadline for entries is 31 January 2022. Please contact the UK commissioner Steve Harrison at sharrison500@btinternet.com

IBRA2023 World Stamp Exhibition, Essen, Germany. Held at the Messe Essen from 25 - 28 May 2023 (Date change). Website www.ibra2023.de A full international exhibition under FIP patronage with FEPA recognition. All FIP classes are accepted at 80 euros per frame, 110 euros for single frame exhibits and 50 euros for literature, plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is September 2022. For entries please contact the UK commissioner Frank Walton at Frank@FrankWalton.com

UK handling charges have now been standardised on all international exhibitions at £25 per frame for shows in Europe or £30 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits, and £25 per literature entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact Jon Aitchison at britishlocals@aol.com

For more information on the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) please visit: www.abps.org.uk

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

What a pleasure it is to be able to publish stamp events taking place in June, as the world gradually comes out of lockdown. Of course, safety is still paramount and we encourage everyone to put their health and wellbeing first when considering attending an event; the large majority of auctions are also available to follow and take part in via the internet.



The undoubted highlight of the month is the sale of the British Guiana One Cent Magenta, as reported in the May issue of *Stamp Collector*. The sale consists of just three items, all being sold by Stuart Weitzman, and takes place in New York on 8 June. If the sale of the world's most expensive stamp wasn't enough, the auction is also offering a block of four USA 'Inverted Jenny' stamps, meaning the sale is probably one to watch rather than calling the NY office to make your bid.

Starting on 14 June, the David Feldman five-day sale features a wide range of material including Egypt, Part IV of the Joe Chalhoub collection; France & Colonies, including an internationally awarded collection of 'Ballon Montés'; and Great Britain and British Empire, including the Line Engraved 'Quercus' and the 'Seahorses' Laurenzi collections.

Keep updated on forthcoming auctions, and on the results on the website, just visit: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/buy-sell

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Show off your stamps!

The All About Stamps Competition challenges you to entertain and inform your fellow Stamp Collector readers using stamps on just one sheet of A4 paper. The 'virtual' competition now takes place four times a year with the coveted All About Stamps Trophy up for grabs

The All About Stamps Competition has gone from strength to strength in recent months.

What started out as a simple idea to keep us occupied at the height of the lockdown last summer has quickly turned into an enjoyable, rewarding challenge, with collectors all over the world taking part in the All About Stamps Competition.

As with many aspects of life, and collecting stamps, the lockdown has pushed us all to embrace the virtual world without abandoning the 'real world' we are now slowly returning to. The AAS Competition is not intended to compete with the brilliant philatelic exhibitions and competitions that take place all around the world, instead it is a fun, friendly way to share your stamp collection and your knowledge with

like-minded enthusiasts. So why not give it a go?

As reported on the news pages of this issue, the closing date for the latest competition has been extended to 21 May, so you've still got a week to work on your entry and email it over to us. The theme for this third challenge is Modern Stamps, so here's a quick rundown of what you need to do to take part – did we mention it's free to enter?

How to enter

Put simply, you need to create a philatelic presentation on a single page (A4 or slightly larger to accommodate covers or larger items) and email it over to us by 21 May



2021. Here are a few further requirements:

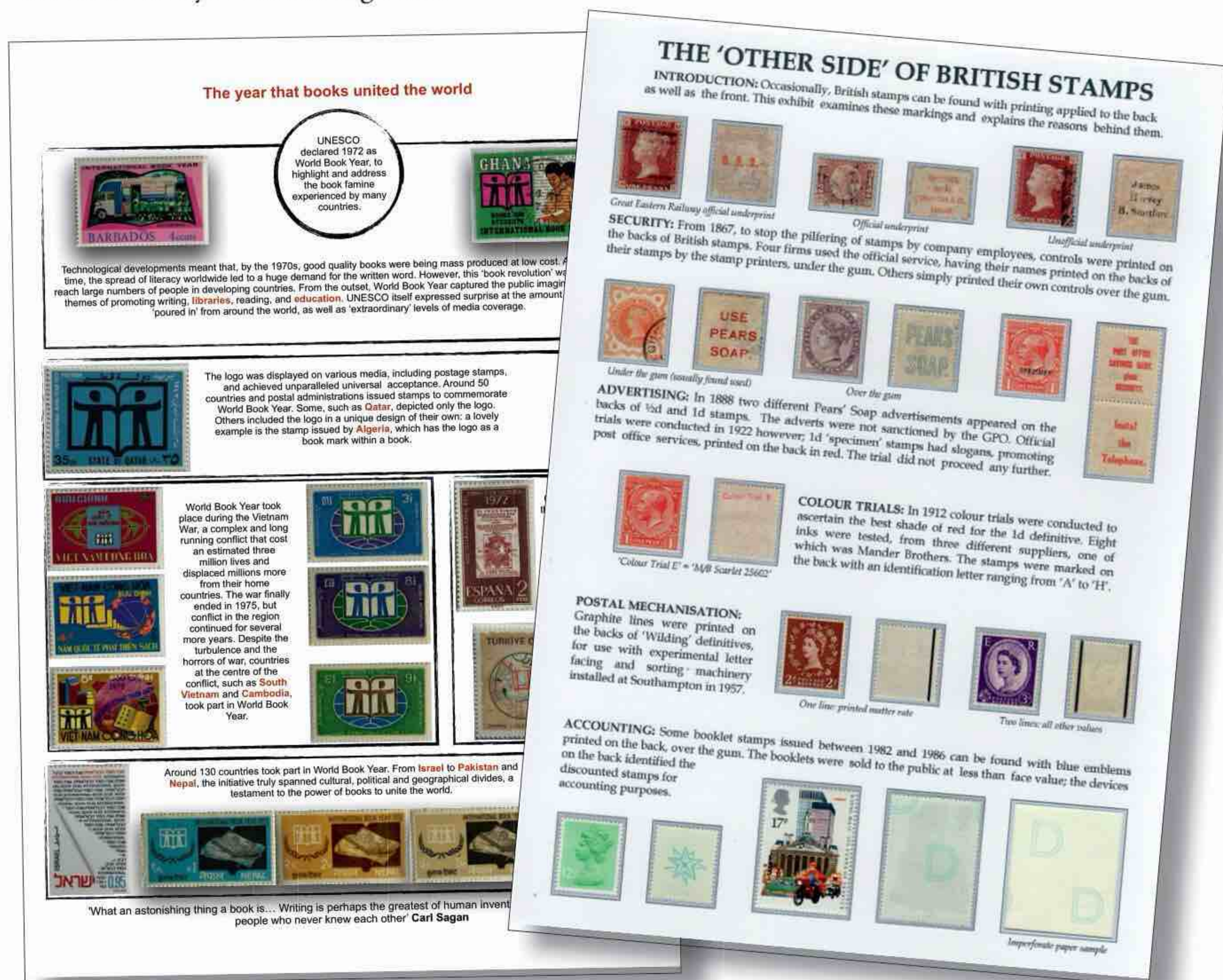
All entries should be scanned or photographed at a resolution of at least 300 dpi (not sure? don't worry, just drop us an email and we'll be happy to help).

Email your entry to matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk with the subject line: 'All About Stamps Modern Stamps Competition Entry'.

We want your entry to be informative and entertaining, so resist the urge to cram on lots of stamps and not much text, a nice balance of both is best. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the judge or a fellow collector looking at your one-page display. Does it tell a story, give people something to think about, or shed light on an interesting subject?

Check, check, check! Please do your utmost to ensure the information you provide on your entry is accurate.

Be sure to submit your entry by email by the new deadline of 21 May 2021.



The winning one-page entries from the first two AAS Competitions, from Jackie McClean (left) and Wayne Cox

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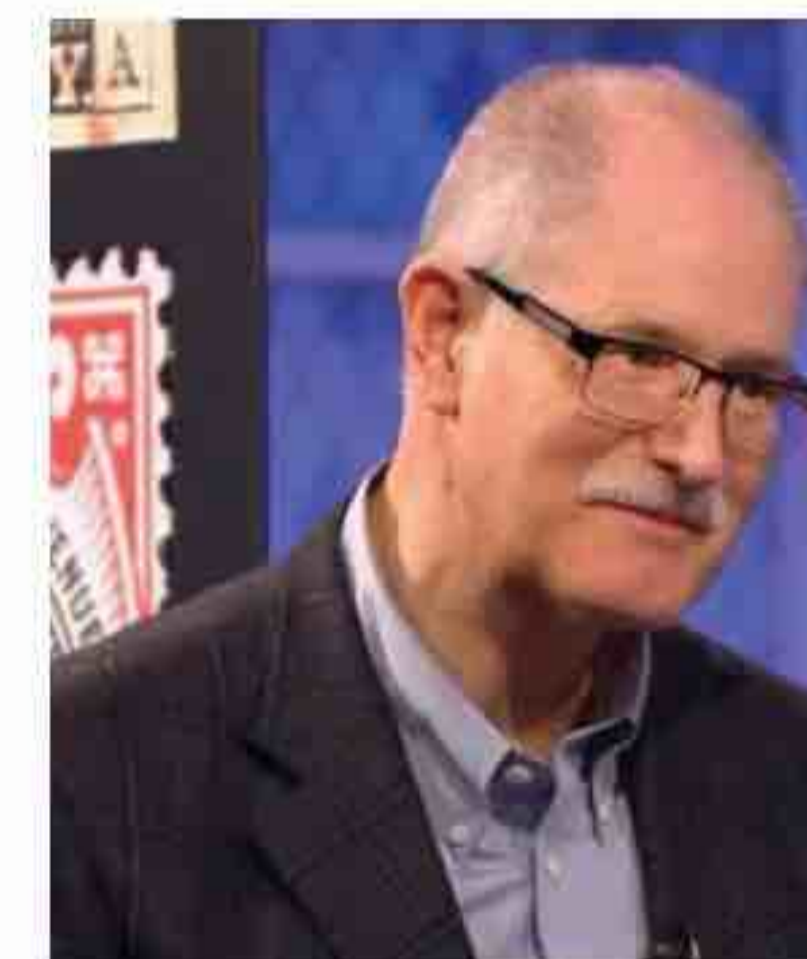
They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!

So ... looking for the 'US' makes sense, doesn't it

... and you can join them. If you would like to spend some philatelic time, looking for the 'US' (Unsold lots) ...

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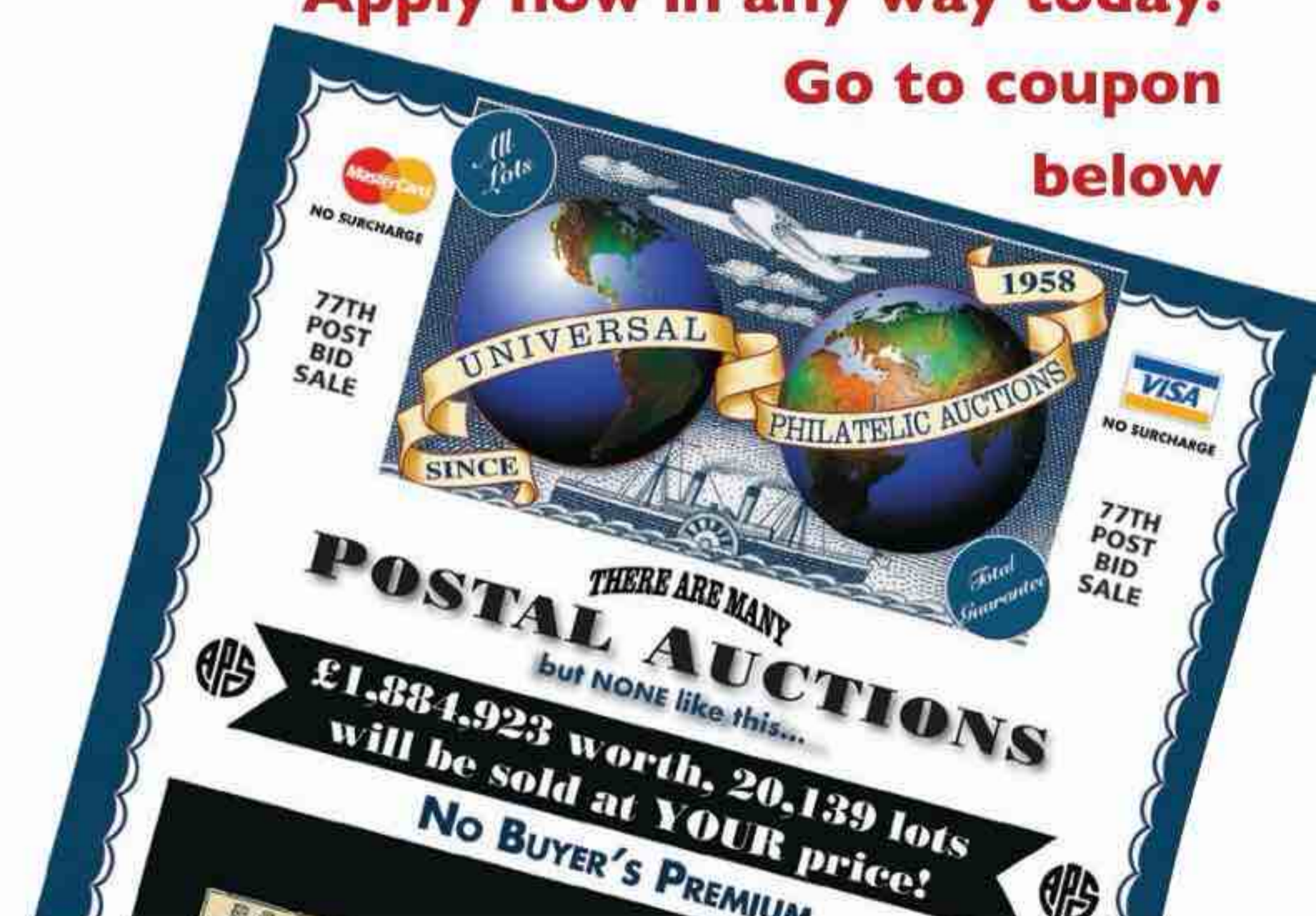


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Scotland, the Isle of Wight and Adelaide

The covers to the eldest son of Lord Tennyson at his ancestral home, and later as Governor of South Australia, are described by postal and social historian Dane Garrod



Having been brought up in the shadow of his famous father, Alfred, and known about 'The Charge of the Light Brigade', 'The Lady of Shalott', and much else besides, Hallam Tennyson no doubt wished to map out a successful life of his own. Educated at Marlborough College and Trinity College, Cambridge, he served as personal secretary and biographer to his father. Early childhood was spent at the family home on the Isle of Wight, Farringford House, to where one of our two covers was posted.

Addressed to The Lord Tennyson and sent from the home of Stephen Simeon and his wife Louisa, using their personal postal stationery with the name 'Little Bounds' on the reverse, the local village postmark was first applied reading 'FLEET / 8.15.PM / FE 2 / 99 / HANTS'. About an hour-and-a-quarter later, the cover had reached Wingfield where the 1d lilac stamp received a duplex postmark 'WINGFIELD / 9.30PM / FE 2 / 99 / 963'. Across the water by boat, probably the following morning, arriving as the second handstamp on the reverse shows at 'FRESHWATER STATION / FE 3 / 99 / ISLE.OF.WIGHT', but no time shown, and then onwards across the island to Farringford. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, had firstly rented Farringford House in 1853 prior to its purchase in 1856 when Hallam was four years old, and his eldest son inherited both the home and the title – Baron Tennyson – upon the poet's death in 1892.

It was following his father's death and the conclusion of his work as personal secretary, that the son took on the work as the official biographer, publishing 'Tennyson: a Memoir' in 1897. As an ardent imperialist, Hallam supported the imperialist ideas of the Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, and this connection as well as his name led to



Top right: Hallam Tennyson in 1896

Above: Farringford House, on the Isle of Wight

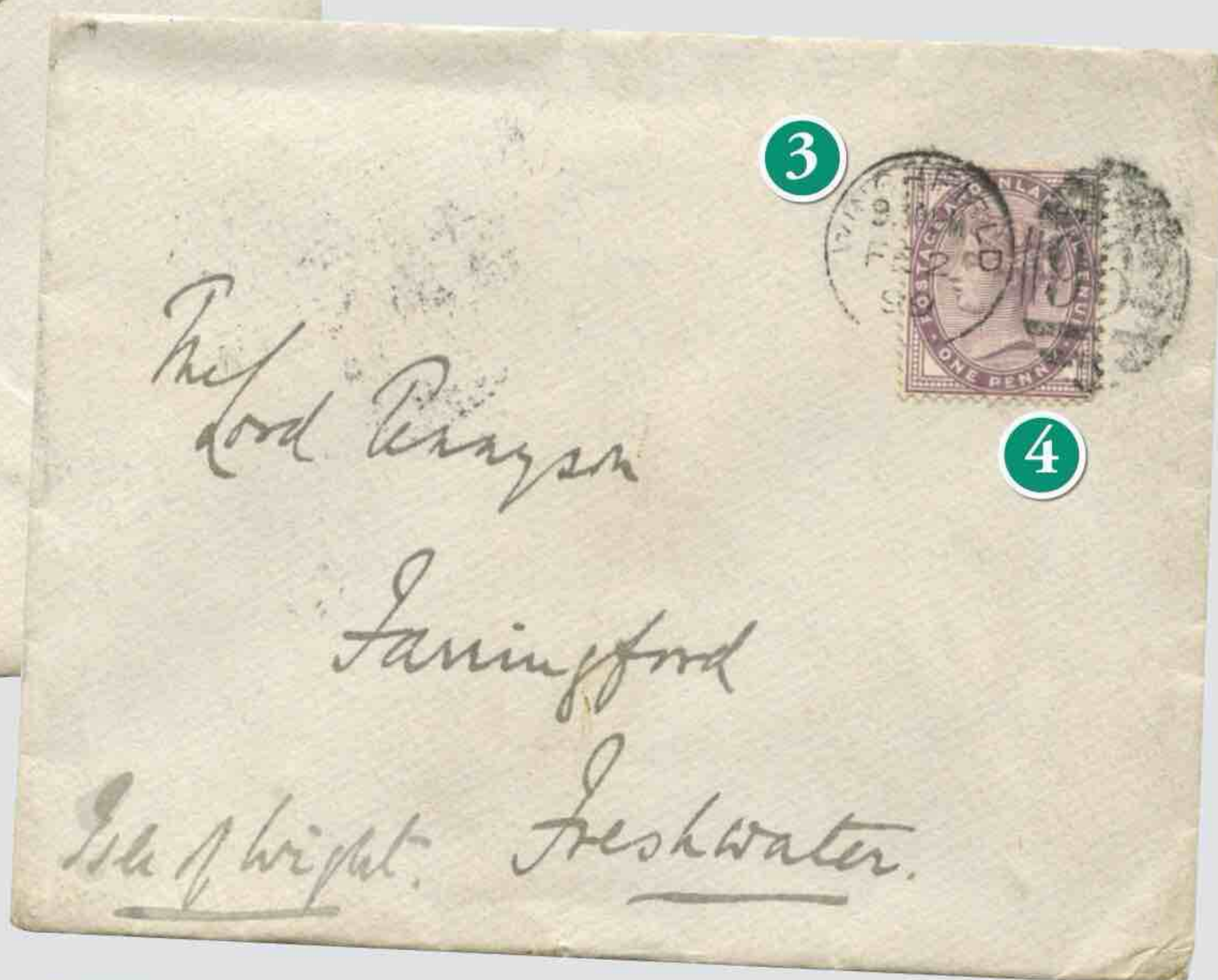
Chamberlain offering Tennyson the position of Governor of South Australia in 1899, which he accepted. This would be after February, when Hallam was clearly still resident at Farringford as the 1899 cover confirms.

Three years later when the position of Governor-General of Australia suddenly became vacant in July 1902, Hallam Tennyson as senior state governor became Administrator of the Government. Naturally, there had been some doubts about his ability to fill the position since he had little experience of politics. But he made a good impression in Australia through his modesty and frugality and was willing to accept the position of Governor-General from January 1903, but at his own suggestion, for a one-year appointment only.

Addressed to The Lord Tennyson at Government House in Adelaide, South Australia, during his tenure as the 14th Governor of South Australia, the September 1900 cover is a mourning envelope with black border together with a black wax seal impressed with the Royal coat-of-arms with lion

and unicorn rampant. This house of Macharrioch, as shown by the name on this personalised stationery, was the Argyll Dower House, and with the death of the 8th Duke in the preceding April, it became the home of his widow, Ida, as Dowager Duchess of Argyll. She would have been visited there by her daughter-in-law, H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. The postage rate was 2½d, with three stamps of Queen Victoria postmarked 'CAMPBELLTOWN / 1045PM / SP 14 / 00 / 65'. The journey by ship 120 years ago would have taken some weeks, and although there is an arrival handstamp in South Australia on the reverse, it was applied over the back edging of the envelope flap and is faint. We can read '00' for the year 1900 and 'SA' for South Australia. However, a figure '4' of the date is impressed into the black, but whether for November or December is not known.

Upon his return to the UK, Lord Tennyson brought his correspondence back home to the Isle of Wight which is how these covers have survived. Perhaps the original enclosures are residing safely somewhere.



1 Addressed to The Lord Tennyson the letter used personal postal stationery with the name 'Little Bounds' on the reverse.

2 The local village postmark was first applied reading 'FLEET / 8.15. PM / FE 2 / 99 / HANTS'.

3 About an hour-and-a-quarter later, the cover had reached Wingfield where the 1d lilac stamp received a duplex postmark 'WINGFIELD / 9.30PM / FE 2 / 99 / 963'.

4 Across the water by boat, probably the following morning, arriving as the second handstamp on the reverse shows at 'FRESHWATER STATION / FE 3 / 99 / ISLE.OF.WIGHT', but no time shown.

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6 This house of Macharioch, as shown by the name on this personalised stationery, was the Argyll Dower House.

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POSTAL HISTORY

Roxburghshire

This Scottish Borders will forever be linked to Sir Walter Scott, whose stories such as *Rob Roy* and *Waverley* added a romantic hue to Scotland's heritage. As John Scott reveals, the postal history and ephemera of the region provides its own insight into the celebrated poet and novelist

There are some counties, particularly in the more remote parts of the Kingdom, which may not strike an immediate chord with most of our readers and indeed Roxburghshire was more populous before the Act of Union in 1707 than afterwards.

But another way of looking at postal history is to choose a single person associated with the area and then to see how their story can be told using a variety of material connected with the post office. One such personality is Sir Walter Scott, described as 'Scotland's mighty minstrel' in the *Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland*. Although born in Edinburgh, he is most associated with the mansion of Abbotsford on the banks of the Tweed which he built in the Scottish Baronial style and, when he died in 1832, was buried in Dryburgh Abbey. Although his work was to fall out of favour when romanticism became less popular, his memory lives on in a multiplicity of memorials in Scotland and elsewhere, as well as at Waverley Station in Edinburgh, named after his first novel and opened in 1854.

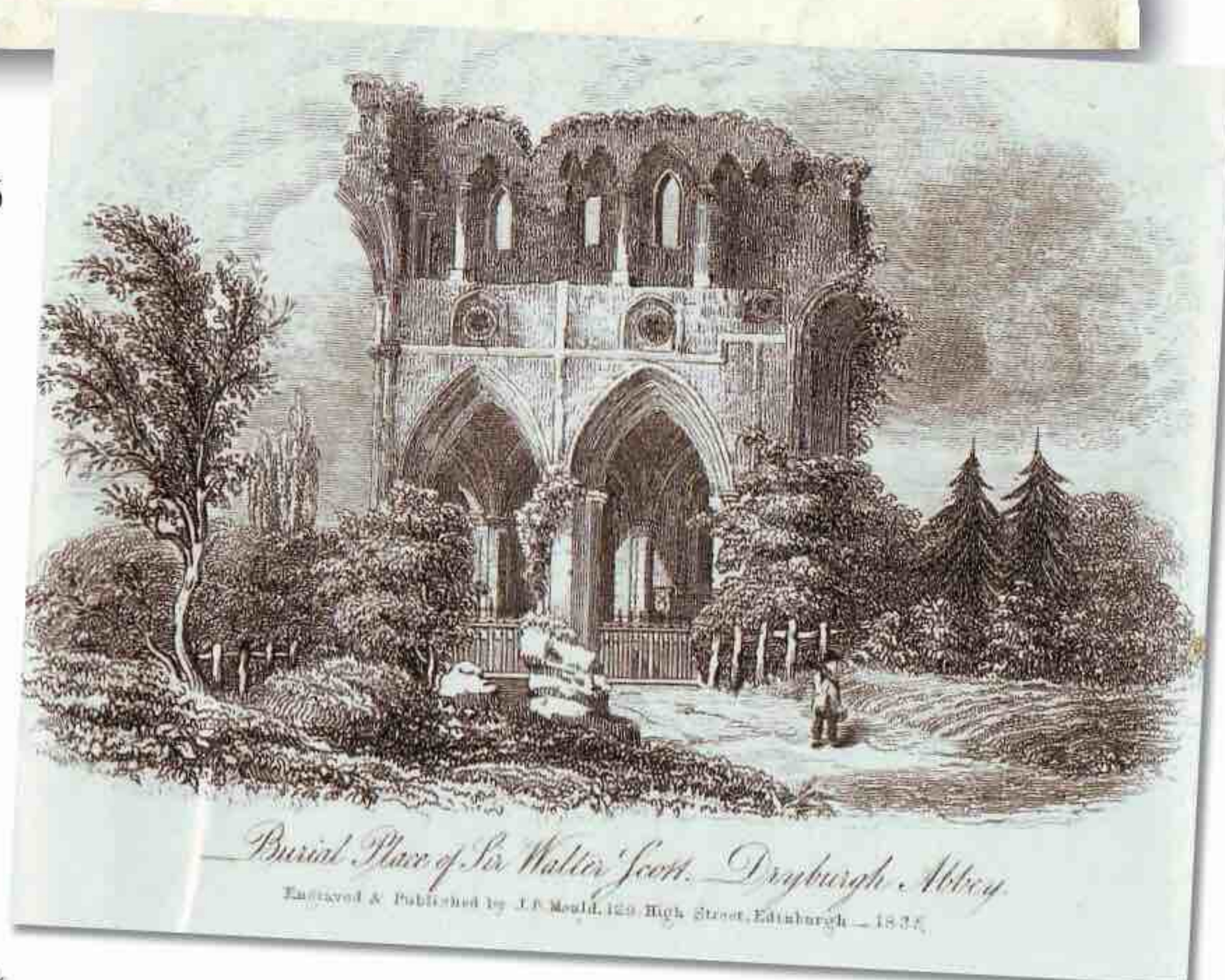
By the 1830s the completion of

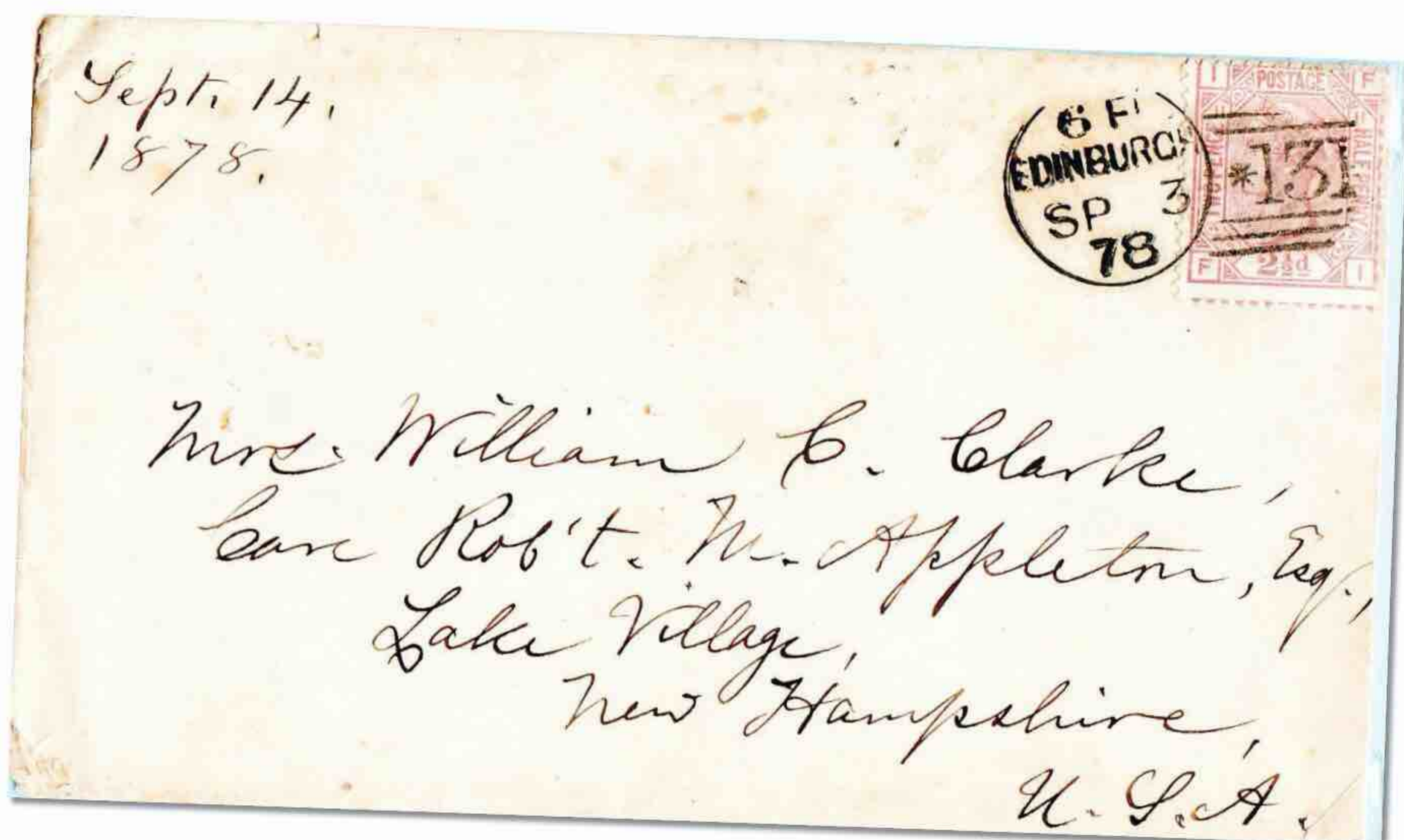
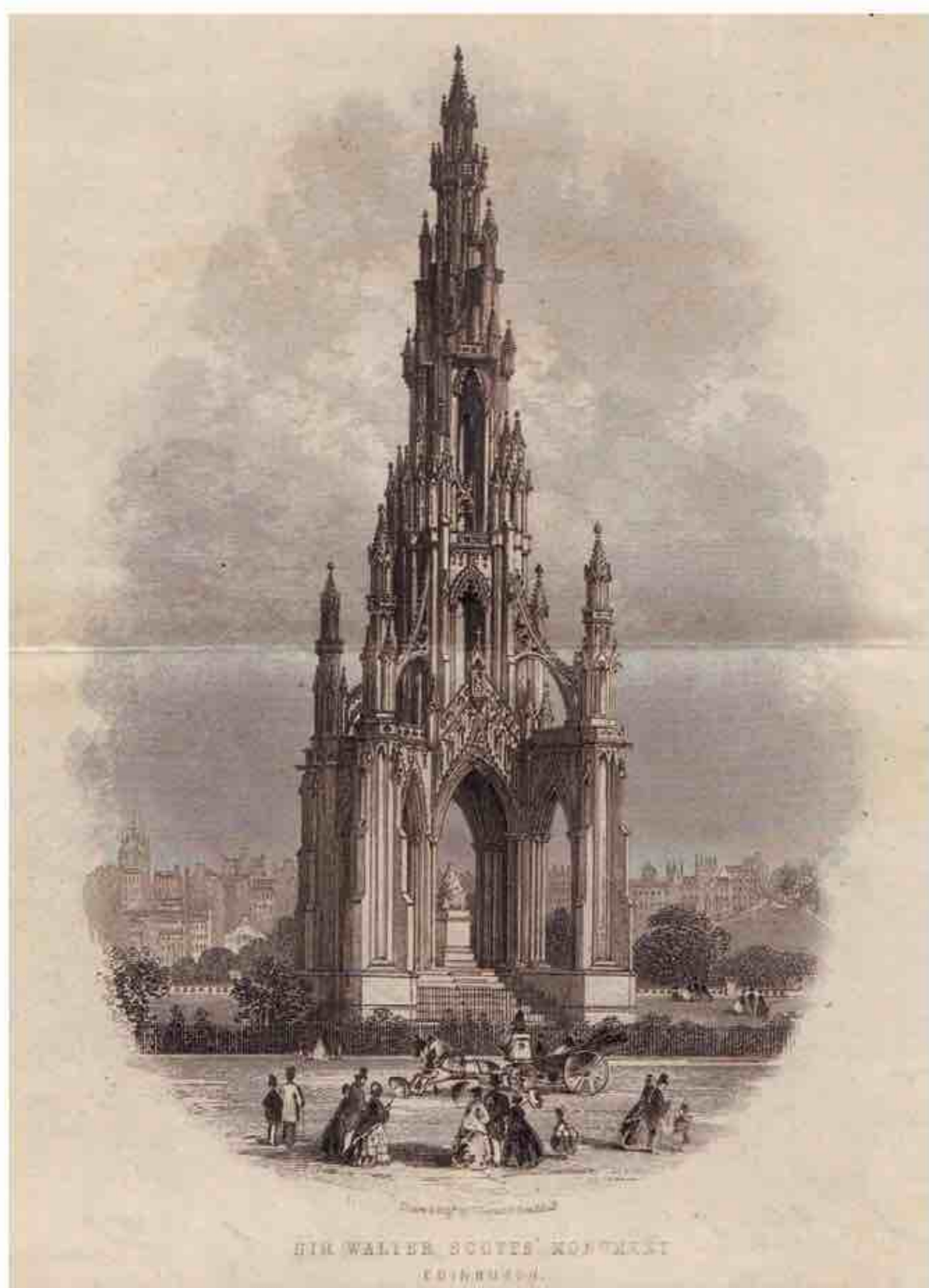


Mary Webster used this view of Abbotsford published in 1834 to write from Tewkesbury in 1835 and, twelve weeks later, used another sheet from the same series depicting the Burial Place of Sir Walter Scott at Dryburgh Abbey, this time posted from Gloucester



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'Sir Walter Scott's Monument' published by Banks of Edinburgh with the envelope in which it was posted to New Hampshire in 1878

Abbotsford, named after the nearby ford used by the monks of Melrose Abbey, had cost over £2million in today's money and became enough of an attraction to warrant the production of writing paper for sale to visitors. The same publisher, J.B. Mould of Edinburgh, published a similar image of Dryburgh Abbey and evidently the sender of both these letters, Mary Webster, must have been a fan of Sir Walter's work to use them to write to her solicitor in Buckingham.

Any reader who has visited Edinburgh cannot have failed to spot the wonderful Victorian Gothic spire in Princes Street which opened in 1844 as The Scott Monument. Not surprisingly such a visitor attraction soon featured on both writing paper and envelopes. One such example published by Banks was used by Dorla Clarke to write to her mother in New Hampshire while she was on a tour of Scotland in 1878: I want to say a little

bit about Scott's Monument ...because I send a picture. It is a beauty and grows on you the oftener you see it. The niches have statues representing some of the principal characters in his books, between 50 and 60 of them".

Another Victorian curiosity was the wafer seal which provided a convenient way of securing letters by those who were distrustful either of the 'cement' on postage stamps or the gummed flaps of envelopes. From the number of examples which survive it seems likely that an enterprising Scottish printer produced sheets of topographical wafer seals on a variety of coloured papers which could be cut out, in similar fashion to a 1d Black, and affixed to the rear flap of the envelope. The porcelain, or highly polished surface of the paper, meant that the image became quite indistinct but the Scott Monument featured in this series.



A wafer seal of 'Scott Mont.' printed on highly surfaced yellow paper securing an envelope posted from Dumfries to Annan in 1845

By 1900 topographical writing paper and envelopes, as well as wafer seals, had been largely overtaken by the picture postcard and there are plentiful examples connected with Sir Walter Scott to choose from. The Philco Publishing Co. of London, active from 1906 to 1934, produced a 'Tartan Series' with one such card featuring the Scott Monument in a tartan frame, but strangely using the Royal Stuart instead of the more appropriate Scott tartan.



The Scott Monument features on this elaborate envelope printed for The Royal Hotel and posted from Edinburgh to Boston in 1884



Princes Street looking west towards the Scott Monument in Philco's Tartan Series numbered 4542

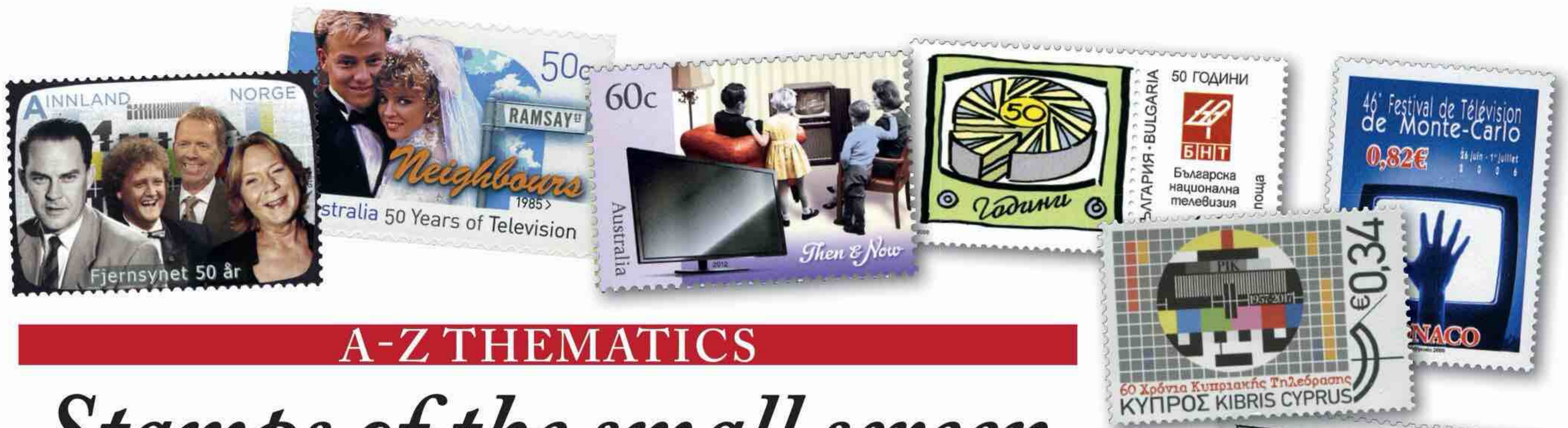


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A-Z THEMATICS

Stamps of the small screen

From its origins in the early 20th century to today's flat-screen, high definition, 'smart TV' technology, television has quickly become a part of every household and, as Paula Hammond reveals, the theme has also had a big impact on stamps

The first forays into television occurred back in the 1850s, but it wasn't for another half a century that the technology became available to make these speculative designs practical. The first demonstration of live 'TV' took place in Paris in 1909. Experiments continued, with inventors utilising everything from spinning, mechanical discs to the belinograph, which sent images over radio waves. Ultimately, however, one inventor would become known as the father of television: John Logie Baird.

Baird's 1927 transmission of moving images from London to New York (after the previous year's public demonstration in Selfridges) is generally regarded as the date that 'modern' TV was born. Baird's work built on many early ideas, using both radio waves and a form of spinning disc, patented in 1885. And every country had its own pioneers, who went on to perfect and improve his work. So, one of bonuses of collecting a TV thematic is that this is a truly international topic. American TV pioneer, Philo Taylor Farnsworth, for instance, appears on a 1983, USA 20-cent stamp. Russian-American inventor, Vladimir Zworykin, was commemorated on a 1983 Guinea-Bissau issue. Baird himself has appeared on numerous releases including a lovely stamp sheet from Sao Tome/ Principe (2007).

BBC TV was born soon after Baird's early demonstration and, soon after, most nations developed their own distinct national broadcasting bodies. British independent TV became fifty years old in 2005, and the Classic ITV stamps are a bright and breezy reminder of some of the shows they produced, from *Emmerdale* to *The Avengers*.

Bulgaria's national television service celebrated forty years with a stamp issue in 2009. Other philatelic releases have commemorated other state broadcasters, with appealing issues from Hungry (sixtieth anniversary in 2007), Ireland (fiftieth in 2011), and Israel's educational TV service, which had its fiftieth birthday in 2007.

The science and technology behind broadcasting makes for a fascinating and diverse sub-theme. Releases such as France's 1955 stamp, showing TV aerials set against the Eiffel Tower, is a bold but simple example. San Marino's RTV satellite sheet, (2012) on the other hand, combines spectacular design with dramatic imagery.

For most of us, though, what makes TV so compelling is its entertainment value and stamps celebrating TV's landmark shows and celebrities make for a great display. Children's TV was the theme of Sweden's 2006 eight-value booklet. In 2014, the Royal Mail also took Classic Children's TV as its focus. Italy's famous sport's commentator, Nicolò Carosio, appeared on their 2007 stamp. The USA's Early TV Memories issue, is a typically

ambitious twenty-stamp romp through TV nostalgia, featuring the likes of *I Love Lucy*, *Dragnet* and *The Twilight Zone*. And more recently An Post celebrated the exploits of Father Ted. True, these stamps tend to look at the popular end of TV broadcasting but, given their quality, this is one occasion when you really won't mind the repeats.



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1955, France, television 15-francs stamp
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 2007, Sao Tome/Principe, John Logie Baird stamp sheet
 2007, USA, Early TV Memories twenty-stamp series
 GB, 2005, Classic ITV

Expand the theme

Early television pioneers learnt much from the worlds of radio and telegraphy and these would make the perfect add-on to a TV thematic that focusses on the technical and historical side of the subject.

Collecting links

The Free Stamp Catalogue have extensive listings and searchable collections. Type in 'television' under the 'All Groups' search box, to find almost 500 stamps to start your theme. Visit: www.freestampcatalogue.com





The Beautiful Game

The start of the Euro 2020 (actually 2021) football tournament is just a few weeks away and there are a huge range of 'Euros' stamps to collect as our guide to the tournament – and to the recently embarrassed 'dirty dozen' football clubs involved in the failed European Super League – reveals

Football is rarely out of the news and this year has been no exception. The pandemic initially left the sport reeling, but with the appropriate health and safety measures the game soon came bouncing back and, if you want it, you can watch a match on almost every night of the week.

Even when the regular season ends, the European Championships will give us more matches to watch. Initially planned for 2020, the international tournament will now be held between 11 June and 11 July 2021. And then there's the 2022 World Cup, to be held in Qatar, adding even more matches to the busy schedule. And to think, some misguided football club owners thought a new European Super League was required to 'save football'. The world game is as popular as ever and stamp collectors can create a philatelic fantasy team thanks to the many soccer stamps issued over the years.



European Championships

The European football championships kick off in June, with the tournament set to be held in a number of different countries in a one-off approach to mark the contest's sixtieth anniversary. The final will be held at Wembley, giving England fans hope that the national team can claim victory on home turf. Hope springs eternal.

Great Britain celebrated England hosting the Euros in 1996 with a 'Football Legends' set, including this design showing legendary Spurs captain and Northern Ireland international Danny Blanchflower. It's one of many sets issued by Royal Mail on the soccer theme.

In 2013 football fans were treated to eleven stamps honouring some of the home nations' best players.



Stars of the set included Denis Law, Gordon Banks, Bobby Charlton, Kevin Keegan, Dave Mackay and John Charles. Other highlights from Royal Mail's footy stamps include football players pictured at Hampden Park, Glasgow on a single 1st class stamp issued in 2000, a 34p to mark the centenary of Football League in 1988, and a 2010 value in

Since this year's rescheduled tournament is taking place in several different countries, there has been no stamp set from the host, however Turkish North Cyprus issued a stamp last year featuring the official logo and mascot (top left)



Euro 2020 groups:

- Group A: Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Wales;
- Group B: Belgium, Russia, Denmark, Finland;
- Group C: Ukraine, Netherlands, Austria, North Macedonia;
- Group D: England, Croatia, Czech Republic, Scotland;
- Group E: Spain, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia;
- Group F: Germany, France, Portugal, Hungary



anticipation of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Of course, there's also the 1966 World Cup stamps with and without the 'ENGLAND WINNERS' overprint – a staple of any schoolboy collection.

There are many other stamps to pursue relating to the Euros, with almost every country involved issuing soccer stamps, many issuing stamps directly referring to the competition.

The French are current World Champions and were both World and European champions back in 2002 when they issued a confident stamp, although they were promptly knocked out of the world cup the stamp anticipated, failing to retain the trophy they won on home soil in 1998.

Denmark were surprise winners of the tournament in 1992, even though they only qualified thanks to the break-up of Yugoslavia and they issued a pink football stamp in 2003. The Danes will play in Group B in this year's event, and will face Russia, another country with an array of football stamps available, including an ambitious series to coincide with the 2018 World Cup held in Russia. The Russians celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their 1960 victory in the European Championships with a stamp issued in 2010, though it's unlikely they will do quite as well this time round.

Sweden will face Spain, Poland and Slovakia, in Group E, and fans will be pleased to hear that Zlatan Ibrahimovic has returned to the

national team after retiring five years ago. The confident striker – he often refers to himself in the third person such is his belief in himself – appeared on a set of stamps. It's not the first time a Swede has made a return to help the country's team. Swedish striker Henrik Larsson was persuaded to return from retirement for the Euro 2004 tournament, and bagged three goals in the tournament, and an appearance on a stamp.

Having never won a major tournament, despite coming very close at the last World Cup losing to France in the final, you could say Croatia's national team have a chequered past, a bit like their red and blue kit and the on-pitch patterns on a 2004 stamp. Midfielder and captain Luka Modric, now of Real Madrid and formerly of Tottenham Hotspur, got his own stamp in 2019.

Drawn with Germany, France and Hungary, current champions Portugal have a tough group stage this year. They hosted the tournament in 2004 and issued 'Euro' stamps in 2008. Their star player is, of course, Cristiano Ronaldo, who has appeared on many stamps from countries such as Burundi, Chad and Rwanda, as has his rival Lionel Messi.

Other nations to have issued Euros stamps include Austria, who were on the football map when they hosted the tournament in 2008, and Switzerland who issued a stamp in 2008 which appealed to many football purists.



Almost every country to have taken part in the football European Championships has issued a stamp to celebrate the sport over the years, meaning the collector can quickly create a fantasy football team in their album, featuring the likes of Zinedine Zidane (France), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Sweden), or Luke Modric (Croatia)

Holland's orange-coated fans are always a highlight of any Euros, and there's still hope some of them will be able to attend the matches; their most famous player Johan Cruyff was shown on a Maldives stamp in 2001.

With this year's tournament being held across many countries there have not been as many stamps issued to celebrate Euro 2020. One of the few stamps celebrating the event was from Turkish North Cyprus and features the logo and mascot along with a map of Europe showing the venues. Thanks to the pandemic this stamp joins a growing list of designs released to mark events that didn't happen when they should have done.

All this and we haven't mentioned the Women's Euro 2022 tournament which will kick off in July next year. Originally intended to be held this year, the event will be hosted





by England at venues in locations including Manchester, Brentford, Sheffield, Southampton, Rotherham and Brighton. The final will be held at Wembley on 31 July 2022; perhaps Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps next year to celebrate the women's game. Until then, there are a growing number of stamps honouring women footballers, though there is plenty of room for improvement from the world's post offices.

The 'Dirty Dozen'

The recent controversy over a planned European Super League grabbed headlines and saw politicians, players and fans stand up against twelve teams who announced their intention to break away and form a new league, with little room for failure or relegation. The plans were soon squashed, but collectors can still form a rogues' gallery of the teams who were embarrassed by their owners' misreading of the game.

Spain celebrated Real Madrid's centenary in 2002 with a distinctly white stamp – to match the team's kit, whilst one of the club's most celebrated players Raul, was honoured with a circular stamp in 2000. Spain's hosting of the World Cup in 1982 also saw Real Madrid feature on a stamp, with Hungary showing the club's Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, which has a capacity of over 80,000.

The Catalan club FC Barcelona



The Italian Post Office issue a special stamp each year to congratulate the league winners, meaning Juventus have been honoured on a growing number of stamps

has long been the main rival to the 'king's team' back in Madrid, with the 'El Classico' match between the two Spanish teams being the most famous, and often most ferocious, derby match in the world. Politics has played its part in the club's history, not least during the Spanish Civil War when the club was targeted by Franco's regime due to its status as a symbol of Catalan. Both Uruguay and Chile marked the club's centenary in 1999.

Juventus have appeared on many Italian stamps, thanks to the country's tradition of celebrating the winner of the Serie A league with a stamp each year – the club has won the league an incredible 36 times. The Turin club's distinctive black and white colours are captured on a range of stamps, including a 2015 design which featured a 'QR code' enabling smart phone users to scan the stamp design and obtain further information about the club.

Meanwhile, Inter Milan and their city rivals AC Milan have also made appearances on Italian stamps. In October 2018, Italy celebrated the 110th anniversary of 'Internazionale' with a single design featuring the club's crest. Both Milan team have won the Italian league on eighteen occasions, so naturally they have appeared on the league winners stamp over the years. AC Milan's 120th anniversary was celebrated on a single San Marino stamp in 2019.

Perhaps it's for the best that England's 'big six' teams have not been directly honoured on stamps like their Spanish and Italian counterparts. Fans of those teams will have to suffice with collecting stamps honouring individual players that have worn their team's colours; there are plenty to look out for in this ubiquitous theme.



Fantasy philately

The growing number of stamps honouring individual players means there's now scope for you to create a fantasy football team on a page of your stamp album. Here's the impressive philatelic line-up for Stamp Collector FC...



The choice for the team's goalkeeper wasn't easy, with Gordon Banks just missing out to Russia's Lev Yashin who played for the Soviet Union 74 times, and in four world cups, and is regarded by some to be the game's greatest ever keeper. Yashin is the only goalkeeper to win the coveted Ballon d'Or.

Our defence has a more home-grown feel to it, with England World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore alongside Northern Ireland's sweeper Dave Mackay (both appeared on Royal Mail's 'Football Heroes' stamps in 2013). Helping shore up the defence is Danny Blanchflower, captain of Tottenham's double-winning side of 1960-61.



Holland's hugely talented Johan Cruyff appeared on this Caribbean Netherlands stamp.

France's memorable 1998 World Cup victory saw Zinedine Zidane (also known as 'Zizou') lift the trophy after a 3-0 win against Brazil in Paris. The graceful Zidane was said to play the game like a ballerina and scored two in the final

This 2010 \$7 value from Argentina shows a number 10 showing their skills. Is it Maradona or Messi? Are we allowed to have them both?

Croatia's little dynamo Luka Modric adds a more modern outlook to the team, he appeared on a Croatian stamp in 2019



Of course any all-time fantasy football team should include Edson Arantes do Nascimento, otherwise known as Pele, considered to be the greatest player of all time. Alongside him is another legend of the game, Eusebio, who appeared on a Portugal stamp in 2014. The final choice is Spain's Fernando Torres, who is Stamp Collector FC's good luck charm. He scored 38 goals for his country and Spain never lost a match when he found the back of the net.

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CHAPTER ONE THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE LONDON GANG

PART THREE – THE ENGRAVER AND PRINTER

It was now late evening and Noella tentatively tapped an impeccably glossy front door to a grand terraced house in Barclay Square. Her excitement of the day, and the thrill of meeting Count Ferrari, had evaporated into a weary need for food and a bed. Her delicate knocking was on account of the serene stillness of the city street and an anxiety to avoid waking anyone unnecessarily.

Our newly appointed stunt reporter had arrived in this affluent residential area only a few moments before, having returned to the *Globe* newspaper following her encounter with the eminent philatelist in Cullum Street. Noella had wanted to retrieve her travel bag and organise some lodgings for the night; that morning's breakfast in Yorkshire seemed like days ago. However, a letter was waiting for her with the newspaper's cloakroom attendant, from her editor Mr Armstrong, informing Noella that accommodation had been arranged for her with a Miss Adelaide Fenton, who he stated would be expecting her 'no matter the lateness of the hour'.

Despite the assurance from the editor, Noella's confidence had dwindled by the third repetition of door tapping. She began to worry what could be done at such an hour if no answer came, the emptiness of the streets suddenly creating an air of uncertainty, when steps were heard inside the hall of the house. Amidst some dull thuds and clicks the door opened to reveal a jovial woman in her mid-forties, wearing a print black gown with a white apron and matching white cap, who identified herself as Ms Kipps the housekeeper. Kipps said she was expecting Miss Bry, and advised that due to the late hour Miss Fenton had already retired for the evening, but a room had been prepared for her.

Ms Kipps led her upstairs to a sizable bedchamber, larger than her bedroom in Escrick which she shared with her two sisters. There were fresh flowers on the mantel, a gas light, sumptuous bedding, a sink and mirror above, a desk and chair facing a shuttered window. Ms Kipps pointed out a tray with a selection of bread, cheese, a jug and glass. After eating Noella slid into bed and it then occurred to her that it was the first time in her 22 years she'd slept in a room alone.

The following morning Noella sat alone at a highly polished oval mahogany table, although two place settings were neatly arranged. The breakfast room had a high ceiling with a walk-in bay window to the front of the property, and colourful walls decorated with flower patterns and a selection of oil paintings. The fireplace crackled and glowed.

Noella marvelled at the array of porridge, eggs, fish and bacon set before her. If she had landed on her feet with her new job, this was surely the icing on the cake, she thought, as her mind turned to the hostess she had still yet to meet. As Ms Kipps filled her guest's tea cup she explained that Miss Fenton wouldn't be up yet, 'Not since her riding accident has she been able to rise early. Poor dear. It was all over the papers. Terrible business. I know she will be delighted to see you later for supper. She's properly made up having a young lady writer to stay.' The affable domestic inquired as to Noella's arrangements and in response called the stable boy, Tom, to organise a cab out front which could take her where she wished.

Upon her arrival in Cullum Street it was immediately obvious that trade had begun for the day. The emptiness of the night before had transformed to a throng of people and carts traversing along the pavements, the shop window of Benjamin & Sarpy's was dressed with a display of stamps. The shop door was ajar and Noella entered what was a poorly lit cramped space that had a musty smell mixed with a chemical odour. The floor had a layer of soiled straw and across the back of the shop was a bench covered in a worn green material, behind which was a floor-to-ceiling curtain spanning the width of the room.

At the bench Noella recognised the figure of Ferrari who was facing another man who glanced up briefly to acknowledge her arrival. Ferrari was hunched over absorbed in examining an artefact with a silver magnifying glass. The man opposite was in his thirties, with short brown hair, parted sternly through the centre of his scalp, and displaying a full moustache. He talked incessantly. Noella looked around and spotted a note hung haphazardly on the wall which read 'This is my busy day', behind it was a rather tatty notice, obscured and only partially visible. Noella lifted the first note to reveal a handwritten communication that made her pulse jump; 'We do not guarantee the genuineness of stamps unless given written confirmation.'

Noella, with her back to the two men sitting at the bench, tried to tune into their discussion, which had become decidedly muted. Just then the shop door opened and a short stocky man stepped inside and asked, 'Is Sarpy in, Benjamin?'. Another man promptly appeared from behind the curtain rubbing his hands on his soiled beige apron, but before the curtain fell back Noella spotted a second figure stood profile on looking at a sheet of stamps. The newcomer and the aproned man stepped to the side in a whispered conversation before the visitor passed a package to his associate. At this the former left as quickly as he'd arrived, the aproned man withdrew back behind his curtain, again revealing the man behind this veil who turned unconsciously, momentarily looking Noella in the eye.

Without thinking she instinctively left the shop and followed the man. He walked briskly through the muddy street, turning left, and then crossing a road busy with pedestrians and carriages, and after about a mile of noisy alleys, he stopped at a premises in Little New Street, still within the City. He went inside. Noella waited for a few minutes thinking what she should do. Approaching the premises there was a printed sign in a gold script that read, 'Ponsford & Co. Engravers and Printers'. Noella smiled, took a deep breath and opened the door to follow the man inside.

...to be continued. Next month, find out what business Ponsford has with the stamp dealers, and see if Noella can piece together the activities of the London Gang.



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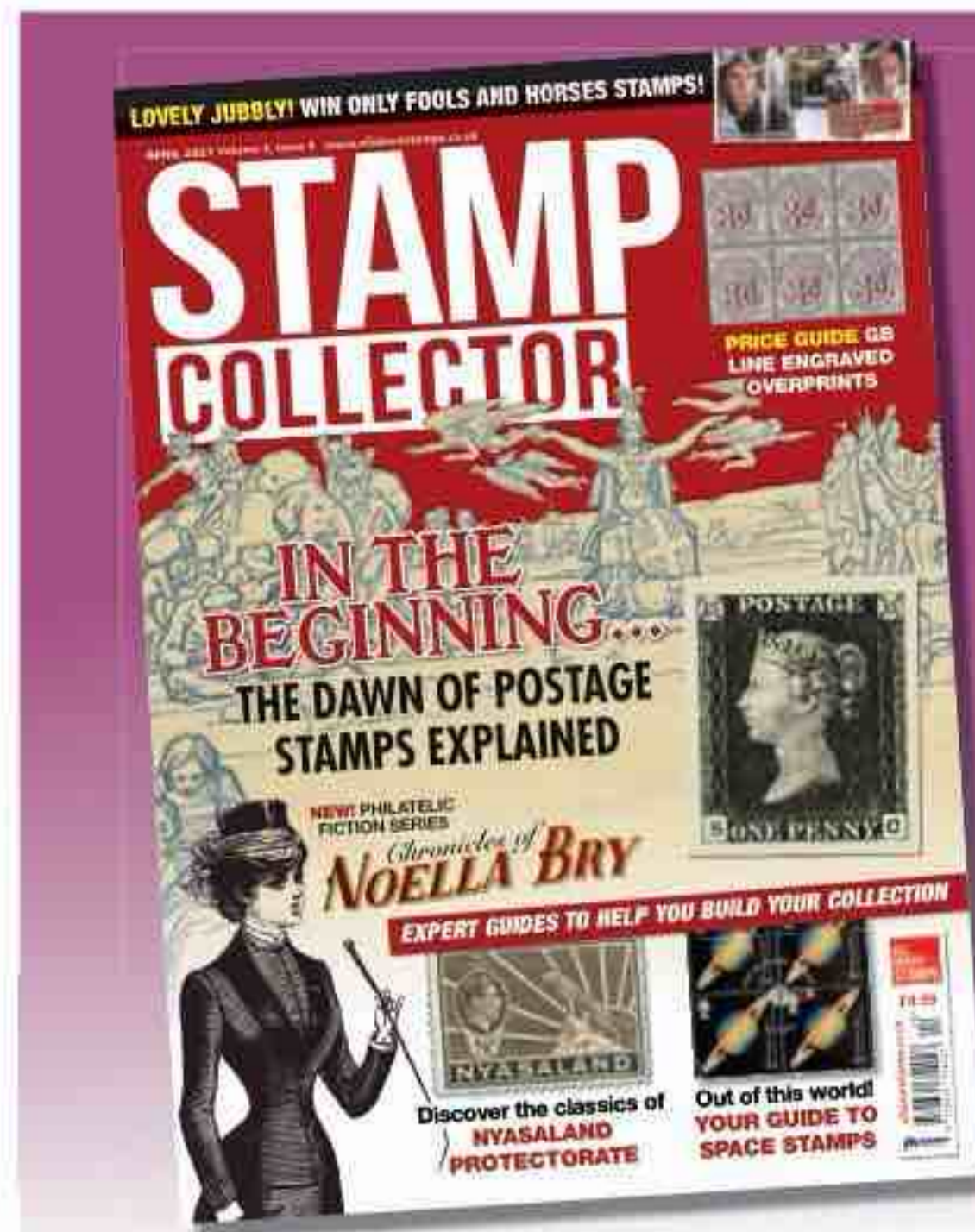
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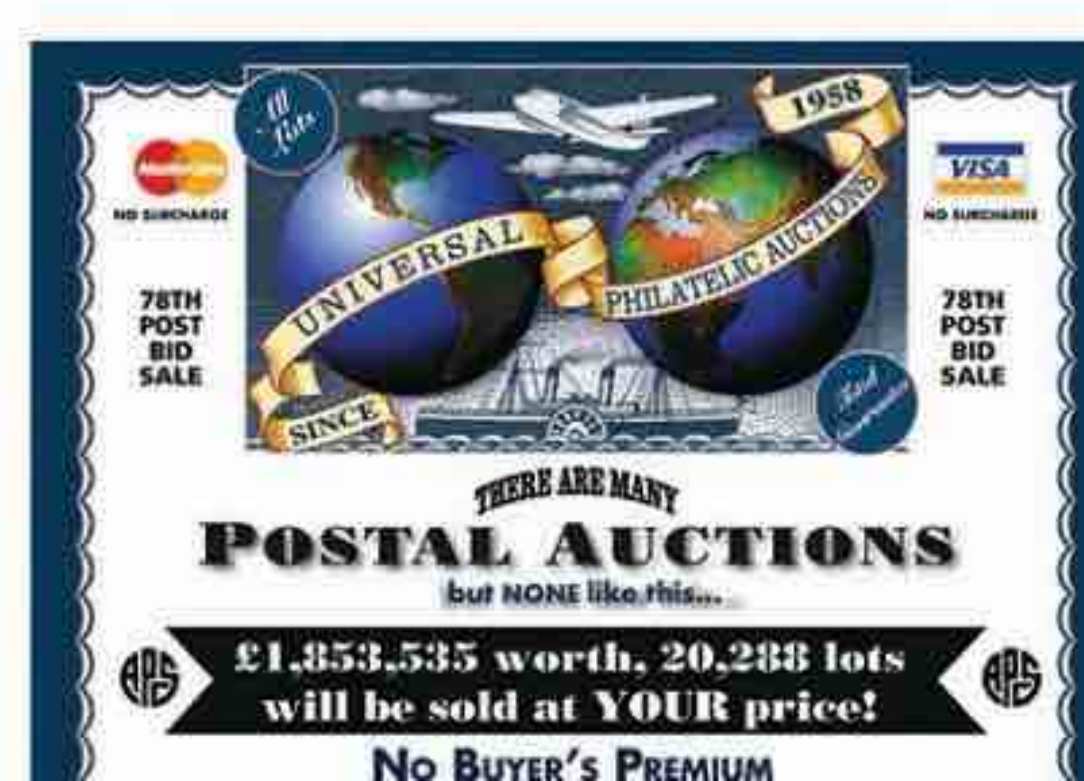
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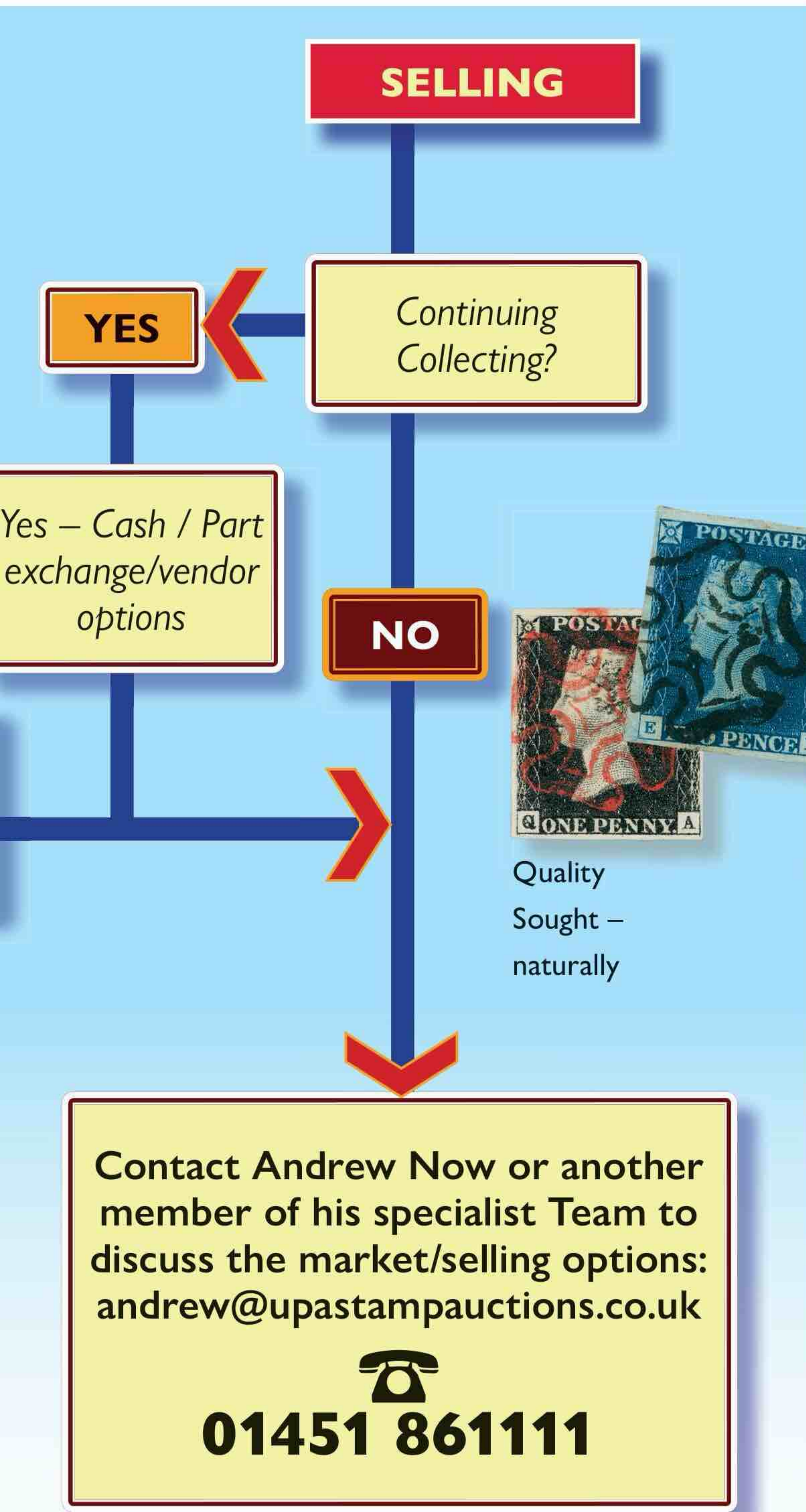
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