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APRIL 2021 Volume 3, Issue 4 www.allaboutstamps.co.uk



STAMP COLLECTOR



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OVERPRINTS**



IN THE BEGINNING...

THE DAWN OF POSTAGE STAMPS EXPLAINED



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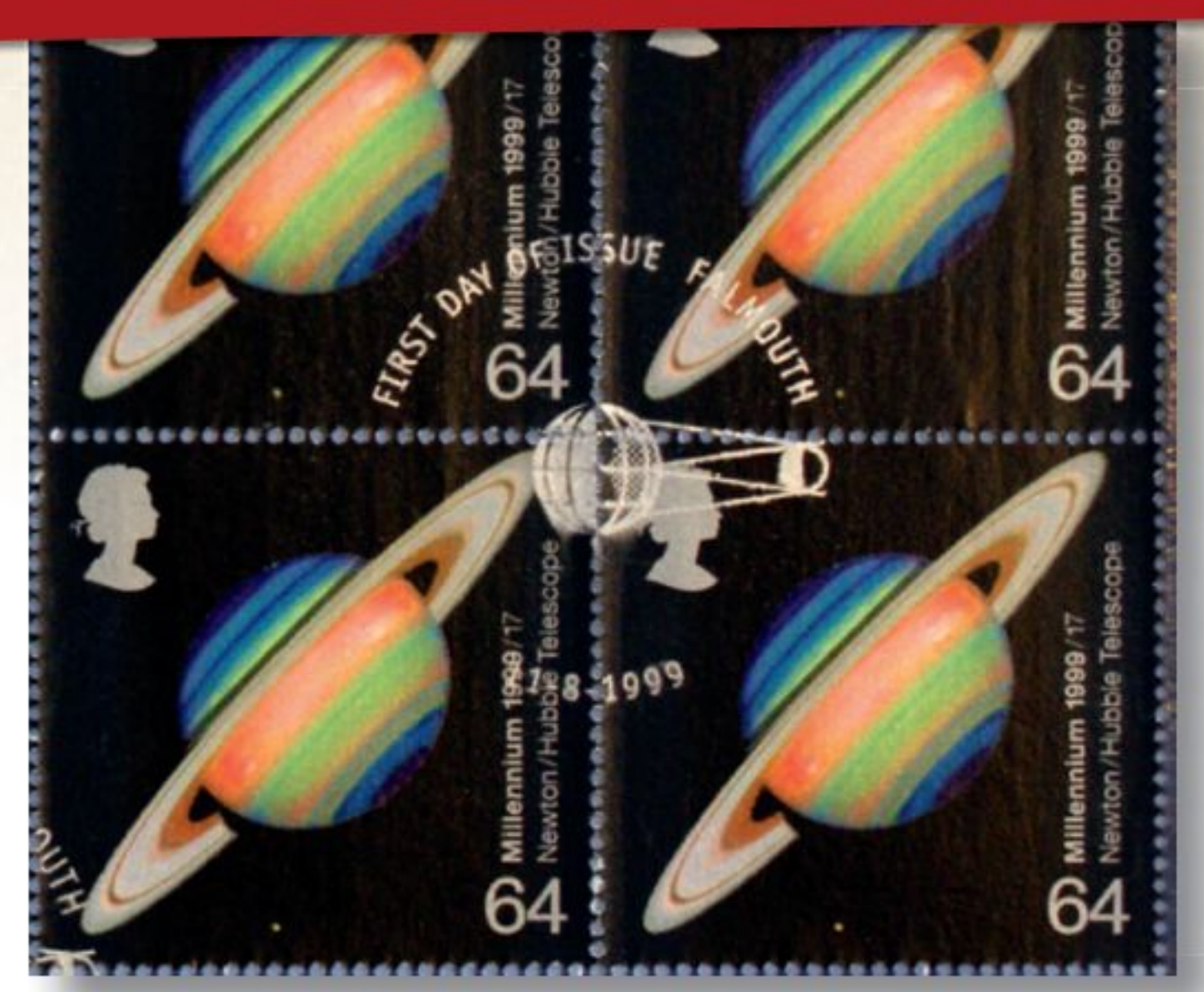
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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

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

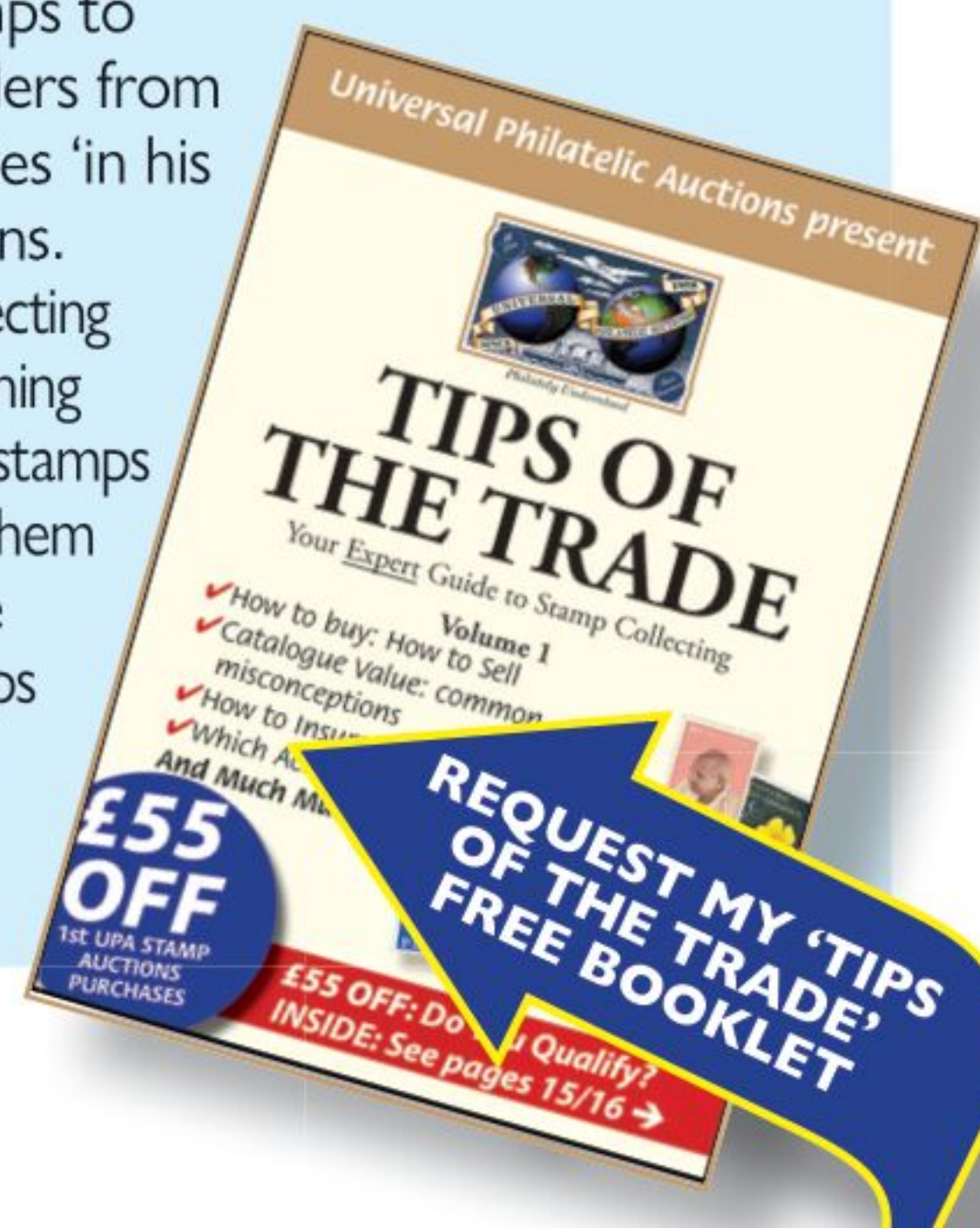
1 ▶ **If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for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



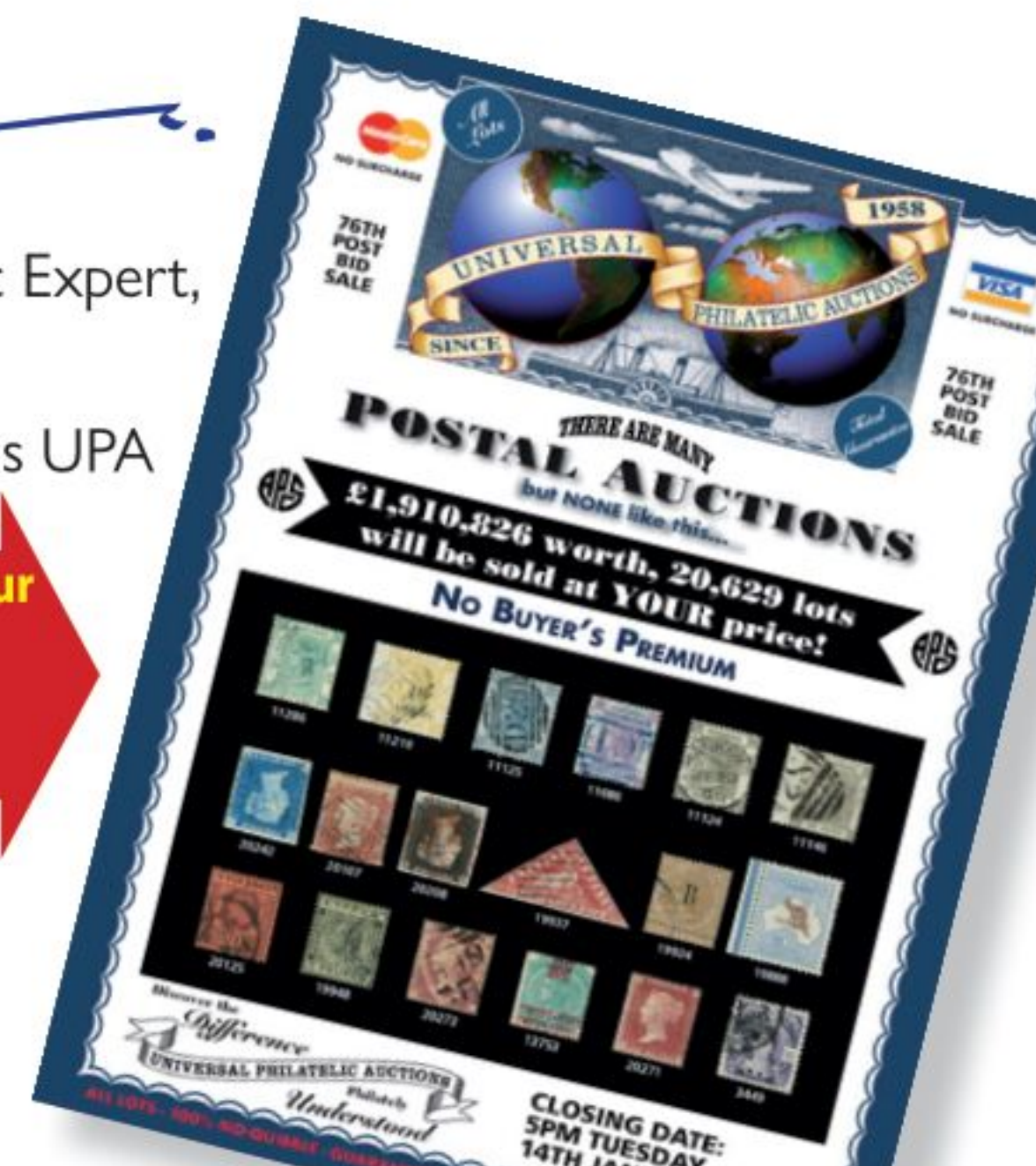
19 ▶ **Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure** So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing 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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UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS SC 04/21

4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297

www.upastampauctions.co.uk • info@upastampauctions.co.uk

PUBLISHING

Publisher: Collette Lloyd
Associate Publisher: Matt Hill

EDITORIAL

Editor: Matt Hill
matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

Contributors: Brian Austin, David Bailey, Christer Brünstrom, Nicola Davies, Charles Epting, Ed Fletcher, David Gwynn, Paula Hammond, Devlan Kruck, Stuart Leigh, Laura McInerney, David Roseveare, Richard Stenlake, Chris West.

ADVERTISING

Sarah Hopton
sarah.hopton@warnersgroup.co.uk
Tel: 07590 880477

PRODUCTION

Senior designer: Nathan Ward
nathanw@warnersgroup.co.uk
Designers: Rajneet Gill, Jackie Grainger, Mary Ward
stampcoinproduction@warnersgroup.co.uk

MARKETING

Lauren Freeman
(please contact Matt Hill:
matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

scm@warnersgroup.co.uk
Tel: 01778 392030

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Welcome

CONFERENCE WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW



As I write, we are just bringing our second Collectors' Conference to a close, after some fantastic webinars, articles and activities over on our website, all with the theme of modern stamps.

Our webinars featured Agnieszka Trzaskowska and Emile Espen who both work to promote and organise Europa Stamps; and Master Stamp

Engraver Martin Mörck and collector Armagan Ozdinc, who discussed Martin's life, career and the hundreds of stamps he has engraved and designed over the years. Thanks to the panellists and to everyone who came along and asked questions.

We had some great feedback on the webinars. Douglas Nethercleft emailed to say: 'Great presentation by Armagan Ozdinc featuring some beautiful engraved material by Martin Morck... The icing on the cake was having the live presence of the engraver himself giving the background to his life and work. So pleased that he is involved in the issue for the centennial birthday of Czeslaw Slania, another amazing engraver.' Meanwhile, Anthony Hughes said: 'I very much enjoyed the talk about Martin Mörck as I have been building a Mörck collection for a year or so now.' If you didn't make the webinars, then don't worry, you can watch the recordings right now on our website.

The Conference was supported by post offices including Jersey Post, Guernsey Post, Post Luxembourg, Malta Post, and Monaco Post; and the online event also saw the launch of our latest one-page competition, this time challenging you to tell a story using stamps issued during or after the year 2000. Why not have a go and enter? You can find details on page 9 and on our increasingly popular website at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

Stay safe, keep collecting, and keep sharing your knowledge and passion for stamps!

Matt Hill, Editor

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

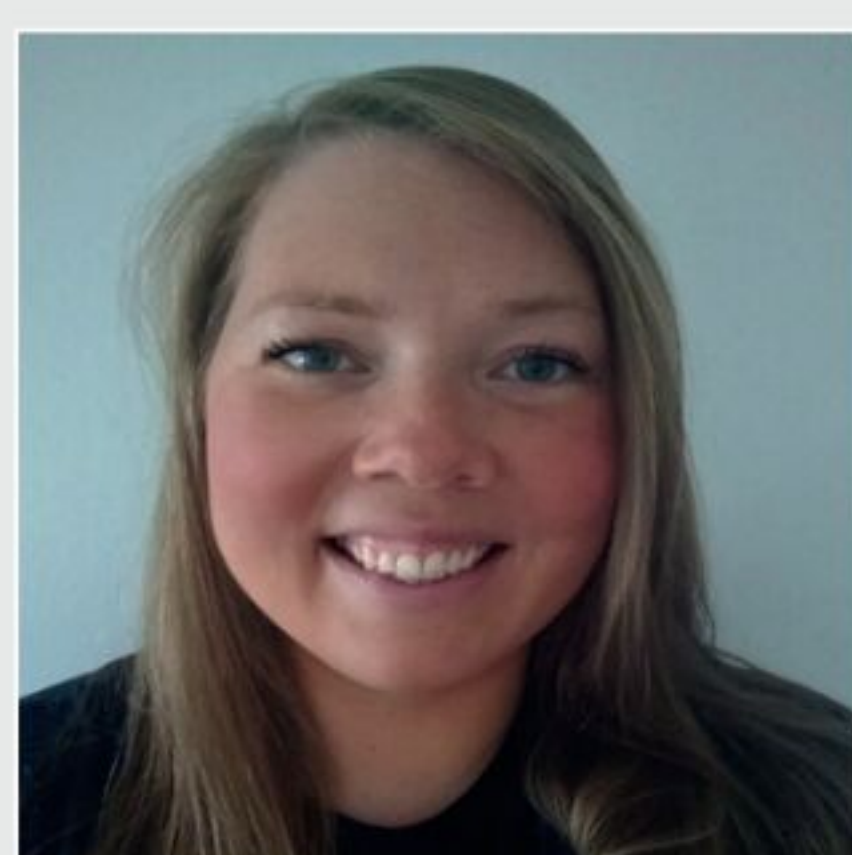
Writing in this issue...



Charles Epting is the President of H.R. Harmer Fine Stamp Auctions in Midtown Manhattan. An alumnus of the APS's Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship, Charles began collecting stamps while a student at the University of Southern California. He is the co-presenter of the Conversations with Philatelists podcast and you can read more about the interviews in his new column on page .



Devlan Kruck is a professional philatelist and philatelic journalist, currently working for the Swiss-based International Auctioneers David Feldman SA. He is a member of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) and the Cambridge Philatelic Society. Devlan examines another philatelic treasure on page 32.



Katrin Raynor-Evans is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and a member of the European Astronomical Society and Astro Space Stamp Society. She writes for *BBC Sky at Night*, and is the Features Editor for *Popular Astronomy*. She is co-authoring her first book and recently asteroid '446500 Katrinraynor' was named after her. Katrin's in-depth guide to space stamps is on page 71.

JOIN THE 'STAMP FOR CAPTAIN TOM' CAMPAIGN

The team behind the *allaboutstamps* website and *Stamp Collector* magazine have launched a campaign to have a charity stamp issued to celebrate the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who sadly passed away this week.

Captain Sir Tom Moore has been an inspirational figure in the UK's fight against Covid19. Following his sad passing earlier this week, we are now asking Royal Mail if they will issue a special charity stamp to honour the man and his inspirational charity work in 2020.

A special stamp celebrating his life and his fundraising would be a fitting tribute to both him and the many key workers and fundraisers who have come together to help the fight against this horrible virus. We believe the special stamp should be a charity (or 'semi-postal' stamp) with a portion of the revenue from sales going to a suitable charity, or to the NHS.

According to the Royal Mail, their special stamps are 'the ultimate picture story of our nation. In minute artistic detail 50 years of British stamps have mapped over 2,000 years of British history – from Roman occupation to the internet age.' The life and achievements of Captain Tom are surely an important part of the story of our nation – and another way for us to come together and raise funds to tackle the Covid19 pandemic.

We asked Royal Mail to respond to the campaign and a Royal Mail spokesperson told us: 'We were deeply sorry to hear of the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore. We send our sincere condolences to his family and loved ones. In a very short space of time he won the hearts of millions of people, as well as setting a new charity fundraising record in support of the NHS.'

'We painted a Special Postbox in his honour outside his local Post Office, which remains in place today. The Special Stamps programme has already been finalised for this year but we will consider the inclusion of this national hero for a future stamp.'



Photograph of Captain Tom: Emma Sohl

SIGN THE PETITION

You can sign the petition at: <https://www.change.org/p/royal-mail-a-commemorative-stamp-for-captain-sir-tom-moore>

Why not share your thoughts on this idea with us by emailing matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk. You can also share your views on our Facebook page and in the 'New Stamps' Facebook group.



COLLECTORS LOOK FORWARD TO VIRTUAL STAMPEX

The second virtual version of Stampex is set to take place between 25 and 27 March, and the organisers have revealed further details of the show's attractions and announced the headline sponsor.

Registration for Virtual Stampex is now open at stampex.vfairs.com, and the organisers have revealed new features for the online show including the Collectors Lounge, sponsored by Corinthia and Heinrich Kohler, which will allow collectors to meet, chat and connect. A PTS spokesperson explained that the Lounge will let visitors 'meet friends, join a relaxed session on collecting from one of the experts and meet the teams who are showing in the booth hall.'

The Spink Auditorium will be home to ten philatelic talks over the 72-hour event, including presentations from NY Collectors Club, FIAP and The Royal Philatelic Society London. Meanwhile, the new Gold Membership Hall will include PTS Gold Members including the likes of Mark Bloxham, Brian Bayford, Stanley Gibbons, Bill Barrell and more.

An Exhibitors Hub will be available to view the exhibitions run by the ABPS and award-winning collections presented by the Museum of Philatelic

As with the previous show, a live chat facility will allow collectors to connect with your favourite stamp dealers, auction houses,

philatelic societies, postal administrations, museums, experts and social influencers - all free of charge.

The PTS have also revealed that Spink will be headline sponsors for the virtual show and for the next event in September, which is hoped to be a physical show back at the Business Design Centre in London. Chairman and CEO of Spink, Olivier D Stocker, said: 'We are delighted to have partnered with Stampex on this five year deal. We look forward to working with them on both the virtual experience and the physical shows. Last year we were pioneers in supporting the digital revolution and this year we are delighted to be not only sponsor the virtual show but also sponsoring the Stampex brand itself.'

For more information on Stampex visit: stampexinternational.com

SEE YOU THERE!

We're delighted to be part of the Virtual Stampex event, and are looking forward to chatting to collectors via the All About Stamps / Stamp Collector virtual stand. Come and say hello to the *Stamp Collector* team and tell us about the latest purchases for your collection!



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FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE

A SUPERB MIX INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER INC KGV1 & WILDINGS IDEAL FOR WTM ETC PLUS ALBUM PAGES MOST REIGNS, MINT & USED AND FDCs, ITEMS OF NOTE ARE 1841 1d & 2d IMPERF PLUS QV TO 1/- GREEN. KEVII WITH VALUES TO 1/-, KGV WITH VALUES TO 2/6 SEAHORSE, KEVIII SET, PLUS KGV1 WITH VALUES TO 1951 £1 AND QEII TO £5 MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH MANY BETTER VALUES WITH A CAT PRICE OF £1,000+ FOR JUST
£139.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered



REF T501

FREE C. O. G. .H TRIANGULAR CAT £130 WITH EVERY COMMONWEALTH BOX FILE

CAT £90

A SUPERB MIX INC 1,000 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER USED STC £100+ ALSO ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD RANGE OF COUNTRIES, PLUS STAMPS LOOSE ON AND OFF PAPER TO SORT, WITH COUNTRIES A TO Z, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £20+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST

£89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



REF T502
FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE

CONTAINING STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER EARLY TO MODERN ALBUM PAGES AND AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £20+ PLUS 1000 DIFFERENT WORLD USED STC £100+ MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT FOR JUST

£89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



REF T503

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

INCLUDING ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER 6 REIGNS. A BAG CONTAINING 500 DIFFERENT GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER AND FDC's. ALSO SINGLE ITEMS 1855 1d & 2d QV TO 1/- 1887 GREEN AND RED KEVII TO 10d, KGV TO 5/- SEAHORSE, KGV1 TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1000+

£169.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T504

GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILES

BUY REF T500 & T503 AND RECEIVE BOTH FREE GIFTS, 1840 1d BLACK & 2d BLUE, AND WE WILL REPLACE 500 DIFFERENT WITH 1,000 DIFFERENT TO MAKE THIS PAIR OF BOX FILES A SUPERB SORT & VALUE FOR MONEY CAT AT £2,000+ AT JUST

£299.50 PLUS £12.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T603

FOREIGN SHOE BOX

CRAMMED WITH ON AND OFF PAPER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ALL WORLD MIXTURE STATED TO BE A MINIMUM OF 1000+ DIFFERENT. ALSO ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £5+ THIS IS A VERY GOOD CHEAP SORT (NO GREAT BRITAIN) OVER 4000 SOLD THE LAST 50 YEARS FOR JUST

£49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE

REF T604

COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX

CONTAINING ON AND OFF PAPER, UNCHECKED A TO Z EARLY TO MODERN, LOOSE AND ON LEAVES, A GOOD MAINLY MODERN MIX, BUT SOME EARLY MIXED IN, BETTER SINGLES, CHEAP LOT, 1000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST

£49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE

REF T605

CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS & IOM SHOE BOX

CONTAINS STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, DEFINITIVES & COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS ALBUM PAGES FDCs ETC, ALSO SOME SETS & SINGLES, MINT & USED, A GOOD SORT FOR THESE POPULAR COUNTRIES, FOR JUST

£49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE

REF T606

GREAT BRITAIN SHOE BOX, FREE 1841 IMPERF 1d RED & 2d BLUE CAT £130

CONTAINING A GOOD MIX OF ALL 6 REIGNS FROM 1d REDS TO MODERN INC STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, INC SOME EARLY, IDEAL FOR WATERMARKS, ALSO ALBUM PAGES, FDCs, MINT & USED SETS & SINGLES ETC

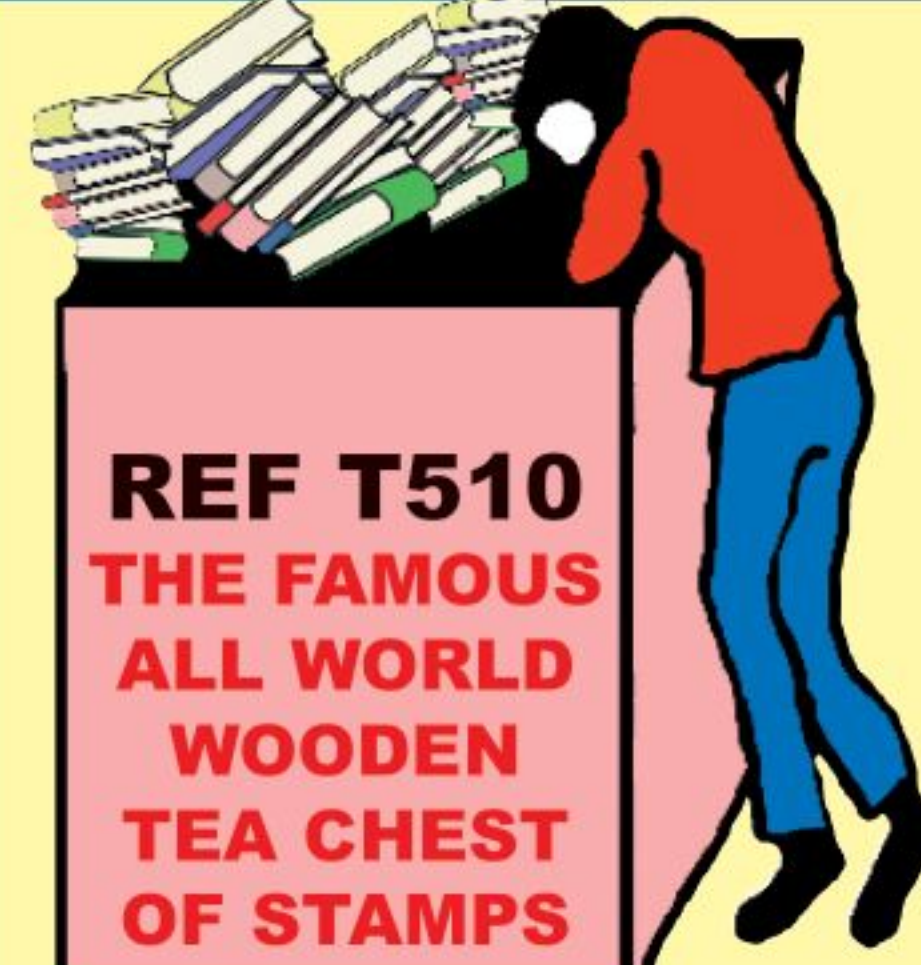
£49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE



REF T602
WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX

BOX OF ALL WORLD COLLECTIONS COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN (NO GREAT BRITAIN) AND NO STAMPS ON PAPER A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES AND SINGLE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS IN STOCKBOOKS AND ALBUMS AS RECEIVED COULD BE ANYTHING 1,000s OF STAMPS

£299.50 PLUS £15.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.



REF T510
THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS

REF T510
THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS
YES, THE ULTIMATE SORT WITH OVER 1,000 OF THESE SOLD IN THE LAST 40 YEARS, A MUST FOR COLLECTOR/DEALER OR ANYONE WHO LIKES A GOOD SORT, INC COLLECTIONS, PACKETS, LOOSE STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, ALSO MIXED COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS BOXES & STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC A GOOD MIX INC GB, C/W & FOREIGN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ 1,000s OF STAMPS A LOT UNCHECKED ETC WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF £1,400 AND WEIGHING APPROX 30 KILO SUPERB LOT

HAVE YOU TRIED ONE YET FOR
£950.00 PLUS £28.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T623

GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST

CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES STOCKCARDS, BOXES OF ON & OFF PAPER & LOOSE STAMPS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC 1840 1d BLACK, 1d REDS AND A GOOD SELECTION OF MINT & USED, ALL REIGNS, PLUS FDCs ETC, A GOOD LOT, VERY HIGH CAT, WITH TOP VALUES AND AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, STATED TO RETAIL £700+

£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T624

COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST

CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULAR, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, LOOSE STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, COVERS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, SETS & SINGLES, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, STATED TO RETAIL £700+

£499.50 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 £700+

£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T627

ALL WORLD WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST

INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF WORLD, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM & GREAT BRITAIN WITH STOCKBOOKS, COLLECTIONS, ALBUM PAGES, FIRST DAY COVERS STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER BOXES AND PACKETS OF UNSORTED MATERIAL. AUCTION LEFT-OVERS A GOOD SORT FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ STATED TO RETAIL £450



£299.50 PLUS £20.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



REF T607

ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/2 BOX

INCLUDING LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER PLUS CHILDREN COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC PLUS OTHER BITS, ALBUM PAGES, THE ODD COVER, EVERY BOX IS DIFFERENT (VIRTUALLY NO GB) 1,000s TO SORT

£69.50 PLUS £12.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



REF T622
WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER

A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON & OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER

£24.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE

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NO BUYERS' PREMIUM

AUCTION DATES FOR 2021

14th Apr, 12th May, 9th Jun,
14th July, 11th Aug, 8th Sept



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scan with your phone

GUERNSEY AMONGST YEAR OF RAT WINNERS

Guernsey Post's Year of the Rat stamps were recently awarded seventh place in a global competition organised by The Chinese Shengxiao (Zodiac) Philatelic Society, with Hong Kong coming first in the annual event.

Now in its eleventh year, the competition included Year of the Rat stamps issued by sixty postal administrations in late 2019 or early 2020. The winning stamps were selected by members of The Chinese Shengxiao Philatelic Society and a jury of 28 philately experts, who awarded Hong Kong's stamps the top spot.

Designed by Chrissy Lau, Guernsey's stamp set, Rags to Riches, depicts a rat on each intricately designed stamp, which feature accents of gold reflecting the belief, in Chinese culture, of the rat's association with wealth, abundance and prosperity, as well as fertility and



reproduction. The Chinese symbol for rat appears in red and sits on the top left of each stamp.

Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post said: 'We are absolutely thrilled that our Year of the Rat stamps have been recognised by The Chinese Shengxiao Philatelic Society. We have worked with designed Chrissy Lau since our Chinese New Year series began in 2012 and we continue to be impressed by her ability to convey elements of Chinese heritage and culture into the beautifully designed stamps.'

PLANNING BEGINS FOR LONDON 2022

Planning has now resumed for London to host an international stamp exhibition in 2022. Originally to be London 2020, the event should have been held last May. Now it will be known as London 2022, and will take place on 19 to 26 February next year. The venue will still be the Business Design Centre in Islington in London (nearest Underground Station: Angel).

For the latest news, particularly with regard to the competitive exhibits and sales booths, visit the exhibition website at www.london2022.co/news

Applications can still be accepted for entries in the Literature Class. The fee is £25 per entry and, as previously, applications should be submitted via the National Commissioner (which for exhibitors from the UK is Mike Roberts: UKcommissioner@london2022.co), with applications to be received by the Commissioner General no later than 31 May 2021.

Inevitably some of the original booth holders have now had to withdraw. Those who would like to apply for a booth are invited to contact boothsales@london2022.co

EXHIBITION CELEBRATES THE BRITISH POSTCARD

The Postal Museum have revealed details of a new exhibition planned to open on 1 April, celebrating the role the postcard has played in connecting people for more than a century and a half. The 'Wish You Were Here' exhibition was originally scheduled for 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic.

The British postcard's history dates back to 1870, when it became an innovation of its time, opening new and faster correspondence for everyone in Britain. Postcards were used to send secret messages of love, to boost morale for soldiers at war and to boast from holidays near and afar.

Exhibition highlights will include the first British postcard from 1870, a pre-paid postcard template with a blank front which sparked the public's obsession for rapid communications; early 20th-century illustrated postcards from Harry to his sweetheart Olive with hidden messages in the stamps; and, on loan from Kirklees Museums and Galleries, original artwork produced by Bamforth & Co Ltd featuring classic seaside postcards and those deemed inappropriate for sale.

Visitors will be invited to reflect on the many guises of the postcard across themes including romance, First World War correspondence, the great British seaside, contemporary art and the postcard in a digital age. They will be asked to reflect on whether the postcard has lost its place in the modern age of even more instant communication, or if it will undergo a rebirth, as people make a move to reclaim the



emotional connection a postcard can deliver.

Exhibition Curator Georgina Tomlinson said: 'We really want our visitors to be curious about the future of the postcard. An innovation of its day, people became obsessed with sending and collecting postcards - they documented the significant and mundane of everyday life much like social media today. We hope the exhibition will evoke both a sense of nostalgia and invite our visitors to think about the different ways they connect with friends and family and how that might have been influenced by this innovation in communication from 1870.'

Wish You Were Here: 151 Years of the British Postcard, 1 April 2021 – 2 January 2022 (opening subject to COVID-19 restrictions) Admission included in the ticket price for The Postal Museum (£16 online)

Find out more at: www.postalmuseum.org



WINNER OF LATEST ALL ABOUT STAMPS COMPETITION REVEALED

The votes for the latest All About Stamps Competition have been collated, the three finalists confirmed, and the winner has now been decided. Congratulations to Wayne Cox for his winning entry on 'The other side of GB stamps'!

The latest one-page competition challenged collectors around the world to produce a one-page entry using British stamps, with the overall winner receiving the All About Stamps Medal. The two runners-up were Colin Clark with his entry 'Mr Abbot's Big Idea', which detailed the invention of the numeral obliterator in the 1840s; and Phil Seymour whose one-page exhibit detailed the stamps of King Edward VIII. You can see all the entries over on the website at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/virtual-events/stamp-displays

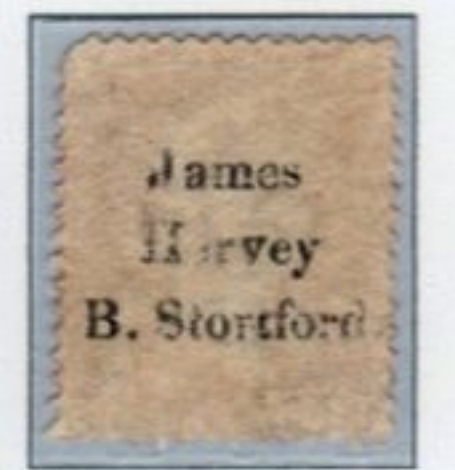
Editor Matt Hill said: 'Once again we were delighted with the response to the competition, with entries coming from collectors around the world. The theme of GB stamps is always popular and the quality of the entries was fantastic, making judging the entries a very difficult process. Congratulations to Wayne, and to everyone who entered, we're now looking forward to seeing the entries for the competition, which invites one-page displays using modern stamps. I can't wait to see what subjects are covered!'

As mentioned by Matt, the next All About Stamps Competition has now been launched as part of the recent Collectors' Conference on Modern Stamps. 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. 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 23 April 2021. Here are a few further requirements:

- All entries should be scanned or photographed at a resolution of at least 300 dpi
- Email your entry to matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk with the subject line: 'All About Stamps Modern Stamps Competition Entry'
- Submit your entry by 23 April 2021
- All entries will be shared on the allaboutstamps.co.uk website (subject to approval), and highlights will also be published in *Stamp Collector* magazine.

THE 'OTHER SIDE' OF BRITISH STAMPS

INTRODUCTION: Occasionally, British stamps can be found with printing applied to the back as well as the front. This exhibit examines these markings and explains the reasons behind them.



Great Eastern Railway official underprint

Official underprint

Unofficial underprint

SECURITY: From 1867, to stop the pilfering of stamps by company employees, controls were printed on the backs of British stamps. Four firms used the official service, having their names printed on the backs of their stamps by the stamp printers, under the gum. Others simply printed their own controls over the gum.



Under the gum (usually found used)

Over the gum

ADVERTISING: In 1888 two different Pears' Soap advertisements appeared on the backs of 1/2d and 1d stamps. The adverts were not sanctioned by the GPO. Official trials were conducted in 1922 however; 1d 'specimen' stamps had slogans, promoting post office services, printed on the back in red. The trial did not proceed any further.

Instal the Telephone.



'Colour Trial E' = 'MB Scarlet 25602'

COLOUR TRIALS: In 1912 colour trials were conducted to ascertain the best shade of red for the 1d definitive. Eight inks were tested, from three different suppliers, one of which was Mander Brothers. The stamps were marked on the back with an identification letter ranging from 'A' to 'H'.

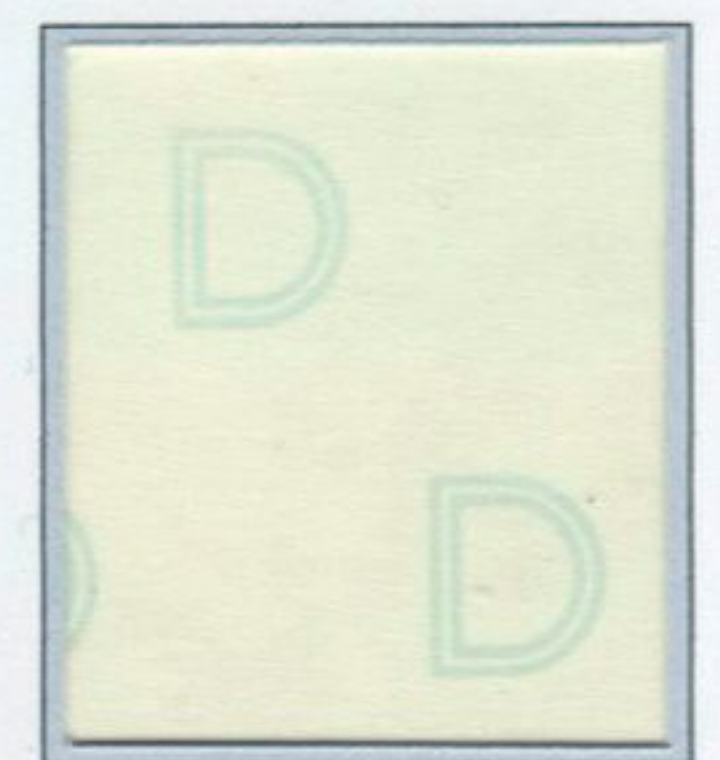
POSTAL MECHANISATION: Graphite lines were printed on the backs of 'Wilding' definitives, for use with experimental letter facing and sorting machinery installed at Southampton in 1957.



One line: printed matter rate

Two lines: all other values

ACCOUNTING: Some booklet stamps issued between 1982 and 1986 can be found with blue emblems printed on the back, over the gum. The booklets were sold to the public at less than face value; the devices on the back identified the discounted stamps for accounting purposes.



Imperforate paper sample

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS NOW ONLINE

Between 22 and 24 February we celebrated the subject of new stamps and the work of stamp designers and philatelic bureaus around the world, with special articles, videos, and webinars. Highlights included webinars on Europa Stamps and with stamp engraver Martin Morck, as well as interviews with representatives from Jersey Post and Guernsey Post. Highlights of the Collector's Conference on Modern Stamps are now available on the website at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/virtual-events/modern-stamps-conference



ADVICE FROM AN EXPERT

Following his PTS awards nomination for his contributions to the hobby, we speak to Michael Dodd of cddstamps and hear about his recently published book on buying stamps online

When and why did you start collecting stamps?

This will surely age me, but I started collecting some 55 years ago. I was in Scotland on holiday with my parents, and remember buying a new issue to commemorate the opening of the Forth Road Bridge, actually that was 1964, 57 years ago now. I had a few stamps somehow collected but this issue was my first new issue that I could afford with my pocket money and of course it was an issue being sold at a Post Office near the bridge and with a special handstamp to mark the occasion. My father also took me to a stamp shop in Edinburgh near where he lived and I bought a few more and somehow that was it, I was interested and wanted to collect more. Interestingly I remember buying some GB George V stamps from the shop, and to that day GB George V has been my real collecting interest, especially the Downey Heads.

What advice would you give to stamp collectors considering a purchase online?

Michael: The decisive factor for me is, do I really need this stamp for my collection, to fill a gap, to enhance the collection? If yes and the quality is what I can accept and the price is right then I will buy. I try to offer exactly that to my customers on the cddstamps online store, the opportunity to fill a gap in their collection with the quality they want at a competitive price.

When did you start cddstamps?

Michael: I started cddstamps in 1999 and back then I built my own website and used PayPal features to sell online. Things have changed so much over the past twenty years I started selling through an online marketplace and am now on the Hipstamp portal. My online store has done, in my view, quite well. I have over 21,000 very positive customer feedbacks and a customer database of very nice customers. I think that is important. To get a customer and keep that customer by providing excellent service, not only in the stamps we sell, the packaging we send the stamps in, but also in the communication we have with our customers.

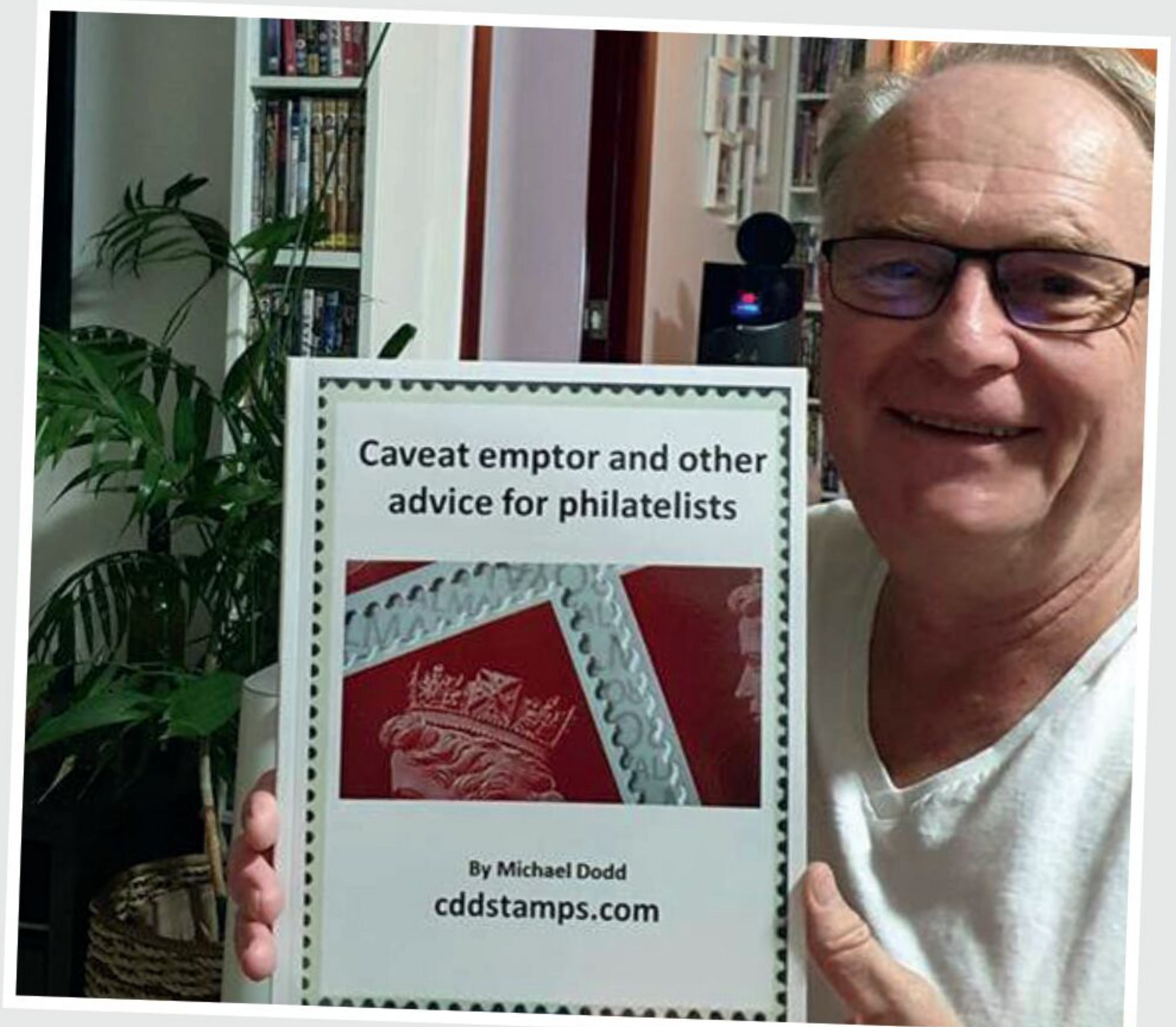
Your experiences from selling stamps has motivated you to write a book on the hobby, can you tell us more?

At the end of 2020 I published a book titled *Caveat Emptor and Other Advice for Philatelists*. Over the past years I have seen more and more sellers on various philatelic portals selling stamps of poor quality with misleading descriptions or even no appropriate description, extremely bad or even no images and various other very, let's just say, unprofessional aspects to the listings and actual sales.

I occasionally write about this on my blog cddstamps.blogspot.com in the hope that collectors will learn from my writings, and sellers too for that matter. I decided to compile some of the writings and add many more topics to create a book.

A quick digression here because I think this is also relevant; I am a member of the Internet Philatelic Dealers Association. We are a global association of sellers and dealers who believe that if someone is going to be selling stamps on the internet they need to have standards, let's say some professionalism so that collectors who buy from them can buy with confidence.

I am afraid that is not always the case and one of the things my book does is show examples of some good and bad practices. I guess I am saying I have the customer base I do because once they have bought from



me the first time they see what quality is, and it is not just only in the actual physical stamp, it is the packaging, the communication, the correct description of the quality or grading of the stamp and more of course.

With so much choice online are collectors spoilt for choice in terms of finding what they want at the price they are prepared to pay?

The simple answer to that is yes. However, the reality is that we are seeing people coming back into the hobby and even more people getting back more seriously into philately. People these days have the ability to spend their time and disposable income differently to how they spent it before the start of 2020.

This is not going to change any time soon either. So, with new collectors and collectors returning to the hobby we are seeing – as would be the case for any of us starting something new or getting back into a pastime – people with lower levels of experience and therefore more likely to be taken advantage.

Has your business, and online dealers generally, benefited from the hobby's recent resurgence?

I think the answer depends on who you are, where you are and what you have for sale in your online store. Personally, not that good for me because I am an international only seller. This is because I am living in the Philippines, So all my sales are international and airmail services have declined in frequency because of the Coronavirus.

Situations differ so widely I think there are many answers to the question. But I should add this for readers: we have started a new service where we accumulate orders and when we have sufficient so that we can absorb the courier cost we send the orders by international courier rather than regular airmail to a colleague dealer in, say, the USA or UK who then forwards the orders in the local mail. This works much better and gives our customers safer and faster delivery of their orders.

Michael's new book is available as an e-book from www.blurb.com/ebooks/743220-caveat-emptor-and-other-advice-for-philatelists or in softcopy format from www.blurb.com/b/10455362-caveat-emptor-and-other-advice-for-philatelists



Tony Lester

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FAROES

The underwater roundabout

There are some engineering achievements that clearly deserve recognition and the Eysturoy Tunnel certainly fits into that category. The underwater road opened on 19 December 2020 and is the largest ever infrastructure project in the Faroe Islands, stretching just under seven miles and connecting the islands of Streymoy and Eysturoy.

But it isn't just the technical aspect of the tunnel that commands celebration, including the two new stamps from the Faroe Islands. The tunnel has a number of artistic flourishes, including a subsea roundabout which features a huge basalt column in the centre.

The contractors contacted, Faroese artist Tróndur Patursson and asked him to suggest artistic decorations for the column. Patursson's solution was to feature the Faroese chain dance on steel. The dancing figures are illuminated from behind with colour-changing light, projecting dancing shadows on the basalt column when car headlights sweep over them. As the Posta Faroe Islands team point out: 'A chorus of one of the long heroic ballads says that "no one dances underground" - but apparently everything is possible under the seabed.'

Issue date: 19 February 2021, en.stamps.fo



ISLE OF MAN

Devoted to your service

To mark the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's 95th birthday, the Isle of Man Post Office will issue six commemorative stamps entitled Devoted to Your Service. Produced in collaboration with ten other postal administrations, the stamps depict some of the many high points of the life of Her Majesty and pay tribute to HRH Prince Philip.

The Princess, writes Royal author Lady Colin Campbell, stamp is reminiscent of the famous broadcast Princess Elizabeth made to the Empire from South Africa to mark her twenty first birthday, where she spoke of her intention to devote her life to the service of all the peoples

of the Realm, a promise she has kept throughout her long reign and even longer life.

The stamp entitled Coronation depicts The Queen and her consort, The Duke of Edinburgh. Accessing to the throne in 1952 at the age of 25, and crowned in Westminster Abbey at 26, Queen Elizabeth II's reign has witnessed the creation of one of the world's most vibrant and progressive multi-cultural societies. Her Majesty's goal of service to the people of her Realms and of the Commonwealth has been strengthened by the support of The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as reflected in the stamp entitled Marriage.

Two of The Queen's main hobbies have been bloodstock and photography, and it is fitting that she is commemorated under the caption of Leisure, her hair encased in a scarf.

Pageantry is another essential element of the monarchy. The stamp depicts the monarch wearing a crown and the smile which lights up her face and provides a glimpse of the warm, kind, and dutiful woman who has devoted her whole life to her people. The stamp entitled Royal Duty also represents this with an image of Her Majesty wearing a hat, gloves, and a brightly coloured outfit as is customary whenever she is out and about undertaking royal engagements.

Issue date: 26th February 2021, www.iompost.com/stamps-coins





JERSEY STAMPS & COLLECTABLES

JERSEY FROM THE AIR



1 APRIL 2021

SPORT IN JERSEY – SURFING



18 MAY 2021

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Jersey Post Group

GUERNSEY

Award-winning beauties

Guernsey Post has announced the launch of Clematis Gold, a new miniature sheet series depicting award-winning clematis, which have been cultivated by world renowned nurseryman and Guernsey grower, Raymond Evison OBE. Each of the clematis depicted on the stamps has been part of the Gold Medal award-winning displays at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Beautifully depicted by botanical artist Gillian Barlow, the first miniature sheet depicts the Sarah Elizabeth clematis, which was created in memory of Sarah Elizabeth Groves, whose life was tragically cut short when she was murdered whilst backpacking, on board a houseboat on Dal Lake, Srinagar, Kashmir, on 6 April 2013. Sarah was just 24 years of age.

Raymond Evison said: 'Clematis Sarah Elizabeth was bred and developed as part of the Evison (R) and Poulsen (R) Breeding Programme, in the Guernsey-based clematis nursery over a period of approximately ten years.'

'The Sarah Elizabeth is a breakthrough as regards its flower colour, being a unique shade of pink to any other clematis plant on the market. Its stunning prominent anthers reminds one of Sarah's delightful, naturally long eyelashes, which was behind the selection process of the variety to be named after Sarah, as well as its cheery brightly coloured sepals.'

Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post said: 'Having



most recently collaborated with Raymond in 2013 for our 25 Years of Gold stamp products, we are delighted to be working with him once again for our Clematis Gold series, which we anticipate will comprise six miniature sheets over the coming years.'

Issue date: 17 February 2021, www.guernseystamps.com

JERSEY

Island from the air

Surrounded by crystal clear waters and luxurious fine-grained sand, the beautiful island of Jersey is renowned for its picturesque scenery. The island is blessed with breathtaking rural vistas and dramatic coastlines. Over the centuries, artists and photographers, both local and visiting, have taken advantage of this natural splendour, depicting the Island's beauty in a variety of media and from many different outlooks.

Bam Perspectives, a local photography business has taken a distinctly 21st-century approach to capturing the Island's brilliance, by using drones to take aerial photographs of some of the Island's most loved features, as well as some of her best kept secrets.

A selection of these drone-captured photographs features across the eight



stamps, showing the Island from a unique and exciting perspective. On the 54p we see La Hougue Bie, a Neolithic ritual site and home to a Neolithic Passage Grave, one of the ten oldest buildings in the world.

The 74p stamp shows St Catherine's Breakwater, the rural parish of Trinity is seen on the 88p value, whilst the £1 shows St Helier at night.

Kayaks at Sorel Point are the subject of the £1.25 stamp and the famous Jersey Cows are seen on the £1.30. We see the picturesque Corbière



Lighthouse on the £1.75 and finally on the £3.50 stamp we see a tractor and boat at St Ouen's Bay.

Issue date: 1 April 2021, www.jerseystamps.com

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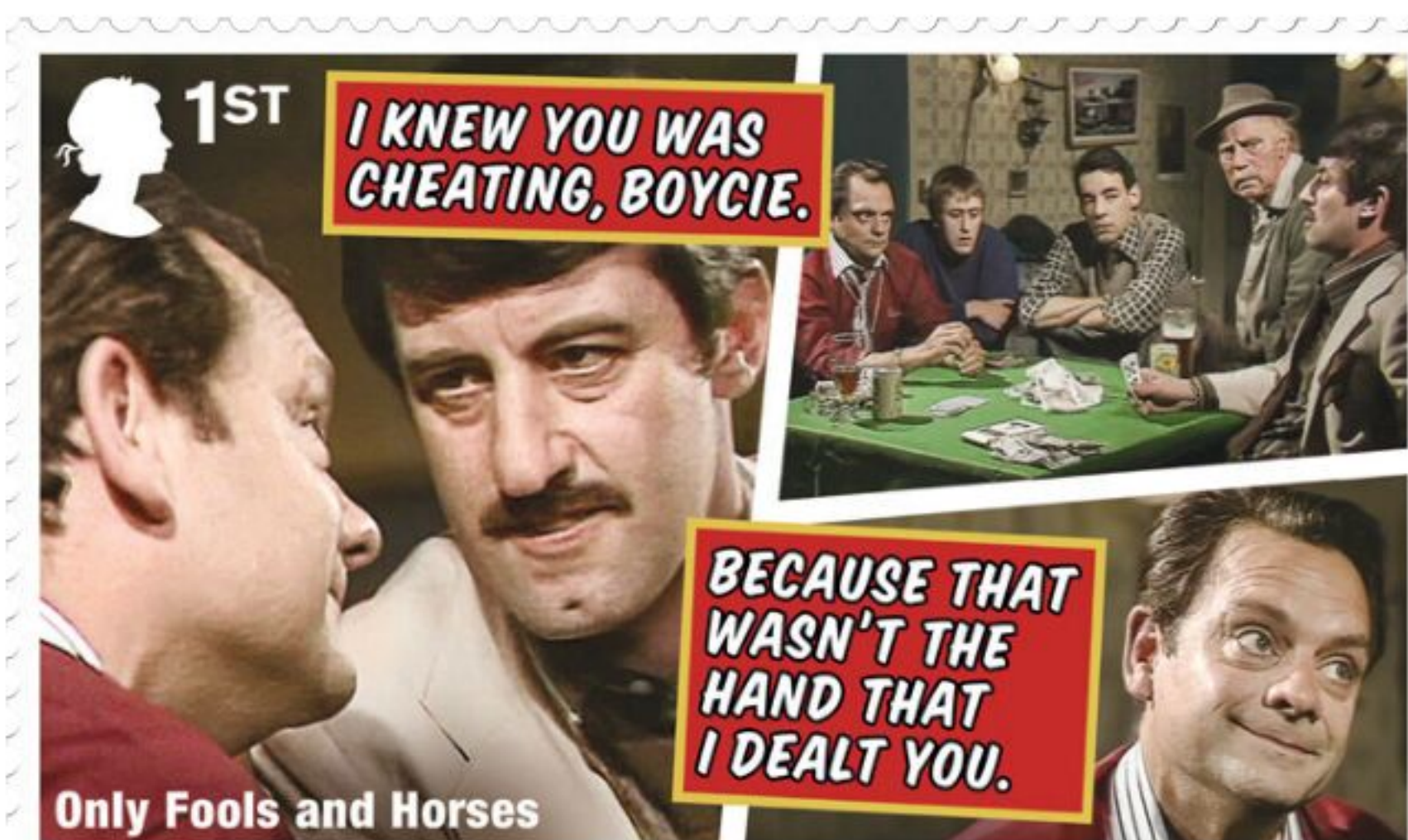


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GB STAMPS

Lovely jubbly!

Royal Mail is celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the much-loved British sitcom *Only Fools and Horses* with a set of eight stamps featuring some of its most iconic scenes



Created and written by John Sullivan and first broadcast in 1981, *Only Fools and Horses* follows the exploits of wheeler-dealer Del Trotter, his younger brother Rodney, their Grandad and later their Uncle Albert.

It ran for 64 episodes from 1981 to 2003 and at its peak was watched by 24.3 million people. The impact of *Only Fools* on the life of the nation is demonstrated by many of the show's catchphrases and words having entered common usage. In 2003, the most popular of these, 'lovely jubbly', was listed in the Oxford English Dictionary.

The show enjoyed a magical combination of skilled writing and excellent performances, sprinkled with the warmth and idiosyncrasies of the characters, memorable catchphrases, family feuds and emotion, an ensemble cast of supporting actors, and the kind of 'did you see?' moments that still live in the memory of many of us. Who could forget Del Boy and Rodney's disastrous attempt to clean a chandelier? The boys' day out to

Margate, or the scene in which Del extolled the joys of a 'Yuppie' lifestyle, only to lean back on the bar and promptly disappear in a perfectly timed fall from grace?

It is these scenes that are captured on the eight new stamps, using a style similar to the show's opening sequence, almost like a comic book collage of laugh-out-loud moments. So we see Del risking it all in a game of cards with Boycie in the episode 'A Losing Streak'; Boycie and Marlene's beloved Great Dane Duke in the episode 'Sleeping Dogs Lie'; that moment sharp-suited Del tries to make an impression with the yuppies in the wine bar in 'Yuppy Love'; the 'A Touch of Glass' episode which sees Del and Rodney poised to catch a priceless chandelier – unfortunately it's not the one Grandad is unscrewing from the ceiling.

The laughs continue with 'The Jolly Boys' Outing' in which The Nag's Head regulars' enjoy (or should that be endure?) their annual beano to Margate; 'The Unlucky Winner Is...' sees Rodney win a holiday in a painting competition he hadn't



even entered, that was intended for youngsters; and 'Three Men, a Woman and a Baby' follows Del and Raquel as they await the birth of their first child. Finally, in the episode 'Time on Our Hands' Raquel's dad spots something

of value in the Trotters' lock-up and this time Del and Rodney really do become millionaires.

Deserving stamp subject?

The very nature of a programme like *Only Fools and Horses* means some observers may meet the news of these stamps with a snort of derision – surely there are better topics to honour with stamps than this happy-go-lucky comedy show. Yet, the programme gradually became a huge part of British life and anyone of the right age will surely be familiar with the moments recalled on the stamps.

Stars of these types of programmes could be said to be at a disadvantage

STAMP DETAILS

Issue date: 15 February 2021

Design: Interabang

Number per sheet: 30/60

Stamp Size: 50mm x 30mm

Printer: International Security Printers

Print Process: Lithography

Perforations: 14 x 14

Phosphor Bars: as appropriate

Gum: PVA

1st - Episode: 'A Losing Streak'

1st - Episode: 'Sleeping Dogs Lie'

1st - Episode: 'Yuppy Love'

1st - Episode: 'A Touch of Glass'

£1.70 - Episode: 'The Jolly Boys' Outing'

£1.70 - Episode: 'The Unlucky Winner Is...'

£1.70 - Episode: 'Three Men, a Woman and a Baby'

£1.70 - Episode: 'Time on Our Hands'

MINIATURE SHEET DETAILS

Design: Interabang

Stamp Size: 41mm x 30mm

Miniature Sheet Size: 192 x 74mm

Printer: International Security Printers

Print Process: Lithography

Perforations: 14.5 x 14

Phosphor Bars: as appropriate

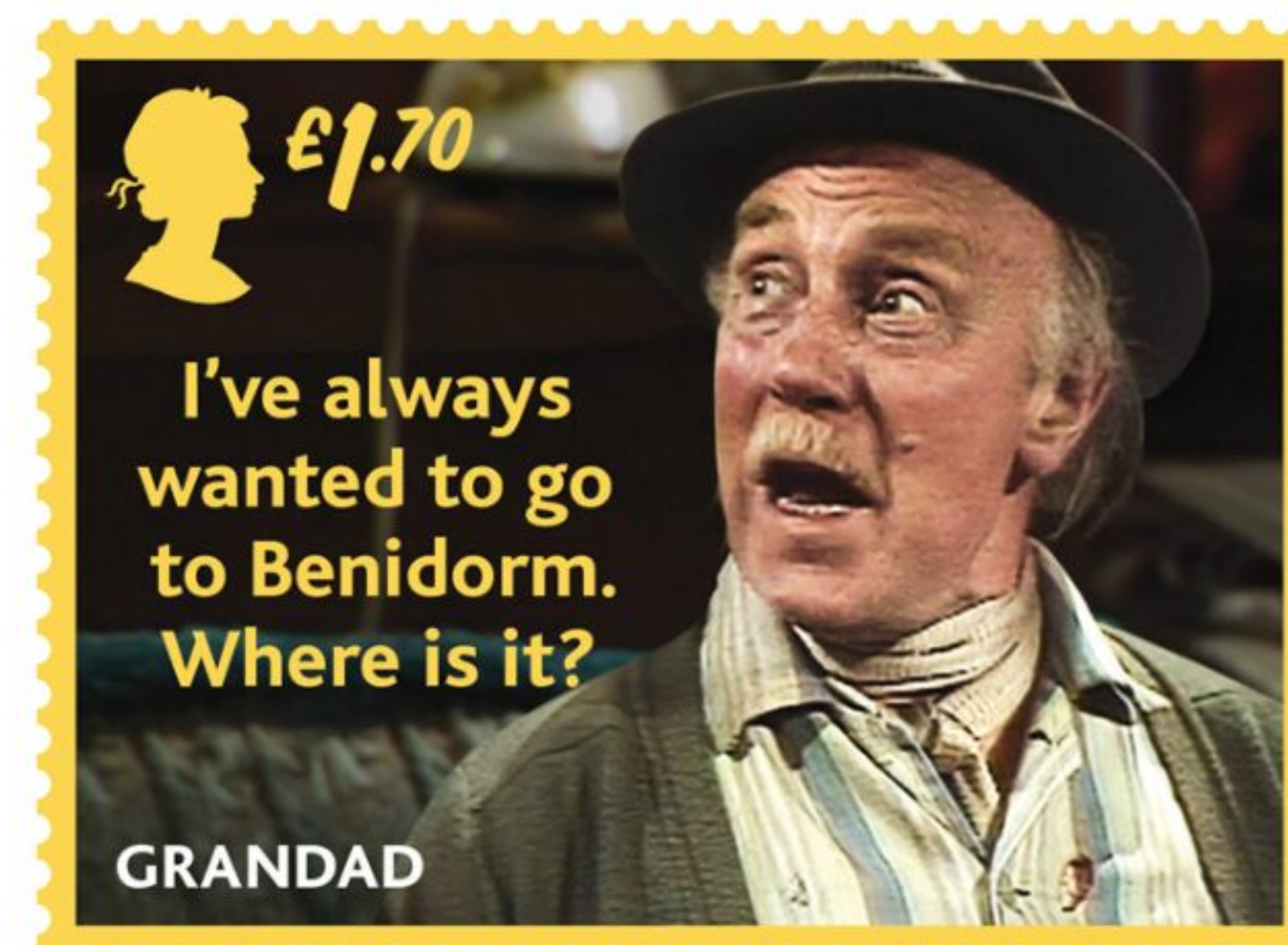
Gum: PVA

1st - Del Boy, 'This time next year we'll be millionaires'

1st - Rodney, 'Cosmic!'

£1.70 - Grandad, 'I've always wanted to go to Benidorm... where is it?'

£1.70 - Uncle Albert, 'During the war...'



to individual comedians or movie stars, many of whom have been honoured on British stamps in the past. Yet shouldn't the actors and writers who entertained millions of us be honoured in the same way? David Jason's comedic acting talents are undoubted. He followed the long tradition of British comedy acting, most notably perhaps following in the funny footsteps of Ronnie Barker, who managed to combine acting proficiency and laughs in shows such as *Porridge* and *Open All Hours*, two programmes in which Jason also appeared, no doubt learning much from the 'one Ronnie'.

Miniature sheet

As is often the case with Royal Mail's sets of recent years, a set of stamps is not enough and a miniature sheet of four stamps is also available. The four stamps each feature a member of the Trotter family with a memorable catchphrase alongside, and the sheet's

design feels more in keeping with the programme's style, the eight stamps suffering a little from the multiple images each value shows.

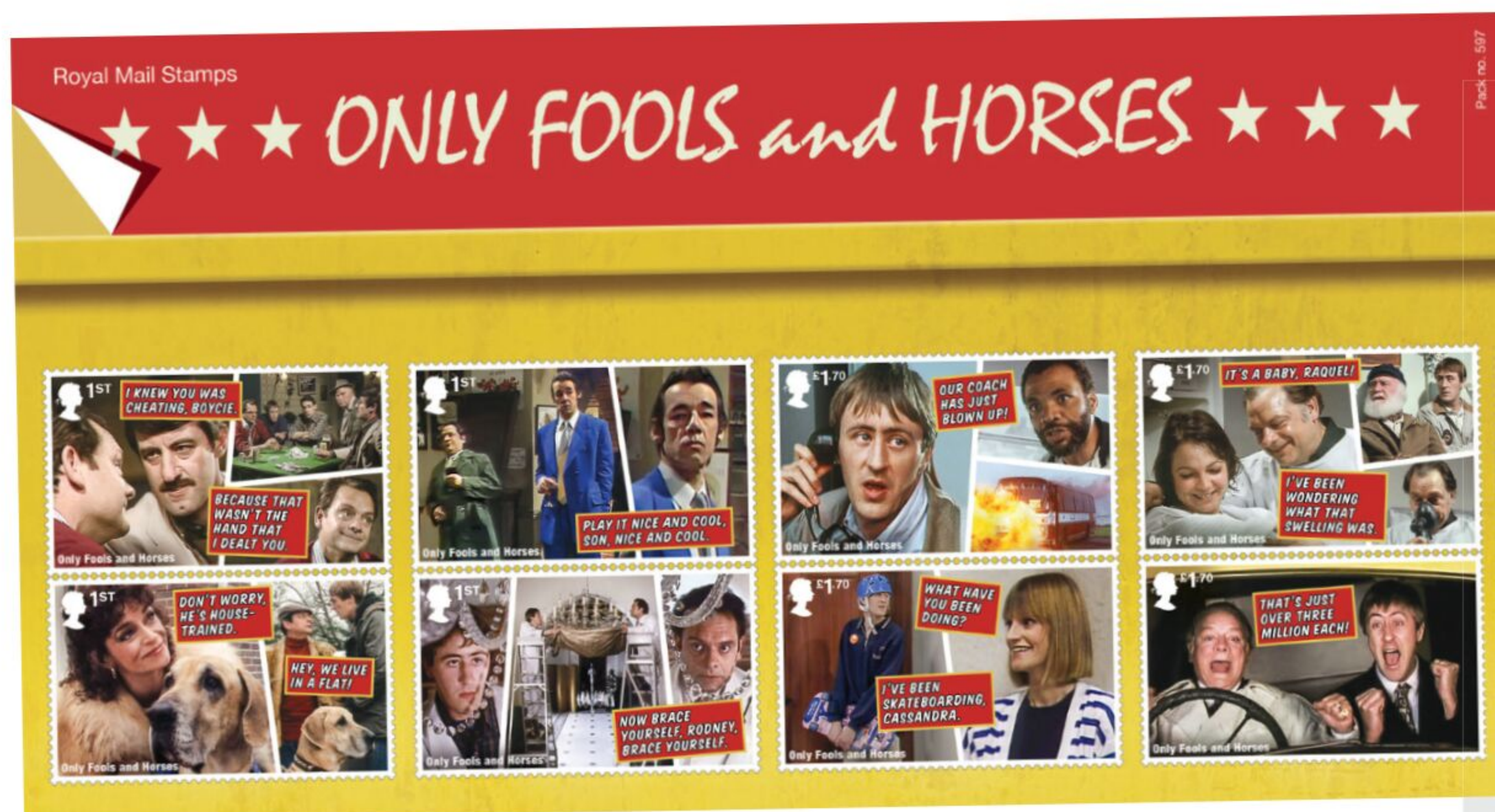
A range of souvenirs

Of course, a set with such general appeal is accompanied by a wide range of souvenirs, including framed stamp sheets – some of them signed by the actors themselves – and first day covers.

A 24-page prestige stamp booklet (PSB) retails at £20.90 and includes details of the history of the show, from the casting and opening titles to the filming locations. It also includes an overview of each series including the Christmas specials with a classic episode picked out from each.

The PSB contains all twelve *Only Fools and Horses* stamps perforated as 'panes' within the book plus an extra pane of definitive stamps which is unique to the stamp issue and features the 'Trotters Independent Trading' logo in the centre.





Meanwhile, a limited edition PSB (£49.99) is also available. This special version is limited to a print run of just 1,981 and comes in a Trotters Independent Trading suitcase presentation box with an accompanying Certificate of Authenticity. Each individually numbered PSB features an alternative red special edition front cover.

A retail stamp book contains six 1st class stamps along with two special stamps featuring Del Boy and Rodney from the Only Fools and Horses mini sheet; and an A4 Scripts Souvenir

Folder includes 34 pages of excerpts from John Sullivan's personal scripts, complete with his own scribbles and handwritten notes, along with the stamp and stamp sheet souvenirs.

Another highlight in the product range is a limited edition '42 carat' gold Del Boy stamp, again limited with a limited run of 1,981. Described by Royal Mail as 'a cushty bit of bling', the limited edition replica of the Del Boy stamp from the miniature sheet has been produced in fine 24 carat gold with selected colourisation. The gold stamp is presented in a bespoke

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 twelve *Only Fools and Horses* stamps, and the miniature sheet featuring the four additional character stamps is presented in a separate protective carrier.

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presentation case with gold foiled *Only Fools* logo on the lid and a touch of Del Boy with leopard printing inside. This unique souvenir also includes an individually numbered Derek Trotter business card Certificate of Authenticity.



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MARKET INSIGHT

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



Spink's sale of the Stamps and Covers of South East Asia included an 1895 Straits Settlements registered envelope embossed proof on card with the surround handpainted in rose-lilac and with value and lettering. Dated March 1895 the proof of the head design features in pencil on reverse '25/3/95 Essay' and was described as 'unique and most attractive'.

SOLD FOR £4,800



Amongst the highlights of the recent 'British Empire and Foreign Countries' sale at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions was a mint block of four, of the Falkland Islands 1912-20 maroon 5 shillings, with watermark multiple crown CA.

SOLD FOR £350

The sale of the James P. Myerson Collection of Superb United States Stamps at Robert A Siegel featured an impressive range of rarities, including many 19th-century classics, but the sale also featured a selection of attractive errors, not least an example of the famous 'CIA Invert'. The \$1 Candle Holder stamp, with colour inverted was described as being mint with deep rich colours. The auction lot explained the story of the error: 'Popularly called the "C.I.A. Invert", a single pane of 100 stamps was purchased at the McLean Va. Post Office by employees of the C.I.A., for use on mail from the agency. They noticed the error, pooled together funds to buy a replacement sheet and kept the pane for themselves. When it was discovered who had purchased the stamps, a scandal ensued over who actually owned the stamps. Of the pane of 100, only 93 sound examples reached collectors.'



SOLD FOR £7,075



German auction house Christoph Gärtner recently offered material relating to Wells Fargo, the US organisation which took over part of the famous Pony Express mail service in the 1860s. One of the stand-out items was a well travelled 1872 used entire bearing a 6c Vermillion on Amber Reay Issue, with Wells Fargo printed frank at top, indicia with circle of six wedges cancel, a second strike on US 6c National at bottom left affixed over a blue straight-line cancel that ties Canada 6c Small Queen. A large blue 'Wells, Fargo & Co. Express Victoria V.I.' oval handstamp cancel also featured on the letter, addressed to London. The lots was described as being 'a rare combination of Canadian and US postage on a Wells Fargo cover from Victoria to England and a nice item for the Abraham Lincoln thematic collector.'

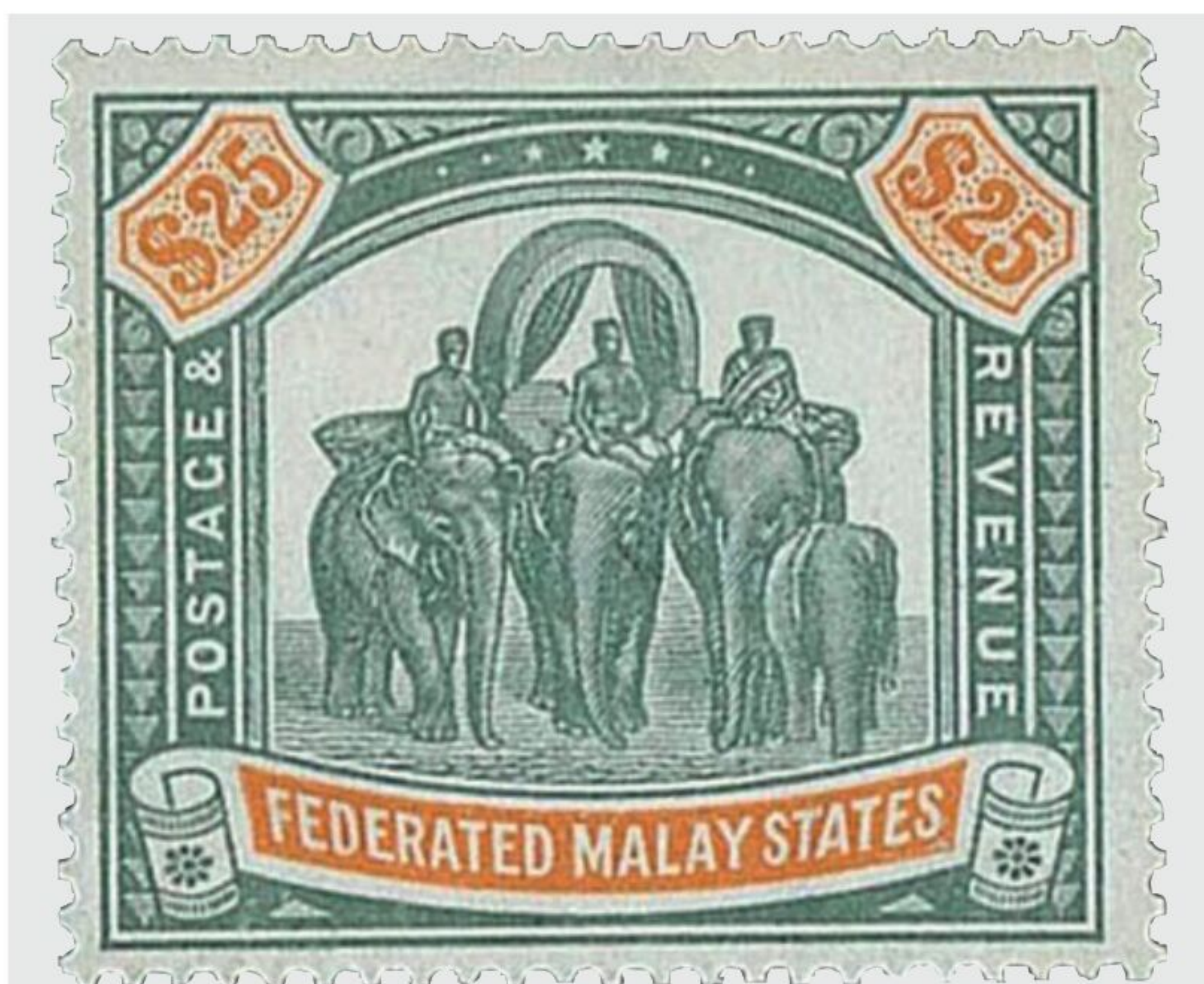
SOLD FOR £1,989



Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers recently sold a bottom sheet block of four the Mexican 1936 20c lake 'Eagleman'. According to the lot description 'this is the only existing block of this elusive and popular stamp, certainly the greatest Air Post rarity from Mexico, ex-Weston collection (where it was sold

in 1980 for \$60,500 at Sotheby's-Parke Bennett auction in New York City'.

SOLD FOR £22,983



Spink's South East Asia sale also included this fresh looking 1928 Federated Malay States \$25 green and orange, which was called 'a most attractive example of this rare high value.'

SOLD FOR £850

Corinphila Auctions AG in Zurich recently offered a remarkable cover featuring three Zurich cantonal issues. The pair of Zurich 6 types are said to be the first and second stamp of the sheet of 100 with sheet margin on the left and almost complete embossed seal of the Sihl paper mill.



The stamps on the cover were described as being 'delicately and cautiously stamped with two black Zurich rosettes. A 'show-piece of Old Switzerland', the cover was sent by the notary's office in Greifensee. The auctioneers explained: 'There is only one other letter with a combination franking, each with a single value of the Zurich 4 and Zurich 6, probably to settle the double postage at a rate of nine cents.'

SOLD FOR £421,534



The third part of the Brian Moorhouse Estate collection went under the hammer at Corinphila AG, and featured many South American rarities and proofs, amongst the highlights was an unused block of four 18731 peso dull yellow from Guatemala. The auction catalogue stated: 'Despite the imperfections this is a magnificent block in the circumstances - whilst Lind / Goodman recorded eight pairs of this stamp... this is the sole recorded block of four of this stamp. A rarity of Central American and classic philately.'

SOLD FOR £4,683



The Michael Rogers Online sale featured a 1902, Chinese Imperial Post, unwatermarked, \$5 green & salmon horizontal pair, which was described as 'remarkably fresh with crisp printing on immaculate paper'.

SOLD FOR £318

STAMP DETECTIVE

Make a move for Muscat

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

Today's Sultanate of Oman was once known as Muscat, an independent state ruled by the Al-Busaid dynasty. Located in the south-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, Muscat's postal services were handled by the Indian Post Office from 1864 until 1947.

The dynasty celebrated its bicentenary in 1944 and to mark this important event, fifteen Indian postage stamps and ten service stamps were overprinted 'AL-BUSAID 1363' in Arabic script. As they were the only stamps specifically issued for Muscat, it is a country that can be easily completed. These two sets are considerably more valuable in used than mint condition provided that have been used during the last years of the Indian administration.



Over the years, the two mint sets have slowly edged up in value. There was a time when many dealers had large stocks of the two sets in mint condition but that is no longer the case. Major UK dealers charge as much as £19 for each of the two sets in unmounted mint condition.

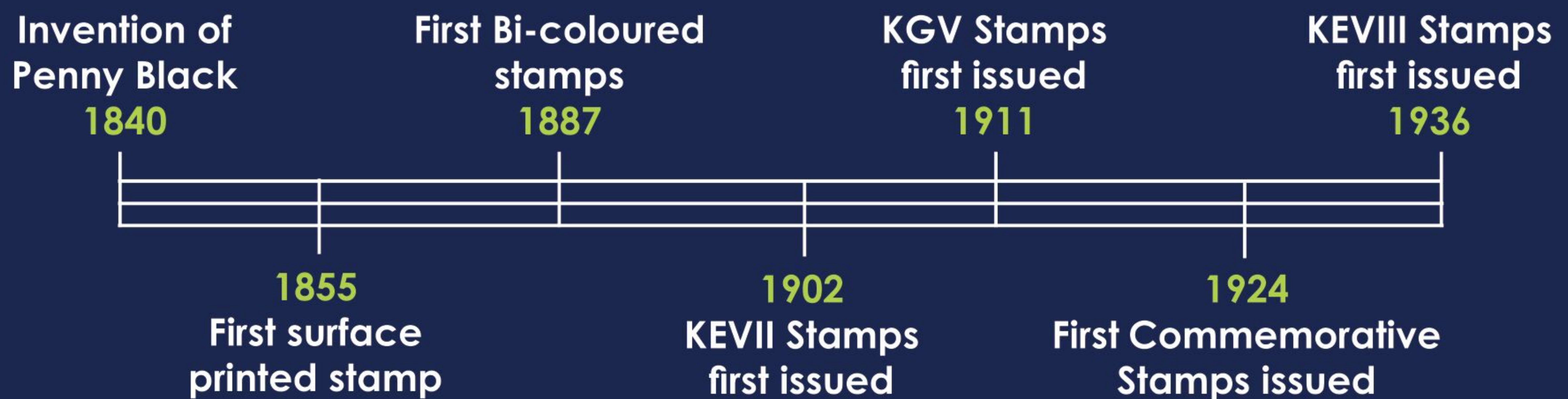
With one exception, all the stamps depict King George VI. The exception is the 14-anna regular stamp which shows an airplane and it will undoubtedly appeal to many thematic collectors as well.

It is interesting to note that a branch of the Al-Busaid family ruled the sultanate of Zanzibar which also issued a set of stamps (of which there are ample supplies) to mark the bicentenary.

It is likely that the two Muscat sets will further increase in value albeit at a slow rate.

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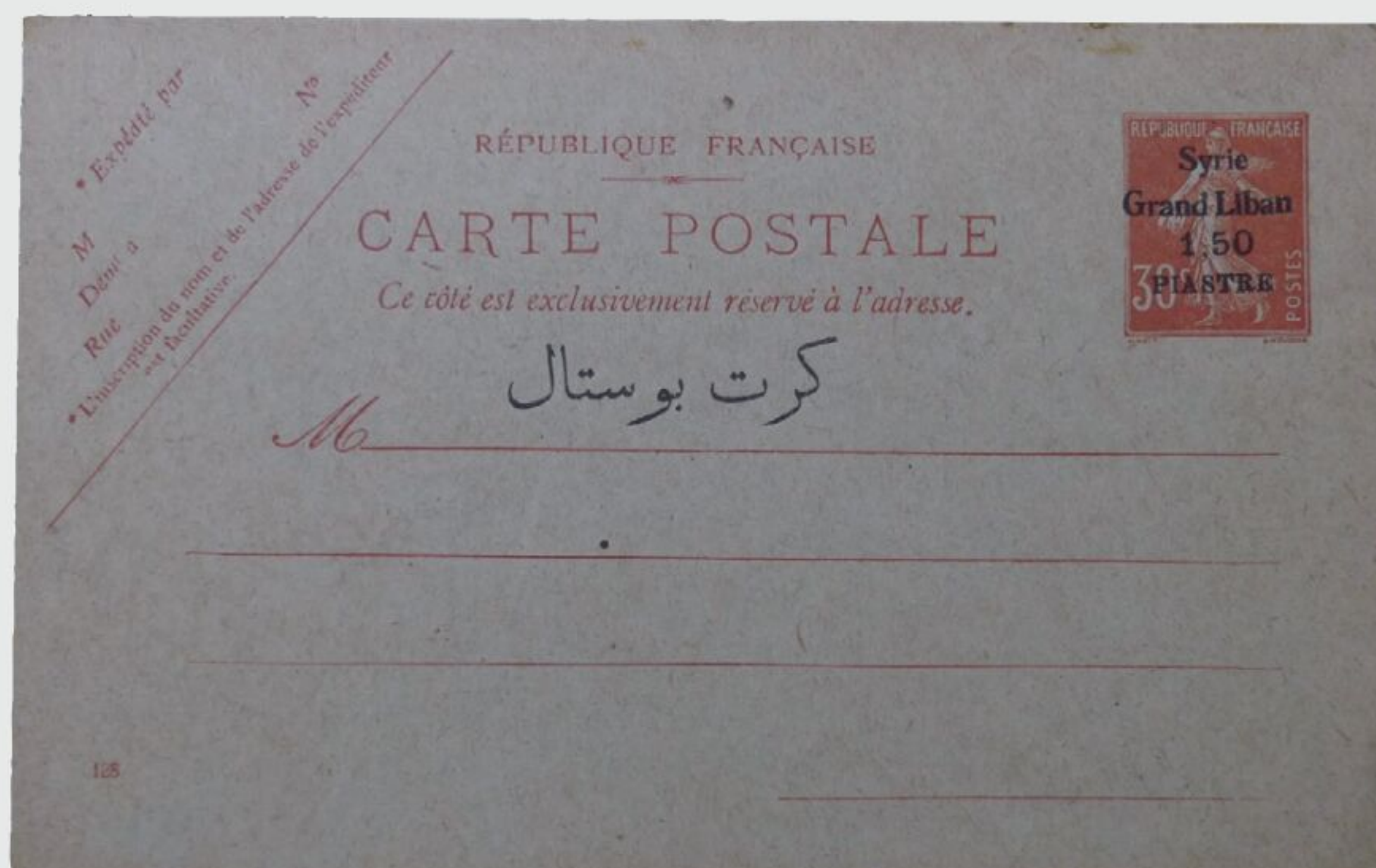
LATEST INTERNET SALES

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



Faroe Islands, Danish stamps 5ö green Christian X overprinted '2 öre' 1919 MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £1,200



Syria, French 30c Semeuse postal stationery overprinted 'Syrie Grand liban 1,50 PIASTRE' MNU

SOLD FOR £1,120



Monaco, Postage due 1f 'Pigeons & helicopters' overprinted 30f unissued 1956 MNH, rare!

SOLD FOR £700



China, Stage Art of Mei Lan-fang 1962 issue MNH

SOLD FOR £1,140



Portugal, 5R reddish-brown Queen Maria II 1853 cancel Porto (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £445



Beijing Italian Office in China, 15c dark grey Victor-Emmanuel III overprint. 'PECHINO 6 CENTS' 1917 MH (signed)

SOLD FOR £418



Great Britain, 10d brown QV (SG57) 1847-54 embossed issue used

SOLD FOR £311



Canada, 7d1/2 yellow-green QV wove thin paper 1857 used

SOLD FOR £307



France, booklet 10 priority permanent validity Beaujard stamps, variety shifted printing (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £427

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In the 1880s the recently established Parcels Post service became a ravenous devourer of multiples of 3d stamps

This image clearly illustrates the difficulties experienced by counter staff, sorters, not to mention the stamp using public; all obliged to handle surface printed stamps of colours and shades that were difficult to distinguish, especially under late-Victorian gaslight. Only the instantly identifiable overprinted 3d on 3d stands out

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

A surface-printed 1880s 3d-on-3d lilac or 6d-on-6d lilac?

Stamps were often overprinted to update the value or add a surcharge, but few were overprinted with the same value as detailed on the original stamp design. Ed Fletcher investigates why the 3d and 6d stamps of the 1880s were the exception to the rule in this month's price guide

In the early 1880s a number of developments in postage stamp usage and production brought about changes in the appearance of issues purchased at post-office counters. The first occurred as a result of continuing attempts by fraudsters to remove cancellations from used stamps. Although never successful on a massive scale, the crime's nuisance value prompted defensive measures by the Post Office to develop fugitive inks. Their use meant that stamp buyers, and Post Office employees working in sorting offices, encountered rather more frequent changes in the colours of stamps than they could handle without voicing complaints. In turn, the mutterings of discontent resulted in newspaper comments such as the *Nottingham Evening Post*, 20 December 1882:

The Post-office has determined upon a very important and useful reform in the issue of postage stamps. The public are at present greatly confused by the slight

differences between stamps of various values. [...] With a view to minimising this difficulty it has been arranged that, beginning with the New Year, all 3d and 6d postage stamps will be printed in a purple colour, and overprinted with their values in red.

We managed to find an illustration of a used piece from an 1883 registered package. It clearly illustrates the difficulties faced by counter staff, sorters, not to mention the stamp using public; all obliged to handle surface printed stamps of colours and shades that were difficult to distinguish, especially under late-Victorian gaslight. The values on this piece include a 3d on 3d lilac; a 1s orange-brown; a 1½d Venetian-red; and a 2d deep rose. The only instantly identifiable stamp is the overprinted 3d on 3d.

You may wonder why those values – 3d and 6d – were singled out for conspicuous overprinting. After all, millions more of the 1d stamp – the workhorse value licked



At the lower end of their price range, 1st4Stamps 1840, UK, recently offered this heavily cancelled 3d on 3d lilac plate 20, at just £7, describing it as having no faults



eBay UK seller terryterry3 of South Woodford, London offered this surface printed 1880 6d on 6d lilac. plate 18, described as used and offered at £17.95 BIN, with free postage



Shaftesbury Philatelics advertised this 6d on 6d lilac, with St Andrew cds pmk; described as toned, for £28 with free standard delivery



Andrew Vaughan Philatelics Ltd of Tamworth, recently had this 3d on 3d lilac; with Croydon cds, described as very fine used, at £35 plus shipping



Shaftesbury Philatelics offered this 6d on 6d plate 18, described as very fine used, with scarce cds pmk from Aberdaron Gwynedd Wales, at BIN £58.00 with free standard delivery



Andrew Vaughan Philatelics Ltd of Tamworth, recently offered this 6d on 6d lilac at £75.00, describing it as a superb used example with Louth steel cds.



Shaftesbury Philatelics recently offered this 6d on 6d lilac, described as having a scarce slanting dot variety, at £94 with free standard delivery

and fixed to the bulk of the mail in every carrier's sack – were the stamps most frequently handled by all concerned in sending and receiving mail. Post Office hierarchy, however, had advance knowledge of a recently introduced service that devoured 3d and 6d stamps (often in multiples) at an unanticipated and frequent rate. The Inland Parcels Post had first made newspaper headlines a few months earlier: *Somerset Gazette*, 19 August 1882

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

In the twenty-eighth Post Office Report the Postmaster-General says, "I am

glad to state that an arrangement has been arrived at with the railway companies for an inland parcels post. [...] The rates of postage and limits of weight proposed are:

For an inland parcel not exceeding 1 lb., the postage shall be 3d.

For an inland parcel exceeding 1 lb, but not exceeding 3 lbs, the postage shall be 6d.

For an inland parcel exceeding 3 lbs, but not exceeding 5 lbs, the postage shall be 9d.

For an inland parcel exceeding 5 lbs, but not exceeding 7 lbs, the postage shall be 1s.

Why, you may wonder, did the Post Office not take their problem-



Andrew Vaughan Philatelics Ltd of Tamworth, recently offered this 3d on 3d lilac, plate 21, described as heavily hinged mounted mint, at £95



Shaftesbury Philatelics recently offered this 6d on 6d lilac, described as having a left dot only, at BIN £150.



In a recent Grosvenor Philatelic Auction this lot, described as a good to fine mint block of four with part to large part original gum, sold for £500.



Andrew G Lajer of Reading recently offered this 1883 Forfar Parcels Post label with 3d on 3d and 6d on 6d stamps, and neat cds, describing it as the first month of use for this label, and a rare combination of these surcharges. BPA cert. Superb! The asking price was £875

solving innovation further? Why were overprints of large numerals in contrasting colours not applied to all values? One reason may have been that the costs and disruptions involved would have outweighed any benefits gained from such a scheme. Another might have been that covert plans were in hand to issue striking, multicoloured designs that would overcome any difficulties in recognizing a stamp and its value. A set covering all denominations from 1½d to 1s did eventually roll out in 1887, the so-called Jubilee issues.

Whatever the reasons, overprinting to make values clearer progressed no

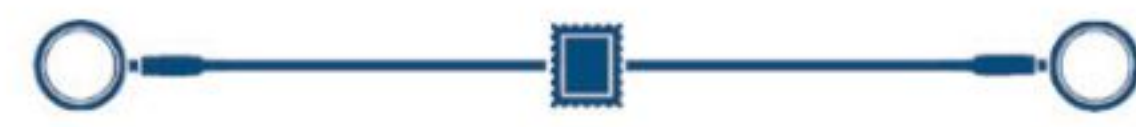
further than the 3d and 6d stamps during the remainder of Victoria's reign. That obviously narrows the field for today's collectors, though the eagle-eyed did not take long to spot an error that slightly boosted prices paid for 6d specimens to add to albums: on a few the horizontal dots are misaligned by several degrees; the error is known as slanted dots. In the 1960s a philatelic researcher examining many thousands of the overprinted stamps stumbled upon a single example doubly overprinted. We need scarcely add that we found none during our explorations, though we did encounter a wide selection of prices for straightforward overprints.



A recent Grosvenor Philatelic Auction had this fine mint block of twelve, described as having a slight gum crease and a little hinge reinforcement of perforations. It sold for £1,350

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Europa 2021: The Puffin

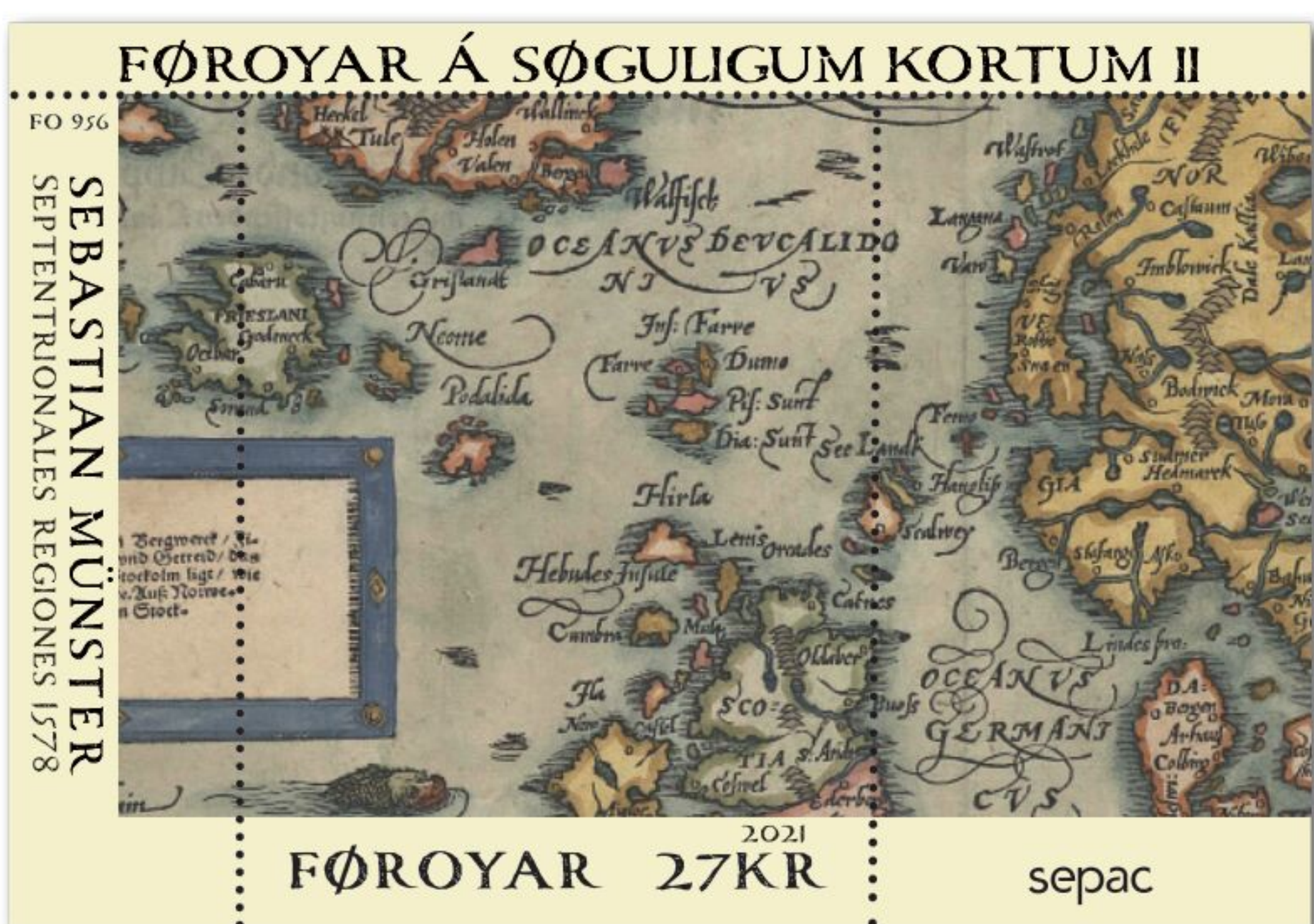
The puffin is an iconic bird of the Faroe Islands. In 2017, the IUCN added the puffin to the Red List of endangered bird species. Photos: Thomas Vikre and Jógvan Hansen.



Photo: Thomas Vikre

Faroe Islands Stamps

New Stamp Issues in March and April 2021



Sepac 2021:

Historical Maps

The map "Septentrionales regiones 1578" by Sebastian Münster who was the most important geographer of the 16th century. Design: Kim Simonsen.



Andrea Ártung

In 1977, Andrea Ártung resigned as the chairwoman of Tórshavn's Working Women Association after 40 years of faithful service. Design: Anker Eli Petersen.



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.

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- Cayman Islands
- Ceylon/Sri Lanka
- Christmas Island/Cocos and Keeling
- Cook Islands/Cyprus
- Dominica
- Falkland Islands/Fiji
- Gambia
- Germany (*only used from 1960 onwards*)
- Gibraltar
- Gilbert and Ellice Islands
- Gold Coast/Ghana
- Grenada/Hong Kong
- India and Indian States
- Ireland/Jamaica
- Kenya and KUT
- Kiribati/Leeward Islands
- Malaysia and States
- Malta/Mauritius
- Montserrat
- Nigeria/Pitcairn
- Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- St Helena, St Kitts, St Lucia, St Vincent
- Samoa/Seychelles
- Sierra Leone/Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa, Natal, Swaziland, Zululand
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POSTCARDS

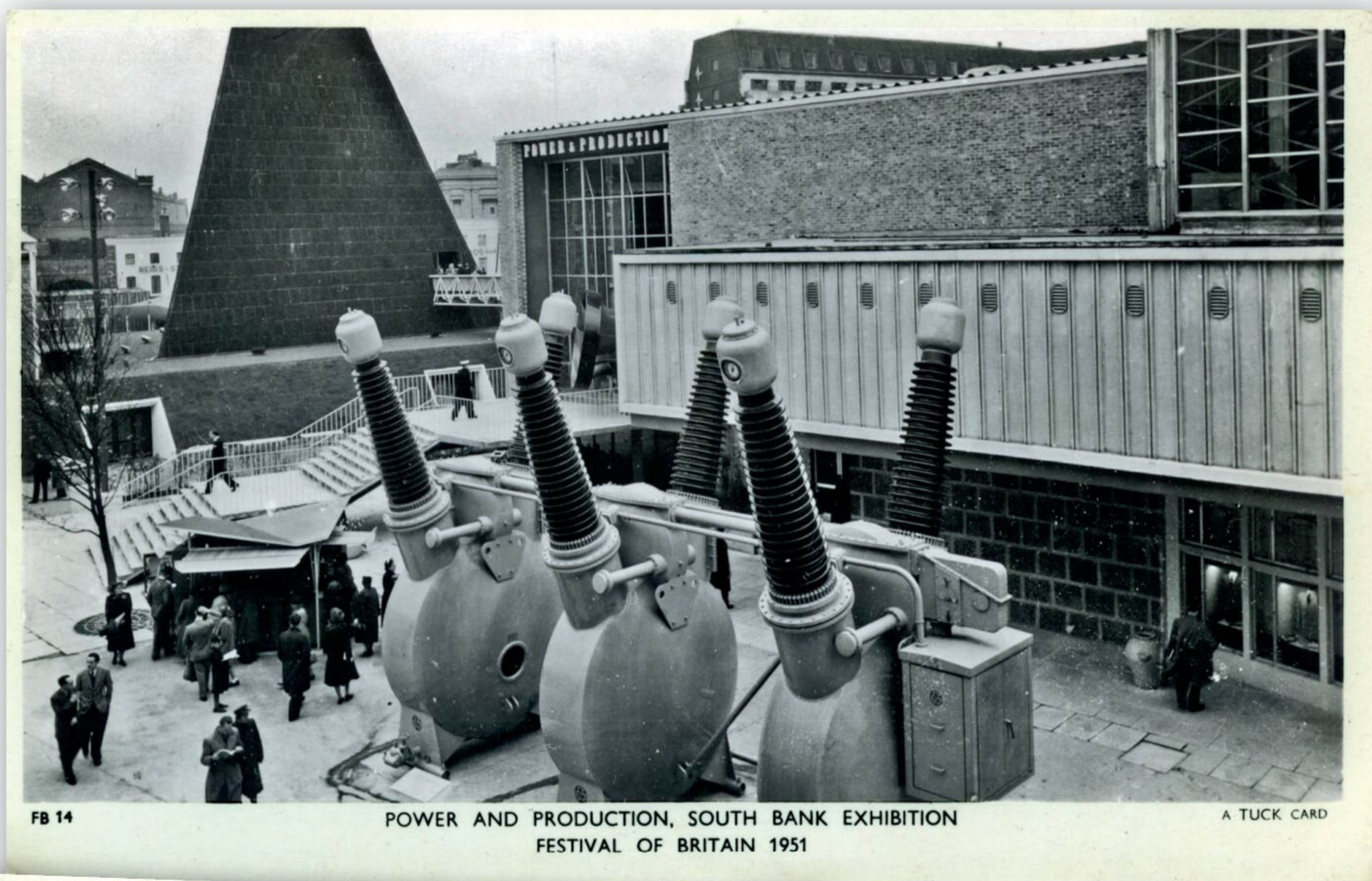
The Land of Hope

In 1946, writes Richard Stenlake, an exhibition entitled 'Britain Can Make It', advertised throughout Britain by a slogan postmark, ran for fourteen weeks at the V&A focusing on modern British industrial design and how that was key to economic renewal of a nation up to its eyes in debt and enduring austerity. Comprised of beautifully designed but pricey objects, for most attendance was an exercise in covetous window-shopping. Bread was still rationed and there was no circus.

The 1951 Festival of Britain addressed these shortcomings. Originally planned as a centenary celebration of the 1851 exhibition, it was rebranded to give the people hope about their post-war future and to bolster sagging support for the government which had gone on a spending spree with its Marshal Plan dough creating the Welfare State and the NHS, and nationalising the Bank of England, the railways and heavy industry. No wonder wags mocked the exhibition's Skylon as being like the British economy, with no visible means of support.

Assembled in a variety of new-fangled shapes, the Festival was like a visiting town from outer space on the south side of the River Thames. The centrepiece was a slightly scary, but apparently resilient, British family in sculpture. This was the original theme park - and actually had a theme - that the future was bright. If that was too profound there was a ship, sports, fountains, a boating lake and a funfair for those for whom hope needed to be immediate and not eternal.

The Festival spawned a set of stamps in the style of earlier commemoratives plus slogan postmarks. Raphael Tuck and Valentine's, eminent publishers with Victorian origins, produced postcards as did Jarrold of Norwich. Many Festival cards are common with prices starting at £1.50 and most priced £2 to £3. A few rarer cards sell for up to £30.



1951's Festival of Britain attracted over 8 million visitors and helped to change the nation's approach and attitude to design, with many designers involved going on to have long careers in textiles, furniture and graphic design. Abram Games designed many of the posters for the Festival, and went on to design many postage stamps for countries including Britain, Jersey and Israel

FIRST DAY COVERS

Wonderful Christmas Time... but a better New Year

So you're forced to spend your Christmas in a drafty stately home in the wilds of North Norfolk, writes Brian Austin of Buckingham Covers, and to add insult to injury you discover that just six days into 1969 a new pair of Machin definitives is to be issued and you have no stamps or special envelopes, well that's just great!

Well the producer of this cover did not have to worry as the drafty home is Sandringham House and we assume he has spent his Christmas and New Year working with the Royal family on their estate.

At this point, if Her Majesty required it, the Post Office in house (as featured on an earlier cover of the month) would have been open, so getting the new stamps would have been relatively simple for Mr Leake. The problem he would have had is what cover to get postmarked, unlike the earlier Machin issues there was no special cover. He used his initiative and used a plain cover from the house (it has Sandringham embossed on the flap).

Most of the Royal houses had Post Offices, they are of course hard to find, but Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle might turn up slightly more regularly than Sandringham, Balmoral and Holyrood House. The Balmoral postmark is interesting as it has a small crown at the bottom, with Holyrood it's a cross.



This cover we priced at £75 when it came into stock, probably the best known recent issue for Sandringham is the 1998 Diana stamps. No one had seen this postmark for years before these appeared on the market and will fetch between £200 to £300. It is particularly relevant as she was born on the Sandringham Estate.

POSTMARKS

Mtzamboro, Mayotte

This month I am using this cover to show how trying to obtain a postmark often results in an interesting item, 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 had tried. 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!

The incriminating cover

Just imagine you've received an envelope with a letter inside that would incriminate you and the sender, writes Devlan Kruck. What would you do? Would you burn it? That seems the most sensible action to take. Burn it and the incriminating cover is gone forever. No need to worry anymore...



Surely keeping the compromising envelope wouldn't do any good, would it? And hiding it in a sewing box doesn't sound very sensible. However, that's exactly what Janette Brown, the recipient of our featured cover did when she received it from James Hoof, back in November 1847. Incredibly, by slipping the compromising cover inside her sewing box she was also disobeying the explicit instructions given to her by James Hoof, who wrote at the end of the letter 'Burn as usual'.

The facts are clear. The envelope and its contents were intended to be burnt once the recipient had concluded reading the incriminating material. But burn it she did not.

And aren't we glad she didn't? The envelope, now world renowned, is known as 'The USA Alexandria

Blue Boy cover' and sold in a David Feldman SA rarity auction in 1981 for \$1,000,000 – the highest price ever paid for a cover of United States philately.

Why so valuable? It is the only surviving stamp in 'blue' from an extraordinarily rare issue of the USA Postmasters' Provisionals produced in Alexandria, DC, in 1846.

Blue-boy-cover

Whilst there are a modest seven examples from this issue known, the other six are all printed on buff-coloured paper; the 'Blue Boy' is the only stamp that has survived which is printed on 'blue' paper.

Whilst a cover selling for \$1m and being the only surviving example of its type, is the real story, it isn't the only story that needs to be told here, not least because without the actions of Janette Brown, or lack of action depending upon your viewpoint, we wouldn't even

Alexandria was one of eleven US regions that produced stamps before the USA introduced postage stamps in July 1847. Many of the Postmaster Provisionals remained in use after the national stamps were available, including this unique blue example. The letter was sent on 24 November 1847 and the sender and receiver eventually married on 17 February 1853

know there was a USA 1846 5c blue Postmasters' Provisional Issue.

The sender, James Hoof, wrote to Janette Brown against the wishes of her family. You see, she was his second cousin, and as such their relationship was not approved of, and so James Hoof covertly wrote to Janette, sending the envelope via friend Washington Gretter, and wisely advised Janette at the close of his handwritten communication to 'burn as usual' the evidence of his contact.

But love being what love is, Janette clearly couldn't bring herself to burn the 'blue boy' and romantically fifty years later the envelope was discovered in her sewing box by Mrs Fawcett, who was the daughter of Janette and James Hoof – yes they were married six years after the letter was sent – and among her mother's correspondence the blue boy was thus discovered.

CONVERSATIONS WITH PHILATELISTS

Meeting friends... old and new

Mrs Fawcett, being as sentimental as her Mother, retained the letter, but clearly recognising that the envelope must be valuable, promptly sold it to a famous USA collector George Worthington, who reportedly paid the handsome sum of \$3,000 in 1907 for what is a unique cover.

Since then the Alexandria 'Blue Boy' has enjoyed several glamorous relationships with some of the most eligible collectors and renowned dealers in history. Alfred H. Caspary held the cover in his collection from 1922, and in 1955 it was sold to Josiah K. Lilly for \$10,000, before John R. Boker Jr paid \$18,500 for it in 1967. In 1971 Boker exchanged the cover for some German States material with Renato Mondolfo, the eventual buyer of the remaining Burrus collections. In a further exchange in 1975, David Feldman acquired the cover for 350,000 Swiss Francs, before being sold again in May 1981 for the world record price of \$1m to Erivan Haub, who formed one of the best known collections of USA.

The irony here is that to Janette Brown the most valuable thing about the envelope was what was inside it. To her the 'blue boy' was inconsequential and had nothing to do with her reasons for disobeying her lover's instruction to 'burn' it. Yet, to our famous collectors, to us and indeed to the wider world, the most valuable thing about the envelope is what's on the outside, the 'blue boy'; the letter, or indeed who had sent it, being unimportant and nothing to do with the reason why we wouldn't burn it.

We started this month's 'legendary stamp' story by wondering if the most sensible thing to do with an incriminating cover would be to burn it. But wouldn't we do precisely the same thing as Janette Brown did in 1847? We'd keep the 'incriminating cover'. I guess the moral of the story is that it doesn't matter what makes something valuable, even if it is incriminating, you should never burn it.

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

My name is Charles Epting, and alongside Michael Cortese, I co-host the podcast Conversations with Philatelists. *Stamp Collector* has kindly granted us the opportunity to review a full month's worth of episodes in each issue.

Michael and I kicked off our first full year of Conversations with Philatelists by speaking to two of our friends and peers, Ryan Wellmaker and Jessica Rodriguex. Ryan and Jessica are graduates of the American Philatelic Society's Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship, as are Michael and myself, and I always enjoy catching up with the two of them at various shows over the course of the year. Ryan and Jessica actually got married since I last saw them – a first for the YPLF – and it was great to hear that their passions (Ryan's for philanthropy, Jessica's for competitive exhibiting) have not waned during the lockdown.

We continued the month with Dr. Christy Pottroff of Boston College, whose research has focused on the ways in which the post office in the United States has interacted with and contributed to the development of American literature. Dr. Pottroff also works to incorporate this research into the classes she teaches, introducing students to philately in a subliminal way. Michael had worked to set up this interview for months, and I think the wait paid off—it stands as one of my favourite episodes thus far.

Our third guest of January is a gentleman to whom Michael and I owe a lot: Mr. Patrick Maselis of Belgium, President of the Club de Monte Carlo. Michael and I have both been the recipients of Patrick's generosity when he invited us to attend MonacoPhil (in 2015 for myself, 2017 for Michael). Patrick is not only an exceptional collector (focusing on Belgium and its colonies) but one of philately's greatest patrons and spokesmen. The fact that Patrick carved time out of his incredibly busy schedule to speak to us is nothing short of an honour.

And to wrap up January, we spoke to the editor of this fine publication for which I'm now writing – Matthew Hill of *Stamp Collector*. I do hope that that interview, and this article, are only the beginning of a fruitful relationship between us.

So that does it – four interviews, each completely unique, but all combining to show the breadth and scope of our wonderful hobby. Michael and I greatly appreciate the support of *Stamp Collector*, and we hope you enjoy our Conversations with Philatelists.



In the popular podcast 'Conversations with Philatelists' Michael Cortese of NobleSpirit and Charles Epting of H.R. Harmer interview philatelists around the world; collectors, dealers, exhibitors, enthusiasts, and researchers.

*Find out more and watch the episodes at: www.philatelypodcast.com and read updates on the interviews in every issue of *Stamp Collector* magazine.*

Adventures of a STAMP NEWBIE

COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS

Knowledge is power when it comes to building a stamp collection and identifying valuable stamps but, asks Laura McInerney, what should you focus on first and how can you develop your knack for spotting a gem?

Stamp collectors are rarely portrayed in popular culture as winners. But the third series of television hit *Fargo* tells the tale of twin brothers, who are given an inheritance after the sudden death of their father. He leaves

behind two items: a red corvette and a set of stamps.

Emmett, the more charming brother, convinces his more awkward twin, Ray, to take the car. After all, they're teenage boys – which item will be the bigger hit with the ladies? Fast forward twenty years and Ray is now living in semi-poverty driving a rust-bucket anachronism. Emmett has sold the stamps (bar one) and has a business empire worth millions. Cars may look good, is the message, but stamps are worth dollars if only you are in the know.

It's therefore no surprise that one of the most common conversations I have with friends who learn I collect is: 'Oh, I inherited some stamps, can you tell me how much they're worth?' YouTube philately superstar, Graham Beck, who runs the Exploring Stamps channel, received more than 200,000 views on his video explaining what to do with an inheritance collection. The only one that's more popular? His video of the world's most valuable stamps.



In season three of *Fargo*, available on Netflix, Ewan McGregor plays two brothers whose lives are changed dramatically thanks to a rare stamp (© 1997-2016 Netflix, Inc)

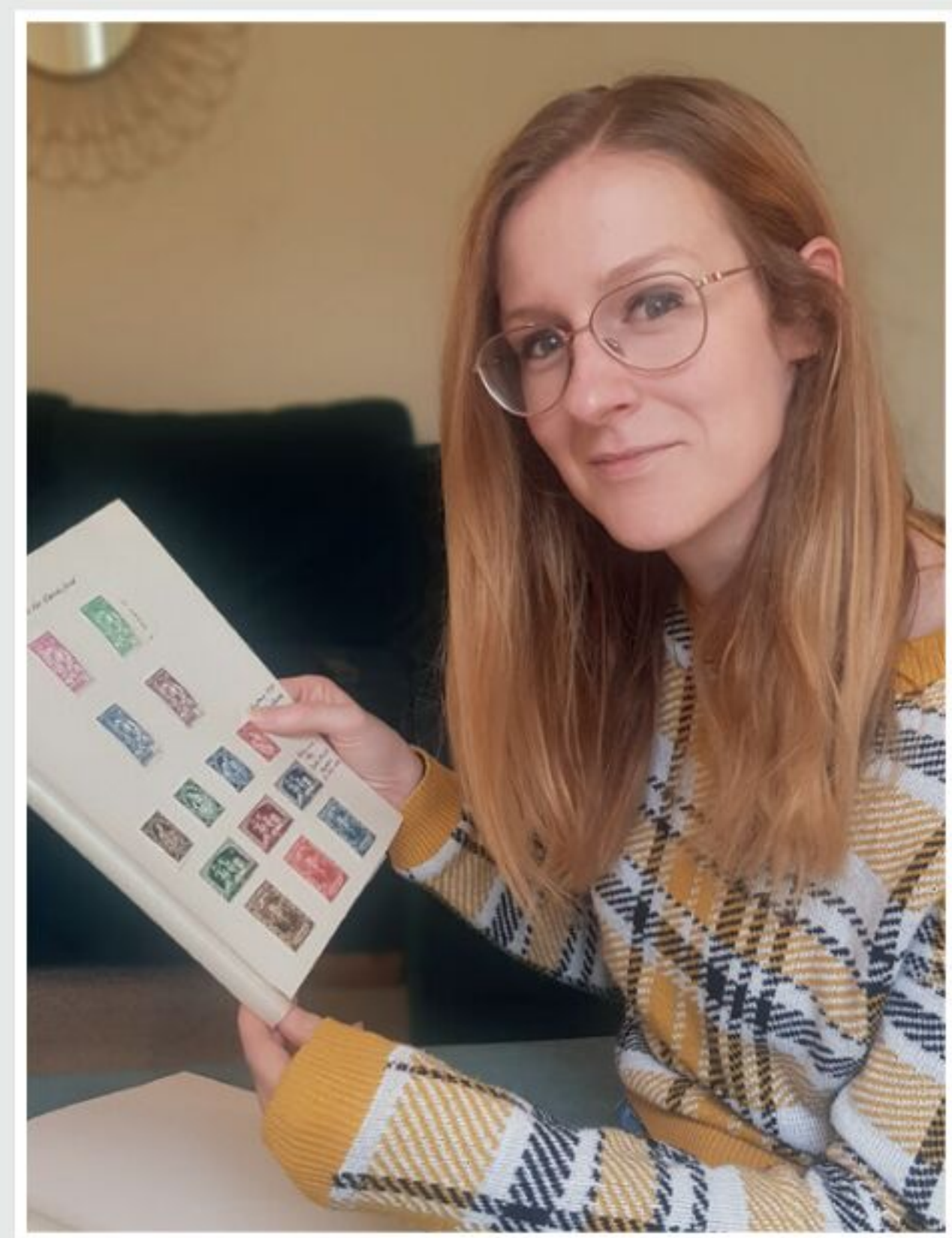
As with hobbies such as metal detecting, a pull to stamp collecting is usually a dual combination of learning about history and the possibility of unearthing valuable gems. Figuring out how to do this, however, is difficult for a newbie. What is the philatelic equivalent of a metal detector?

Reading *Stamp Collector* keeps me up to date with recent auction prices, and knowing the history of a wide range of countries and their stamps helps – as this very publication often reminds us, build your knowledge, build your collection. Though, if one was to be looking for gems, which are the best countries to learn about first?

I also recommend the book *Moneystamps* by Richard Lehmann, who writes about stamp investments for *Forbes* magazine. Lehmann has created a method for tracking price fluctuations, and profiles several countries and their changes in mint and used stamps. He also holds himself accountable by checking how often his system has incorrectly guessed a winner, or totally missed a success. Who could have guessed that a 1 cent stamp from British Guiana would be worth \$9.5 million?

Having now spent months watching online auctions, reading catalogues, and trying to get my head around valuations, the acronym I've created is CACAD: Country, age, condition, amount (i.e. face value), demand. As a general rule of thumb, the more unusual the country, the older the stamp, the better the condition, the higher the face value, and the more a stamp sold for previously, then the more likely it is to be valuable. On top of this, if anything is wrong on the stamp – especially if something is upside down – then there's a good chance it's worth a lot. (Are any errors less valuable than the correct version?)

What would your acronym include? Or do you have a different approach for trying to discern your gems from the rest?



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

Laura's CACAD system is a useful method for assessing stamps and their value and, as she suggests, keeping tabs on the latest auction prices is also a solid strategy – see the auction highlights in every issue of *Stamp Collector*. For a quick assessment of a stamp, try internet sites such as delcampe.net or eBay, search for your particular stamp and then change the settings to 'items sold'. This isn't a fool proof way to get an average price but it certainly gives you a good idea of current trends.

For more thorough valuations, philatelic organisations and businesses offer their expertise. Take any collection to an auction house and they will give you an idea of the value of the stamps; likewise stamp dealers will be able to assess your stamps and give you feedback on the potential value of the items.

Of course, condition is a significant factor in assessing the value of a stamp, and simply because a catalogue lists your stamp at £10, doesn't mean your example will fetch that price. Indeed, stamp catalogues generally inflate the value, with some dealers suggesting the real value of a stamp is around 40% of the price quoted in the catalogue – something that ▶

Test your stamp knowledge!

As we often say around these parts, knowledge is power. Improve your grasp of philately and you'll soon improve your collection, and gain much more satisfaction from the hobby to boot. Test yourself with the teasers here and challenge your collector colleagues...

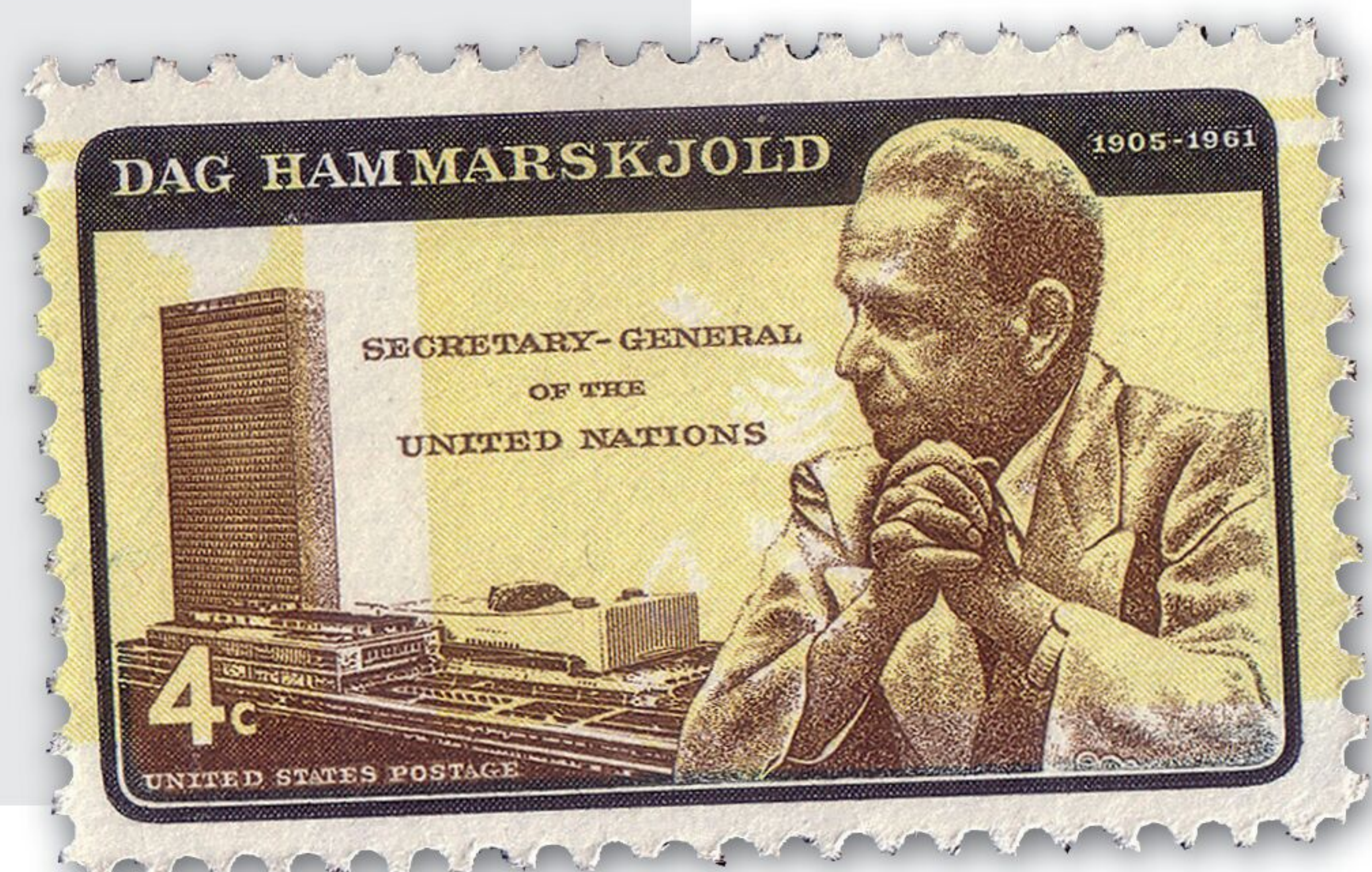
► often confuses newcomers to the hobby, or those who have inherited a collection, who naturally use the catalogues to assess the value of their stamps.

Laura also asks about errors, are there any error stamps that are less valuable than the correct version? Generally speaking errors are more valuable, but like everything in the world of commerce, it all comes down to supply and demand. If the post office in question made the error on every stamp they issued, and didn't bother to remove or reprint the stamps, then the stamp is worth the face value and nothing more, though it would be a nice example to add to a collection and demand may, eventually, increase.

There are plenty examples of erroneous stamps that were never picked up by the philatelic bureau – only last month we reported on the Romanian stamp which is said by some to feature a portrait of completely the wrong person – though the post office refute this claim.

The famous example of an error stamp that is no more valuable than the correct version is the USA's stamp featuring a portrait of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld. When the postmaster discovered the error – with the yellow background inverted on at least one sheet – he ordered a reprint of 40 million inverted stamps in a bid to stop any collectors profiting from the Postal Service's mistake. There are said to have been 121,440,000 normal stamps printed and 40,270,000 of the inverted reprint.

- 1** What was the colour of the embossed GB QV 1854 6d stamp?
- 2** In which year was Great Britain's first ½d stamp issued?
- 3** Name the values of the two stamps in the Channel Islands 3rd Anniversary of Liberation set issued in 1948.
- 4** In which year did Australia issue its first Air Mail Service stamp?
- 5** Name the animal that features on the first stamp of the Colony of Canada (1851)
- 6** What was illustrated on the 2 cent value of the USA Pictorial Issue of 1869?
- 7** What is the name used for the full face portrait of Queen Victoria seen on stamps of the Bahamas, Natal, New Zealand, Queensland, Tasmania and Canada?
- 8** What is the technical term that describes a gap in the printed line that forms the outer edge around the design on a postage stamp?
- 9** What was the name of the imperial yacht seen on many stamps of the German Colonies issued after 1900?
- 10** What were the three QV stamps that featured in the Philympia '70 Exhibition set?



How did you do?

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

CINDERELLAS

Bank of Peru and London

Poster stamps have frequently been used to mark all kinds of events and anniversaries which would otherwise go without any philatelic recognition, writes Christer Brunström. A 1927 poster stamp commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Bank of Peru and London is a typical example.



British involvement in Latin America has a long history. British capital funded banks and the construction of railways. In 1846 a British post office was opened at Callao, the seaport serving the Peruvian capital of Lima. It remained in service until 1879.

In 1863 the Bank of London and Mexico established a branch office at Callao which in 1877 was transformed into the Bank of Callao. Then in 1897 the Bank of London and Mexico joined forces with the Bank of Callao to form the Bank of Peru and London with a capital of two million soles. Over the next decades this bank had its ups and downs.

In the year 1905, the bank inaugurated its new headquarters in Lima, a splendid building designed by Italian architect Julio E. Lattini. It is this building which is shown on the Peruvian poster stamp issued in 1927.

However, the Bank of Peru and London didn't last to reach its centenary. It went bankrupt in February 1931 only four years after it had celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Today only share certificates, other documents and this poster stamp remind us of a bank which once did so much to foster trade between Peru and the rest of the world.

The winners of the annual competitions of the Great Britain Philatelic Society were recently announced. The R.A.G. Lee Cup, for the best General Philately exhibit, went to Maurice Buxton for an exhibit on 'QV ½d Pink Stamped to Order Postcards'. The MacPherson Cup, for an entry that had not previously gained an award in any competition or national medal, was awarded to Chris Hibbert for an exhibit on 'Multiple Strikes of the Maltese Cross'. The Martin Willcocks Award, for a Postal History exhibit, went to Nick Amor, for his 'Genesis' display. A GBPS medal, for the best entry in General Philately by an Overseas Member, was given to Malcolm Suttill from South Africa with an exhibit of 'From Line Engraved to Surface Printed – the 1879 and 1880 Tenders'. A GBPS medal, for the best entry in Postal History from an Overseas Member, went to Tim Schofield from Australia for his exhibit of 'Machine Cancellations and Postmarks produced in GB during the Trial Period 1857 – 1859'. The Theo Jones Salver, for Open Philately, went to Mike Mood for 'The Basic Letter Rate to Europe, 1986 – 2010'. Graham noted that a number of entries in this category did not meet the criteria for Open Philately in that the non-philatelic material was sadly lacking, which should be up to 50% and certainly be a significant part of the content. The Secretaries Cup, for the most promising entry, went to John Roe for an exhibit of the '1883 -1884 Issue, Lilacs and Greens'. *Find out more about the GBPS at: www.gbps.org.uk*

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

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POST & GO

Tariff Change

Tariff Change, or to give it the real meaning 'price increase', came early this year – January instead of March – and we saw the price of a collector strip rise to £13.84, this time last year it was £8.18, writes Stuart Leigh.

Of course, the levels of service have changed considerably, especially the overseas rates, where additional weight levels have increased and large size letters up to 100g are covered with the standard collector strip.

The tariff change was effective from 1 January, however, all Post Offices were closed and any franchised shops did not have the kiosks switched on – so the actual First Day of Issue was Saturday 2 January.

Due to the lockdown situation the date of issue from the Postal Museum, shops at the Naval Museums and other Museum will be varied, and may not be open by the time this is being read!

At the time of writing I have seen the new



tariff on four different date coded Machin Head strips as well as Winter Greenery, Game of Thrones, Mail by Air, Mail by Bike and Poppy strips as well as first class strips on second class Blue Machin and Winter Greenery Mistletoe / Ivy – how many more old rolls of stock will find their way into the kiosks?

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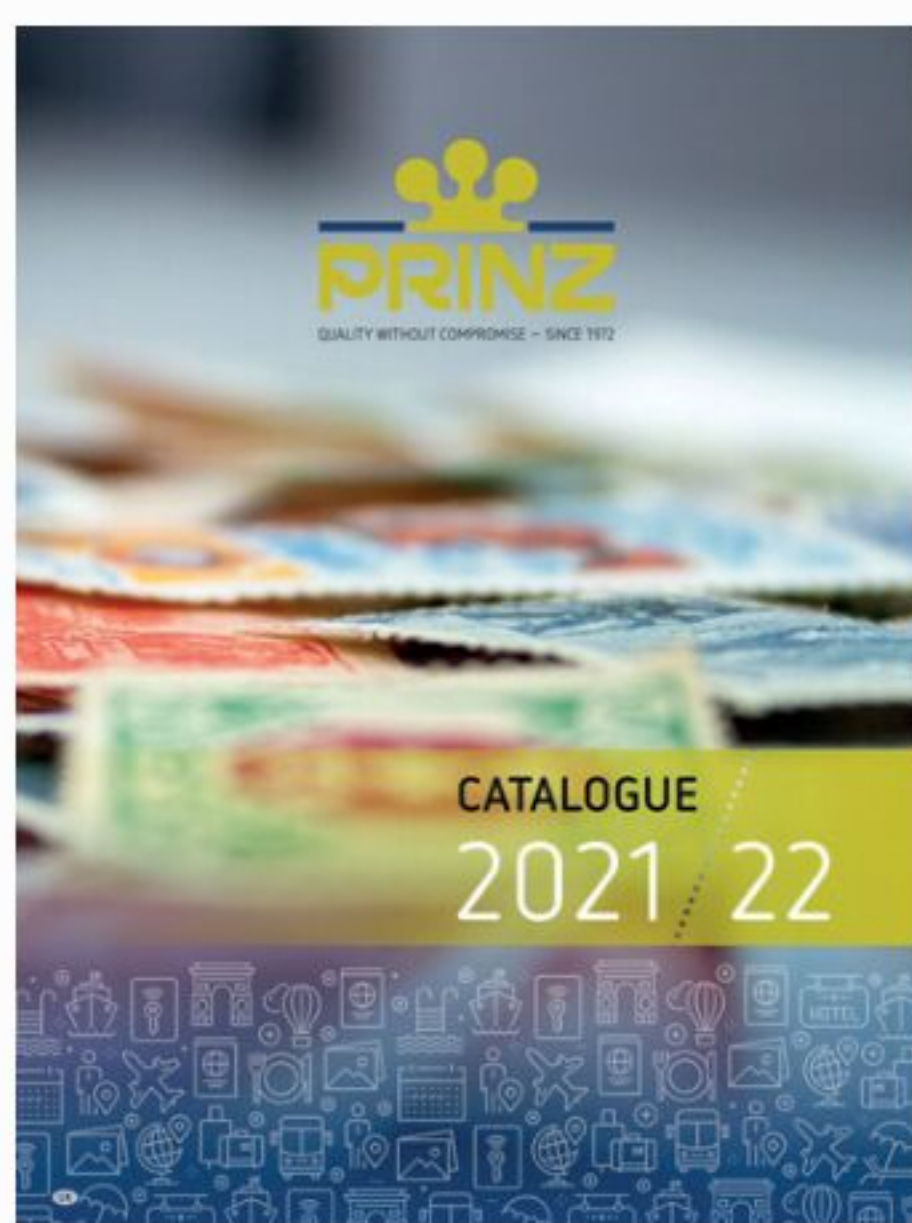
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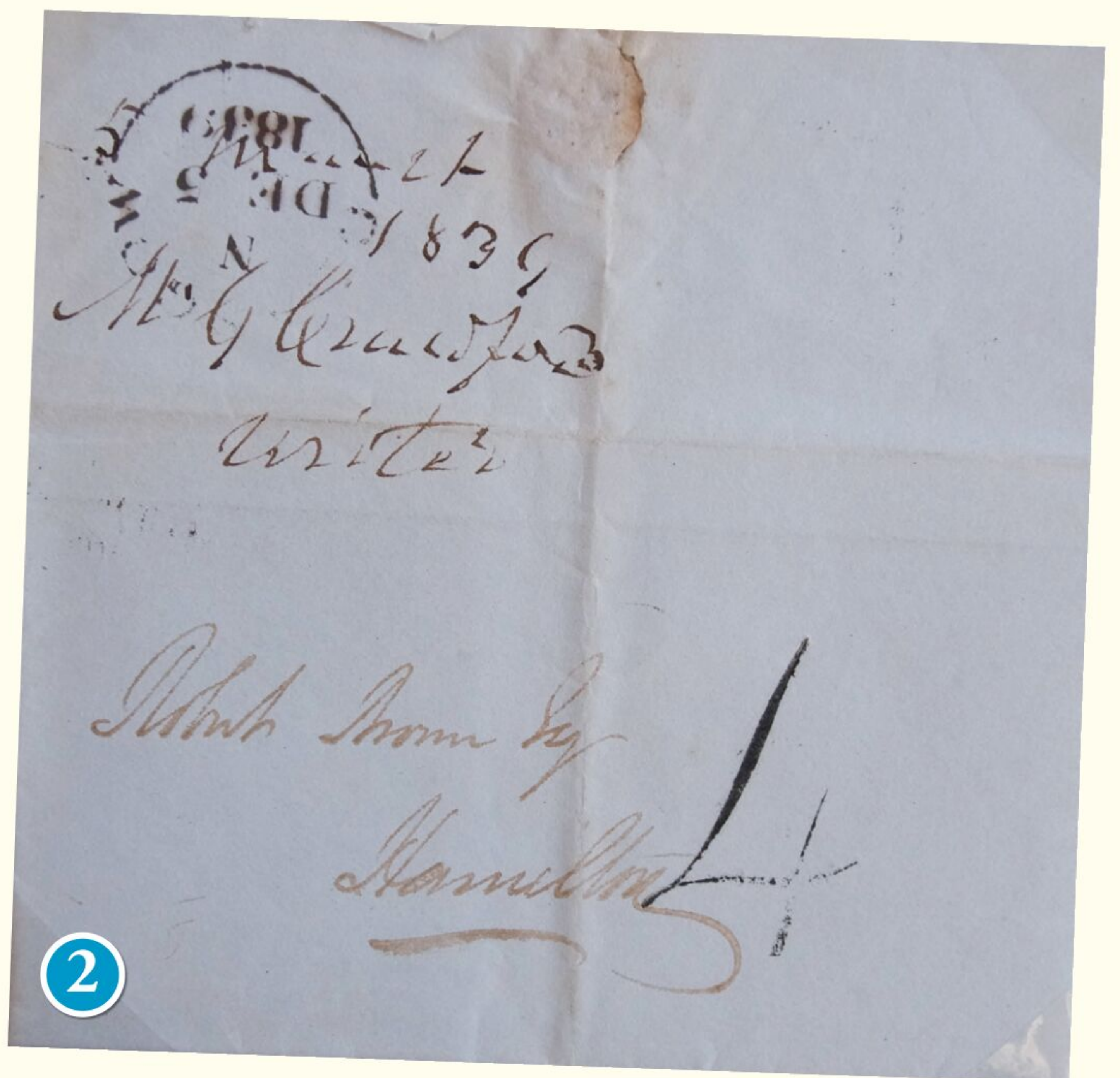
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Entire sent from London to Leamington Priors, alias Royal Leamington Spa, in Warwickshire, a distance of just over eighty miles. It is stamped with a manuscript '1/6' charge



Entire sent from Glasgow to Hamilton and cancelled with a handstruck '4' on the first day

THE ORIGINS OF THE POSTAGE STAMP

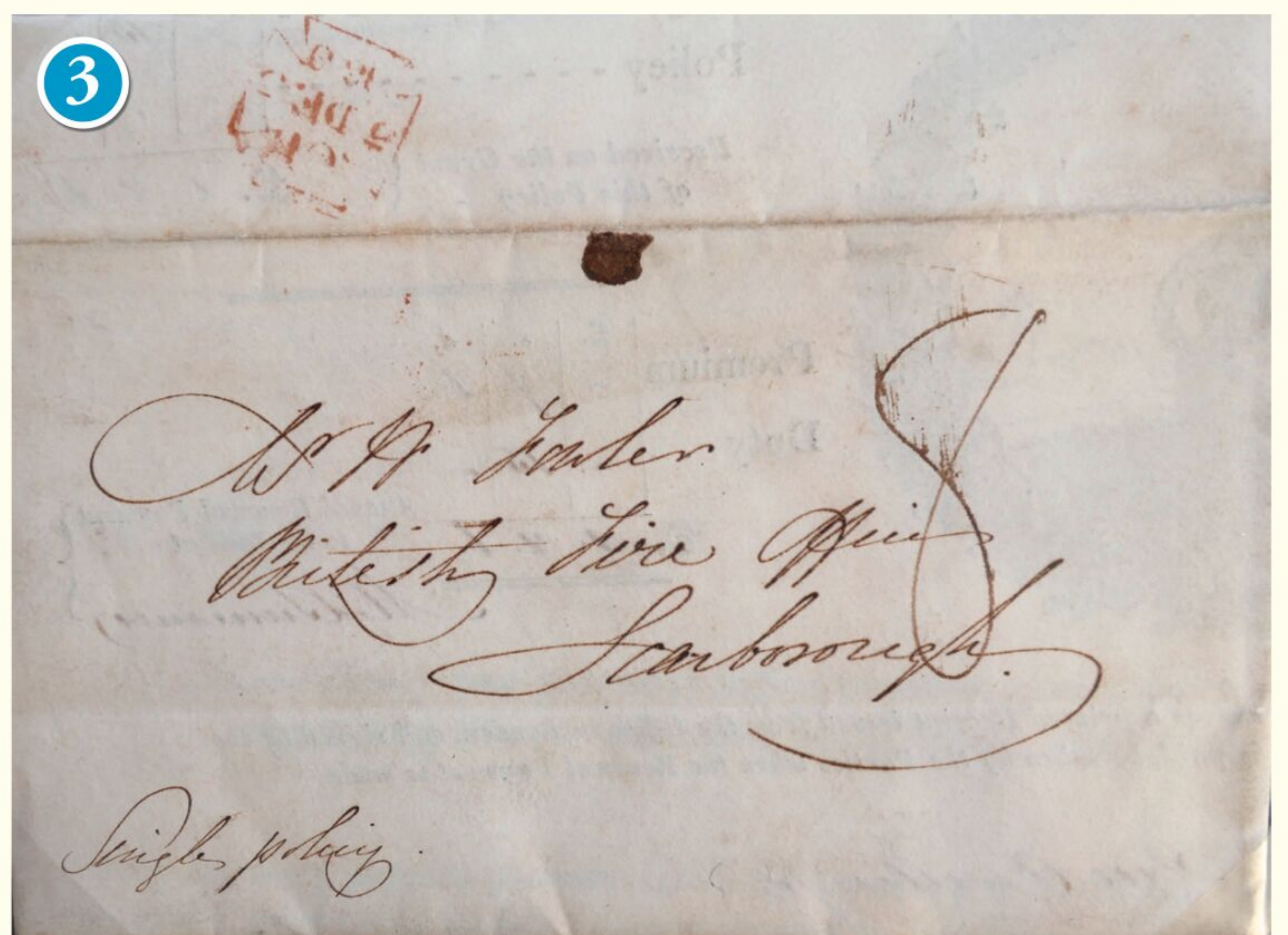
In the beginning...

GB postal history December 1839 to May 1840

The six month period from December 1839 to May 1840 witnessed a series of major innovations in GB postal administration that revolutionised communication and made the world a little smaller. In this special guide, Dr Nick Amor describes the period leading up to the arrival of the postage stamp

First, a few words of context. In 1840 the City of London was the commercial centre of the world, and in an age before telephone or email, heavily dependent upon postal communication. Between 1800 and 1850 the rate of GB population growth was higher than at any other time in recorded history. In that half century GB industrial output increased four fold. This meant migration from the countryside to towns, particularly of younger people. New railways facilitated such mobility – the famous locomotive, The Rocket, won the Rainhill trials in 1829, so launching the railway era. It all served to pull extended families apart. The literacy rate, especially among women, was rising fast and the output of printed books rising even faster. Ordinary people had greater political voice.

British Fire Insurance policy sent and postmarked on the first day with red Maltese Cross type Charing Cross, charged with 8d double rate for weight between ½ oz and 1 oz



The Great Reform Act 1832 had not satisfied all the demands of the Chartists, but it had significantly expanded the franchise, giving the vote

to the very people who might like to send letters.

Rowland Hill and Henry Cole provided the driving force behind

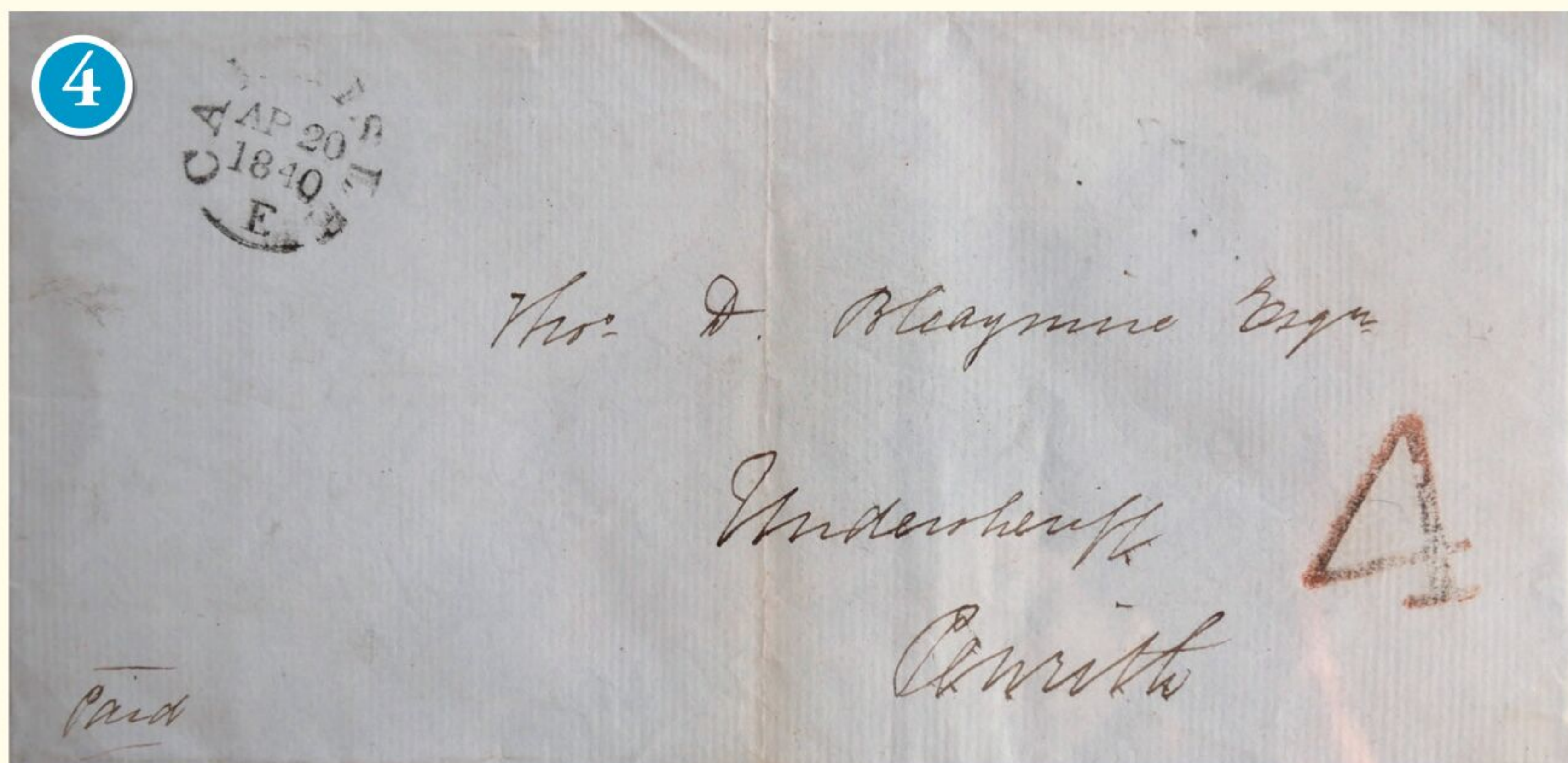


Figure 4: Entire from Carlisle, stamped in black and red, to show pre-payment, with two despatch cds, one on the front and the other on the rear both of 20 April 1840. It enclosed legal documents bringing its weight above 1 ounce



Figure 5: Entire sent and handstruck '1d', with 'Paid at Leeds' cancellation, on the first day of the new rate from Leeds to Settle in Yorkshire. The date actually given is 1804 but it is clear from the correspondence that this is in error

postal reform. They rallied public support in a well organised and successful campaign. In 1837 Hill published Post Office reform: its importance and practicability, while Cole published and distributed free of charge the Post Circular as a propaganda newspaper for the cause. Ultimately, they overcame the official opposition of Colonel Maberly, joint secretary to the General Post Office, who, among many others, was anxious about the loss of Government revenue from lowering postal rates. Even the Duke of Wellington gave way, albeit that he expressed 'great reluctance and pain' in doing so. The Postage Act 1839 passed through all its stages and received Royal assent in 4 weeks. Hill became an adviser to the Treasury with responsibility for overseeing postal reform. Cole was appointed as one of his senior assistants, in charge of the development of the Mulready stationery

and adhesive postage stamps. Despite Maberly's concerns, postal traffic increased dramatically as a result of reform as did GPO revenue. In 1839 only 75.9 million chargeable letters were sent, the following year 168.8 million and by 1853 410.8 million.

This short six month period saw four principal innovations:

- Lower postal rates, a fourpenny post, and then a uniform penny post, determined solely by weight.
- Pre-payment for postage.
- Postal stationery, Parliamentary envelopes and Mulready envelopes and lettersheets.
- The very first adhesive postage stamps, the Penny Black and Two Pence Blue.

Before 5 December 1839 the basic rate for the carriage of a single sheet was 4d for the first fifteen miles, and for longer

distances rose by steps until it reached 1s for three hundred miles, and then 1d for every additional hundred miles. Heavier post, of course, cost even more. For this reason many correspondents used a so called 'entire', a folded sheet of paper, without an envelope (Image 1). To give some idea of the value of money at that time, 1/6 was a day's pay for an agricultural labourer.

The Postage Act 1839 introduced the fourpenny uniform rate, for mail up to ½ ounce in weight, on 5 December 1839 and became the first step in Rowland Hill's reforms. It remained in force for only thirty-six days before being superseded by a uniform penny post. First days of the fourpenny post are scarce, but those with a handstruck postmark even scarcer, with only eight being known (figure 2). The Scottish handstamps were supplied by the firm of Alexander Kirkwood & Son who remain in business in Edinburgh today.

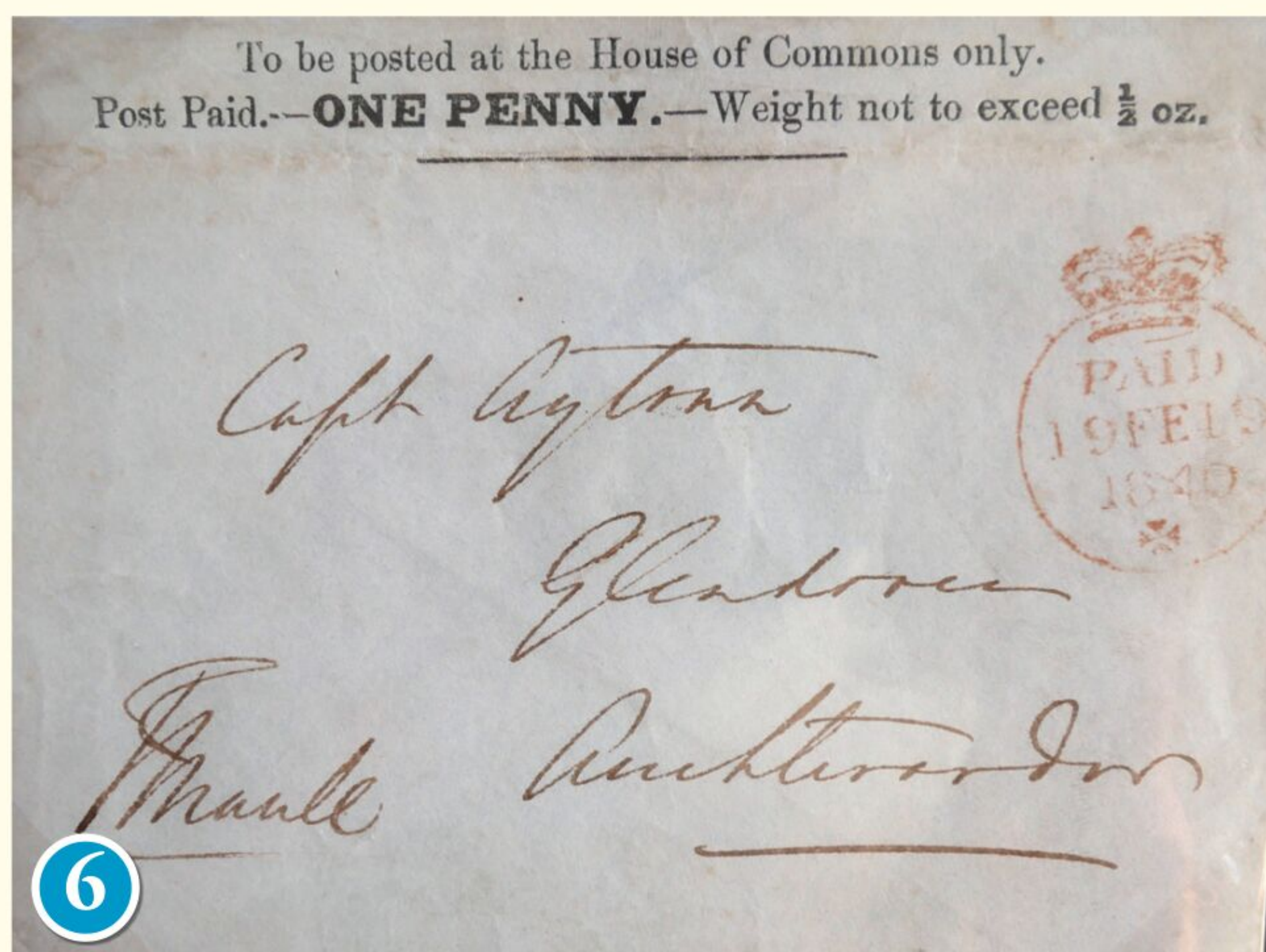


Figure 6: House of Commons 1d envelope, printed on grey wove paper and without watermark, sent by Fox Maule-Ramsay, then MP for Perthshire, and later earl of Dalhousie, to a constituent in Auctherarder, Perthshire



Figure 7: House of Lords 1d envelope, smaller size (120 x 82mm), printed on yellowish wove paper and without watermark



1d Mulready envelope, stereo A145, sent within London and postmarked with a fine Maltese cross and an octagonal '4Eg'ds on the first day

A few first days of higher rate covers have also survived (figure 3).

During the fourpenny post period only thirty-two English post offices are known to have used 4d handstamps to cancel mail. Only one example survives of the use of such a handstamp during the later uniform penny post period, when 4d became the pre-paid rate for a letter or packet weighing 1–2 ounces (figure 4).

A penny post had operated locally within London and some other cities since the early-eighteenth century. On 10 January 1840 the 1d rate was extended nationwide to all pre-paid correspondence weighing no more than ½ oz. If not pre-paid, the charge was 2d. Some towns used pre-existing handstamps to cancel the uniform penny post (figure 5).

The uniform penny post swept away the Parliamentary perk of free franking, the right members of both Houses of Parliament had enjoyed to send, free of charge, letters weighing no more than 1 ounce. As a temporary measure, for the convenience of members, pre-printed envelopes were made available for sale in the House of Commons library (figures 6 and 7). Three were inscribed 'Houses of Parliament' valued 1d, 2d and 4d; 'House of Lords' valued 1d and 2d; and 'House of Commons' valued 1d.

The Mulready postal stationery (figures 8 and 9) came into use on 6 May 1840. It was designed and named after William Mulready RA, an Irish immigrant made good and one of the country's leading fine artists. His creation was much admired by his colleagues for its 'poetic design', and

was intended to convey the idea of 'friendly and commercial intercourse with remote lands'. Unfortunately, once issued, it was ridiculed by press and public alike. The poor lion, centre top, was the object of particular scorn, 'looking as mild as if suckled upon ass's milk, and having not so much as a growl in the whole inside of him'. First the envelopes in 1841, and then the lettersheets in 1844, were withdrawn from sale, although they remained valid for postal use. The Mulreadys had two unintended consequences. They spawned several caricatures, and they were also used for printing advertisements and so became the precursor to junk mail.

Although the Mulready stationery was not valid for use until 6 May 1840, it was put on sale on 1 May, and a few examples have survived which were used postally before the official first day (figure 9 and 10).

As with the adhesives, the 1d value Mulready was printed in black and the 2d in blue (figure 11).

In stark contrast to the sorry tale of the Mulready stationery, the adhesives issued on the same day, were an immediate success. Although, for security reasons, the Penny Black was replaced by the Penny Red in 1841, it remains perhaps the world's best loved postage stamp (figure 12). A dispute over who invented the adhesive postage stamp rumbled on for over a century after 1840, and, even today, may not be entirely resolved. One claimant, and probably the strongest, was Rowland Hill himself. In 1837 he suggested in evidence to the Commission for Post Office Enquiry that the difficulty of proving pre-payment, 'might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large

Figure 9: 1d Mulready lettersheet, stereo A25, sent from Liverpool to Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent and postmarked with a Liverpool 'L' code c.d.s and a handstruck '1', on 2 May 1840

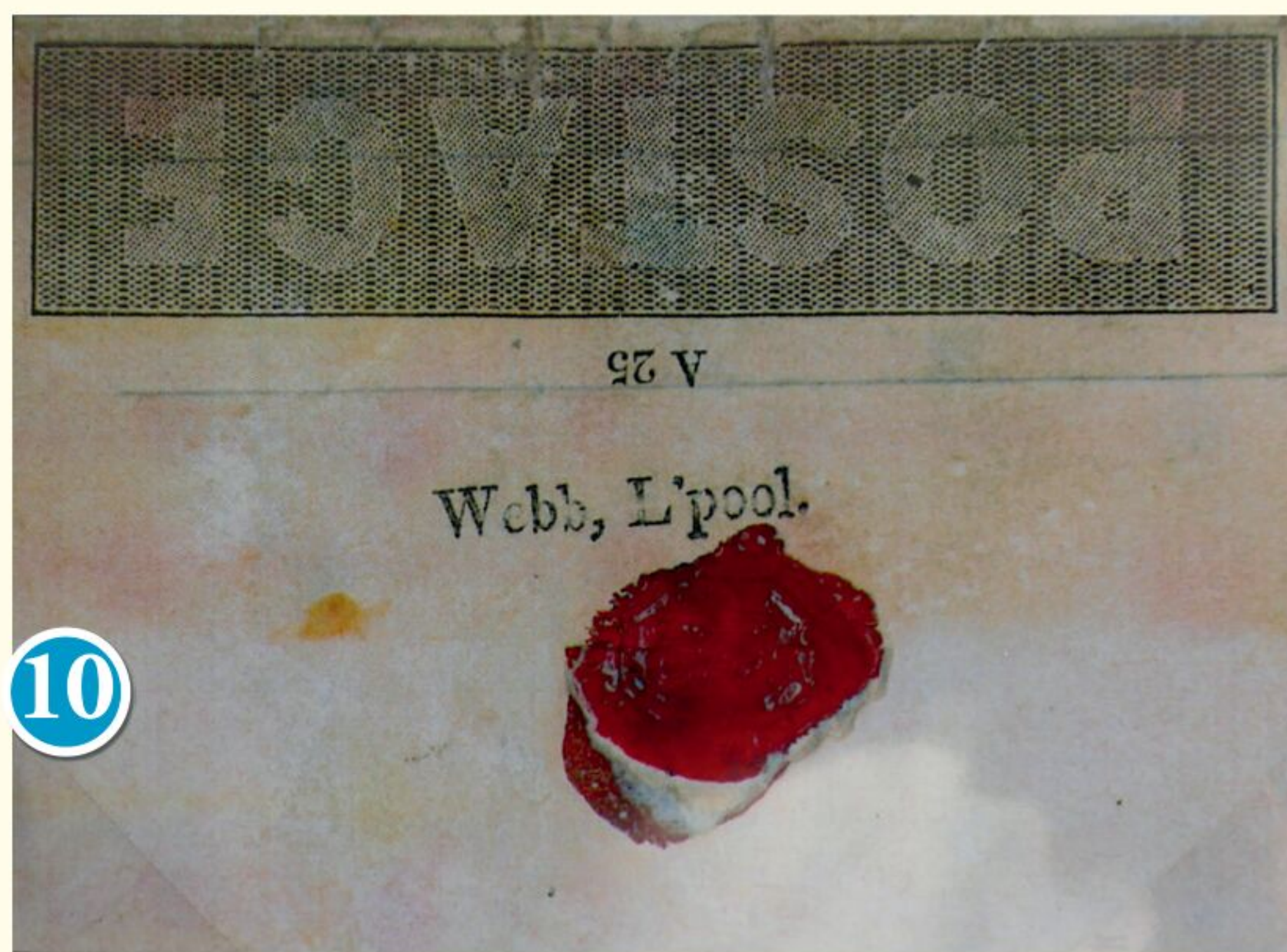


enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which the bringer might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter'. A second claimant was another postal reform campaigner, James Chalmers of Dundee, whose headstone bears the inscription 'Originator of the adhesive postage stamp'.

One of those who competed in the Treasury competition to design the new adhesives, a Benjamin Cheverton, suggested that a beautiful woman's profile would be the best deterrent to forgery because the human eye would be more alert to a flaw in the face. What more beautiful woman in England than the young Queen Victoria. And what better image of the young queen than that used for the Wyon medal that had been engraved to celebrate her first official visit to the City of London. This image of Victoria as a fifteen year old was used on GB stamps for the remainder of her long reign.

Whereas 11,000 sheets of the Penny Black were delivered to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes by 6 May, only 619 sheets of the Two Pence Blue were so delivered. This makes May date Two Pence Blues scarcer than first day Penny Blacks (figure 13).

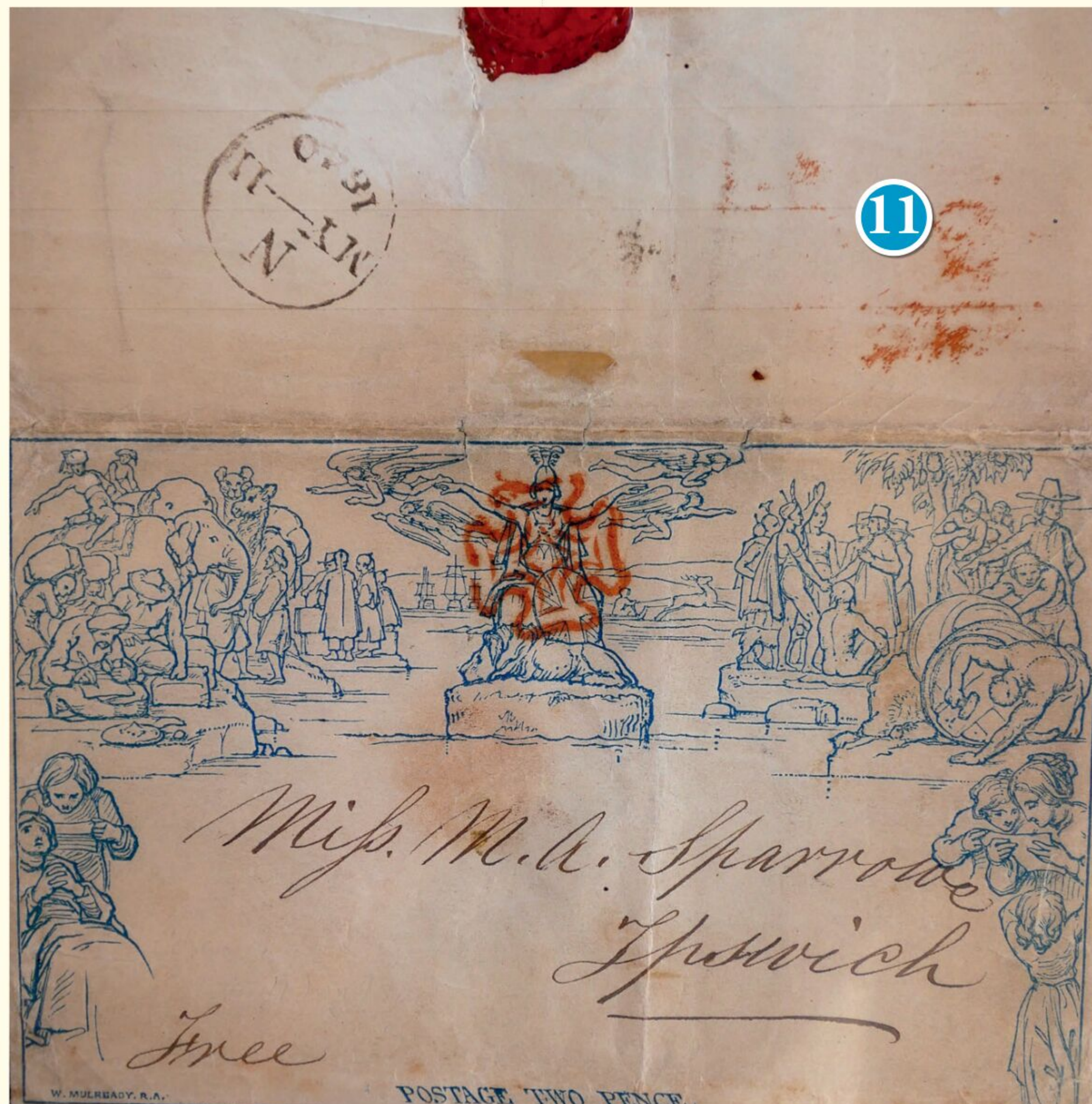
The first day of issue of the Two Pence Blue has long been debated. No example



of a 6 May use survives, and the earliest are the contentious 'Mackay' cover of 7 May and the non-contentious 'Reform Club' envelope of 8 May. In 1936 Godden's Gazette reported a 6 May Two Pence Blue on a 1d Mulready, but by 1992 someone had removed the adhesive – possibly the costliest mistake in philatelic history. So, the better view now is that the Two Pence Blue probably was available for use in London on 6 May 1840, making it jointly the world's first postage stamp. It remained in use as the only 2d value GB stamp until replaced by the 2d Rose forty years later.

With the issue of the two adhesives the pattern was set for successful postal reform. By the time the Universal Postal Union was formed in 1874 it was a pattern that had been copied across the globe and the hobby of stamp collecting had begun.

The 2 May 1840 Mulready bears the imprint 'Webb, L'pool', so making it the earliest example of a printed advertisement on such stationery, albeit a very small and simple one



2d Mulready lettersheet, stereo A97, sent from London to Ipswich, Suffolk and postmarked with an 'N' code cds on 11 May 1840, within the first week of issue



This article was published in association with the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS)

The GBPS was founded in 1955 by a small but enthusiastic group of collectors in order to promote, encourage, and contribute to the advancement of the philately of Great Britain. Since then it has grown steadily, and now has more than 800 members in the UK and abroad.

The Society deals with all aspects of GB philately, and has contributed much to the field; this is certain to continue as new members with fresh ideas join. You can join the Society by visiting the website at: www.gbps.org.uk/society/application.php

Membership costs UK £25, Europe £30, World £36 Airmail/£30 Surface.

A history of the GBPS

During November 1955 notices appeared in philatelic magazines announcing that it was proposed to form a Great Britain Specialist Society.

The inaugural meeting held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London in December 1955 was well attended and 28 philatelists enrolled at that meeting. It was decided to adopt the name Great Britain Philatelic Society and the Society's council and officers were elected.

In January 1956 the first formal meeting took place and on 14 January 1956, at the first Annual General Meeting held, the Society's Constitution was agreed, with Major K.M. Beaumont, FRPSL, elected President.

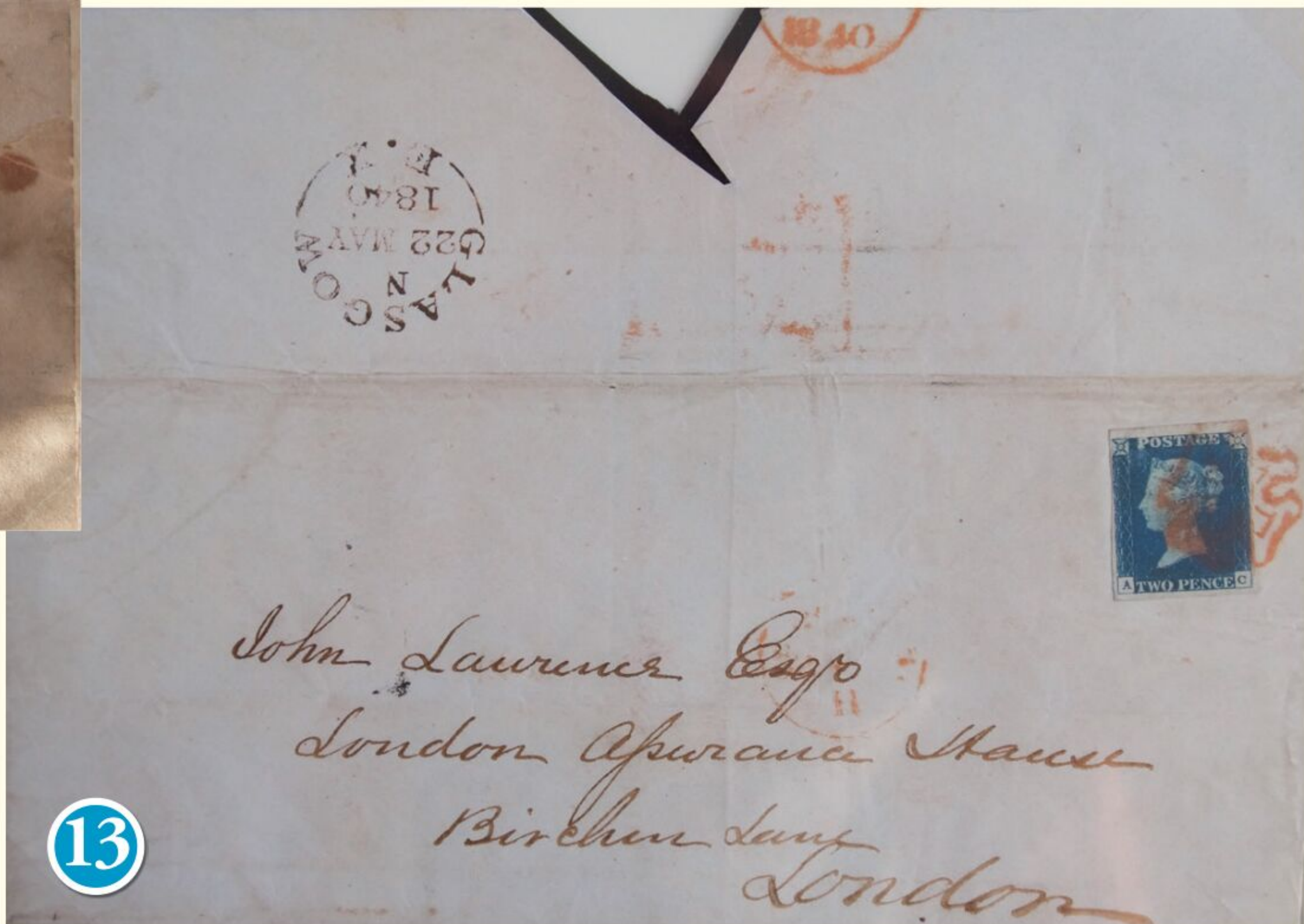
From the start the Society has benefited from the vision, endeavour and enthusiasm of many members.

Find out more at www.gbps.org.uk



Two Pence Blue, corner letters AC, imperf., plate 1, watermark small crown. Entire sent and postmarked on 22 May 1840 from Glasgow, and cancelled again, on arrival in London, on 25 May 1840

Penny Black, pair, corner letters IG-IH, imperf., plate 1a, watermark small crown. Part Protestant Dissenters & General Life and Fire Assurance Company policy sent and postmarked 'EX' code general c.d.s. on the first day from London to Oxford – one of two surviving policies sent by the company that day. As such, it is one of only two plate 1a surviving pairs, and one of only two legal contracts postmarked on the first day of issue





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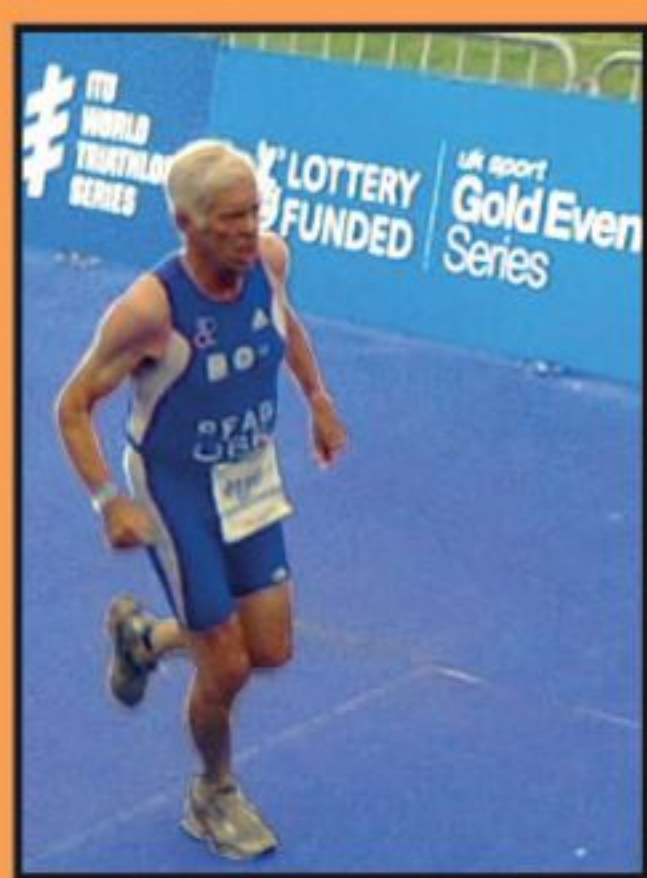


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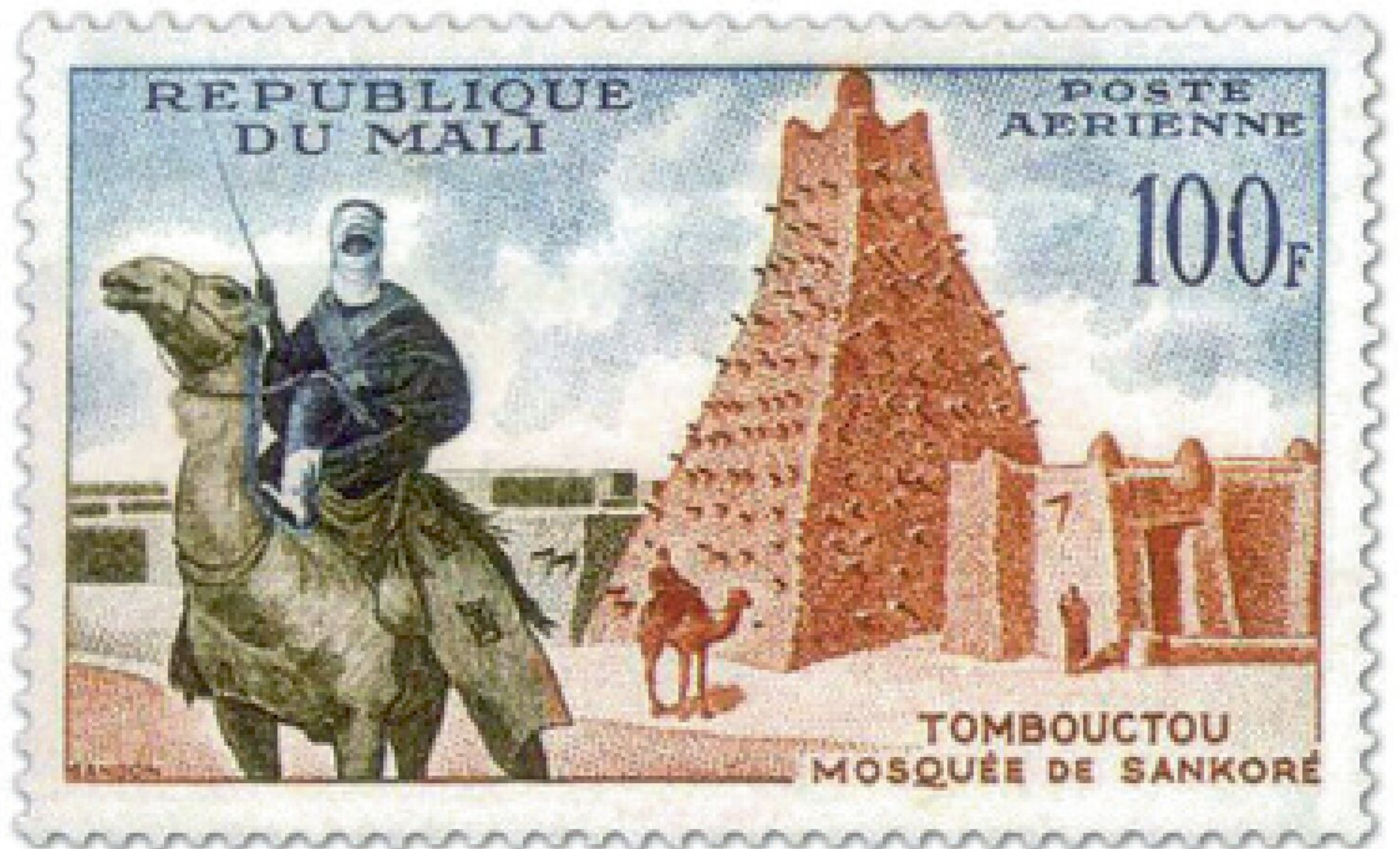
A Desert Empire

Designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon, one of France's most prolific stamp designers, this Mali stamp provides an insight into a period when France was reassessing its relationship with the colonies. Chris West explores the stories behind the stamp

This stamp tells four stories. One is of its era. It was issued in 1961, at a time when African nations were breaking free from their former imperial masters. After bruising attempts to hold on to Vietnam and Algeria in the 1950s, France decided to be more flexible with the rest of its empire. Mali, a largely desert nation twice the size of its old colonial boss, was given independence in 1960. This airmail stamp was issued the next year, to coincide with the opening of an airport at Timbuktu (Tombouctou). Access to the air was seen as a key sign of modern nationhood at that time – as, of course, was a nation's freedom to issue its own stamps.

The stamp still has a very French look about it, however. It was designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon, one of France's most prolific stamp designers, who was responsible for many of the early *Série Touristique* issues, as well as the wide-eyed 'Marianne' definitives of the late 1940s. A second story that this stamp tells, then, is how, since the horrors of Algeria, France has managed its relationship with its former African colonies very carefully, so as to retain great influence. In 2013, when the Malian government needed assistance to quell a fundamentalist uprising in the north, it did not bother asking the United Nations to intervene. It asked France instead, which duly responded to great effect.

The third story is indicated by the mosque in the background. The Sankoré Mosque was part of an Islamic university built by Mansa (King) Musa around the year 1320. At that time, when Europe was still largely warring principalities, Musa



ruled a huge, united empire that included modern Mali, Senegal and parts of Mauritania. This empire was rich from the production of gold, and from being a centre for trade in salt, metalwork, ivory, cloth and slaves (the latter trade was well-established long before westerners came and industrialized it so horrifically).

The empire had grown during the 13th century, expanding from its base on the River Niger. It even sent a fleet into the Atlantic, to find out what lay at its furthest edge. The expedition did not return, however – had it found America and come back, it would have pre-dated Columbus by two hundred years.

King Musa is one of the candidates for the title of 'richest man in history' (an argument that can never be settled definitively). When he made his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324/6, he took a retinue 60,000 men and an enormous quantity of gold, much of which he handed out on his journey. While personal piety appears to have part of his motivation, the pilgrimage

The renowned stamp designer Pierre Gandon produced the artwork or engraved over 350 stamps for France and more than 700 for the French Colonies

Chris West is the author of *First Class* the story of Britain since 1840, using 36 postage stamps, and *A History of America in 36 Postage Stamps*

was a magnificent piece of diplomatic grandstanding. Some economic historians argue that his handing out of gold was not largesse but deliberate sabotage – the economies of the countries he passed through suffered chronic inflation for years afterwards. These included Egypt, the site of Mali's biggest rival in the gold trade.

Musa died around 1337, and the empire began to decay. Like most empires, it struggled on for a while but with weak rulers. When the explorer/diplomat Leo Africanus visited it in the early 16th century, it was smaller but still substantial. That century saw it subjected to invasions and final break-up.

A fourth story from this stamp has nothing to do with nations or empires. The man in the foreground is a Berber. These proud tribespeople live in the desert and care little for such abstractions – except for launching the occasional rebellion when they feel that a nation state is trying to push its agenda onto them too aggressively.



CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

Canada 'Provincial Flowers and Badges' 1964-66

CELEBRATED SETS

David Bailey discovers how Canada's historic provinces and a brand new flag helped celebrate its the nation's 100th anniversary in this month's collecting guide to a classic stamp set

Canada was as much affected as anywhere else by the social upheavals of the mid-1960s. More than half of its 20 million population were under 25. They followed the Civil Rights and anti-war movements in the USA and the emerging counter-culture across the western world. And they chafed against an establishment that was seen as too old, too British and too out of touch. This manifested itself in demonstrations on campus, strikes in the workplace and the

growth of separatist movements, most noticeably in Quebec.

One focus of discontent was the Canadian flag, which was based on the Red Ensign – the flag of British merchant shipping since 1707. And a spur to action was the upcoming centennial in 1967, which would prompt discussions about Canada's history, its identity and its place in the post-war world.

In the early 1960s, Prime Minister Lester Pearson set up a committee to oversee the creation of a new Canadian flag, with no British influences. This



Top: Unity, Ontario, and Quebec

Above: New Brunswick

Left: Nova Scotia

was strongly opposed in Parliament and outside it. But the committee's call to submit designs attracted over 6,000 entries, of which three would be debated in Parliament.

Against this background, the Canadian Post Office was planning its centennial stamp programme. This was complicated by the fact that they did not know what the country's central emblem was going to be. They settled on a series of fourteen stamps – one plus thirteen – which began in May 1964. The first stamp promoted national unity. Its three Maple leaves represent the three groups that came together to form Canada: British, French and from elsewhere. It was released on 14 May, two weeks before the new flag was due to be debated in Parliament.





The set of thirteen stamps did essentially the same thing, this time showing the twelve states that came together to form Canada. The thirteenth stamp would show Canada's new symbol alongside its coat of arms and the set would be released over three years.

In the event, the debate about the new design had a clear winner: the maple leaf and two red bands. It was an instant success with the public and still inspires pride and affection in Canadians today.

The Provincial Arms and Flowers

Many of Canada's stamps use combinations of recess printing with litho or photogravure; but in this set, it really works. Helped by a simple basic design, it jumps off the pages of an album or catalogue and rewards close inspection with the detail and quality of engraving and print.

30 June 1964: Ontario and Quebec

Constitutionally, these two states merged in 1840 to form the Colony of Canada. But each retained a strong identity of its own. Ontario's arms feature the cross of St George and a three gold maple leaves. The motto translates as 'Loyal she began, loyal she remains.' This relates to the British loyalists who fled the American revolution to live there.

Maple leaves also appear in the

bottom third of Quebec's coat of arms, below the lion of England and the royal Fleur de Lys of France. The crest is a Tudor crown.

In 1964, Quebec's state flower was the White Garden Lily, which had been chosen to match the symbols on the state flag and was thought to have been the original 'Fleur de Lys'. They were wrong. It was actually a yellow iris and the state flower was changed to a blue iris in 1999.

3 February 1965: New Brunswick and Nova Scotia

New Brunswick broke away from Nova Scotia in 1784. Both issued stamps from Perkins Bacon, in a square format turned through 45 degrees before reverting to more conventional shapes. And both states joined the Dominion on its formation.

The top of New Brunswick's shield shows a lion of England. But in 1784, the German Duchy of Brunswick was owned by George III and two lions appear on the Duchy's coat of arms. So the lion marks a connection with both.

Nova Scotia's coat of arms was granted by Charles II in 1625 but has undergone a number of changes over the years. The shield on the stamp shows the Scottish saltire as a blue cross on a white ground plus the Royal Shield of Scotland. The state flower is the native Trailing Arbutus. The Pilgrims' *Mayflower* was named after Hawthorn blossom.



Top Manitoba, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island

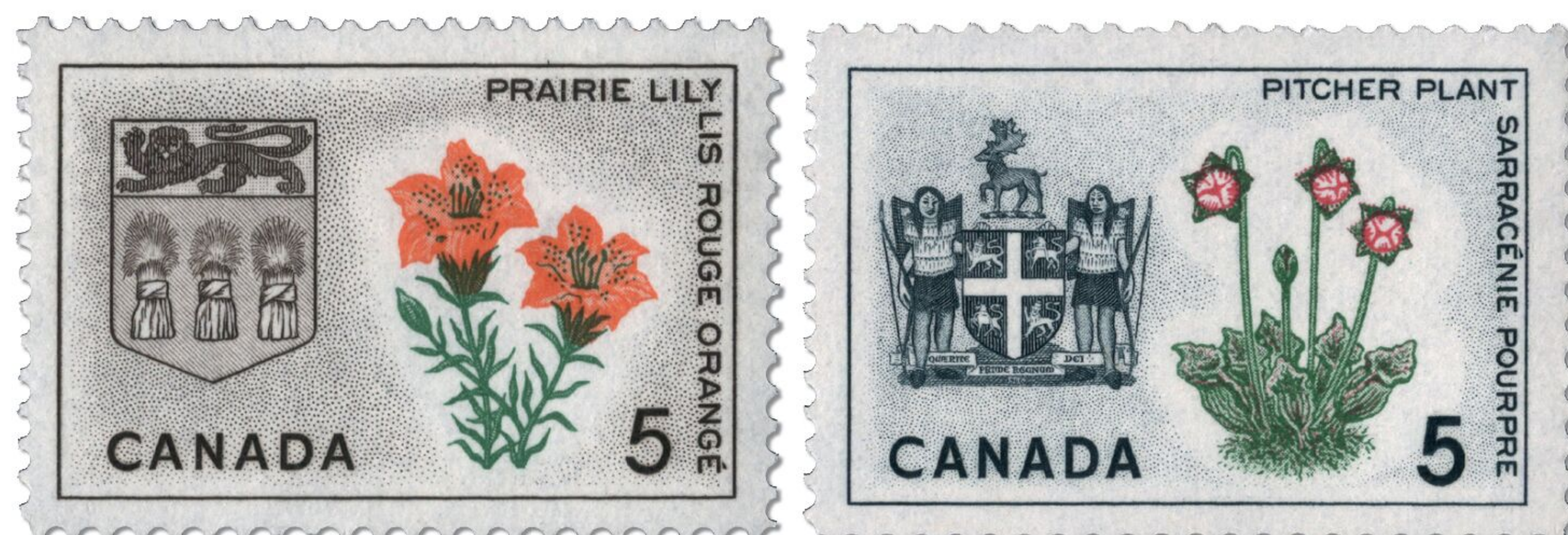
Above: Alberta

4 April 1965: Manitoba and British Columbia

In 1870, Manitoba was the first state to be carved out of the North Western territories and joined the Confederation of Canada on its formation. It was then only an eighteenth of the size it is today and was nicknamed the 'postage stamp province'. Its coat of arms is a shield with a Cross of St George plus a buffalo standing on a rock; a reminder of the herds that used to roam this prairie state.

British Columbia very nearly joined the USA. There were two gold rushes here – in 1858 and the early 1860s when prospectors flooded in from the south and San Francisco was effectively its capital. However, when the gold ran out, an economic collapse prompted a merger with the Confederation of Canada in 1871. The coat of arms was granted in 1906 and so features a Union Jack for Britain at the top and below it, a sun setting over the ocean. The supporters are an elk and bighorn sheep. The motto literally means 'undiminished splendour' and refers to the idea that the sun never sets on the British Empire.

Below: Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland



21 July 1965: Prince Edward Island

This was one of the first states to be settled but the seventh to join the Confederation, in 1873. It issued

its own stamps from 1861, printed letterpress by Charles Whiting; he of the 'Whiting Essays' for the Penny Black. The coat of arms was granted in 1905. In the top panel is the lion of England. Below it, three small oaks represent the island's three provinces plus larger oak representing Great Britain. The Latin motto is taken from Virgil and means 'the small under protection from the great'. The Lady's Slipper orchid became the state flower in 1947.

19 January 1966: Alberta and Saskatchewan

Alberta and Saskatchewan were both founded in 1905, joining the Confederation at the same time. Alberta is named after a daughter of Queen Victoria. Its coat of arms shows the Cross of St George above snowy mountains, rolling hills, prairies and a field of wheat. 'Strong and Free' its motto. Saskatchewan is named after its great river – which was christened by the native Cree people. It is another of the prairie states and the coat of arms reflects this with a lion and three sheaves of wheat. Of the state flowers, Alberta's dog rose grows everywhere in the province. Saskatchewan's red lily is a protected species.

23 February 1966: Newfoundland

From 1917 to 1949, Newfoundland was a dominion in itself and from 1857 onwards, it issued nearly 300 stamps. Its coat of arms was originally granted in 1637. However, its Governor, a Royalist, was imprisoned after the Civil War and the coat of arms was forgotten. It was rediscovered



in the 1890s but wrongly attributed, as in the 2c stamp of 1910. The truth emerged after WWI and it was finally adopted by the Dominion of Newfoundland in 1928.

The four quarters of the shield show lions and unicorns. The supporters are imaginative representations of the native Beothuk people. At the crest is an elk. The state flower is the insect-eating Pitcher Plant, which was chosen by Queen Victoria and appeared on the coinage until 1938.

23 March 1966: Northwest Territories and Yukon

Northwest Territories joined the Dominion on its formation in 1870. But its arms were not granted until 1956. Two Narwhals top the crest while the compass rose signifies the North Pole. When in colour, the top panel shows the blue of the Northwest Passage cutting through the polar ice. The lower panels have a white fox (fur) and gold billets (mineral wealth).

The state of Yukon is famous for the Klondyke gold rush; between 1896 and 1903, over \$95 million dollars' worth of gold was mined here. Yukon joined the Dominion in 1898 but again, the coat of arms was not granted until 1956. The crest is a



Above: Northwest Territories, and Yukon

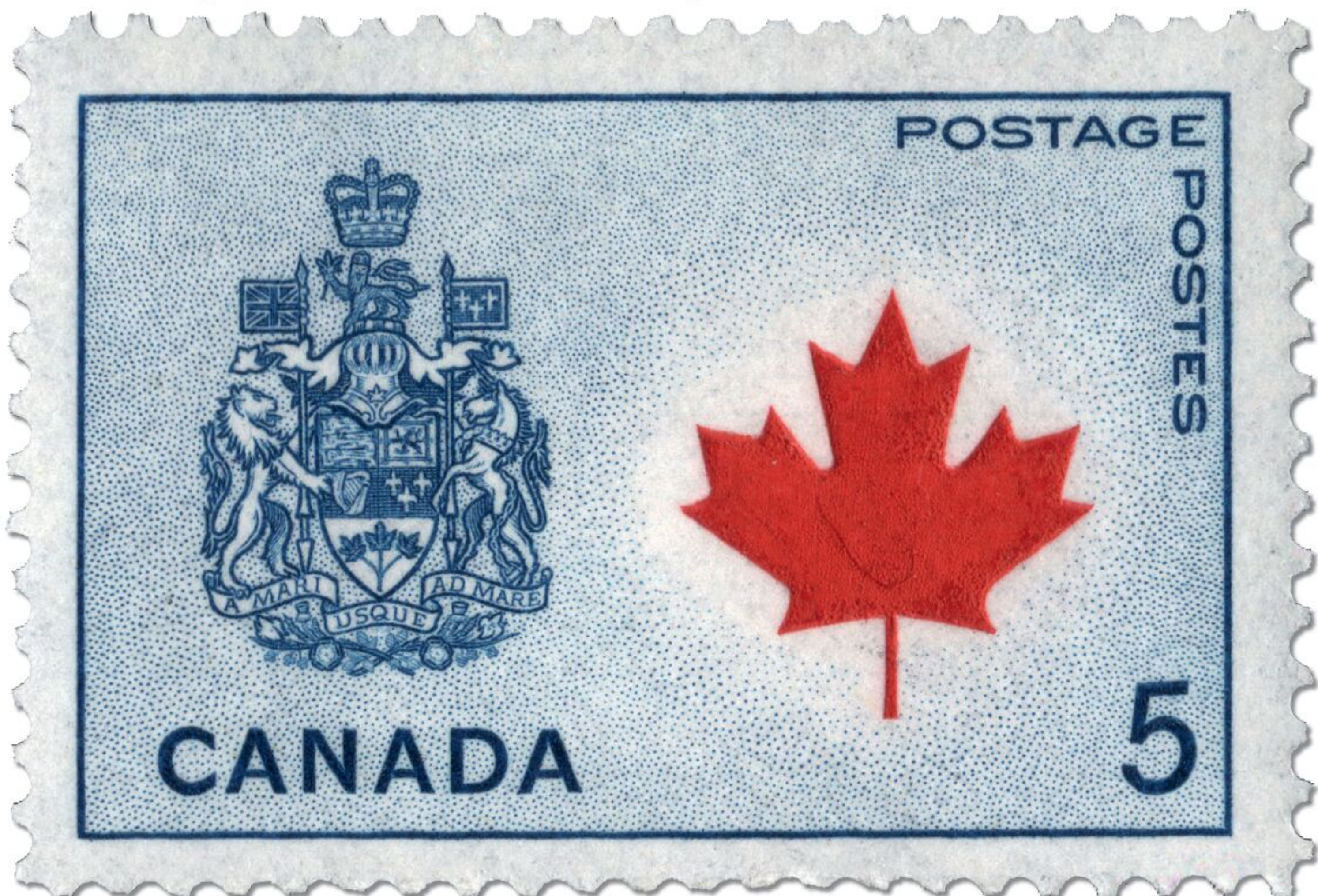
husky on a mound of snow. The top panel represents English fur trappers. The lower part shows the Yukon River and the gold-bearing creeks of the Klondike. The spire-like forms represent mountains; the gold coins, its mineral wealth.

30 June 1966: Dominion of Canada

Canada's coat of arms was granted in 1921 and contains heraldic elements from England, Ireland, Scotland and France with Maple leaves representing Canada. In 1957, the design was modified to change the Tudor crown to a St Edwards Crown as preferred by Queen Elizabeth. It was further modified after the Patriation of the Constitution in 1982, when the motto 'from sea to sea, was placed around the shield not below it, as befitted a sovereign state. The Queen finally approved the change in 1994.

Many thanks to Postal History Corner, Postage Stamp Guide and the Government of Canada for images and information used in this article.

Below: Canada



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUES

Stamps are recess printed (Canada) or by recess and lithography (the remainder) by the Canadian Banknote Company. Perf 12

	Mint	Used
Ontario	20p	20p
Quebec	20p	20p
New Brunswick	20p	20p
Nova Scotia	20p	20p
Manitoba	20p	20p
British Columbia	20p	20p
Prince Edward Island	20p	20p
Alberta	20p	20p
Saskatchewan	20p	20p
Newfoundland	20p	20p
Northwest Territories	20p	20p
Yukon	20p	20p
Dominion of Canada	20p	20p

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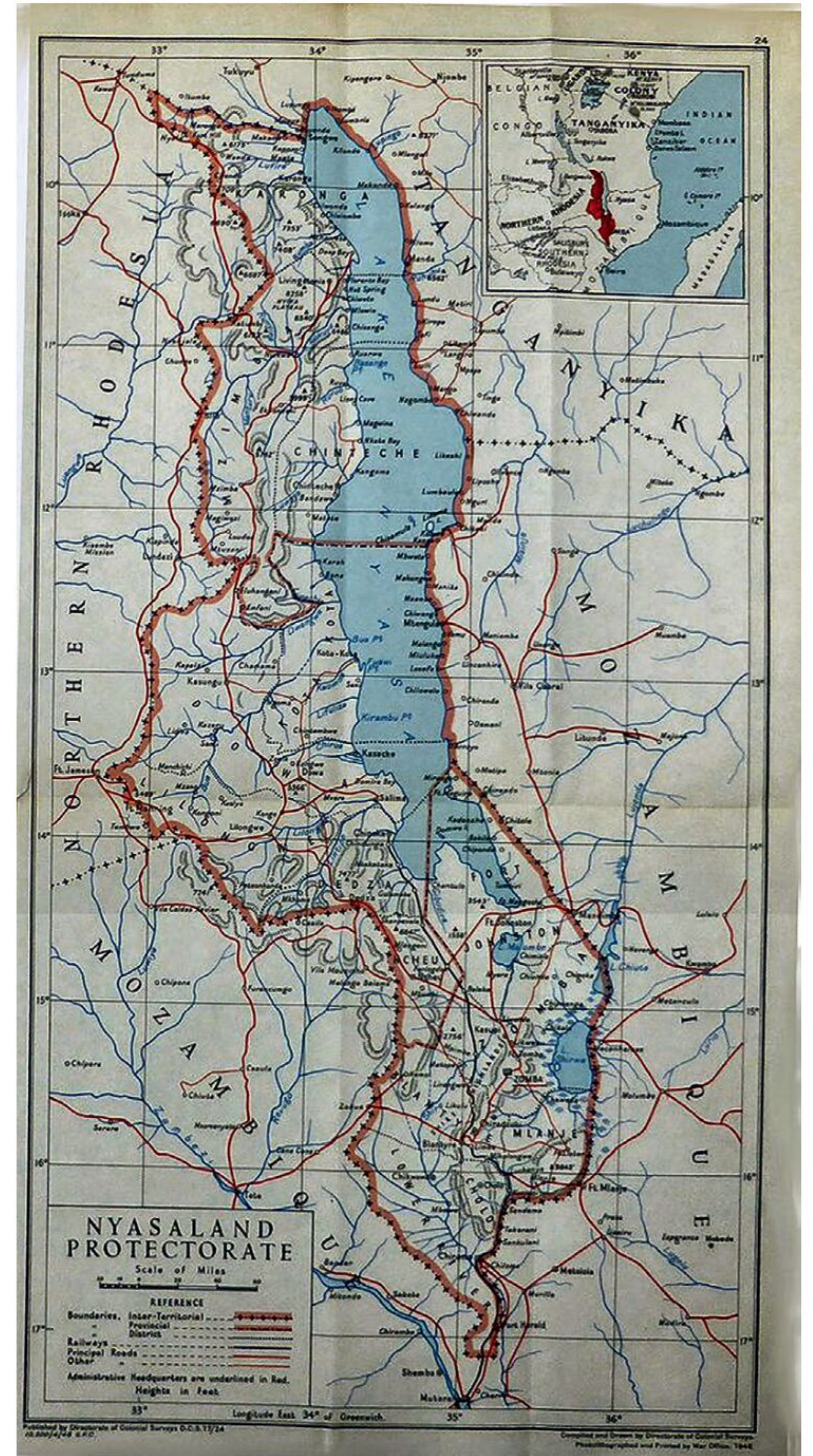


Cargo boat on Lake Nyasa in the 1930s

COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

Nyasaland

Nyasaland still merits a page or two in your album, suggests Ed Fletcher as he sketches the history of the former British Protectorate that became the Republic of Malawi



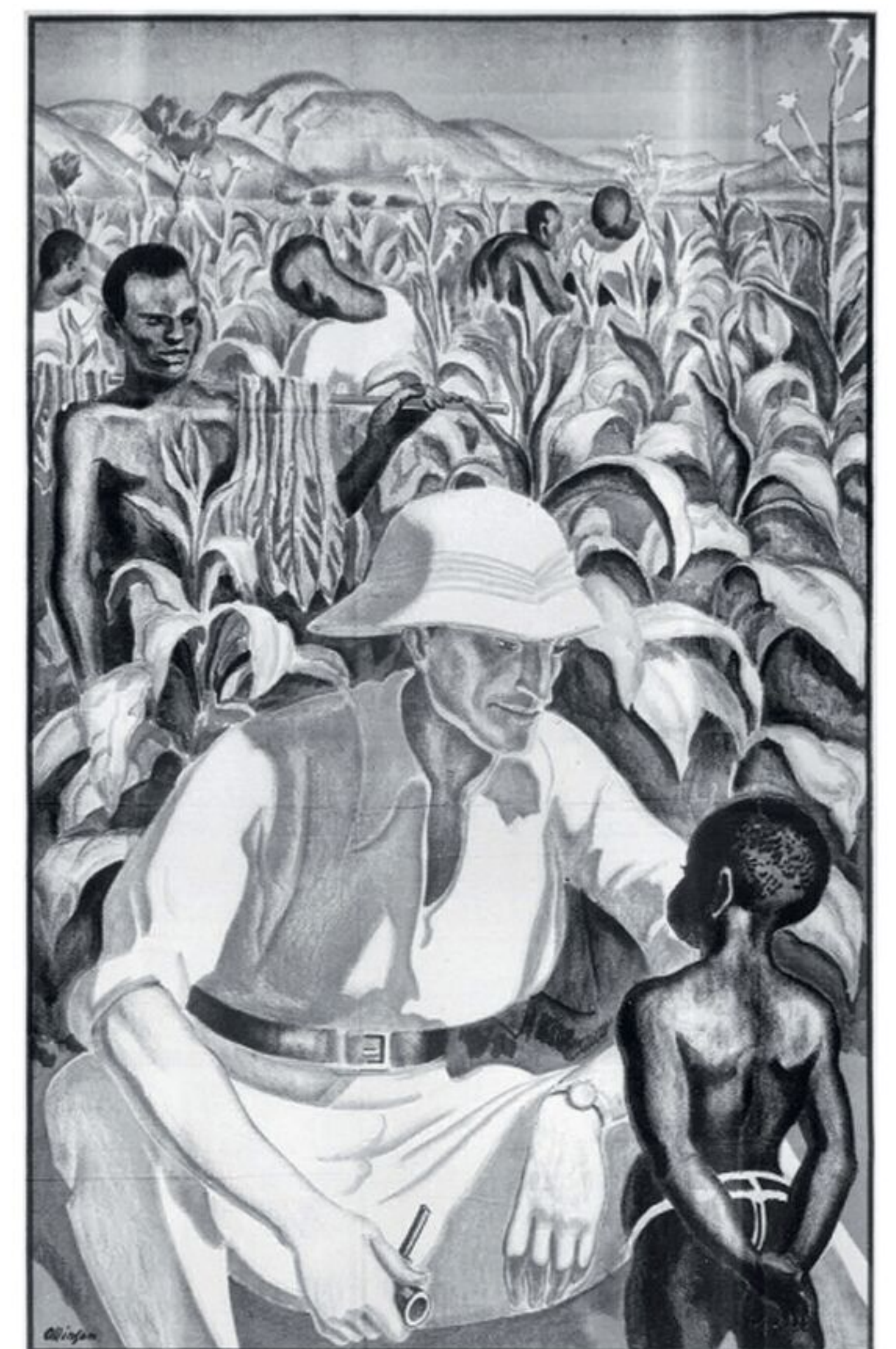
Above: Colonial Office map of the Nyasaland Protectorate in the 1920s

In the later decades of the 19th century, as the Scramble For Africa established many new borders across the continent, three European powers acquired protectorates in the lands that flanked Lake Nyasa. The territories held by German East Africa, Portuguese East Africa and The Nyassaland (sic) Districts Protectorate established an uneasy truce that allowed them to exploit natural resources around the lake. The British slice of the cake changed its name to The British Central Africa Protectorate in 1893; then to the Nyasaland

Protectorate in 1907 – the name it retained until 1964 when it gained independence and established the Republic of Malawi.

At the outset it must have appeared to the British Colonial Office that the protectorate offered excellent prospects of self-sufficiency, even profits. The highlands of the northern region had mineral deposits, especially coal; the central region included plenty of potentially productive agricultural land; while poorer regions in the south could grow enough native crops to feed the indigenous natives. Tribal

Right: an Empire Marketing Board advertising poster from the 1930s



EMPIRE TOBACCO FROM NORTHERN RHODESIA & NYASALAND

conflicts east of Nyasaland's borders, however, resulted in increasing numbers of refugees flooding into the tribal areas and putting strains on basic food supplies. Meanwhile British colonists exploited the best land and soon had crops of tea, coffee, tobacco and cotton to export. Their enterprise generated the need for postal services, with early stamp requirements satisfied



Tobacco Plantation in NYASALAND

Promoting Nyasaland tobacco plantations in the 1920s



Examples of the Protectorate's earliest stamps: 3s and £1 issues of The British South Africa Company overprinted B.C.A.

by overprinting Rhodesia's British South Africa Company issues with the initials B.C.A. abbreviating British Central Africa.

During the years 1805 to 1901 the colonists saw the first stamps issued specifically for the protectorate; sets with values ranging from 1d to £25, and all depicting the Arms of the Protectorate, and with the title British Central Africa arched above the design. Printer D.L.R. used litho and typo to produce them. The same printer fulfilled the contract for new stamps issued in 1903, not long after Edward VII succeeded to the throne. The new design replaced the protectorate's arms with a bust of Edward VII. Stamp sales rose immediately when collectors around the world clamoured for the larger format values in the set – 2s 6d, 4s, 10s, £1 and £10. The smaller 1d to 1s values also attracted overseas collectors; all perhaps responding to the ending of sixty-three years with a queen's head on most of the British Empire's stamps.

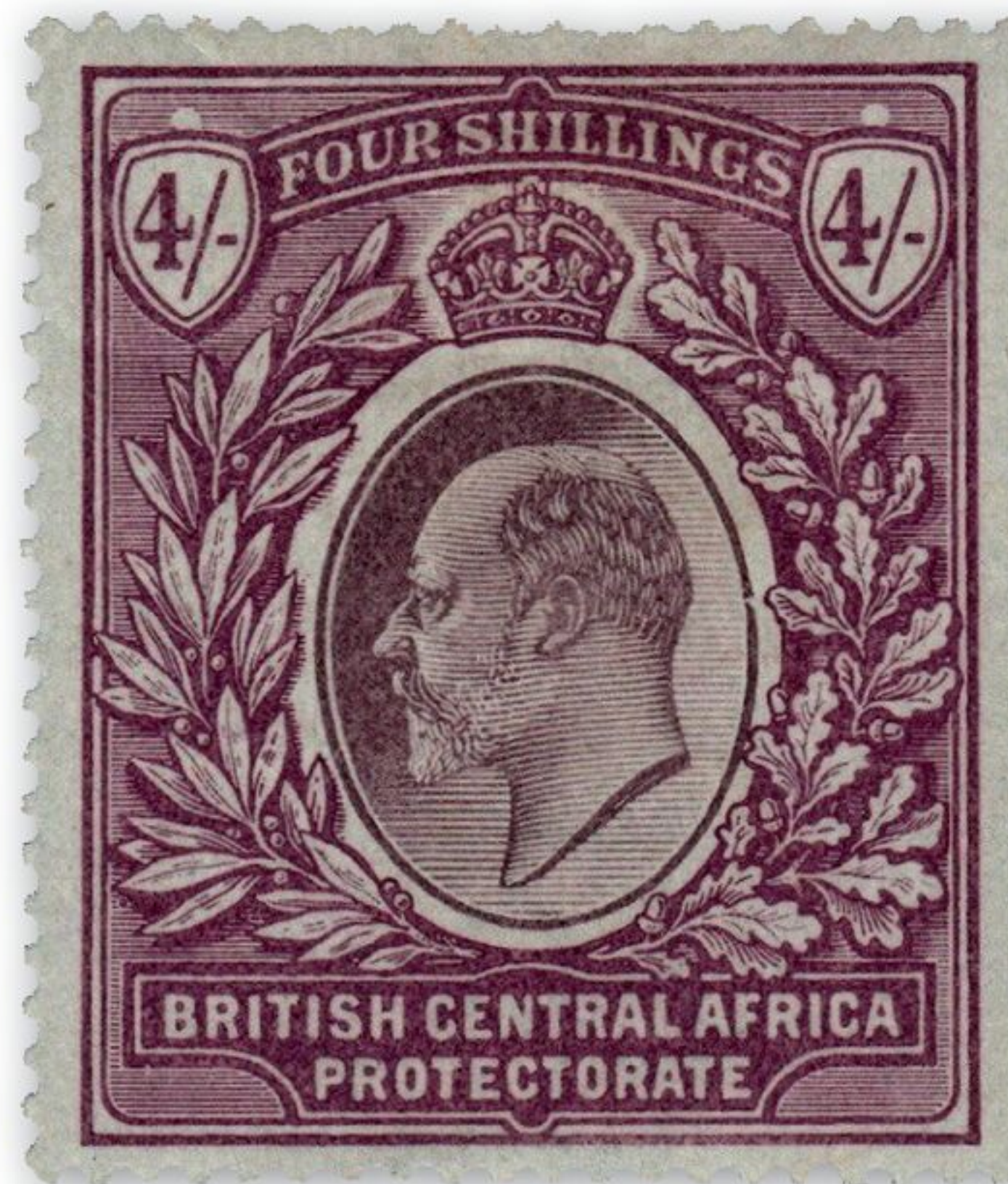
Tea plantations yielded the best profits during the first decade of the 1900s. With ever-increasing numbers of British settlers arriving across Africa, sales of leaf tea boomed so long as brands from Nyasaland faced little competition; but fine India teas soon cornered upper-class markets, with Nyasaland left to supply low-

Right: the Higher Values of the new monarch, Edward VII, proved very popular with collectors when issued in 1903-04

The same monarch's first issues for Nyasaland Protectorate were also well received by colonists and collectors



The Arms of British Central Africa featured prominently on the first stamps



grade cheap teas to Britain's labouring classes and other poorer tea drinkers around the world. Nyasaland's coffee plantations suffered a similar fate, with Brazil producing better and cheaper coffee for the United States market, thanks in part to good ocean communications between Brazil and the USA. In Nyasaland unreliable communications and high transport costs contributed to economic problems. Few well-constructed roads had met colonists' needs up to the outbreak of the First World War. Native runners using dirt tracks collected and delivered all mail outside of the main towns. A newspaper report from those years told of a Nyasaland mail runner attacked by a pride of lions. The runner escaped only because the lions stopped to tear open the mail sack he dropped as he fled.

Attempts were made to improve river-boat services for mail, as well as small produce crates and passengers. The protectorate was fairly well



supplied with rivers; but most suffered from hazardous rapids where porters off-loaded and re-loaded cargoes, including mail, between the navigable stretches. None of the protectorate's rivers reached a seaport; the nearest being on the Indian Ocean coast of Mozambique, and over two hundred miles short of Nyasaland's border. Lake Nyasa has a length of 360 miles and is navigable for vessels up to 300 tons when water levels are high. Mail to and from colonists who could reach one of the lakeside post offices, either by horse, or by consigning their mail to a native runner, benefited from international postal rates and services; but heavier cargoes were hampered by ever-rising transportation costs.

Lake Nyasa has an historical claim to international fame: it provided the inspiration and the factual background for the novel *The African Queen*, later made into the terrific Bogart-Hepburn-Huston film in the 1950s. Historically, the very first naval engagement of the First World War occurred on Lake Nyasa on 13 August 1914 when the British lake gunboat *Gwendolen* attacked the German gunboat *Hermann von Wissmann* at the small port of Sphinxhaven (later renamed Liuli) on the German East African shore of the lake. The German vessel had been hauled from the water at the time for repairs to her hull. A





The first issues of George V (low and higher values), issued 1913 - 1919 followed the designs of Edward VII very closely

single shell fired from the Gwendolen severely damaged the enemy gunboat which surrendered shortly afterwards. A few days later The Times of London reported the engagement, calling it the British Empire's first naval victory in the war against the German Empire. (Notice, when next you watch the film, that the missionary's mail reaches him thanks to the river trader's boat.)

The years following the war saw more lakeside post offices opening; in part a response to the arrival of large numbers of ex-soldiers and their families, intent on getting into tobacco growing. They all wrote letters home to the Old Country and received reciprocal replies. Exporting consignments of tobacco proved somewhat trickier. Small boats provided a route via a minor river from Blantyre in the south of Nyasaland to the river Zambesi, and from there to the Mozambique port of Chinde where ocean-going Union-Castle vessels regularly called. That link worked well for several years until a devastating cyclone destroyed Chinde's port facilities in 1922. Cotton growers also experienced a growth in demand, during and after the war, thanks to the introduction of American cotton varieties which grew

well in Nyasaland; but exports were hit by the loss of the Chinde port outlet.

A new monarch (George V, 1910-1936) sparked a slight rise in philatelic sales when his first Nyasaland Protectorate definitives went on sale from 1913, though with little variation from his father's issues. In 1934, however, a design that has delighted stamp collectors everywhere, and throughout many decades, appeared. This stamp – The Symbol Of The Protectorate – carried only the name 'NYASALAND' and the value beneath a small monarch's head. The rest of its artwork displayed a magnificent leopard in full-length, its forelegs surmounting a rocky peak, with a rayed sun as background. Nine values ran from ½d to 1s, each in different colours.

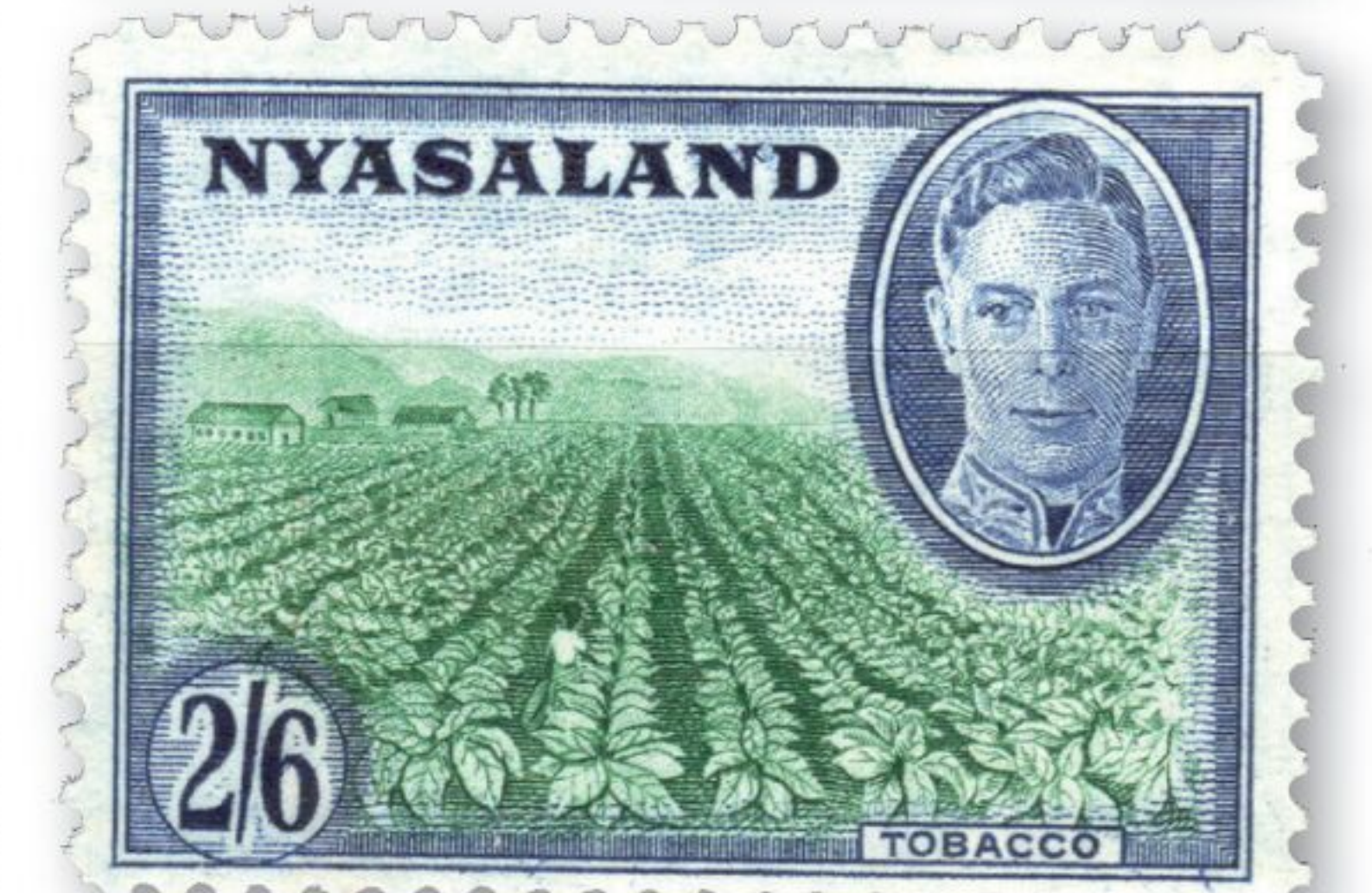
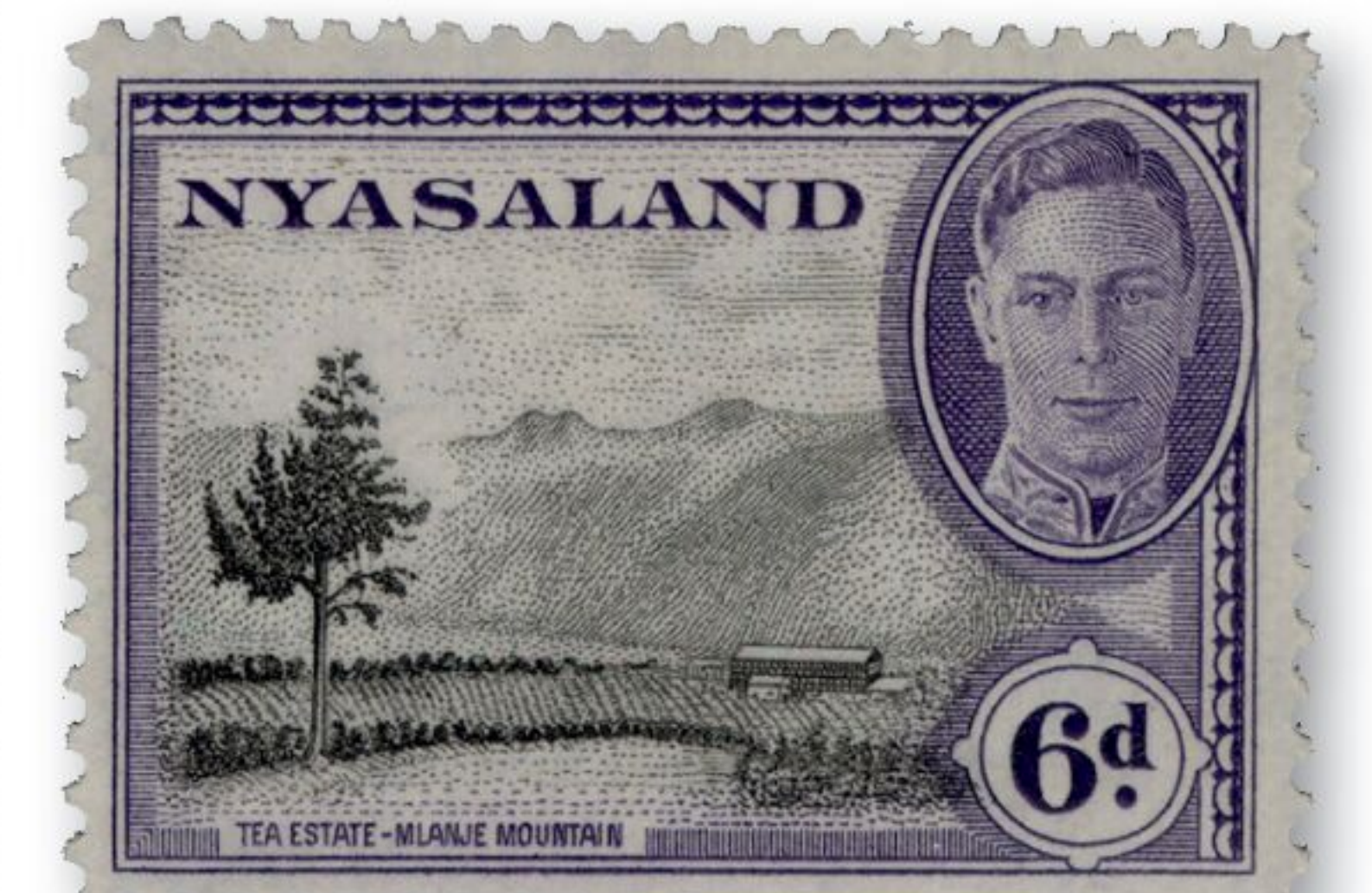
Several projects to improve infrastructure and communications were tried, and ultimately floundered, during this reign. They included river dredgings, ferries, bridges, roads, railways, even air services. All fell victim to recessions, the costs of war, and (probably) poor management and over-ambition. Nevertheless, some collectable stamps were yet to come.

George VI retained his father's designs, values, and majority of colours, on his 1938-44 set, with the addition of five higher values (2s - £1) which reverted to the monarch's bust design of his grandfather, Edward

Above right: this 1s black and brown is from the nine values set issued in 1934-1935 displaying The Symbol Of The Protectorate

Right: the same symbol was used on George VI's first issues in 1938

King GVI stamps illustrating a Nyasaland tea estate and a tobacco plantation



VII. Even the name 'NYASALAND PROTECTORATE' made a comeback. George VI's reign also gave stamp collectors an interesting pictorial set of fourteen illustrating something of the work, lives and cultures of both colonists and natives. His daughter, Elizabeth II, continued with those themes on her issues up to independence and the creation of the Republic of Malawi in 1964.

Thanks to the following online dealers for help with stamp illustrations. Most have regular stocks of Nyasaland issues worthy of perusal by collectors at all levels: roostamp of Huntingdon; North Staffs Stamps; stampeagle of Albury; 1st4Stamps1840 of Derby; Empire Philatelists of Henley-on-Thames; blueshires of Burton on Trent; cbeal-uk8 of Dereham, Kayatana Ltd of Bath; and Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

GVI higher values reverted to the designs of previous reigns



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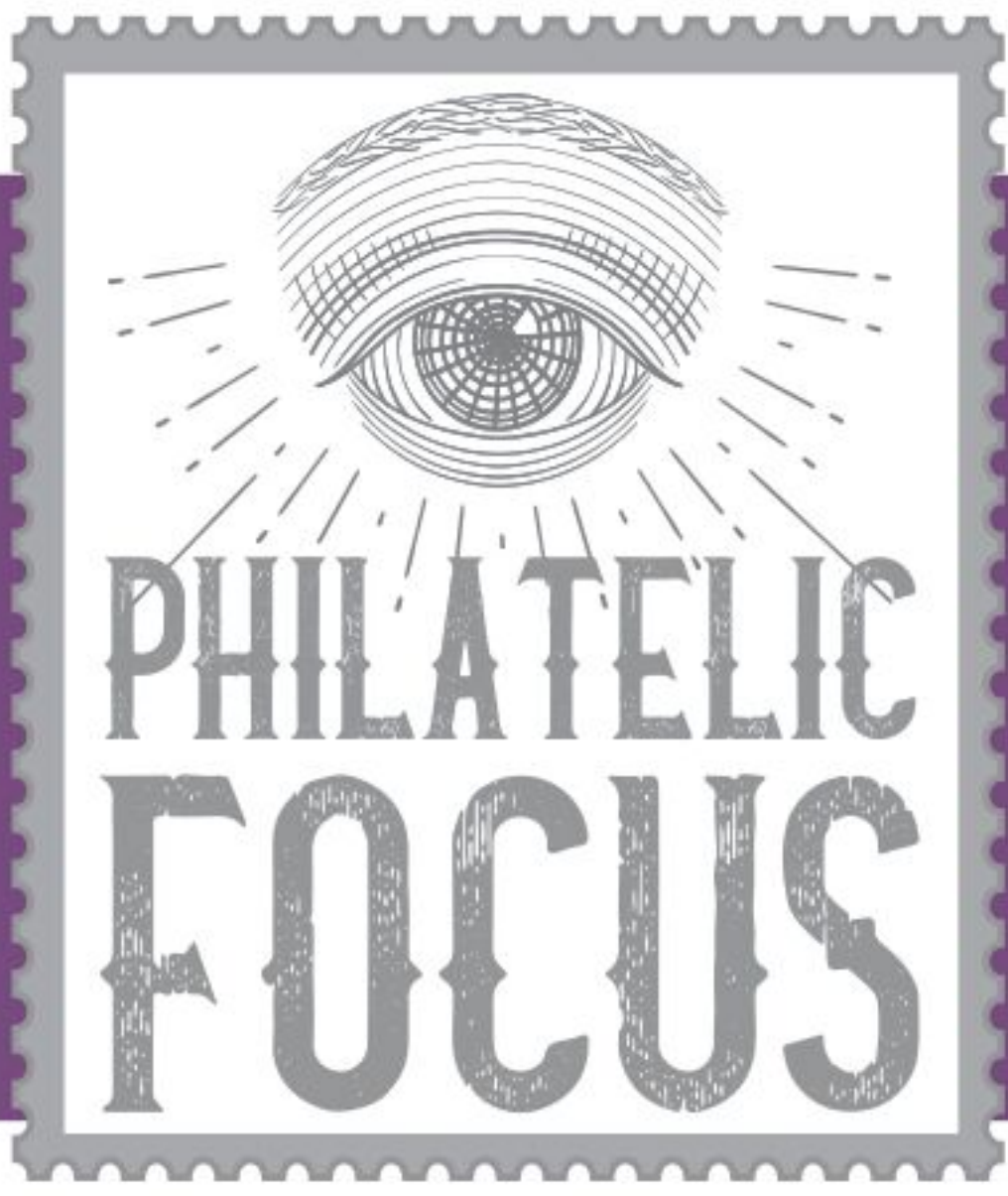
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TREASURES AT THE ROYAL

The first President



The Royal Philatelic Society has a long and distinguished history, stretching back long before it added the prestigious 'Royal' to its name. Nicola Davies, Head of Collections at the RPSL, looks back to the 1860s and the very beginnings of the organisation

Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart. GCMG (1821-1902) was born at Bolton le Moors, UK before the family moved to Sydney, New South Wales. He was educated in England but returned to Australia to pursue a successful business and political career. In 1856, he became the first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales. He received many honours for 'services to the Colony' including a knighthood in 1857 and a Baronetcy in 1863.

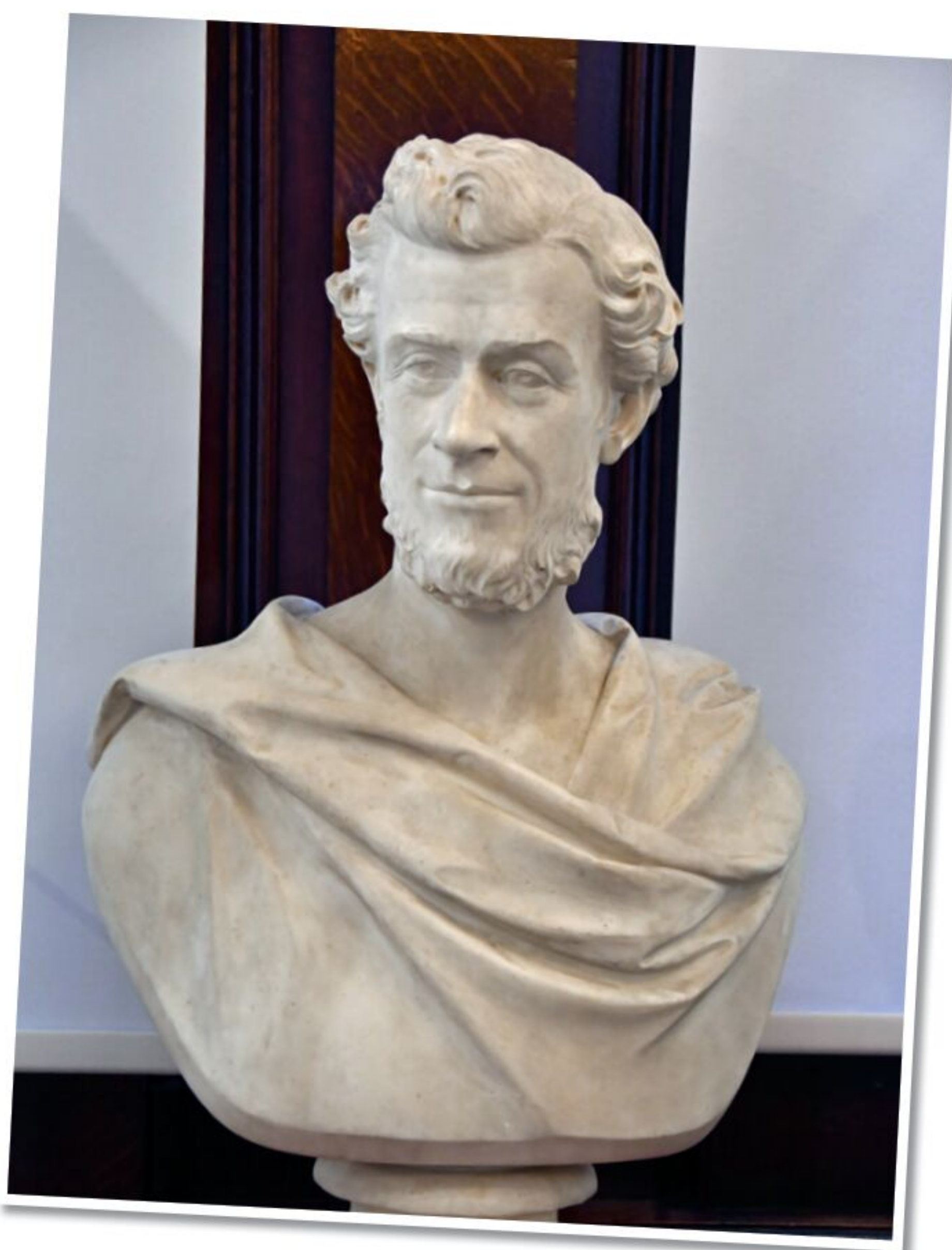
It was after his return to England in 1861 that he started collecting stamps and meeting regularly with a small group of collectors who, on the 10 April 1869, were to form the [Royal] Philatelic Society, London. At this meeting, Sir Daniel was elected President and, on the 28 May 1869, he read the first paper to be given before the Society: On the Earliest Sydney Stamps and of Proofs of the Sydney Views. He remained President of the Society until 1878.

A non-member, Mr E.M. Green, presented the marble bust of Sir Daniel to the Society in 1962. It was sculpted by Joseph Denham (1814-1877), a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and an associate of the Royal Academy.

From 1856 until his death in 1877, Durham lived at 21 Devonshire Street: a near neighbour to what would become the Royal's first permanent home at 41 Devonshire Place. For the first twenty years, Sir Daniel was on display in the Society's first museum, in the entrance hall to No 21B Devonshire Street (bought by the RPSL to extend 41 Devonshire Place).

After many years outside the cloakrooms, Sir Daniel underwent restoration work in 2014 and was given a more fitting position, on the first floor landing. After travelling to Abchurch Lane in a specially designed crate, he is now in our permanent museum display, overseeing the socialising in the Members' lounge.

For more information about the RPSL and its collections visit: <http://www.rpsl.org.uk/home.asp> or follow us on Facebook @royalphilsoclondon and Twitter @The_RPSL. Please send enquiries regarding the library, museum and archives to research@rpsl.org.uk.



The bust of Sir Daniel Cooper (Image © Michael Pitt-Payne)

EXHIBITION NEWS

Luxembourg Philatelic Federation (FSPL) is pressing ahead with its annual Maximaphily and Postcard exhibition. This year it will be held in Echternach on 24 to 25 July and international exhibitors are warmly invited to participate. The deadline for applications is 31 May. For an application form, contact Robert Grosch at groschr@pt.lu or Lars Böttger at lars.boettger@bdph.de

The Slovenian Philatelic Federation has announced that its tenth specialised one frame exhibition, designated DesetoOkno Kranju 2021, will be held from 9 to 18 September 2021 in Kranj, Slovenia. 'DesetoOkno' means 'Tenth Window'. The idea is that a window is a story in one frame. For the DesetoOkno exhibition all FEPA Members are invited to submit entries. For further information contact Igor Pirc at ipirc711@gmail.com

At the FSFI Board meeting held on 17 January 2021 the new President Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, who took up office on 1 January, appointed Nicolino Parlapiano as Vice-President. In addition to his long-standing service as FSFI General Secretary Nicolino is President of the philatelic society in Benevento. The Board, which also includes Paolo Guglielminetti, Luca Lavagnino, Massimo Maassetti, Gianfranco Mazzucco, Giancarlo Morolli and Giulio Perricone, will complete its three-year term at the General Assembly planned to be held at Veronafil on 27 November 2021.

Invitations have gone out from the FEPA Vice President Giancarlo Morolli to the Member Federations to nominate candidates for the prestigious FEPA Medals and Certificates. The awards are made ►

INSIDE THE BRITISH LIBRARY PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS



1953 Coronation issue. Prince Charles 2/6d and Princess Anne 6d, as issued. The artwork for the Prince Charles stamp was by HMSO staff artists and based on a photograph portrait by Marcus Adams. The card also bears the 1954 issue Prince Charles 2/6d and Princess Anne 6d, again as issued



1953 Coronation issue. Printed trial essay. This is a block of six stamps of Prince Charles 2/6d. The colour and frame were later changed and the '2/6d' moved to the top left of the stamp

National treasures

Many readers will no doubt recall the royal portraits on the National Savings Stamps first used, in this month's guide we take a look at the unique examples held in the British Library's Philatelic Collections

Back in the 1950s school children were often given 6d to buy a National Savings Stamp, and were promptly handed a stamp featuring a portrait of the cute curly haired Princess Anne. Half a crown would buy a stamp with the nearly as cute portrait of Prince Charles.

Successive governments have always known the benefit of encouraging the public to save for a rainy day. Aside from teaching younger citizens how to conserve funds, it is also an ideal way for them to borrow money at a very favourable interest rate. In fact the current system of 'Ernie', also known as the Premium Bonds, only offers you the possibility of winning a monthly draw. Should you wish to cash your bonds in at any time all you will get back is what you put in.

The concept of National Savings is not a new ideal and its origins would today be considered rather politically incorrect. Back in the 16th century, whilst ignominiously languishing in debtor's prison, the writer Daniel Defoe conceived the idea of some sort of national saving scheme, which would help provide for hard times. In 1697 he published a paper titled *Essays upon Projects* which effectively provided the concept of a compulsory national insurance scheme. He proved to be well ahead of his time as the National Insurance Act did not appear until 1911.

On 19 February 1807 the MP Samuel Whitbread (of the famous brewing family) proposed the idea of a saving bank. Its objective was aimed at the working classes and the poor. His idea was ridiculed and crushed by the likes



1954 issue. Artwork for Prince Charles 2/6d as issued



1954 issue. The National Savings Committee official example of their New Savers Campaign. Prince Charles 2/6d. Princess Anne 6d



of William Wilberforce and any hope of Whitbread's plan being adopted were ultimately dashed when he committed suicide in July 1815.

The majority of society's upper echelons, it seemed, were contemptuous of any suggestions about the poor or working classes saving. The Duke of Wellington for example felt that a savings plan for soldiers was quite unnecessary, while many Army men believed that a service man able to save was obviously being overpaid!

It took a major crisis to eventually push the government into action. By the spring of 1915, the demands of the First World War was costing the country a staggering £1 million a day, to say nothing of the cost in human lives. Unless money could be generated the conflict would bankrupt the country. The then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Reginald McKenna, wanted to attract money from the existing Saving Bank to be used for the purchase of a 'War Loan'. This would pay investors a 4.5% return. Despite the fact that the Trustee Savings Bank had been running for nearly 100 years and the Post Office Savings Bank for 53, there was a hefty technical problem: the majority of the public did not hold a bank account.

1954 issue. This was an unissued design. Block of six stamps. Prince Charles 2/6d



1958 issue. Sheet of Prince Charles 2/6d. Background for this stamp was designed by HMSO staff artists. The portrait was by Anthony Armstrong-Jones (later Lord Snowdon). He was, of course, married to the Prince and Princess's late Aunt, the Queen's sister Princess Margaret

On 30 March 1916 the National War Savings Committee came into being by the coalition of two previous committees. However, it was not until 1917 that the Prime Minister David Lloyd George launched extensive War Bond and Tanks Weeks campaigns. A full propaganda operation was launched to encourage the public to aid the war effort. The National War Savings Committee had strong patriotic messages on their savings cards, such as 'Lick a stamp on a card like this – and you will help to lick the Germans like this', or 'You will have something to show your boy when he returns that you have been doing your bit.' Sadly the Great War decimated our male population and many did not return.

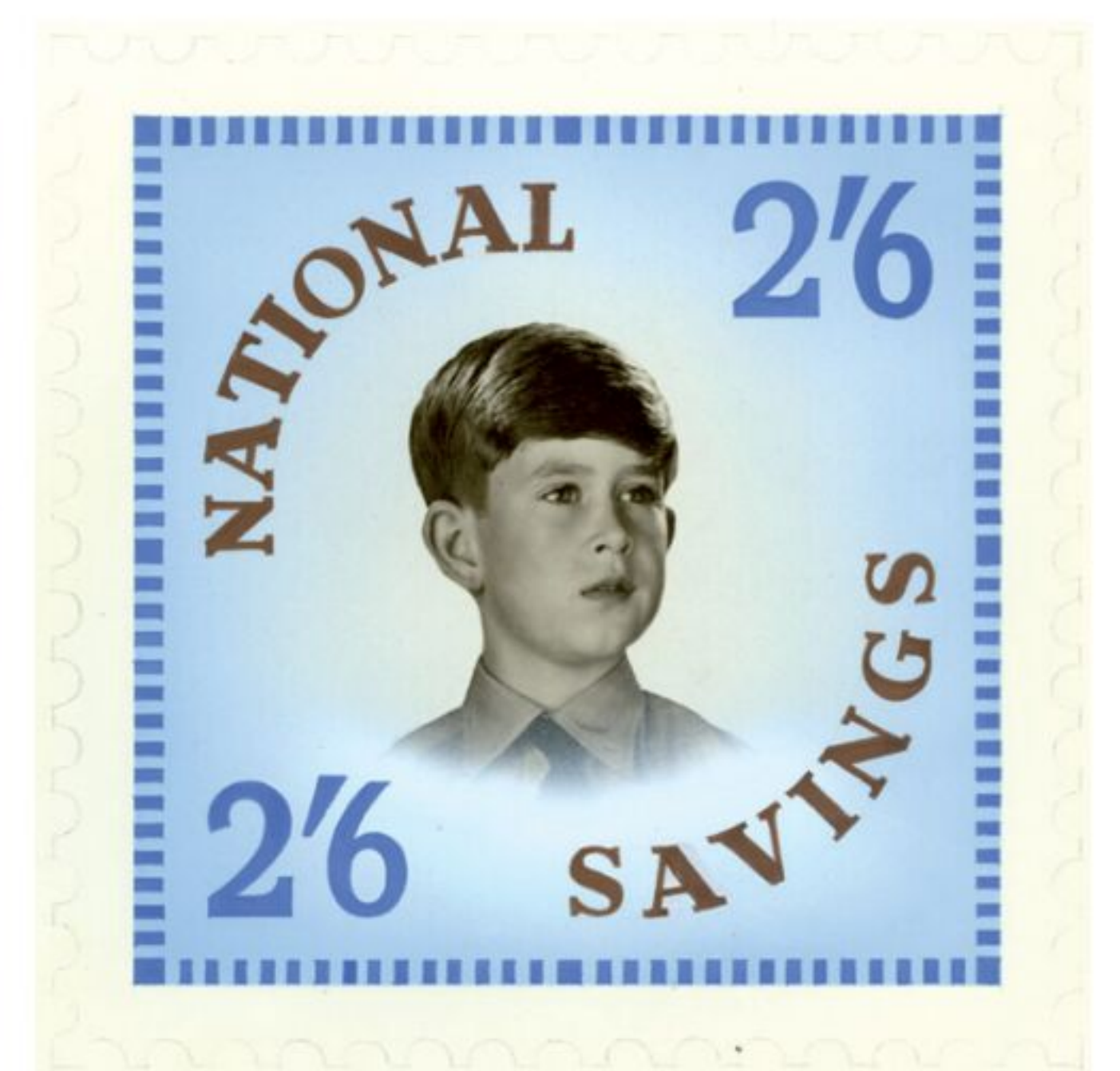
In the same year as these campaigns took off, a 6d war savings coupon was issued, which featured perhaps the most reviled emblem in the world

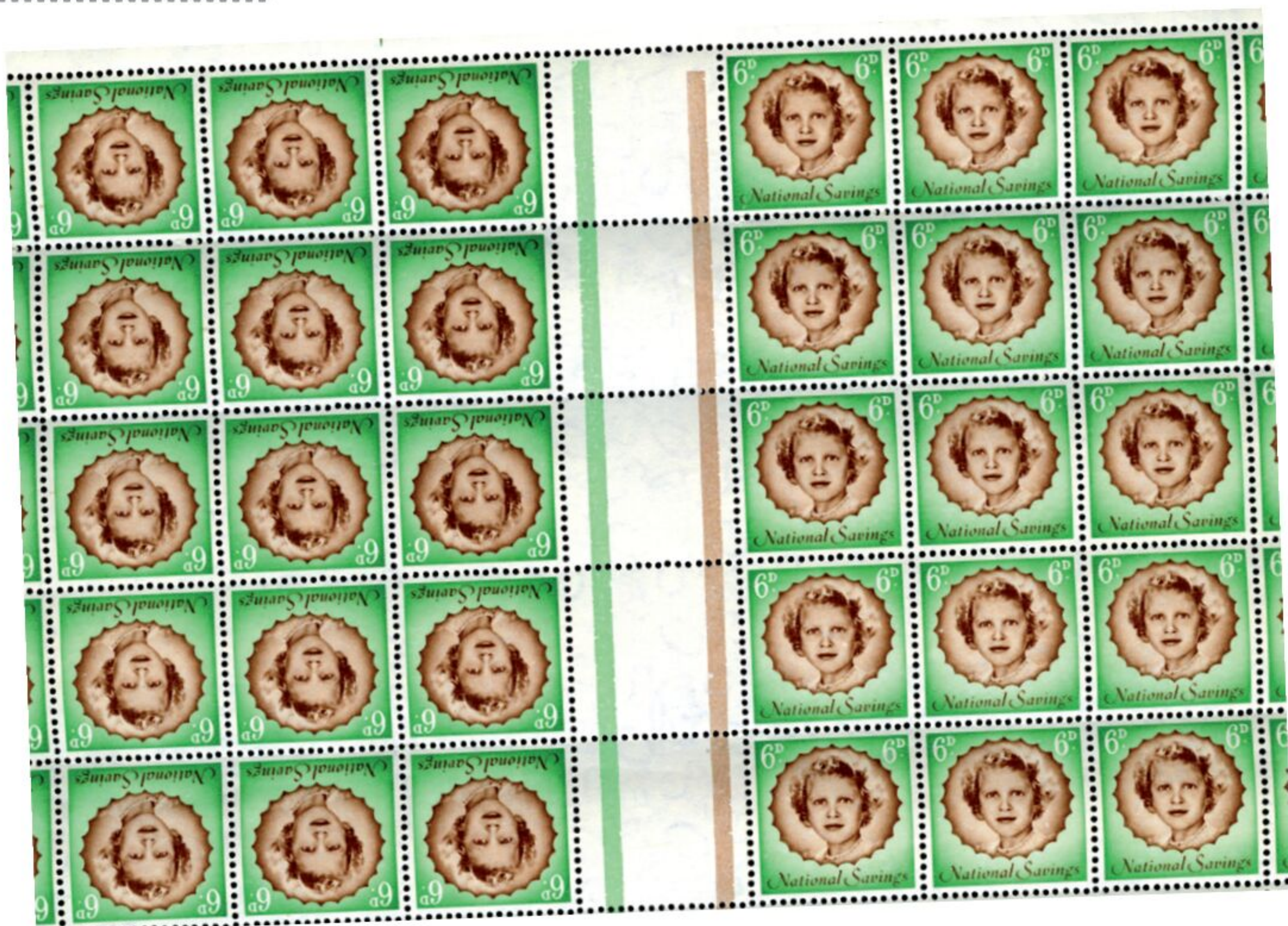
– the Swastika. This was, of course, before Hitler adopted the symbol for his fascist regime. In fact the origins of the Swastika come from legendary mystical and totally beneficial sources. These stretch from the culture of the North American Indian to the temple carvings in India and even further the Scandinavian Cross of the Nordic god Thor. It represented a symbol of good luck and fortune or, translated from Sanskrit, joy and happiness. How ironic that it now casts dark shadow wherever it appears.

By the 1950s post-war Great Britain was beginning to get back on its feet again. The 1953 Coronation saw the dawn of the new Elizabethan era and with it new hope of prosperity for the future. Things were on the up. Television brought families together and a global baby boom signalled a brighter future for all. ▶

Bottom left: 1958 issue. Unaccepted artworks for Princess Anne 6d. The final design was issued on February 24 of that year

Bottom right: 1958 issue. Unaccepted artworks for Prince Charles 2/6d





1958 issue. Princess Anne 6d as issued. These particular ones were printed for use in booklets, hence the tete beche arrangement of the stamps on the sheet. The sheet was guillotined in the centre and the margins used to attach the separated sheets to the binder of the booklet

With Her Majesty came a new Royal family, and Charles and Anne were the perfect symbols of hope used to encourage people to invest in the future. The first Charles and Anne savings stamps were launched most successfully in the same year as the Coronation. The colours, borders and pictures used were very carefully thought out and tested, and the items illustrated show how the process was developed. As the children matured new pictures were used on the stamps, and so savers could see the Prince and Princess growing up as the 1950s progressed. It was a simple and effective idea - as they grew so did our prosperity

and our willingness to save. There were four sets of stamps featuring Charles and Anne, in 1953 for the Coronation first issue; 1954 second issue; 1958 third issue and the 1960 fourth issue.

The Charles and Anne stamps served their purpose well; however as with all things fiscal; inflation gradually began to bite into the two values. In fact by the mid-1960s the 6d had so little face value that it was too expensive to produce. On 7 January 1967, at close of business, the last and fourth issue of the stamps were withdrawn. The concept of the Charles and Anne Royal Children stamps had lasted almost fourteen years. All the

remaining stock of unsold stamps were withdrawn. This was a pre-cursor to decimalisation in 1971, which would have, in



1960 issue. A sheet of Prince Charles 2/6d as issued



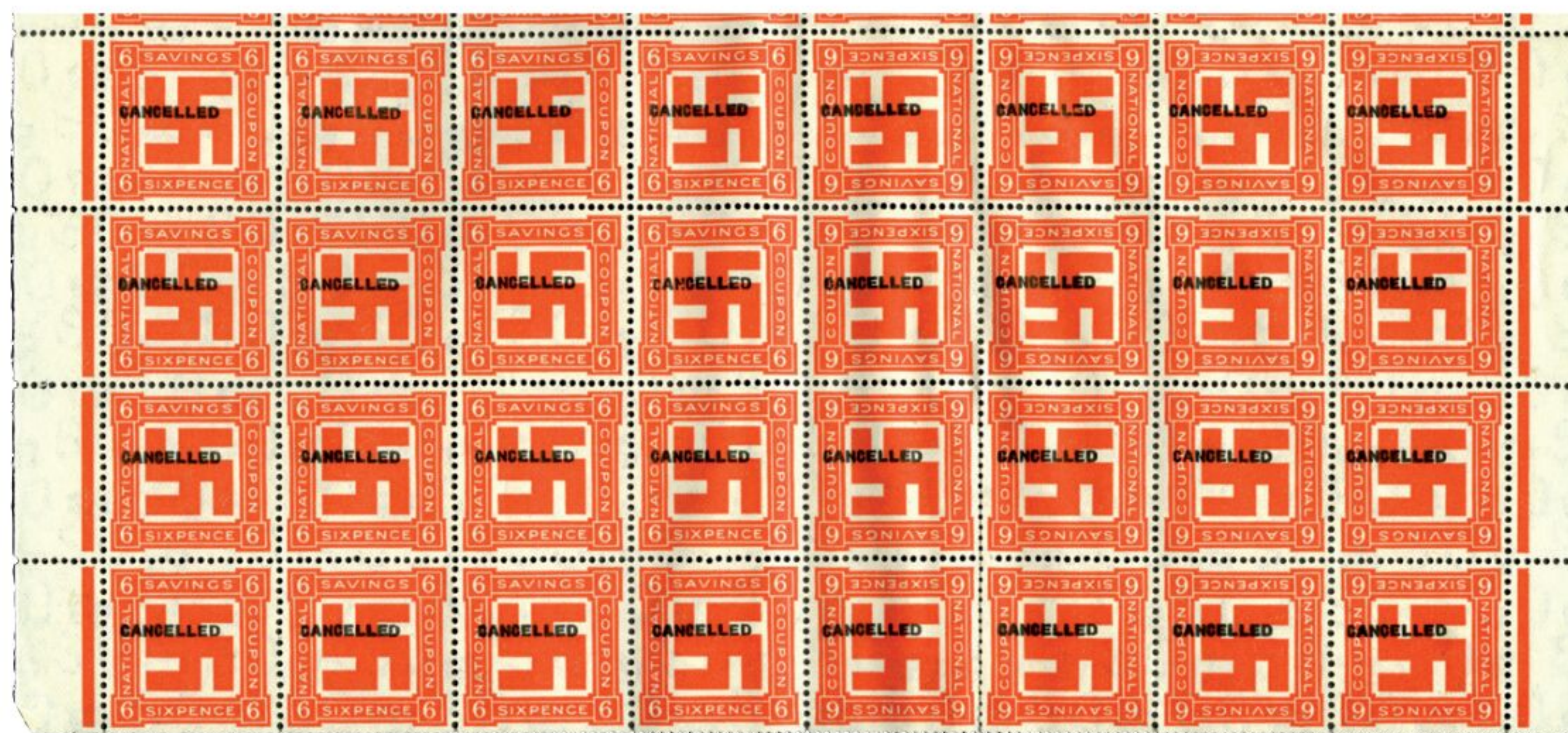
1960 issue. Sheet of Princess Anne 6d as issued

any event, made the stamps obsolete.

Now with electronic banking the norm we will never see these kinds of stamps again, leaving we collectors to preserve them and remind others of their vital job of confirming the importance of savings.



1960 issue. This design in sheet from of Prince Charles 2/6d stamp was prepared for use but not issued



1928 issue. A tete beche block of 6d Swastika savings stamps. These were for use in a booklet. The sheet was guillotined down the centre and the separate sheets were attached to the booklets by their outside margins. These were still in use as late as 1939! There are examples of the earlier Swastika savings stamps appearing in black on white from 1922

Eminent Philatelists

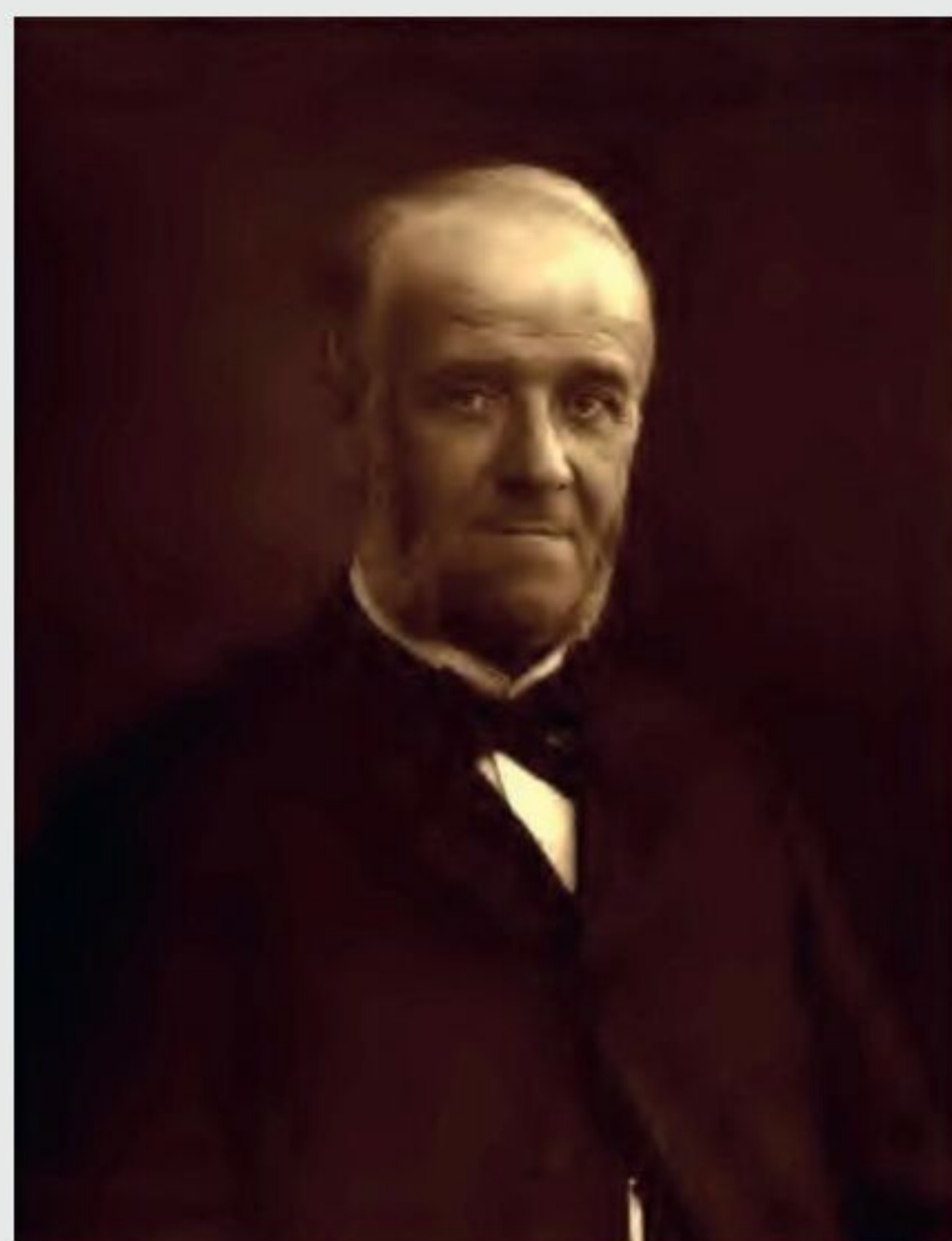
Dr Jacques Amable Legrand (1820-1912)

If you do your research there are quite a few doctors who clearly had a love for philately and contributed much to the hobby, writes Devlan Kruck. And if you've been paying attention to these articles you'll recall we introduced a doctor not so long ago. William Image was a surgeon, and despite this I resisted the temptation to call him the Doctor of Philately, not because I doubted his medical credentials or how he applied his scientific training to his passion for stamps. No. The reason is, I've been waiting for this opportunity to allow Dr Jacques Amable Legrand (1820-1912) to come to the theatre.

'Legrand' as he is often referred to in philatelic institutions, you might recall was mentioned when we presented the legendary collector Judge Philbrick because it was Legrand who borrowed his 1d and 2d Post Paid Mauritius issue collection in 1869 for a study he was working on to prove them not an error on the Post Paid plate of twelve.

Legrand was among the elite of the early philatelic world, and trusted both personally but also technically by the very leading lights of this golden era in philatelic history. It isn't an exaggeration to say Legrand really was the pioneer of scientific study, his Mauritius study just one example. In French 'Timbrophile circles' (hold that thought because there is some irony here) they'll inform you he was one of the first collectors of French stamps in the 19th century, first organisers of the hobby, one of the first proper scholars of philately and responsible for the French taking the topic of stamp study seriously, and with a scientific edge.

One of the things you might be benefiting from right now, 'the perforation gauge' or the 'odontometer', was Legrand's invention, used for figuring out the perforation of stamps. It's stood the test of time too. You see, Legrand was the scientist of the philatelic world back then, it is all much more scientific now I know, but Legrand set us all on our way. He even wrote articles using the pseudonym of Dr. Magnus, and he was referred to as 'The Doctor'. Whatever challenge Legrand faced in determining the stamps he was looking



at, he turned to science. Watermarks were another area he contributed, writing a handbook in French and he was active in the journal *Le Timbrophile* – which you'll note had not adopted the then new word 'philately.'

That was because, and here is the irony, one of the more fascinating side-stories of this legendary collector is that he fought tooth-and-nail to 'reject' the title of 'philately', proposed by Georges Herpin. Legrand felt it should be named 'timbrology'.

Well, well! That's quite a revelation is it not? Georges Herpin was our very first eminent philatelist because of his ingenious re-branding and the apparent improvement he brought about. Shock horror, our Doctor here didn't appreciate the upstart and quite literally battled to prevent the word 'philately' ever going further than the sketchbook of Herpin.

Well, I'm glad he failed in this instance, but intrigued that one Frenchman could see the vision and one could not. But doesn't it show the passion, so often dissociated with stamp collectors? Legrand had immersed himself in timbrology from the outset, a much more mature man than Herpin at the time, and he couldn't stomach the idea that a Greek word could replace the French. That's my take on it. But ironically it was his own countryman that suggested the departure from the French. Wonderful story.

Regardless of this, Legrand continued to advance the scientific study of stamps and his reputation. Oh, and I nearly forgot, he was entered onto the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist in 1921, so regardless of my thoughts above he's one of 'The Fathers of Philately.'

Truth be known, I'd rather he was called 'The Doctor of Philately', but either way Legrand, Dr Magnus, is a legendary collector. I'd even grant him the honorary title of the Doctor of Timbrology if it pleased him!

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

EXHIBITION NEWS

► annually and this year they will give recognition to outstanding contributions to philately in 2020. Three medals can be awarded. These are for: Exceptional service to organised philately; Exceptional philatelic study and research (construed as a literary prize); Exceptional support to philately; Up to five certificates of appreciation are awarded to Societies for outstanding activities for the promotion of philately. The FEPA Awards are a great way to give recognition to exceptional achievements in European philately and we are sure there will be many deserving candidates this year, especially in the light of the difficulties everyone has experienced in 2020 with the consequent need for improvisation and innovation. If you know of a candidate who you think should be nominated, please contact your national Federation. Nominations must reach Giancarlo Morolli by 30 April 2021.

We are delighted to announce that Thomas Hoepfner has accepted an invitation to join the FEPA Board as a Director. Thomas is a well-known figure in German and European philately and has been closely involved with the organisation of IBRA 2023. This fills the vacancy created when Ari Muhonen stepped down from the Board at the end of December 2020. In accordance with Article 17.13 of the FEPA Statutes, it will be subject to election at the next FEPA Congress, due to be held in Athens on 23 November 2021.

Exhibition news brought to you in association with FEPA (fepanews.com)



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*Some believe it was Francis Bacon, and the Latin version is 'scientia potentia est'.

INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

Some 100's on a variety of leaves inc Jamaica 1919 1d with full TPO CDS, good range N. Borneo, Bermuda from QV inc 'good' KG6 2d, 3d (M) Singapore definitives in sets, useful card Rhodesia double heads, Malta KG5 to 2/= (M) G.B etc Cat £3000

£375.00

About 270 all KG6 sets mint (some UNM) inc N.Z., 1940 Centennial plus Officials, Kuwait 1945, Falkland Maps (both) Singapore 1948, Gold Coast, Dominica, St. Vincent both sets for each etc Cat £1880

£375.00

About 60 better items inc Gib QV 75c. 1 pes Tonga 1942 2/6, 5/= (2) Grenada 1895 set (no 2d) mint, Mauritius 1921 5c- 10R (m - odd fault) etc Good lot Cat £1400

£235.00

FOREIGN

Small range on cards, in packets etc inc German Zepp S. American Flight 2RM (M - pulled perf) French and German Cols, hagner of Portuguese India, Austria 1936 Welfare set (M) Estonia Red Cross pair imperf, Argentina Eva Peron to 3p (M) Switzerland 1962 50c, 1Fr (FU) Sweden 1872 6 ore mauve (VFU) etc Good lot

£185.00

AUSTRALIA

South Australia 80 from first types to 1/= (5 different) side face issues to 6d, long types to 2/6, good officials to 2/= etc Cat £730

£80.00

£1000.00

Western 60 from 1857 imperf 6d, 1861 1/=, further Swans to 1/=, 1893 Revenue set ex 2d etc Cat £1240

£150.00

Tasmania About 70 from imperf Chalons (12) to 1/= perf Chalons to 1/=, Side face issues to 4d, Pictorials to 6d etc Excellent range Cat £6700

£685.00

£40.00

BERMUDA

42 from 1865 6d 1/=, 1880 pair, 1883 types to 1/= (2) mainly mint and FU, Dry Dock both sets with some shades

£120.00

£145.00

BRITISH AFRICA

Some 100's on stock leaves with Rhodesia from 1892 to 8d, 1898 vals to £1, £5 (top values perfin, not counted) Double Heads to 1/= (4) Nyasaland from 1891 to 6d, Zululand from G.B O'Prints to 4d, Swaziland 1956 to 10/= (M) Somaliland 1942 set (ex 8as) good Sierra Leone from first types, S. Rhodesia, K.U.T etc Cat £2270

£310.00

FRANCE

48 all fine mint, the National Relief Fund sets (famous Men) complete 199- 56 Cat £760

£185.00

26 a mint range of Air Stamps with 1927 Marseilles Exhib pair, 1930 pair, 1936 set of 7 and 50Fr burelee, 1947 U.P.U 500Fr, 1949 set (UNM) 1954 set, 1957 set etc 1936 S. Atlantic pair, 1964 Philex sheet etc Superb quality Cat £4100+

£750.00

GERMANY

About 110 from range states inc less often seen with Lubeck, Oldenburg etc (re-prints noted and ignored) then 1880 2Mk cancelled Constantinople, then 1949 Trade Fair M/S, Berlin from 1Mk, 2Mk O'Prints, Bells etc Cat £6700+

£485.00

GREECE

35 a mint KG6 range inc dark colours set (UNM) square high values, RSW in corner marginal blocks of 4 and a single set (UNM) Festival high vals (UNM) Bayford £300+

£245.00

90+ from 1d imperf, further useful line engraved, tidy surface printed range to 6d inc 6d S'Charge, Jubilee to 1/=, K.Ed to 2/6, KG5 to 2/6, P.U.C low vals, Sil Jubilee etc Cat £2600+

£155.00

GREECE

170 all mint (some UNM) from 1896 Olympos 10dr, then in sets inc 1906 Olympos 1927 Navarino 1930 Indep, 1933 Zepp and Aeropressos Airs, 1947 Restoration, 1951 St. Paul, Reconstruction, 1952 Anti Communist 1954 Enosis etc. fabulous lot Cat £6060

HAITI

About 150 from 1881, 1882 to 7c main interest in Dessalines and Nord Alexis types presented in mint blocks of 6 or 9

£40.00

HONG KONG

180+ FU from 1863 to 96c (the 18c is no W'Mk) Surcharge range, 1882 to 30c, K.Ed to 50c, KG5 to \$2, KG6 to \$10, 1954, '62 sets etc to 1970 Cat £1330

£145.00

HUNGARY

About 100 all UNM unless otherwise stated with 1931 Zepp air, 1932 Madonna 1p - 5p, Famous Hungarians. 1933 Airs (FU) Scouts, 1934 Philex M/S, 1936 Airs etc to 1958 Brussels M/S, Superb condition Cat £1680

£325.00

KOREA

Early range (40) mainly mint from 1894 pair, 1895 to 50 poon, 1900 most to 50ch, 1903 to 4ch. Clean lot and whilst offered 'as is' they come from a reputable source Cat £1260

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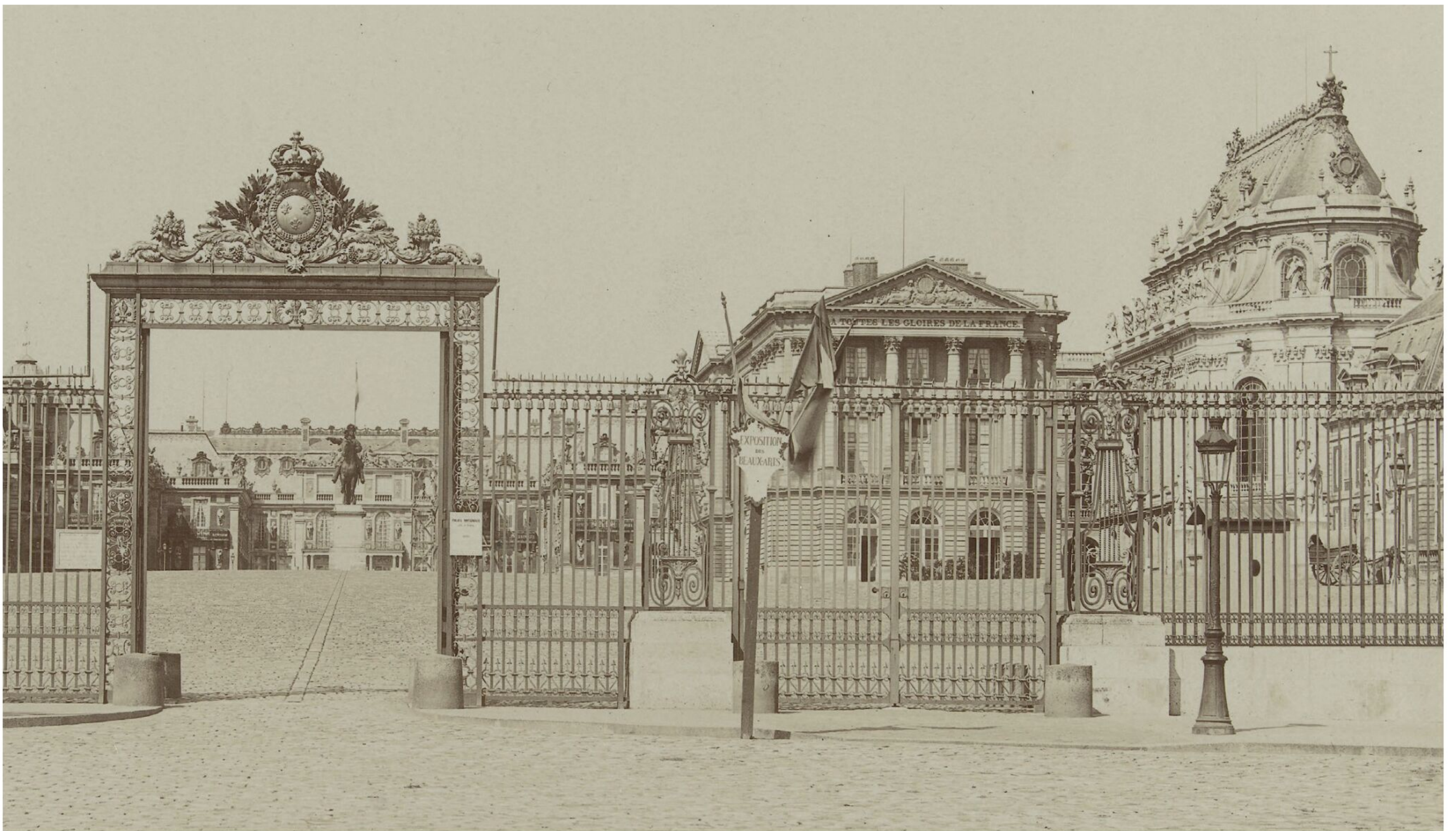
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POSTAL HISTORY

The Post- Office at the Château of Versailles

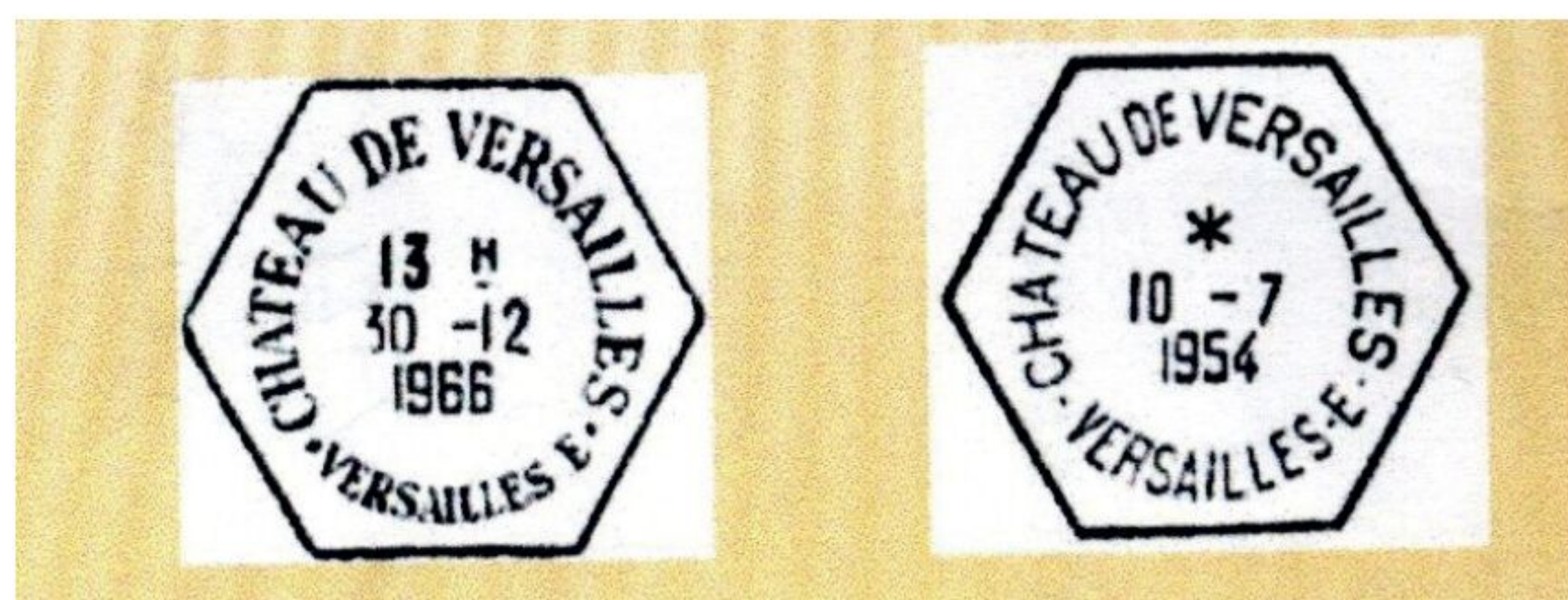
The Château (or Palace) of Versailles, the former French royal residence of the 'Sun King' Louis XIV, is one of the most widely visited locations in the world and as David Roseveare reveals it also offers a little chapter in France's postal history

From 1949, with visitor numbers rising following the end of the Second World War and restoration projects in place, the postal authorities decreed that it was time to install a post office; mail from the chateau being cancelled with a hexagonal postmark with the inscription 'VERSAILLES-E' within. It was used extensively before being replaced by a smaller circle mark in January 1967.

The hexagonal type of cancellation has its origins in the earlier Auxiliary Post Office (R.A.U.) marks created in the late 19th century. A certain number of suburban and provincial offices were authorised to make special mail collections. Some of the marks were also octagonal but it is reported that none were used at Versailles. The earlier hexagonal marks had an interior circle containing the date. In 1904 it



The subject of the article; the postcard bearing the dated Versailles hexagonal cancel 1/6/1949



The two types of hexagonal cancellation (small and large letters)

was decided to remove the circle and to standardise the size at 26mm. According to the 1900 edition of the 'Annuaire de Versailles' (the official directory of services) a postmark of this size and inscription 'VERSAILLES-E' was recorded at the auxiliary post office in the quarter 'GRAND MONTREUIL' located at 55, rue de Montreuil. It appears to have been discontinued sometime around 1930 as there was no further listing in the 'Annuaire' from then on. All the mail I have seen has an asterisk instead of the time and carry registered markings. The later, larger marks do not follow those rules.

We now 'fast-forward' to 1949. A major philatelic exhibition commemorating the centenary of the issue of the first French postage stamp took place at the Grand-Palais in Paris from 1 to 12 June. To coincide with this event a special CITEX 1849-1949 sheet was on sale at a special post office set up at the venue.

The featured postcard dated 1 June was written at Versailles on the same day as the opening of the Paris show. The writer appears to have attended the main event where he or she obtained the centenary sheet and other material before travelling to Versailles to visit the



French stamp centenary stamps advertising the Paris event



'VERSAILLES-E' cover addressed to Paris dated 20th January 1915. Internal rate 35c (ordinary letter 10c + registration fee 25c)

château. The comments on the card are most important, the translation is as follows: '...Up to this day there hasn't been a post office at the Château of Versailles but in this circumstance, the postal authorities have produced this postmark applied to the block of stamps. It will be seen if postmarks such as this, will become rare, there were 54 strikes of the mark made between 5pm and 6pm on the day and the office closed at 6pm. More than 500 people were turned away without obtaining anything...'

The postcard was obviously included in a larger package containing all the material made available at the Paris event hence the lack of a name and address on the card. I have a prospectus of the Paris exhibition and it was possible to attend both venues on the same day, Versailles being only about

twelve miles from the capital. In fact day trips to Versailles, Rambouillet and other locations were advertised.

Returning to the subject of the dated corner block affixed to the card. The example used is a block of four of the 2 franc 'Ceres' issue designed by Mazelin which was available from August 1946 to March 1949. It was applied to the card at Versailles as the stamp centenary issue was only available in Paris. Most important, the dated corner was cancelled with a 'VERSAILLES-E' hexagonal postmark of size 32mm with the date of the 1 June 1949. The first French stamp featured a reprint of the original 'Ceres' issue designed by Barré.

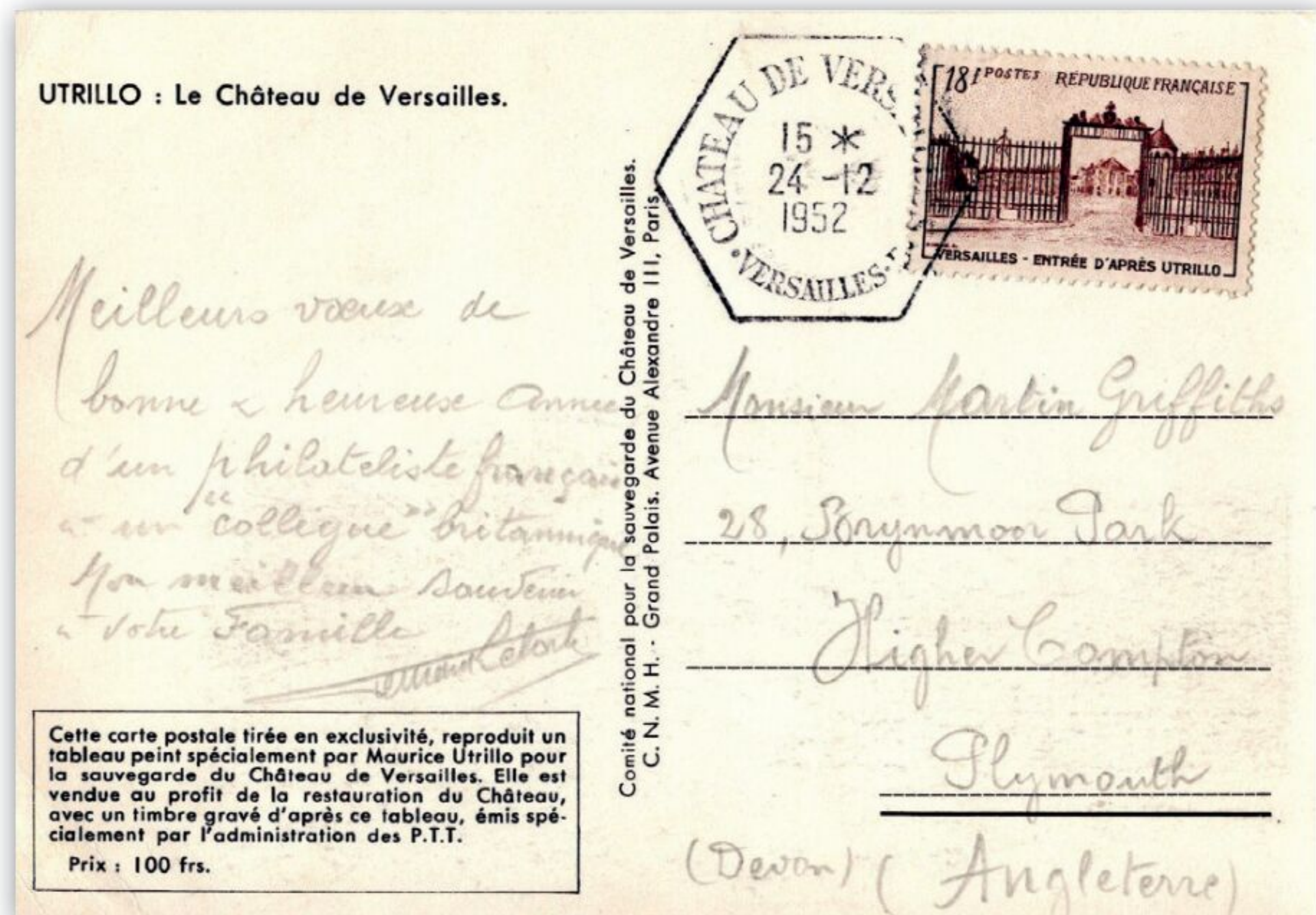
There were two types of the hexagonal mark; the first, similar to that on the postcard which was used for the full duration of the office. The second was



'VERSAILLES-E' postcard dated 20/7/1949, internal rate 8f (5 words max.)



'VERSAILLES-E' maximum card dated 20/12/1952, the first day of issue of the Versailles Gateway stamp by Utrillo stamp



'VERSAILLES-E' postcard dated 24/12/1952, to England, foreign rate 18f

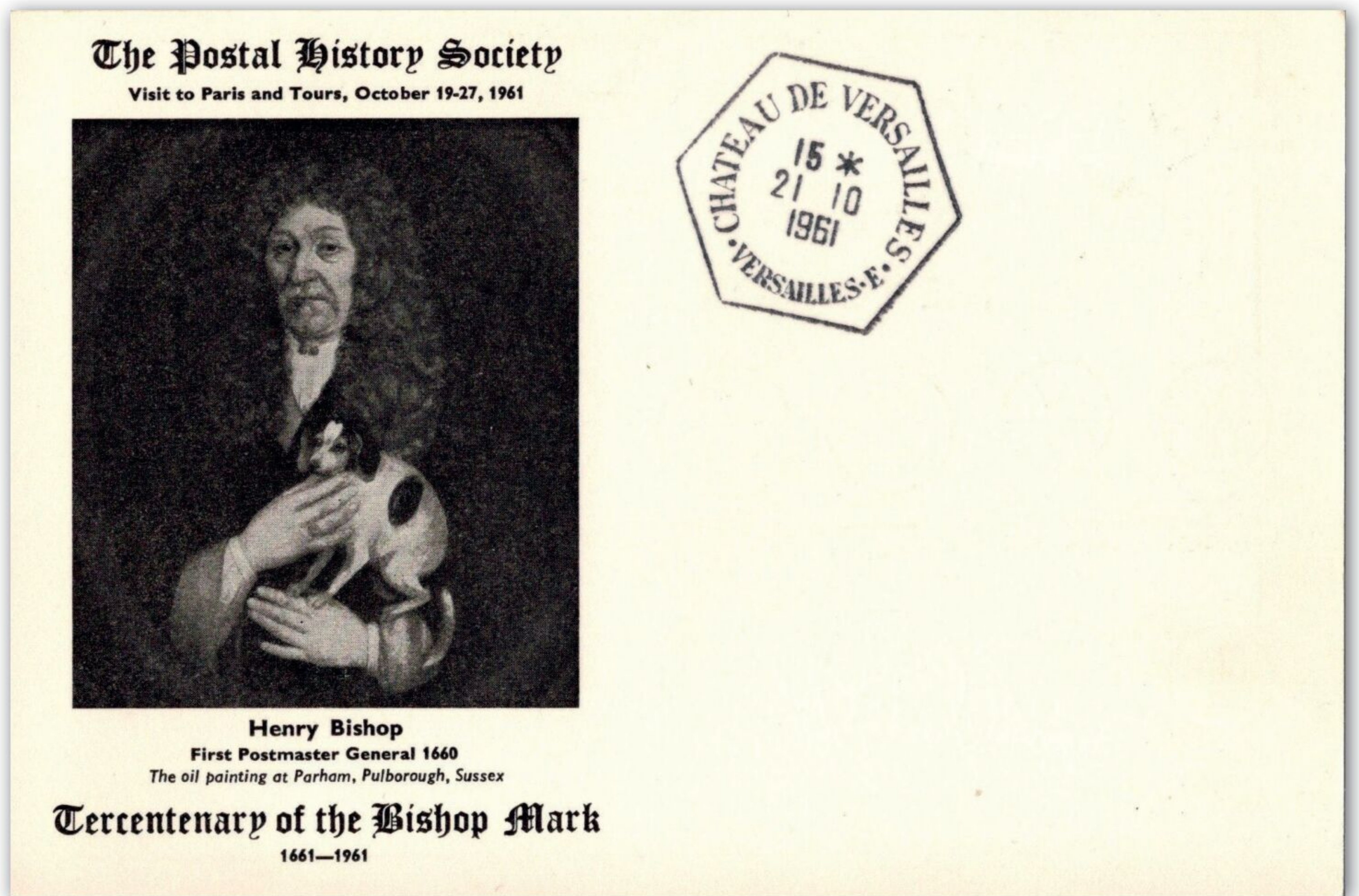
of a similar size but with an asterisk instead of the time and an enlarged 'VERSAILLES-E' only used on the 10 July 1954. It was used to cancel the first day of issue of the Versailles Gateway 18 francs blue stamp drawn by Maurice Utrillo. This stamp was a reprint of the original maroon design issued on the 20 December 1952.

During the early 20th century Versailles possessed five auxiliary post offices located in each district (quarter) of the town. They were identified by the letters A, B, C, D, and E. Regarding the château 1949 hexagonal mark on the postcard, despite trawling through a lot of material, it is the first reference I have found of when the post office actually opened.

The circle cancellation introduced in January 1967 until being withdrawn in 1973, carried the inscription 'VERSAILLES-A' which was originally the office located in the Saint-Louis district of the town.



'VERSAILLES-E', (enlarged letters). A cover dated 10/7/1954, the first day of issue of the Versailles Gateway stamp by Utrillo (in blue)



The Postal History Society visit to Paris & Tours in 1961



'VERSAILLES-E' cover dated 21/10/1965 addressed to Draveil. Internal rate 12c (printed matter in an unsealed envelope)



Change of shape and size: 'VERSAILLES-A' circle cancel dated 14/11/1967 to Paris. Internal rate 30c

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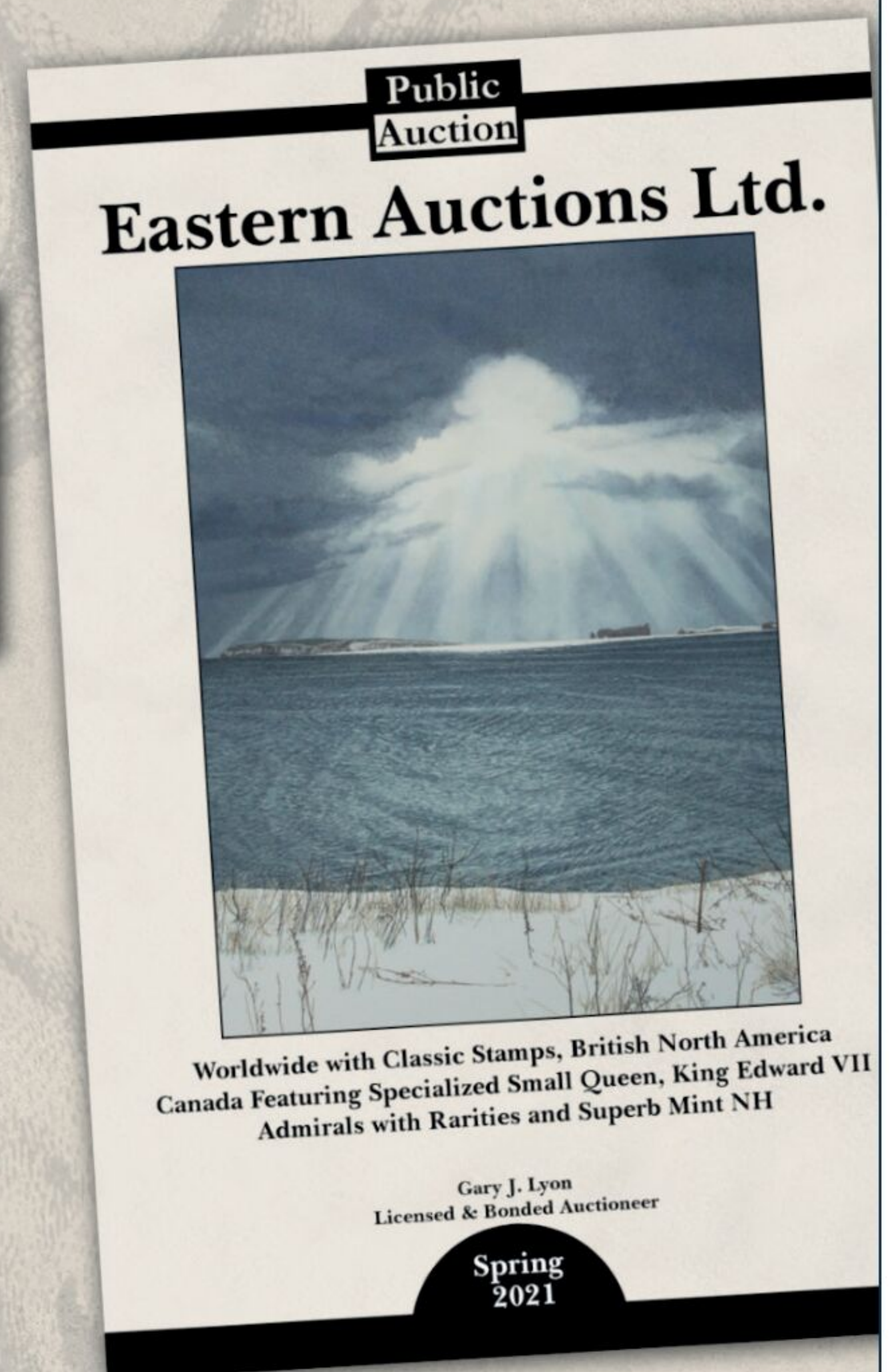
1893 \$4 crimson lake;
2020 PSE cert. Graded XF 90



1861 4p pale milky blue; 1982 BPA cert.



1897 \$4 purple;
1995 PF & 2018 Greene certs.



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To England with the returning No.534

From Calgary in Canada, a cover was specifically requested to travel on board a new transatlantic liner, as explained by postal historian Dane Garrod

It had been a long time in the making, as the phrase goes. So long due to the early 1930s worldwide economic depression which caused large scale building projects to come to a halt, with no guarantee of resumption. Working men were 'laid off' from their employment with hardship for all, and this included the ship building area beside the River Clyde near Glasgow in Scotland.

The 1920s had been times of change with an expected continuance of wealth and a public wish to travel. To meet this need, the Cunard shipping line decided to add to its fleet as by the end of this decade a trio of Cunarders were either approaching middle-age or due for retirement. By December 1930, John Brown and Company at their Clydebank shipyard began to lay the keel of hull number 534, as she was designated. This was to remain the ship's only identity until the naming ceremony at launch, which in this case and unexpectedly, was many years away. This is why, not only Clydebank, but the public via the national press came to know the story of No.534.

One can see that the name of the addressee on this registered air mail cover is written with humour: Mr Reg. H Maile. This did not affect the delivery, and suggests if not confirms that the household in Malvern were expecting the letter, the sender perhaps being related, if not 'Mr Reg Maile' himself in Canada. The total of 13 cents was sufficient, and a 3 cents definitive stamp of King George V together with a 10 cents featuring a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman were both postmarked 'CALGARY. ALTA. / MY 28 / 36 / S.O.5', with a further three additional postmarks, two on the reverse over the seal of the flap. The writer who appears to



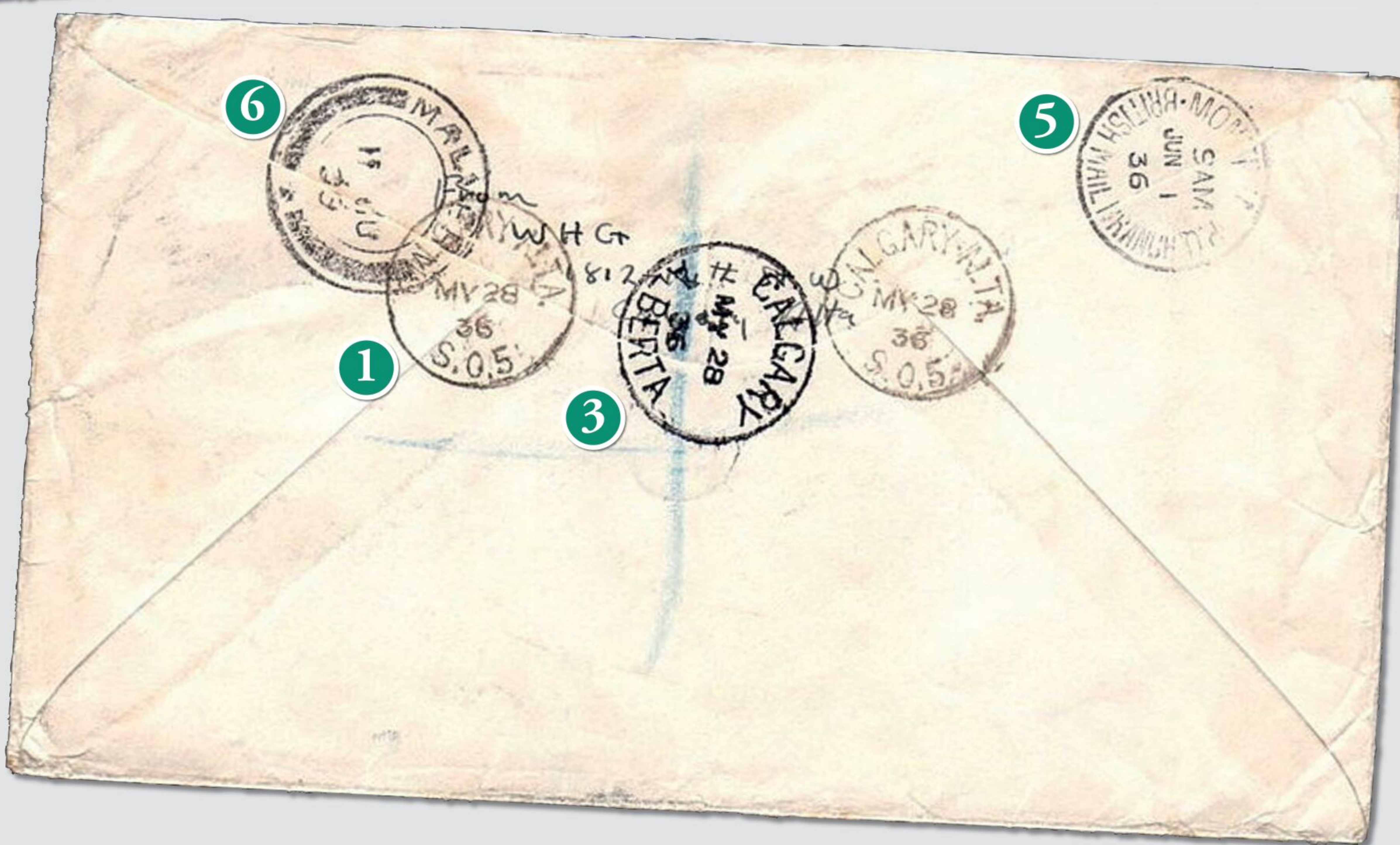
RMS Queen Mary in retirement at Long Beach, California

have written 'W H Cr' on the back as the sender, specifically requested 'S.S. "Queen Mary" / Via New York', not that the ship was so titled as a steamship, but as 'R.M.S.' – Royal Mail Ship. The Calgary post office added a handstamp for the registration also showing that the office was sub-office No.5, and then a final and differing Calgary handstamp was added in the centre of the reverse before being placed in the mailbag.

The RMS *Queen Mary* had already set sail from Southampton on the previous day, 27 May 1936, on her maiden voyage, not that it mattered because both were destined to meet in New York and the letter would arrive there first. From the western Canadian province of Alberta to New York is a journey of just over 2,000 miles, but this letter was flown as shown by the 'Air Mail / Par Avion' label or etiquette. On the reverse of the envelope in the right-hand corner is a handstamp marked 'BRITISH MAIL BRANCH / 9AM / JUN 1 / 36', and an unclear word at the top before 'P.O.', this being

the day that RMS *Queen Mary* sailed into New York harbour. After re-stocking with food, water and much else beside - and passengers - the homeward journey of the maiden voyage began. Our cover arrived in Malvern, Worcestershire, on the day that is depicted in the arrival handstamp, 11 June 1936. Hopefully, 'Mr Reg Maile' was pleased with the result of his endeavours.

RMS *Queen Mary* was a ship for all seasons, offering superlative peacetime luxury as well as commodious reliability during hostilities, and having an enviable service longevity of 31 years from her maiden voyage in 1936 to her withdrawal in 1967. Since then, the ship has been berthed at Long Beach in California as a floating hotel and tourist attraction, well on her way to 100 years. This cover and many similar, acknowledged the transatlantic crossings of the liners before the airlines took over the swifter transmission of post and people. Has anyone else seen a cover addressed to Reg Maile out there in a collection, or a stamp dealer's box? It cannot have been unique, surely...



1 A 3 cents definitive and a 10 cents featuring a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman were both postmarked 'CALGARY. ALTA. / MY 28 / 36 / S.O.5' with a further three additional postmarks, two on the reverse over the seal of the flap.

2 The writer specifically requested 'S.S. "Queen Mary" / Via New York'.

3 The Calgary post office added a handstamp for the registration also showing that the office was sub-office No.5, and then a final and differing Calgary handstamp was added in the centre of the reverse.

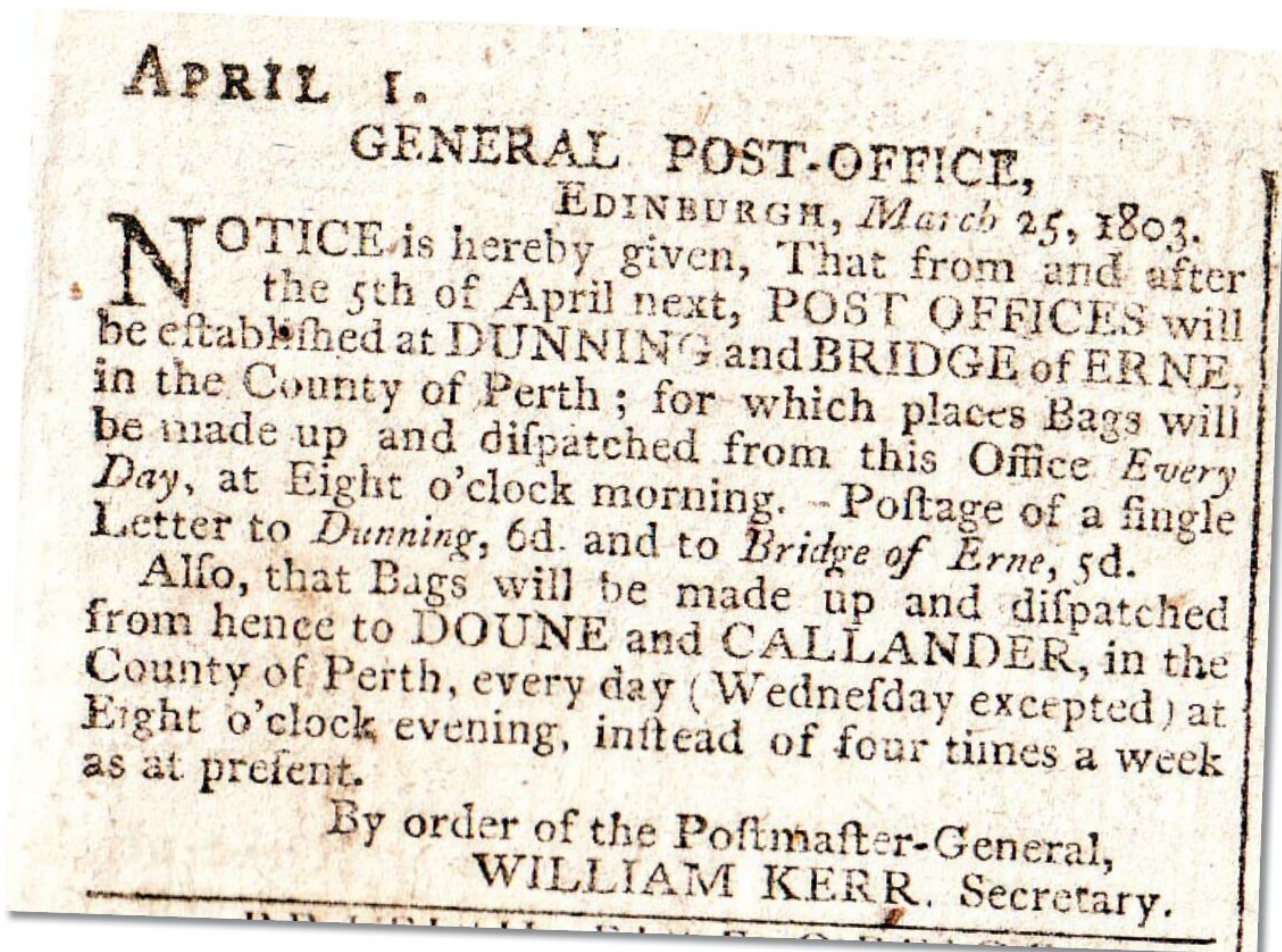
4 The letter was flown as shown by the 'Air Mail / Par Avion' label or etiquette.

5 On the reverse of the envelope in the right-hand corner is a handstamp marked 'BRITISH MAIL BRANCH / 9AM / JUN 1 / 36', and an unclear word at the top before 'P.O.', the day that RMS Queen Mary sailed into New York.

6 Our cover arrived in Malvern, Worcestershire, on the day that is depicted in the arrival handstamp, 11 June 1936.



The notice in *The Edinburgh Advertiser* of 1 April 1803 for the opening of offices in Dunning & Bridge of Erne on 5 April

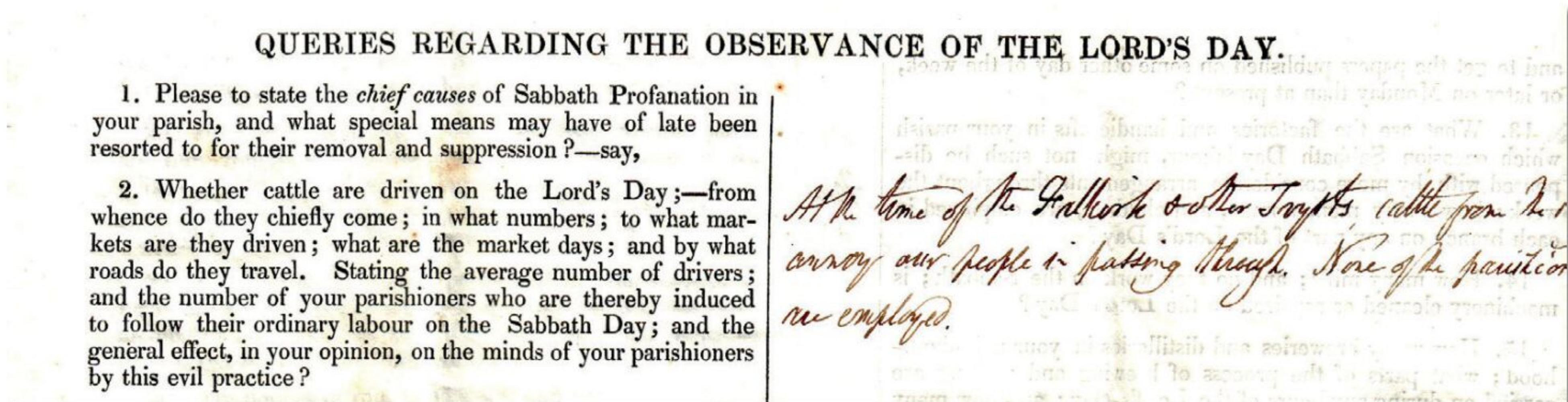


POSTAL HISTORY

Post from Perthshire

In the 1820s, before the Industrial Revolution had given birth to the industrial city, Perthshire was the most populous county in Scotland, writes John Scott with over sixty post offices established prior to 1840

William Kerr, the Secretary to the Postmaster-General in Edinburgh, regularly placed advertisements in *The Edinburgh Advertiser* notifying the public of the opening of new post offices. In some cases these were temporary trials to gauge the level of business and three post offices were opened in Perthshire in October 1800 at Lochearnhead, Killin and Luib at 5d for a single letter from Edinburgh and

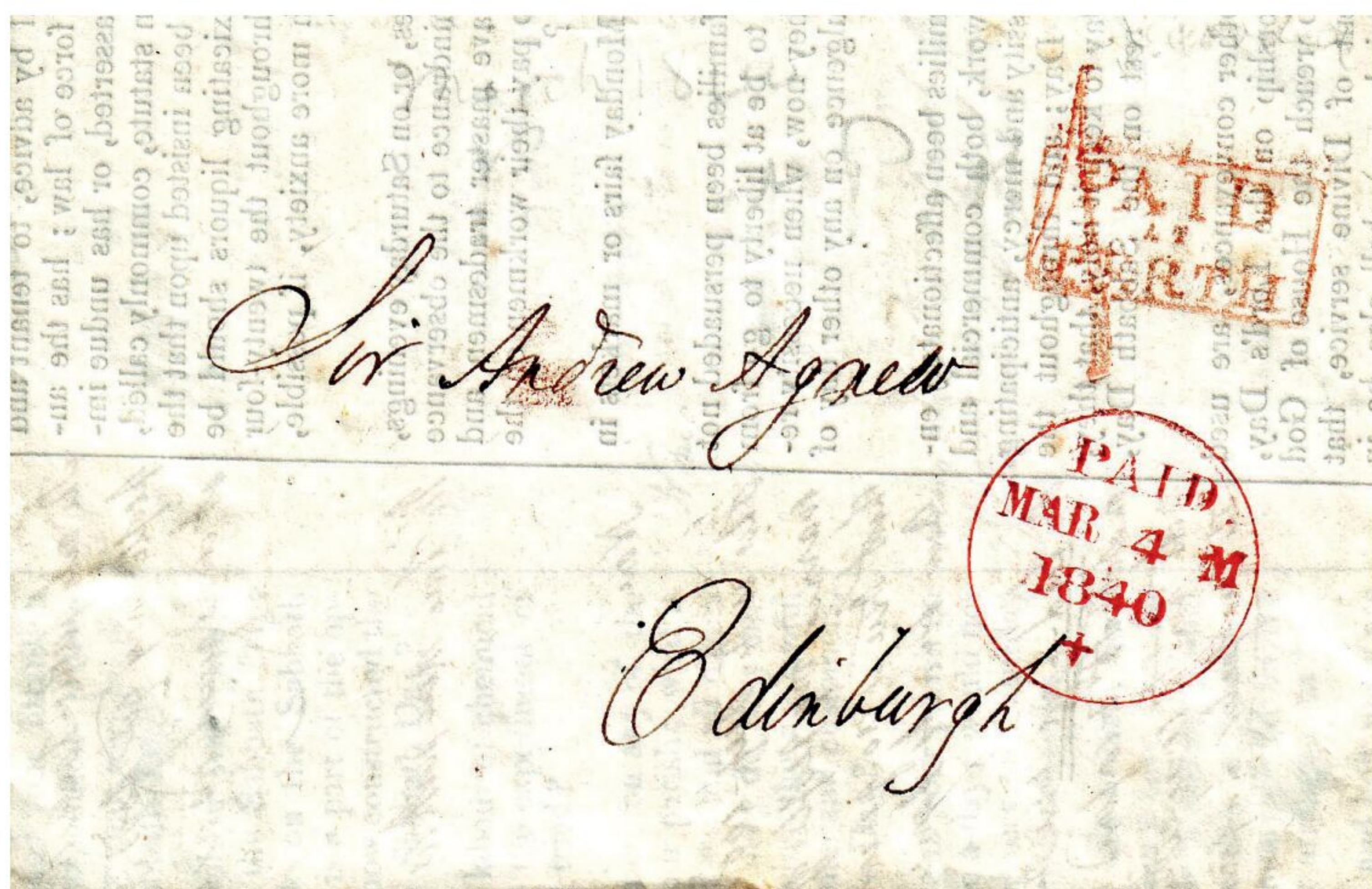


at Dunning and Bridge of Erne on 5 April 1803 at 6d and 5d respectively. Luib lasted no more than fifty years with only a mileage mark being

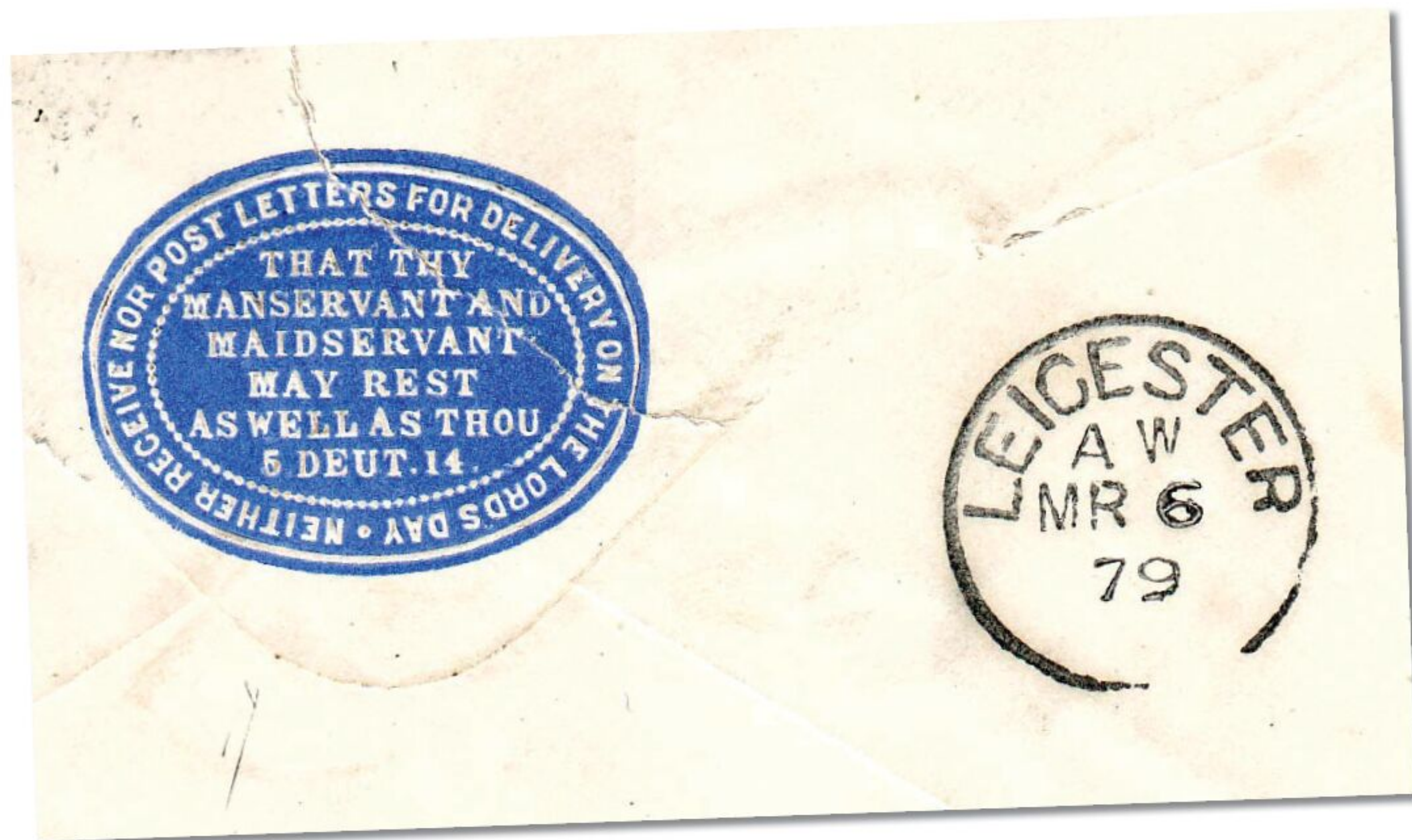
Above: the heading of Sir Andrew's questionnaire

recorded between 1814 and 1818 so there should be other postmarks out there waiting to be spotted.

In 1840 Sir Andrew Agnew took advantage of the new uniform rate of postage to send a printed circular entitled 'Queries Regarding the Observance of The Lord's Day' to clergymen in Scotland seeking their responses, some of which have survived and shed an interesting light on life at the time. The Rev. Andrew Bonar replied from his parish of Collace that "The Aberdeen Defiance has been the only coach or mail that passed through this Parish on the Sabbath day. There are no regular deliveries, letters being left at two houses on the roadside. I believe no person is employed to deliver any letter on the Lord's day. I try to dissuade the people from asking



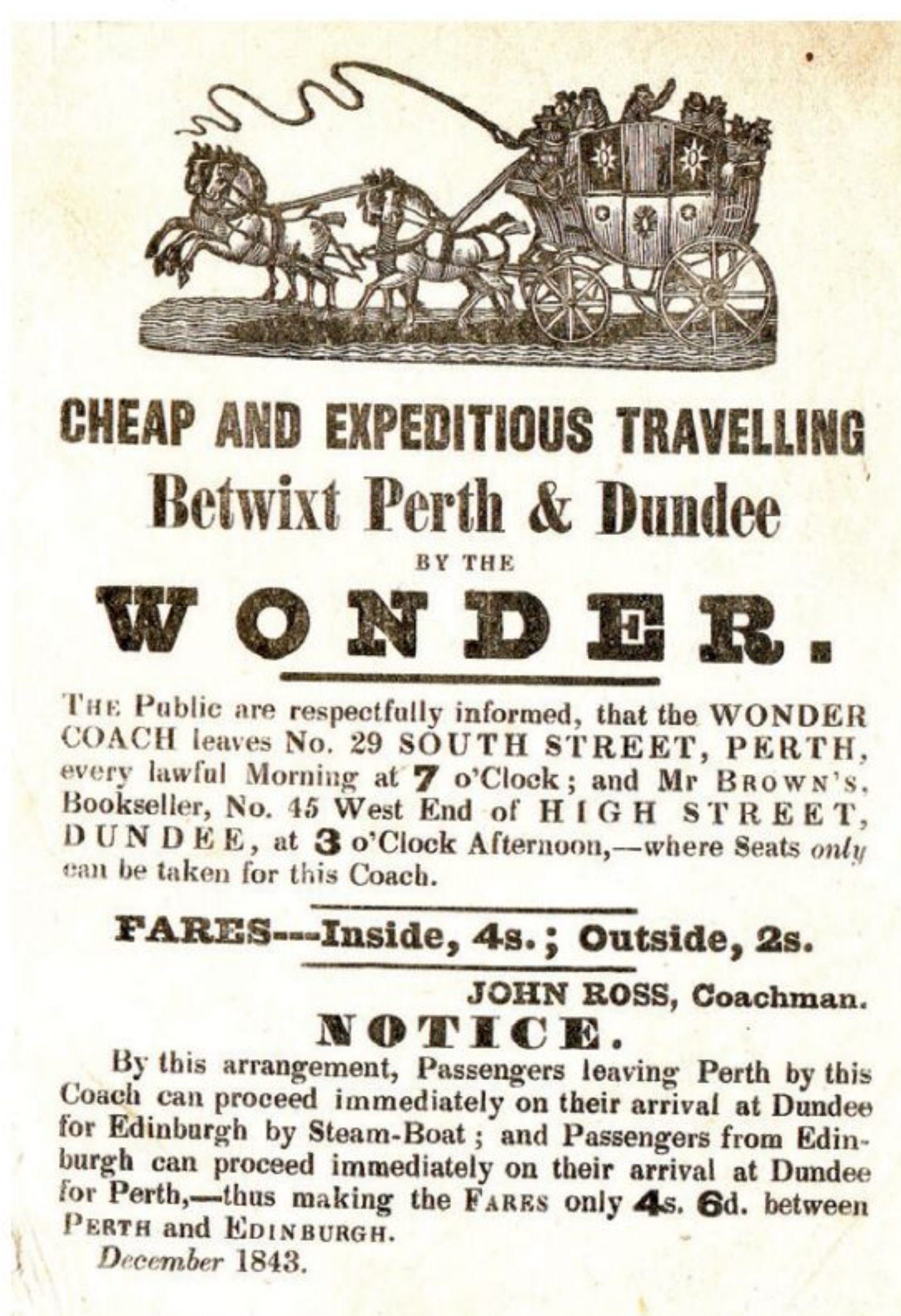
Left: the address panel of Sir Andrew Agnew's Queries with the boxed 'Paid at Perth' used in March 1840



An envelope of 1879 with the exhortation 'Neither receive nor post letters for delivery on the Lord's day'

for or opening their letters on the Lord's day". Sir Andrew, the M.P. for Wigtownshire, was one of a growing band of campaigners against secular work on Sundays whose influence can be evidenced on stationery of the time.

While Royal Mail coaches ran seven days a week, post coaches tended to be confined to what was described as 'every lawful day'. At the time that this questionnaire was being completed by Revd. Bonar, another coach which plied the road between Perth and Dundee was the Wonder, offering an inside seat for 4/- and outside for 2/-, the former representing about £12 in today's money. On arriving in Dundee a passenger could proceed on to Edinburgh by Steam-Boat for an additional 6d. It was another five years before the Scottish Central Railway reached Perth in 1848 and a

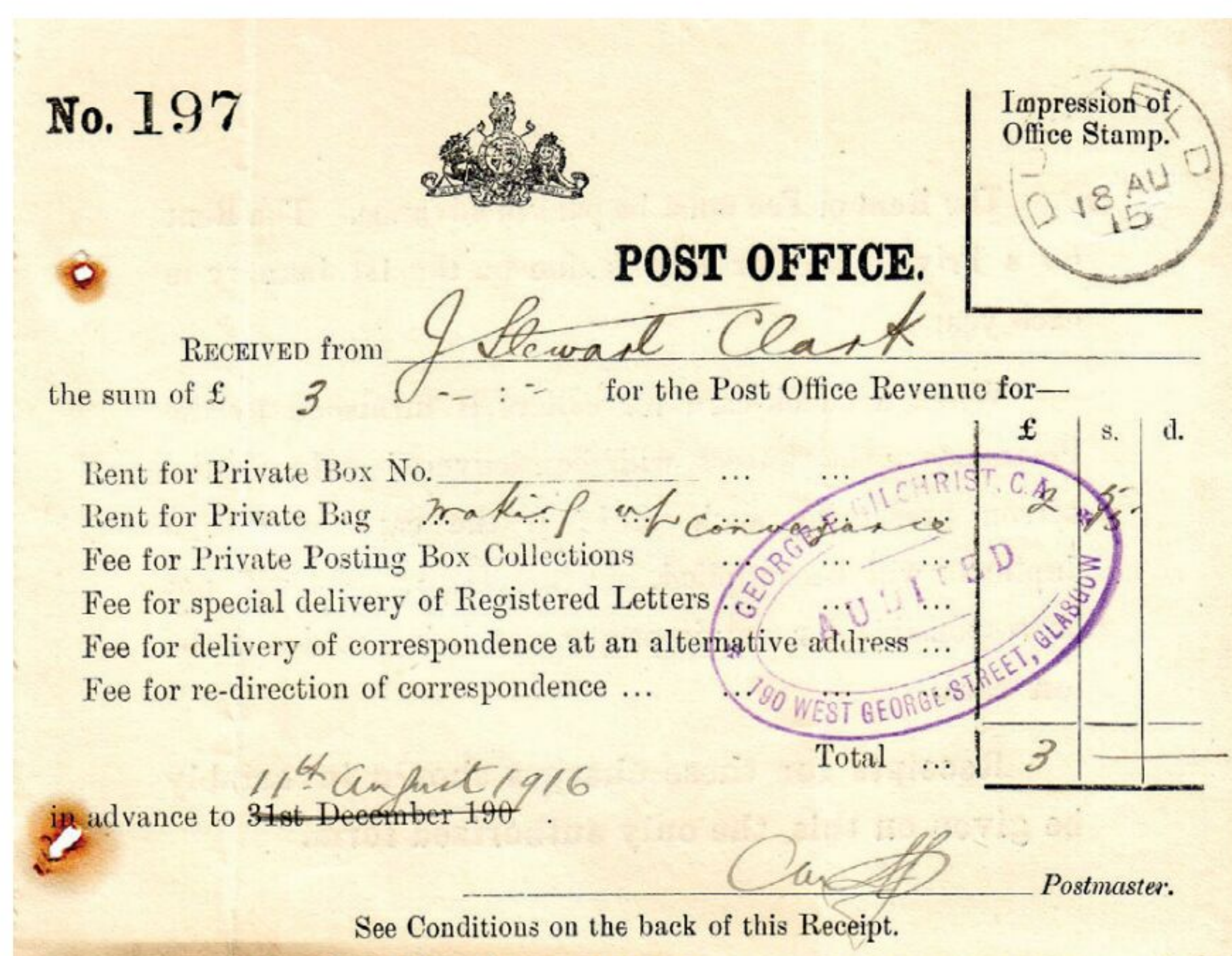
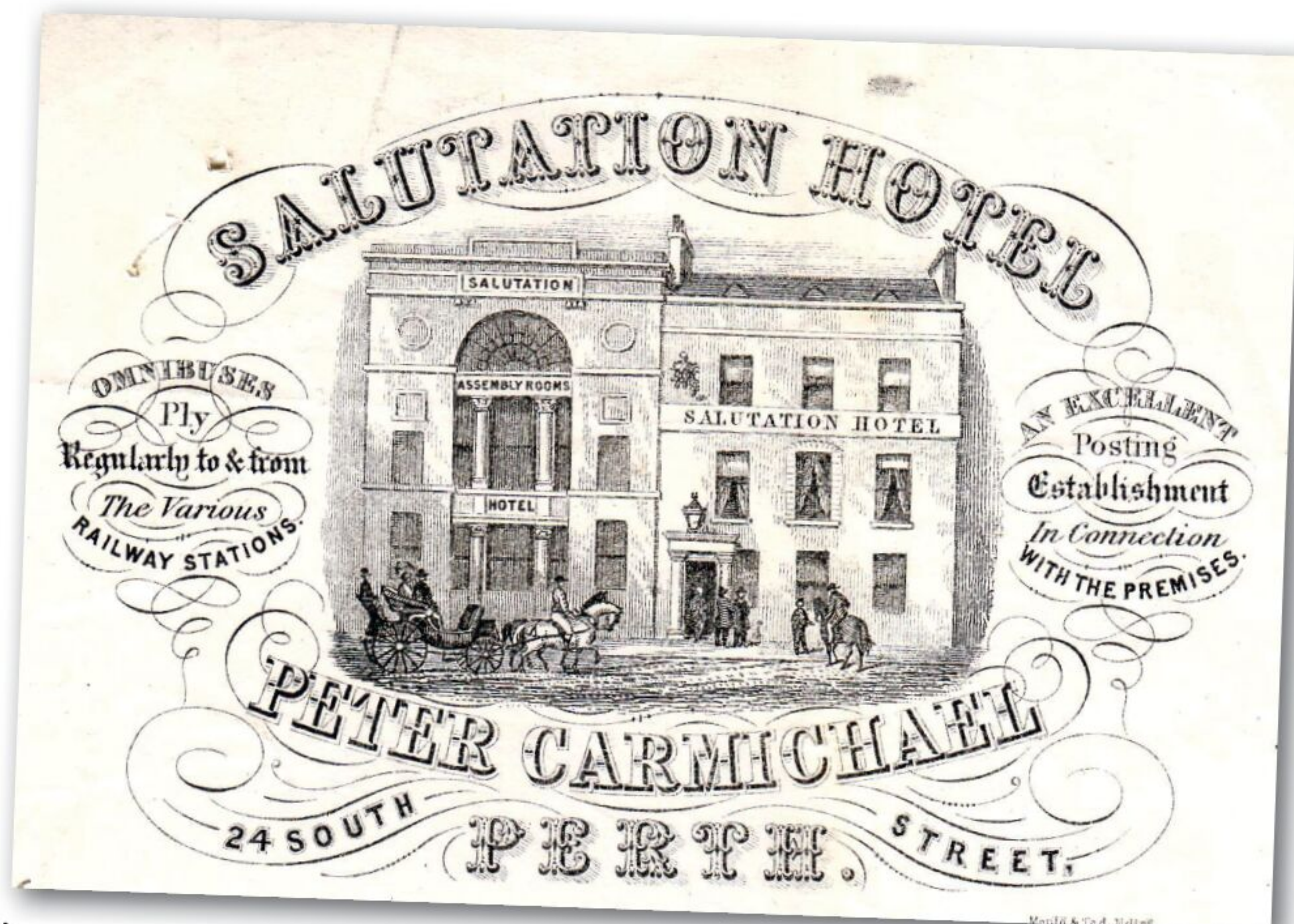


An advertising flyer for the Wonder stage coach between Perth and Dundee in 1843

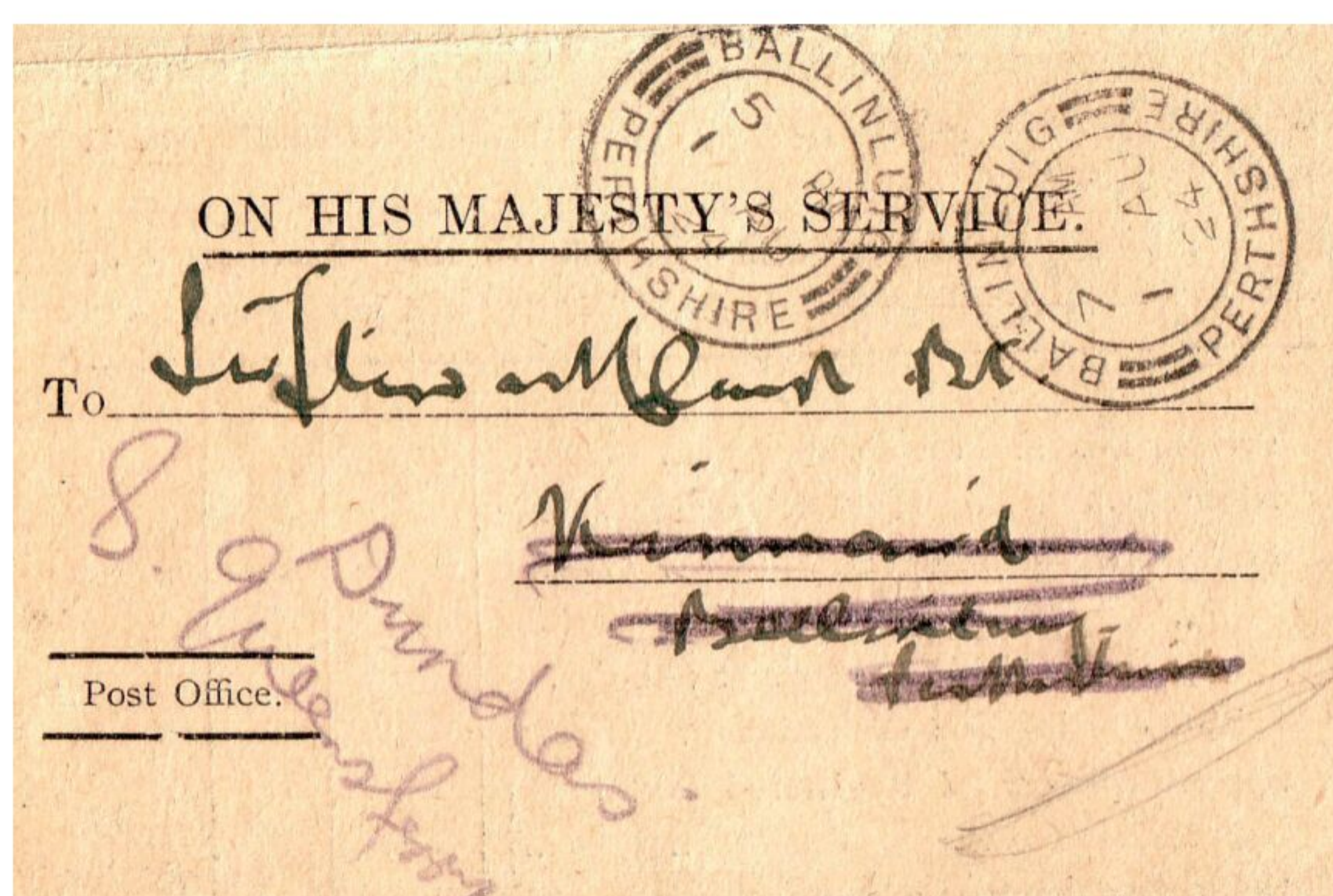
coaching inn such as the Salutation, which hosted the George IV stage coach to Dunkeld in the 1820s, by the 1870s derived its trade from omnibuses connecting with the six railway companies serving the town.

As a prosperous county Perthshire abounded with landed estates, many of which were some distance from the nearest town and landowners made extensive use of private bags which were held at a convenient post office and either were collected by an employee or delivered at an additional cost. Sometimes such locked leather bags, which were procured by the customer, appear on the market for sale but the service can be evidenced also from the receipts printed by the Post Office for this and other services. The charge for such a bag varied between town and rural districts and according to the weight of the bag when empty and in the case of Dunkeld the bag cost £2 5/- for the year plus 15/- for delivery by postman. Not being especially eye-catching, such postal administration forms are often overlooked and they tend to have survived only when preserved in family account books. Ironically, despite bearing an auditor's stamp, it appears that the Post Office should have charged £1 10/- plus 15/-, making £2 5/- in all, instead of adding an extra 15/- to the total cost. Since the Dunkeld office was still using a form printed in the 1900s as late as 1915 perhaps the infrequency of use of the Private Bag service gave rise to confusion over the correct price.

By 1877 the Salutation Hotel catered more for railway passengers than for those travelling by stage coach



A receipt for making up and conveying a Private Bag at Dunkeld in 1915



A Private Bag receipt posted from Pitlochry and forwarded to South Queensferry from Ballinluig in 1924

FURTHER READING

The Postal History of Perth, Neil Blair, Perth 1976
 'Sir Andrew Agnew & the Sunday Posts', John Scott, *Postal History No. 173*, 1972

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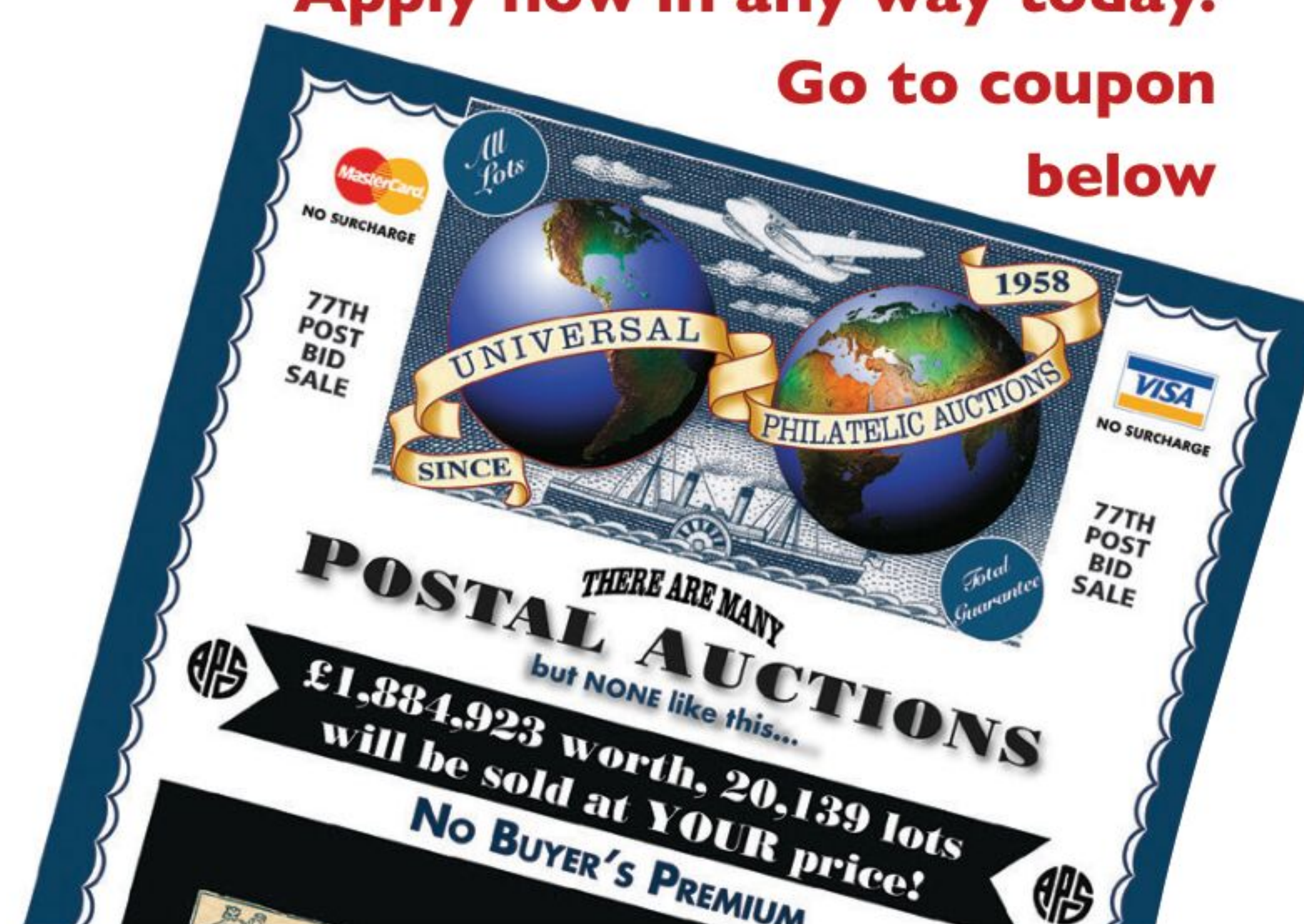


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To philately... and beyond

July 1969. This view from the Apollo 11 spacecraft shows the Earth rising above the moon's horizon. The lunar terrain pictured is in the area of Smyth's Sea on the nearside (NASA, images.nasa.gov)

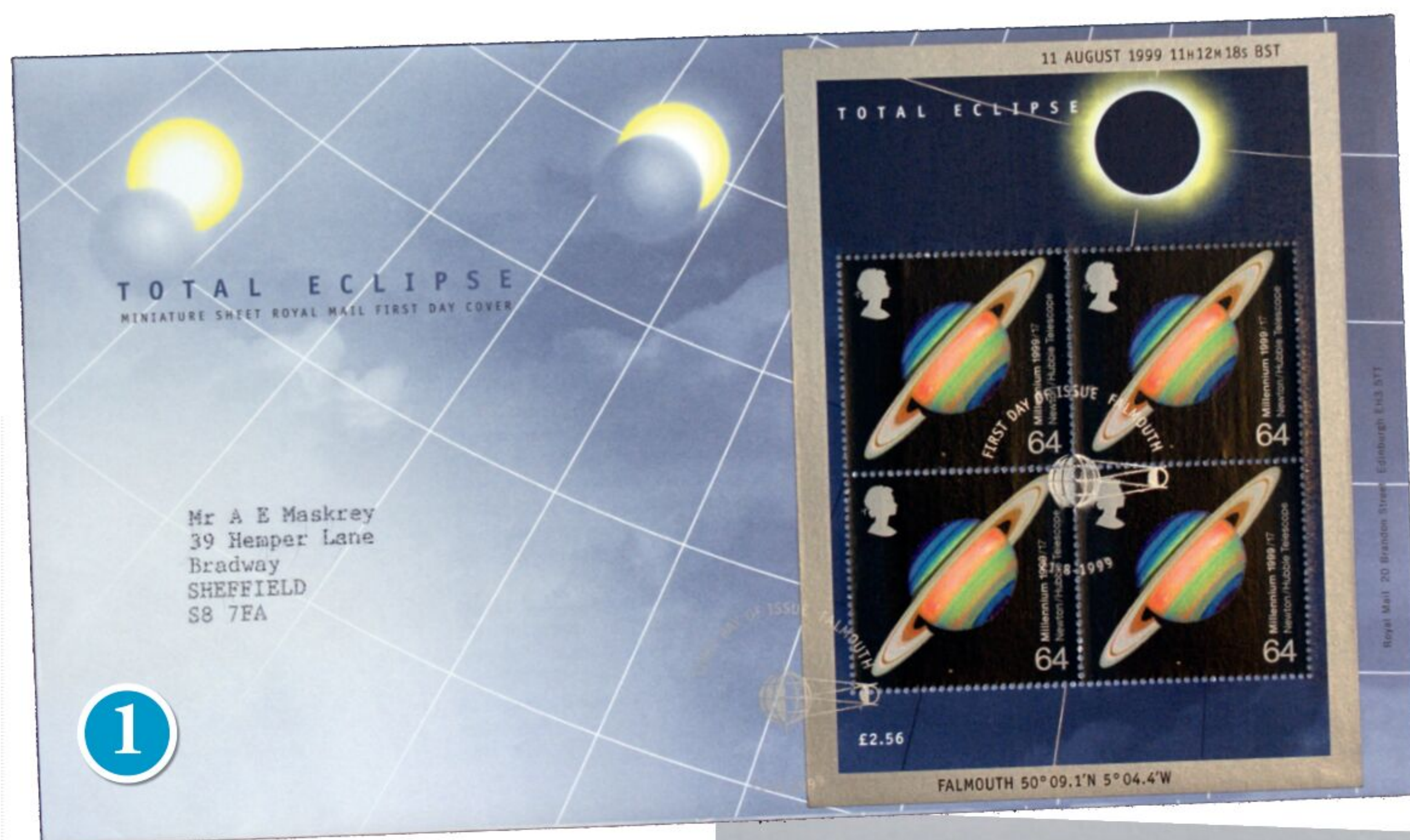


There can be few themes with the scope and enchantment of the wider universe. Indeed, space stamps are so popular, the speciality even has its own name, astrophilately. In this in-depth guide Katrin Raynor-Evans, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, examines a range of astronomy-related stamps

My life-long interest in astronomy was sparked when I saw Saturn and its rings clearly through the eye piece of my father's telescope at a young age and since then my interest has taken me on a fantastic writing journey and in recent years, indulging myself in the hobby of astronomy and space-themed philately or astrophilately (figure 1).

Brazil issued the first astronomy stamp in 1887. Perforated and blue in colour, this small 300 réis stamp depicted the Southern Cross or *Crux Australis*, an asterism of the constellation Crux seen only in the Southern Hemisphere. Stamps with an astronomical theme slowly spread to other countries including Italy, the United States, Poland and Norway. Here in the UK astronomy and astronomers were not commemorated philatelically until 1966 when the Royal Mail issued a yellow stamp depicting a radio telescope at Jodrell Bank (figure 2).

With the growing global celebration of space and astronomy through philately, some covers made it beyond our atmosphere into space aboard shuttles or Apollo missions. The



A Royal Mail first day cover issued on the 11 August 1999 to commemorate the total solar eclipse as seen from Falmouth, Cornwall. The stamps affixed to the cover illustrate Saturn, which were previously released on the 3 August 1999 for the Scientists Tale, Millenium Series issue

Apollo 15 postal cover incident, for example, is notorious. Unknown to NASA, the crew of Apollo 15 – Al Worden, David R Scott and James B Irwin – agreed to carry 400 unauthorised postmarked covers aboard the spacecraft and subsequently onto the surface of the Moon. Upon the astronauts' return, the covers were postmarked again aboard the recovery ship *Okinawa*. Herman Seiger, the German stamp dealer involved in the plan, sold some of the covers for prices in the thousands. When the news of the flown covers reached NASA,



The yellow, 4 pence stamp depicting a radio telescope at Jodrell Bank was issued in 1966 in a set of four commemorating British Technology

the astronauts were reprimanded and forbidden to fly in space again.

Learning about the subjects of space and astronomy through philately is captivating and entertaining, sparking the imagination. Spending just one afternoon researching the illustration on a stamp or the location of a postmark, will transport you into a stamp-sized universe of science, discovery and invention (figure 3).

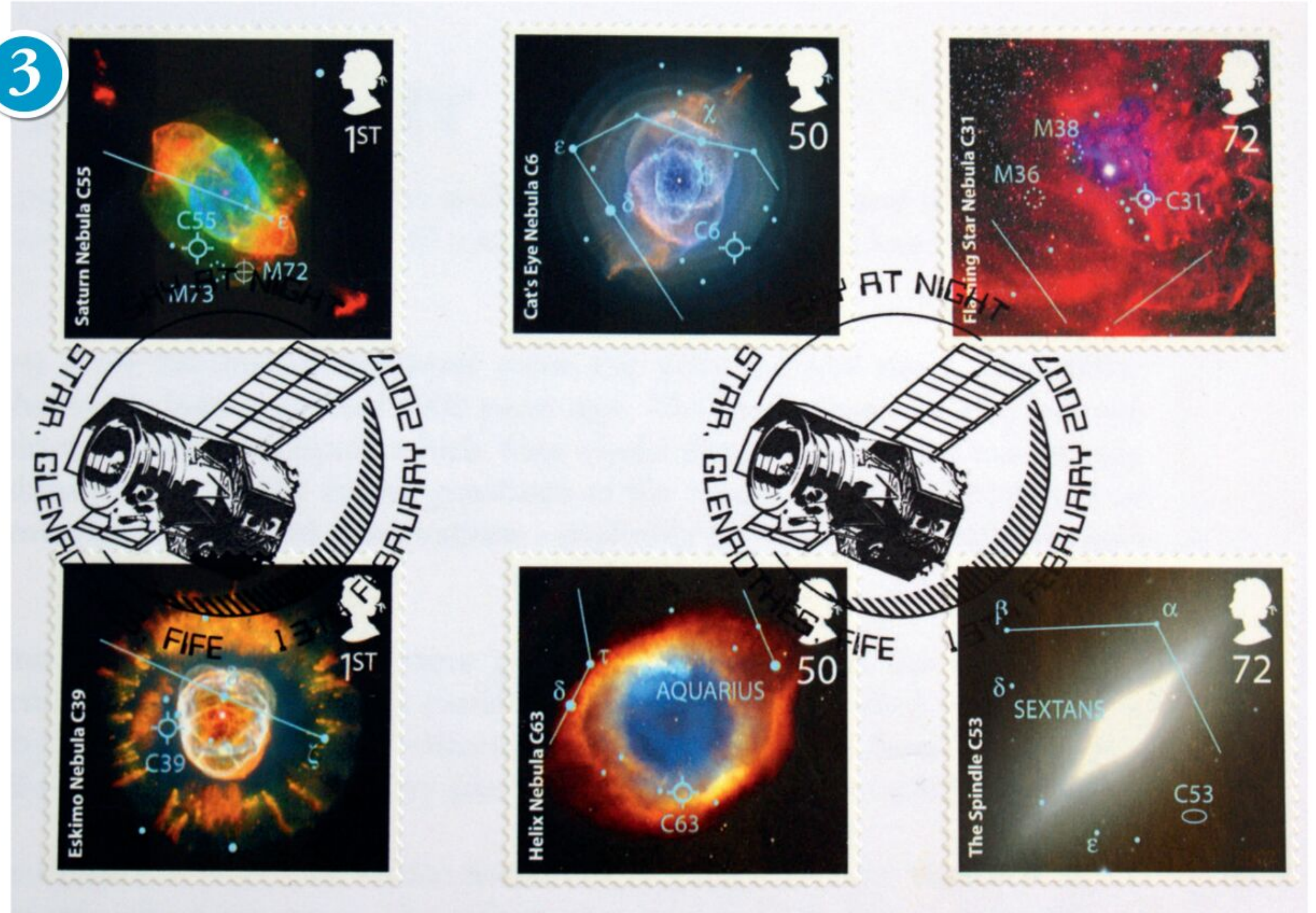
Our solar system

Our solar system is home to the Sun, eight planets and fascinating astronomical objects including icy comets, rocky asteroids and dwarf planets such as Pluto. On the 16 October 2012, Royal Mail celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the first British Satellite, Ariel 1. Images of our incredible solar system featured on six detailed stamps. Using imagery taken from various probes, colour and imagination were brought to life giving us armchair astronomers a close-up view of these mysterious worlds.

The Sun is at the centre of our solar system and around which the planets and other astronomical bodies in our solar system revolve. Featuring on a 1st class stamp, the fiery orange image of the Sun was photographed by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), a joint project between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The spacecraft continues to make observations of the Sun's chromosphere, atmosphere and corona despite it initially only being a two-year mission (figure 4).

Other planets featuring on the stamp set include Venus, Mars and Saturn. Venus and Mars are Earth's nearest neighbours and the images chosen on the 1st class and 77p stamps are examples of how beautiful our fellow rocky planets are (figure 5 and 6).

On the 13 February 2007, the Royal Mail celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Sky at Night. Six stamps were issued and numerous first day covers were produced along with special handstamps including this handstamp from Star, Fife with the illustration of the Hubble Space Telescope



The exploration of Venus and Mars have strong UK connections. The Venus Express Mission was proposed by scientists at Oxford University and the image taken by ESA's Mars Express Probe was the first European mission to Mars with the UK having involvement in three of the six on-board instruments.

Earth featured on its own stamp in 1984 when the Royal Mail commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the adoption of the Greenwich Meridian, the world's prime meridian. The image chosen on the 16p stamp is that of Earth as seen from Apollo 11 with a curved red line of zero longitude superimposed on top. This red line illustrates zero degrees longitude, separating East from West as it passes through Europe and Africa (figure 7).

Heavens above

For thousands of years our ancient ancestors looked to the night sky, observed and recorded patterns of stars or constellations as they are now known, which they named after animals, objects and people. There are officially 88 designated constellations visible on the celestial sphere, an

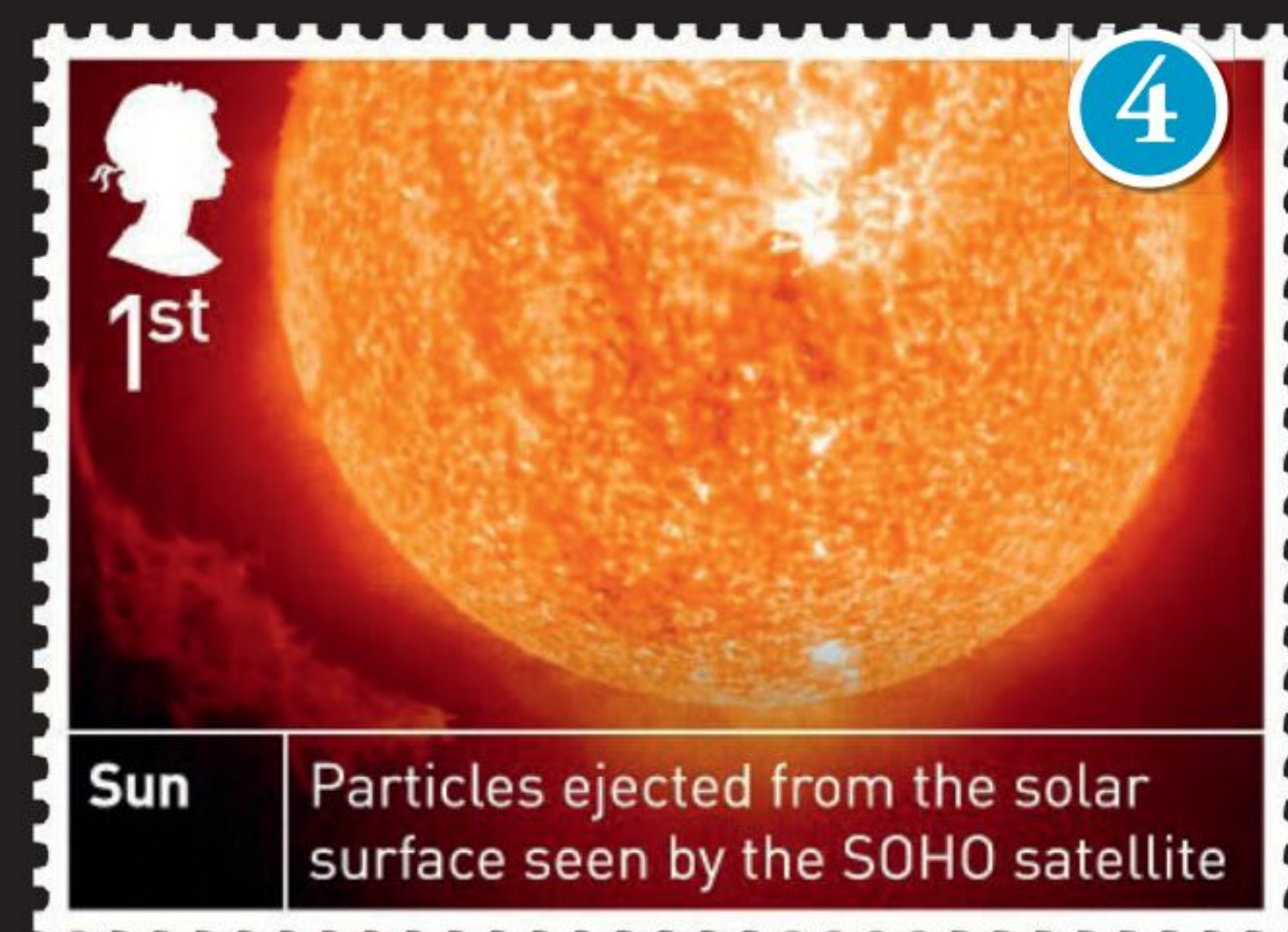
imaginary sphere that surrounds the Earth against which astronomical objects are mapped. Often within these constellations lie smaller patterns of stars called asterisms.

In 2005, the United States Postal Service (USPS) commemorated four of the most well-known constellations visible in the Northern Hemisphere. To celebrate its 24th year of National Stamp Collecting Month, the theme 'Be a Stargazer – Let the Stars Guide You into Stamp Collecting' featured Lyra the lyre (or harp), Orion the Hunter, Leo the Lion and Pegasus the Horse. The four-37 cent stamps were based on imagery from Greek mythology and set upon black backgrounds with multi-coloured illustrations (figure 8).

Using images of nebulae and galaxies taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, the Royal Mail issued four first class stamps on the 24 September 2002 (figure 9) to celebrate British astronomical achievements. Alongside this issue, the Royal Mail also produced a ten-page prestige stamp booklet (figure 10), which amongst its pages contained two panes of definitive stamps, with one

Figure 4: The 1st class stamp celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the first British satellite includes an image of the Sun taken by the SOHO satellite

Figure 5 and 6: Venus and Mars, two rocky planets featured on the stamp set issued on the 16 October 2012





7

An image of Earth as seen from the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. Zero degrees longitude or the prime meridian passes north to south at Greenwich, London. The 100th anniversary was celebrated on four stamps in 1984

The four stamps celebrating the 24th year of National Stamp Collecting Month in the US include Lyra, Leo, Pegasus and Orion

8



pane illustrating the constellation of Leo adjacent to the stamps and the constellation Cygnus on the other pane (figure 11). Scorpius featured on an additional pane of four stamps that commemorated the National Space Centre in Leicester. These stamps had previously been issued in 2000 as part of the Millennium series which left astrophilatelists rather disappointed and frustrated with the lack of imagination.

Constellations have often appeared on stamps in the Southern Hemisphere. In 1992, the Pleiades or The Seven Sisters, an open star cluster visible in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, appeared on a three-stamp set as part of Australia Post's International Space Year celebrations (figure 12). New Zealand also included the Pleiades on a stamp in 2007 celebrating their Southern Skies and is seen shining brightly above the Mount John Observatory, which is located at the northern end of the Mackenzie Basin in the South Island. The Southern Cross asterism also featured on a 50-cent stamp alongside the Stardome Observatory in Auckland (figures 13 and 14).

Observatories

Palomar Observatory located in California is perhaps one of the most well-known observatories amongst astronomers. Founded in 1928, the observatory and its telescopes including the 200-inch Hale telescope is a great tale of passion and perseverance. The observatory was commemorated on a 3-cent blue shaded stamp in 1948, the year that the Hale telescope became operational and when the 48-inch Schmidt telescope was installed, later to be re-named the Samuel Oschin Telescope in 1988 (figure 15).

Not all observatories are ground-based however. The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on 24 April 2020. In 1990, the telescope launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard the orbiter *Discovery*; the telescope's launch was the 35th mission of the space shuttle program and was the first observatory to be placed into space. The telescope was due to launch in October 1986 but the *Challenger* disaster in January of that year stopped all space shuttle programs until a full investigation of why the shuttle broke apart 73 seconds after launch had been undertaken.

The prestige stamp booklet, 'Across the Universe' contains snippets of astronomical information alongside panes of definitive and astronomy themed stamps



9

Celebrating British Astronomical achievements, the Royal Mail chose four images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. The images include planetary nebula NGC 6751 in Aquila, Seyfert Galaxy NGC7742 in Pegasus, planetary nebula in Norma and Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus

Figure 11: A pane of definitive stamps (Scotland) with the constellation Leo which featured in the prestige stamp booklet also featured on this first day cover issued by Benham. The cachet on the left illustrates Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), famous Polish astronomer and mathematician

Eight stamps were issued by the United States Post Office on 21 May 1981 to commemorate the nation's achievements in space and featured the HST on an 18-cent stamp that displays the text 'Comprehending the Universe' (figure 16).

To commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the HST, the USPS issued a set of five colourful stamps of images taken by the telescope. Custom covers made to commemorate this issue include a cachet of the HST which has been postmarked on the 10 April 2000 at Greenland, Maryland, home to



10



11



Figure 12: Australia Post issued three astronomy themed stamps in 1992 as part of the International Space Year celebrations. The stamps featured the Helix Nebula, The Pleiades and spiral galaxy NGC 2997, which is seen in the southern constellation Antlia



Figure 13 and 14: The Pleiades and the asterism, the Southern Cross, or Crux Australis were chosen to feature on the Southern Skies stamp set issued in New Zealand in 2007

the Goddard Space Flight Centre, the control centre for the HST. Affixed to the top right-hand corner is the striking image of the rainbow colours of the Ring Nebula (figure 17).

Hubble appeared on a stamp again on the 10 July 2000 on the 'Probing the Vastness of Space' set. Issued in a set of six stamps that recognised and commemorated the importance of observatories in the American Space Program, the 60-cent stamp depicts the telescope against a black and starry background (figure 18). Also included was the Aricebo Observatory, a 305-metre radio telescope which sadly met its demise in December last year when the 900-tonne instrument platform crashed into the dish below (figure 19).

Space shuttles

The US Space Shuttle Program ran from 1981 to 2011. Six space shuttles

– *Enterprise*, *Columbia*, *Challenger*, *Discovery*, *Atlantis*, and *Endeavour* were in operation during this thirty-year period. Apart from *Enterprise* which never left Earth's atmosphere because it was not designed for space flight, the shuttles were the only reusable crewed space vehicles which made numerous trips into low Earth orbit. The purpose of the program was to send astronauts to the International Space Station, carry out scientific experiments as well as undertaking missions to the Hubble Space Telescope to make repairs.

The first space shuttle launch was on 12 April 1981 when *Columbia* lifted off from Edwards Air Force Base in California while *Atlantis* made the final flight of the program on 8 July 2011. Hundreds of stamps and covers (official and custom made) exist commemorating these amazing missions along with postmarks documenting the

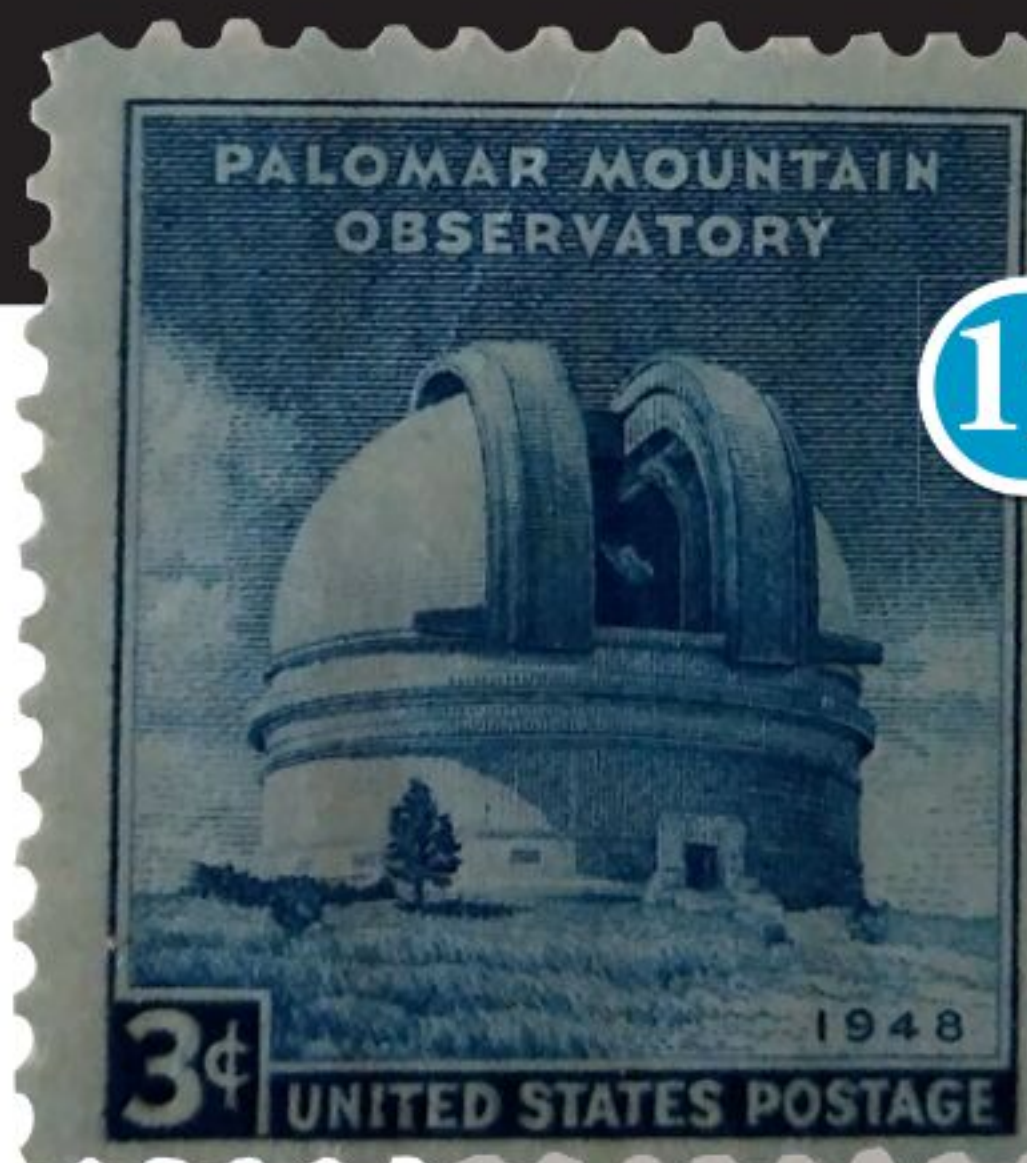


Figure 15: Palomar Observatory, California was commemorated on a 3-cent blue stamp in 1948



Figure 16: The Hubble Space Telescope was the world's first observatory to be launched into space. It has been a huge success and made more than 1.3 million observations since 1990. This iconic observatory has often been commemorated on stamps including this 18-cent stamp issued in 1981

launches and their return to Earth. A variety of shuttles were commemorated on stamps including *Endeavour* which featured on a \$10.75 stamp in 1995, *Atlantis* touching down to land on a \$3.20 stamp in 1998 and *Challenger* which featured on a commemorative stamp and Colorado silk First Day Cover issued on the 22 June 1995 (figures 20, 21 and 22).

An illustration of the *Columbia* shuttle featured on the same 1981 eight-stamp set issued by the USPS which included the HST (mentioned above). The four stamps featured in the pane of eight, illustrates the *Columbia* shuttle with the wording 'Benefiting Mankind'. Throughout its operation, *Columbia* insignias from each mission appeared on cachets and the covers were postmarked on the launch dates. The second of Columbia's missions, on 12 November 1981, was the first time that a re-usable orbital vehicle returned to space with a full crew, which on this occasion was astronauts Joe Eagle and Richard Truly (figure 23).



Figure 17: The Hubble Space Telescope has been commemorated on custom covers including this one which features a stamp of the Ring Nebula and been postmarked on the 10 April 2000, the date when the United States Postal Service issued a stamp set commemorating the HST's tenth anniversary



Figure 18: Probing the Vastness of Space included six stamps celebrating observatories. The Hubble Space Telescope appeared again on a 60 cent stamp in 2000. Figure 19: the Aricebo Observatory in Puerto Rico (which also featured in the set) met its demise in December 2020. The instrument platform crashed into the 305 metre dish destroying the observatory

Columbia completed 27 missions and was heavily involved in Spacelab (not to be confused with Skylab), the world's first re-usable laboratory for scientific experiments. The laboratory was designed to fit into a shuttle's payload bay. The components could be changed depending on the type of experiments that needed to be carried out (figure 24).

Launching from the Kennedy Space Centre (KSC), *Columbia's* final flight, took place on 16 January 2003. Tragically, on the 1 February the shuttle broke up on re-entry killing all seven crew on board. Postmarks on FDCs include the date of launch and, rather sadly, again the date tragedy struck.

As we look to the future, SpaceX is paving the way. The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft owned by Elon Musk was the first ever commercial spacecraft to blast off into space creating a great moment in space flight history. NASA successfully launched two of their astronauts- Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley – in SpaceX's Crew Dragon, a commercially built spacecraft to the ISS in May of this year.



Spacelab was developed by the European Space Agency. *Columbia* carried the first Spacelab laboratory module into orbit on the 28 November 1983. The event was commemorated on this cover with a NASA cachet



An image of the *Atlantis* shuttle landing featured on a USA \$3.20 stamp in 1998

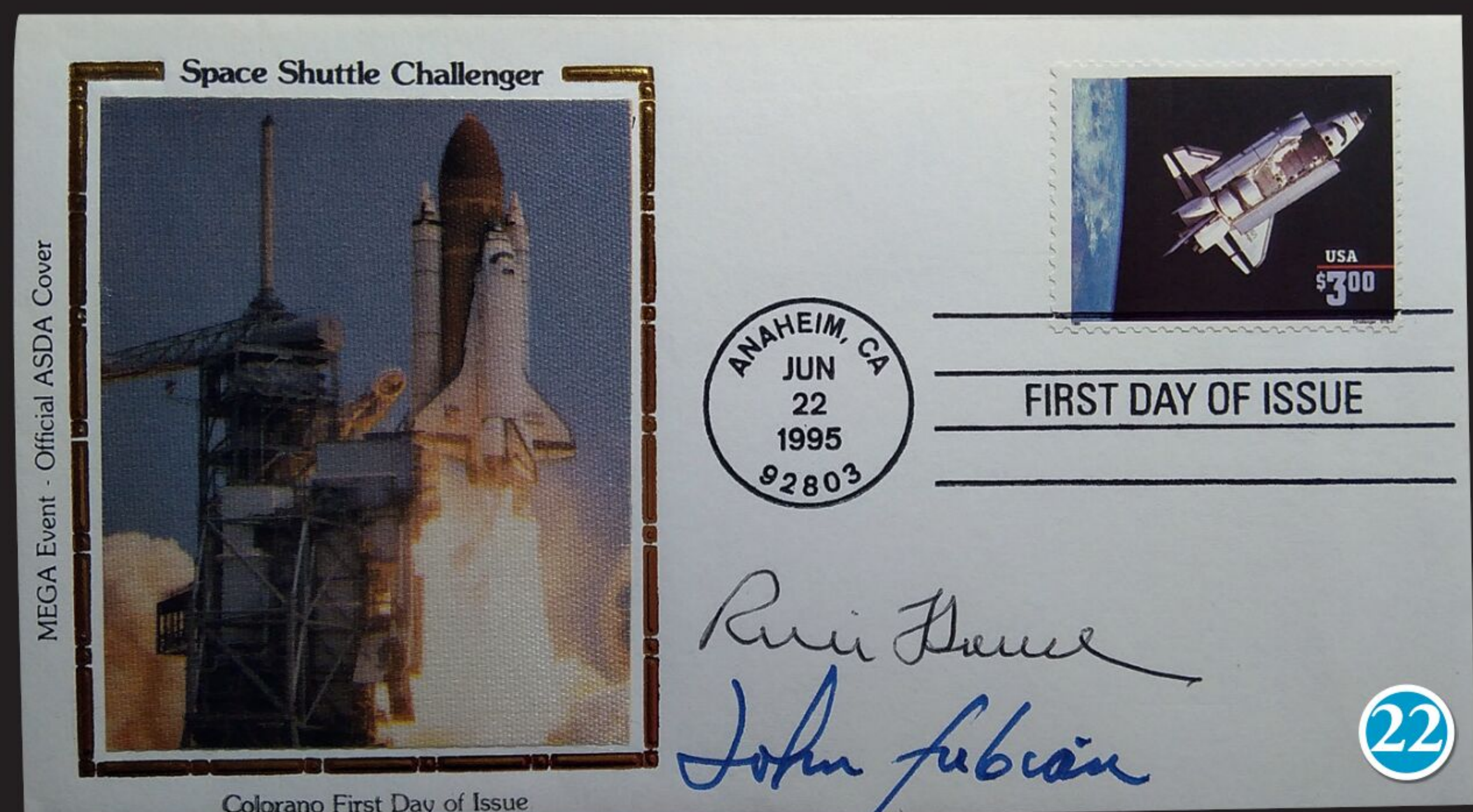
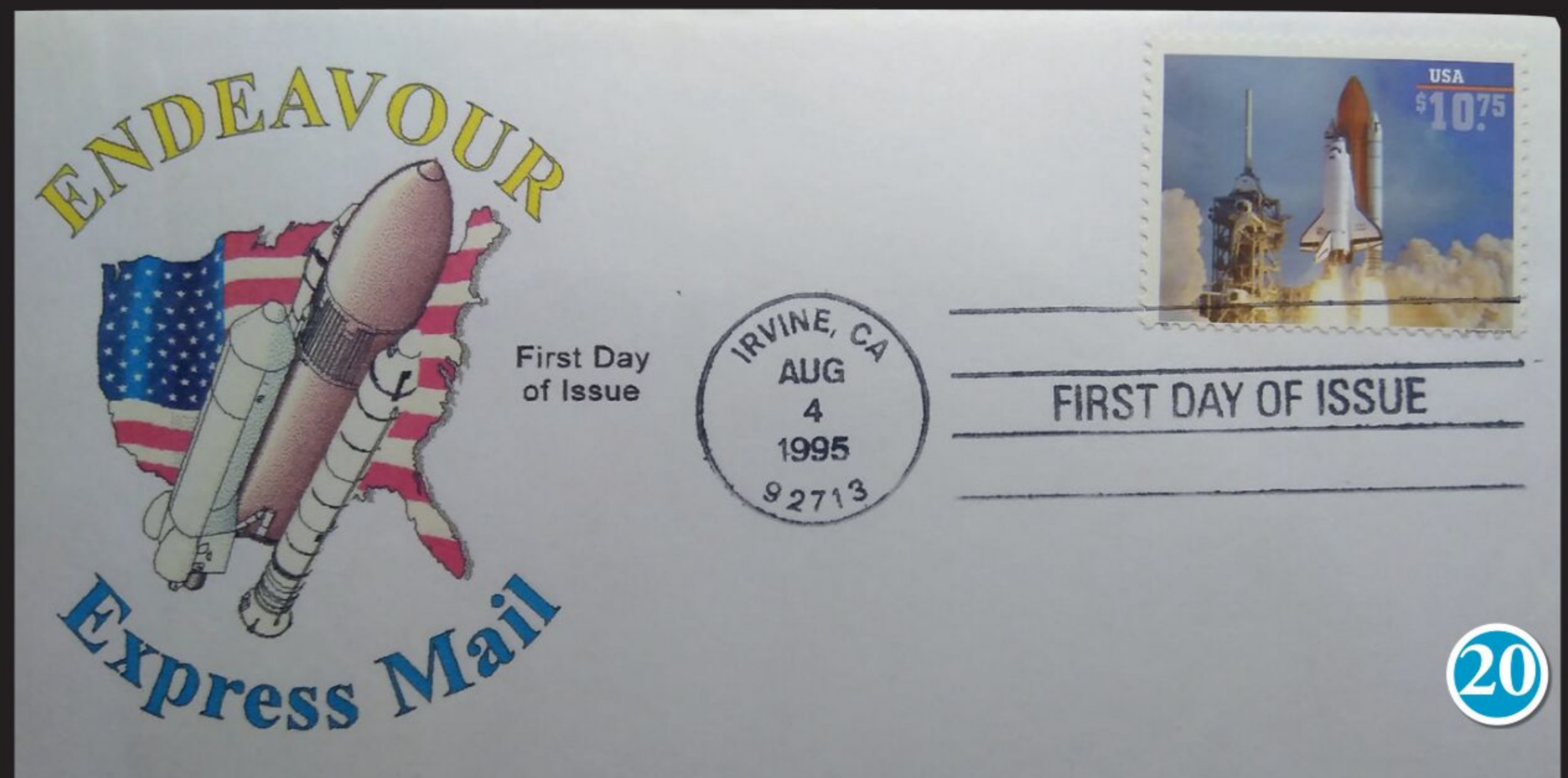


Figure 20: The *Endeavour* shuttle featured on a \$10.75 Express Mail stamp on the 4 August 1995 as seen on this cover. The image shows *Endeavour* lifting off from the Kennedy Space Centre on the 21 June 1993

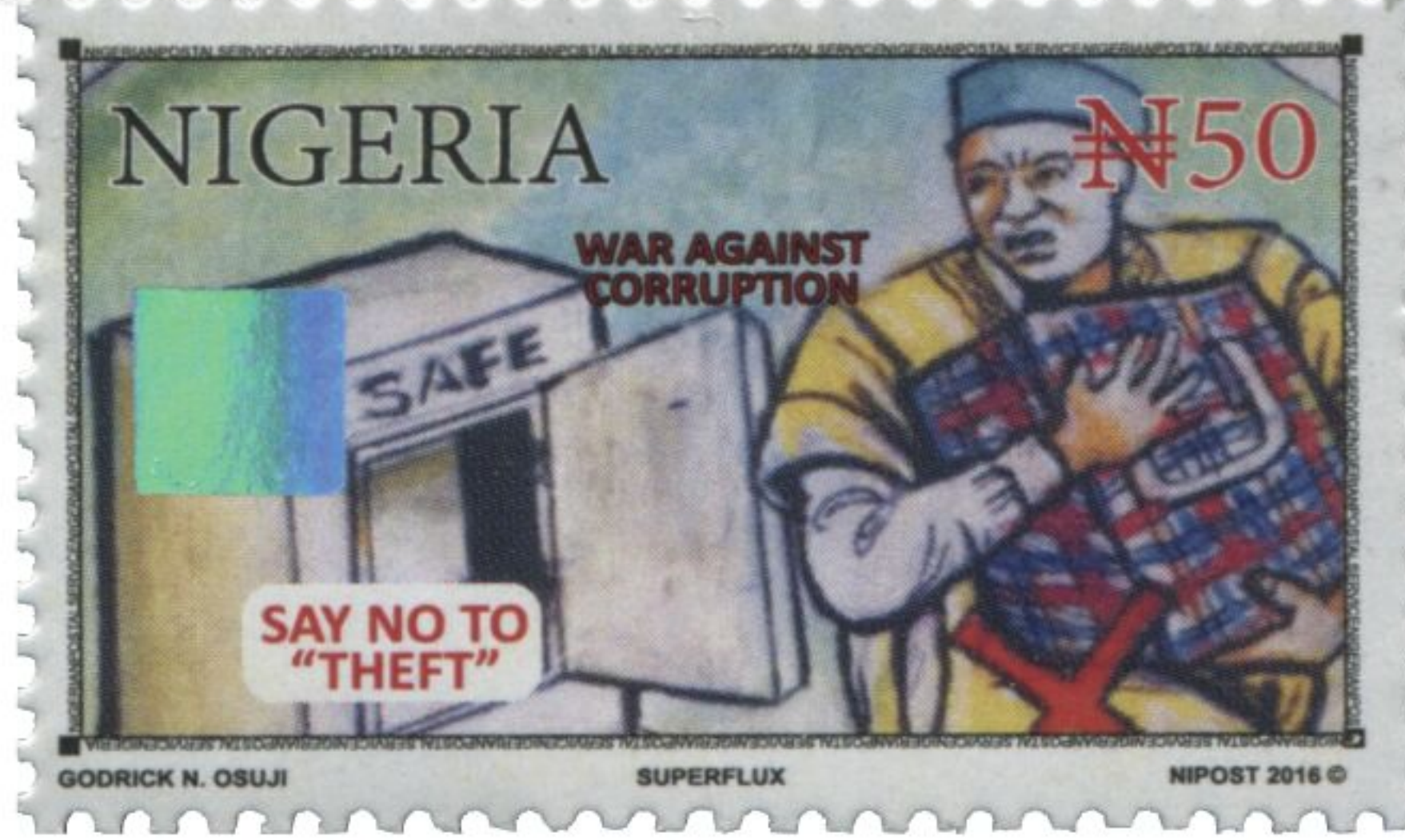
Figure 22: the USA commemorated *Challenger* on a \$3 stamp in 1995. Sadly the shuttle had disintegrated just over a minute into launch in January 1986. The cover is signed by pilot Frederick Hauck and mission specialist John Fabian who were crew members on a successful flight in 1983, which also carried Sally Ride, the first American female astronaut into space (Ride appeared on a US stamp in May 2018)

Figure 23: A first day cover issued on the 12 November 1981 displays the *Columbia* mission insignia and the names, Engle-Truly. Joe H Engle was the commander on board and Richard H Truly, the pilot. It was the second space shuttle mission and the second flight for *Columbia*



"The Great Train Robbery," directed by Edwin S. Porter in 1903, was one of the first commercially successful story films. This box-office hit became part of the Western genre.

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY - 1900s



A-Z THEMATICS

Stamps to steal the show!

Postal services are very careful about who they put on their stamps, writes Paula Hammond. However, given the state of the world in general, and politics in particular, it's no surprise that the occasional miscreant has ended up with their face emblazoned on a stamp

Most now contentious people who are celebrated on stamps were considered perfectly respectable when the stamp was issued! So, the idea of any nation purposefully celebrating robbers and thieves seems curious, but it does happen, and these make for a theme that's sure to generate lots of debate.

Train robberies, especially those involving mail trains, have, oddly enough, been commemorated on several stamps. Royal Mail's 2019, 1st class Post & Go stamps featured the Great Train Robbery. These were issued to coincide with London's Postal Museum Crime & The Post exhibition. India's 1997 Kakori stamp marks another train robbery. This time, the perpetrators, who robbed the Number 8 Down Train travelling from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow, were members of the Hindustan Republican Association. The theft was seen as a direct attack on the Raj, and was intended to raise funds for the struggle for independence.

The British practice of transporting criminals to parts of Australia has left an indelible mark on the continent. Australia's 2018's \$1 Convict Past set of three commemoratives were issued to mark the end of convict transport to the Australian colonies. The

images shed light on the lives and experiences of people who were a far cry for the sort of hardened criminals that we would expect to be treated with such harsh punishment.

Not every robbery or thief featured on postage stamps are based on real events. The USA's 1998 Celebrate the Century stamp, for instance, celebrates the 1903 film *The Great Train Robbery* which was one of the most successful commercial films of the period and, arguably, one of the first Westerns.

In fact, there's a surprising variety in this theme thanks to the enduring popularity of crime and its perpetrators in literature, art, and cinema. Hungary's wonderful 'Tales from the Arabian Nights' set includes a lovely 2-Ft 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' stamp. Australia's 2013 Australian Legends stamp, remembers the INX hit album *Listen Like Thieves*. Sri Lanka's 2013 World Children's Day issue features the raucous folk tale, retold in street-side puppet shows, known as 'The Umbrella Thief'. France, meanwhile, issued a booklet of stamps in 2013 dedicated to proverbs, including the 'Lettre verte 20g' denomination representing the saying: 'He who will steal an egg will steal an ox.'

Luxembourg's 1983 two-stamp series shows a scene from the Medieval Codex Aureus in which a traveller is attacked by robbers, then helped by the Good Samaritan. Brazil's 1947 Steel Industry stamp, highlights Prometheus as the thief of fire. If you want to stretch the topic further, then it's possible to include natural history, with stamps such as the Isle of Man's Robber Fly (1975 & 2001) and Christmas Islands' colourful Robber Crab releases.

Which ever direction your robbers and thieves thematic takes, one thing's certain: it's sure to steal the show!



R IS FOR ROBBERS

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- Interesting theme.
- Small and manageable collection.
- Links to history, the arts, and natural history.

Notable releases

- 1975, Isle of Man, Robber Fly.
- 1983, Luxembourg, Codex Aureus two-stamp set.
- 1997, India, Kakori Train Robbery stamp.
- 1998, USA, Celebrate the Century stamp featuring *The Great Train Robbery* film of 1903.
- 2019, GB, Great Train Robbery Post & Go.

Expand the theme

Crime and detection makes a great expansion to this theme.

Collecting links

Memorabilia, books, and videos to accompany the Postal Museum's Crime & The Post Exhibition are available from the Museum shop and include an A4 Bookazine on the Great Train Robbery, presented in a diary-style format, covering events leading up to and beyond the robbery.



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Elizabeth Connolly wastes no time, and heads immediately to the premises of the most prestigious newspaper in London, and there talks her way into the private office of George Armstrong, who is the highly acclaimed editor of the renowned *Globe Newspaper*. Established in 1803, the newspaper is owned by the British politician and peer, George Cubitt, First Baron of Ashcombe.

The Globe is without doubt the most successful periodical in the country, and Mr Armstrong, following a surprisingly brief interview with Miss Connolly, stuns his editorial staff by announcing that she is joining the newspaper as their first female writer. But that's only half the story. Because, had Mr Armstrong divulged the entire details regarding her appointment, he would have compounded the widespread look of astonishment written upon the faces of his literary staff that afternoon. What Mr Armstrong withheld from the assemblage was that he had actually engaged Miss Connolly as a 'Stunt Reporter', and assigned her to investigate a criminal gang in London, promising her a three Guinea bonus for a 'Turnover' article of 1,200 words.

This seemingly spontaneous appointment was in actual fact a premeditated ambition of Armstrong's, which was just waiting for the correct circumstance to become reality. Miss Connolly's arrival that day had reminded Armstrong of the prominent American newspapers, in New York and Chicago, who had recruited female writers working undercover to investigate stories on social injustice and crime. The Americans had christened these writers 'stunt reporters' since they operated using pseudonyms to protect their identity and employed covert tactics to uncover sensational 'exposés'. As a result, the newspapers concerned had enjoyed unprecedented demand.

Armstrong, who was never slow to implement ideas that would increase his readership, was eager to emulate this journalistic innovation. When Miss Connolly walked into his office that afternoon, with a reference from a celebrated industrialist endorsing her writing talents, and then bashfully mentioned her passion for philately, Mr Armstrong believed that Providence herself had guided Miss Connolly to him directly.

You see, unbeknown to Miss Connolly, Mr Armstrong had for several weeks been wrestling with how his great newspaper would uncover the truth about an unsavoury tale concerning the forgery of collectable stamps; a story that required a clandestine approach few of his well versed but well known hacks could provide. This as yet unconfirmed story had come to his attention at his beloved Reform Club in Pall Mall. The distasteful revelations were presented to Armstrong by a fellow member, Judge Philbrick, and pertained to an organised gang who were deceiving London's wealthy with fake philatelic material. The unsuspecting buyers, often prominent figures in society with a great deal more money than philatelic sense, were spending large sums on what amounted to worthless pieces of paper. So, to Mr Armstrong's instincts, Miss Connolly was quite literally heaven sent, having demonstrated to him all the qualities he sought for a stunt reporter; she was surely perfectly suited to uncover the truth about these stamp shenanigans.

It was too good an opportunity for the eminent editor to pass up. All that needed to complete the puzzle, in the mind of Armstrong, was what 'pen-name' Elizabeth Connolly would adopt, henceforth, to undertake her duties as an undercover reporter. Mr Armstrong had in fact a name in mind, and having informed Miss Connolly her remuneration would be £1 a week, plus expenses and a publishing bonus, he announced with excitement, and a grin that underlined his voluminous walrus moustache, 'Your nom de plume Miss Connolly shall be Noella Bry. Welcome to the *Globe Newspaper*. Go get me that story!'

And that was how Elizabeth Connolly, budding writer and stamp collector from a working class family in Yorkshire became Noella Bry, Stunt Reporter for the world famous *Globe Newspaper*, London.

...to be continued. In the next episode find out if Elizabeth, or to use her new pen-name Noella, can infiltrate The London Gang and unravel the truth behind their activities.



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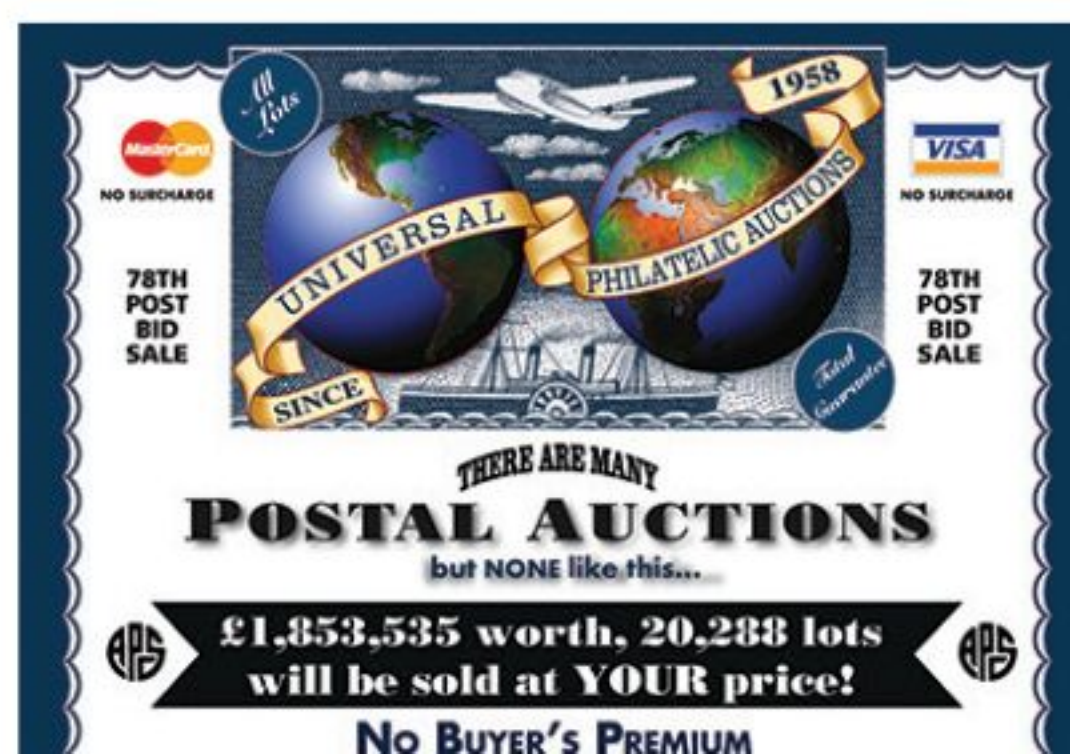
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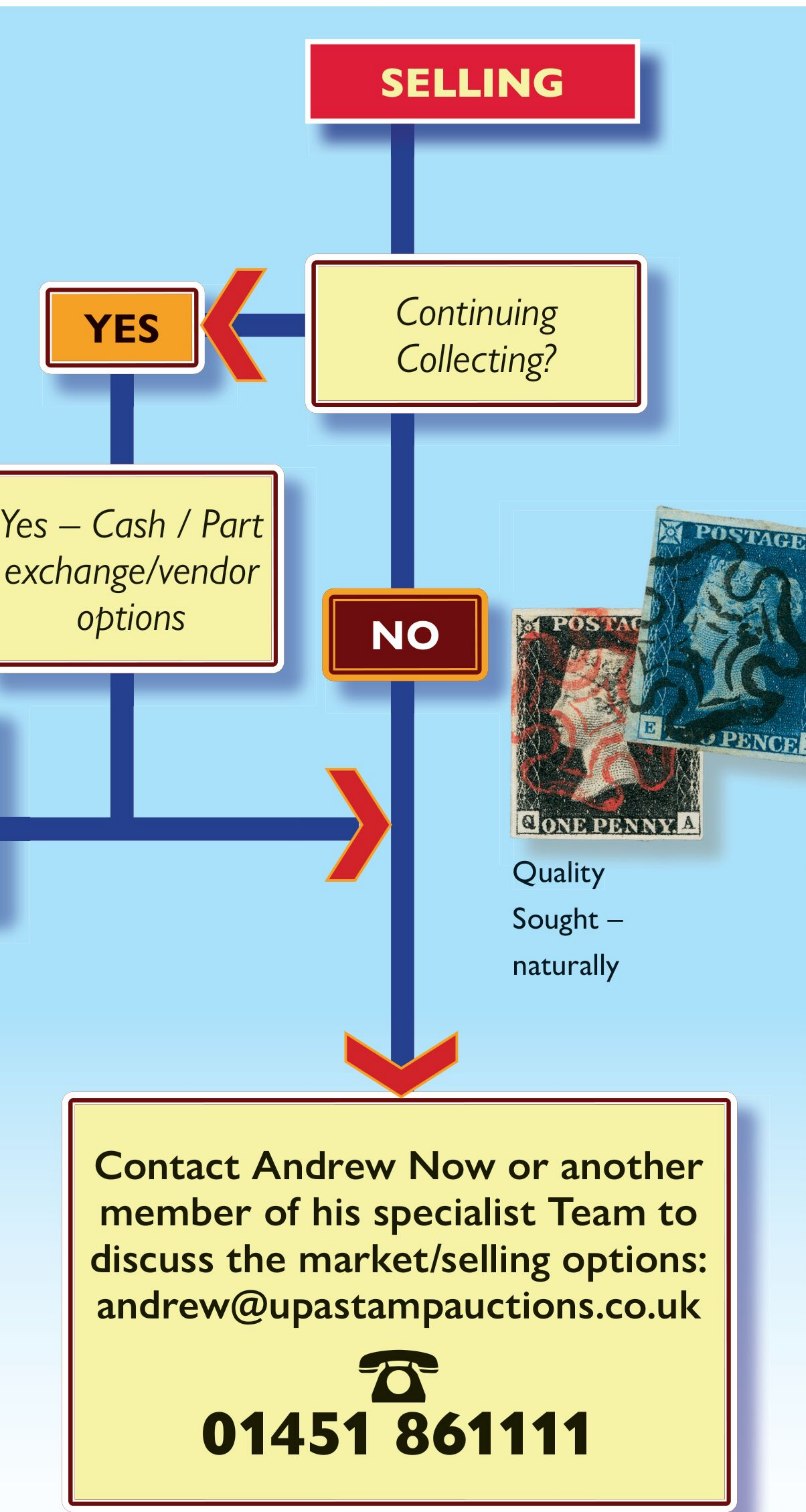
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