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WARNERS
GROUP PUBLICATIONS

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

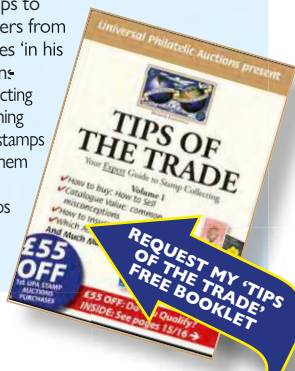
1 ▶ If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the 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 your tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?

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

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

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

18▶ What Should I Do Next?

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



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

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

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

Andrew

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



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Welcome

THE THEME FROM THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT



Have you watched *The Queen's Gambit* yet? The Netflix series has been a huge hit and in recent months has prompted thousands of viewers to start playing chess, the subject of the seven-part drama. Apparently the game is enjoying a huge surge in popularity thanks to the TV show and to the lockdown, with us all looking for things to do indoors. It's not too dissimilar to the latest chapter in the story of stamp collecting, which has also seen many newcomers come into the hobby over the past year.

It strikes me that both pastimes will appeal to similar people – they're both steeped in history and have a calming, absorbing quality – and it's no surprise that there are many chess stamps for us to look out for. I think this may be my next collection. I'm no grandmaster, but perhaps I can excel at the philatelic side of things!

As our article on chess stamps (page 72) reveals, a collection can easily tell a story about our world. A quick study of the first chess stamps issued, in the 1940s and 1950s, reveals the popularity of the game in what we knew as the Eastern Bloc, we can also chart the global scale of the game through stamps, and reflect on how the game has until recently been dominated by men. It's all there, in the stamps.

In the past, collecting by theme has been thought of as a poorer cousin to traditional country collecting, but it's just not the case. Thematics can be just as informative and engaging. As ever, exactly what you add to your collection, and the story you want to tell, is all down to your own tastes, preferences and interests.

There are so many themes out there! So I'd love to hear what you collect and what you'd like to see covered in our regular thematics articles. Now, time to start my search for that Bulgarian chess stamp from 1947, oh, and I'd like Finland's 1952 single value too... so many stamps, so little time!

Matt Hill, Editor

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

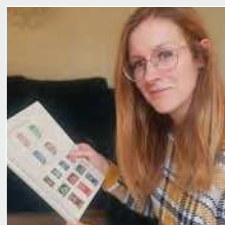
Writing in this issue...



Nicola Davies is Head of Collections at the Royal Philatelic Society London, the oldest philatelic society in the world, established in 1869. Nicola writes about Royal's collection each month in our exclusive column (page 59), this time looking back on the career of one of the Society's most celebrated members.



Author Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and *Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album*, and writes our Stamp Story on page 45.



Laura McInerney was a teacher, a newspaper editor and now runs a polling company. As a child she received a letter each week from her nan, beginning a lifelong love of letter-writing and, now, stamps. In her latest column (on page 34) Laura explores how decimalisation affected stamps and asks why one penny was written as '1d'.

BRITISH GUIANA ONE-CENT MAGENTA TO BE SOLD

It's back! The world famous British Guiana One-Cent Magenta is to be sold by current owner Stuart Weitzman, in a Sotheby's auction featuring just three treasures from the entrepreneur's collection.

The 'Three Treasures – Collected by Stuart Weitzman' live auction will take place at Sotheby's New York on 8 June 2021, and will feature just three incredibly rare items: the sole-surviving example of the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta, known as the most famous and valuable stamp in the world; the Inverted Jenny Plate Block, the most well-known and sought-after American stamp rarity; the 'fabled and elusive' 1933 Double Eagle Coin.

The Double Eagle coin and the British Guiana stamp will be offered with estimates of \$10/15 million each and are poised to set new world auction records in their respective categories. The Inverted Jenny will carry an estimate of \$5/7 million, set to eclipse its own record for an American philatelic item.

Richard Austin, Sotheby's Global Head of Books & Manuscripts, said: 'As the most aspirational objects in their respective collecting fields and each with their own illustrious provenance, the Double Eagle, the British Guiana and the Inverted Jenny all hold an indelible place in history, and in our collective imagination.'

'Each treasure is unique in its own right: the 1933 Double Eagle as the only legally owned example, the British Guiana as the only one known, and the Inverted Jenny as the only plate block from a unique sheet of stamps. It would be a true privilege to present just one of these sought-after rarities at auction but offering all three one-of-a-kind treasures together in the same sale is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.'

Stuart Weitzman pioneered luxury shoe design as founder of his eponymous company and is renowned for creating 'high-end shoes'. Beyond his highly successful career in fashion, Weitzman is a lifelong philatelist and numismatist with a deep appreciation for one-of-a-kind objects. Growing up collecting stamps and coins at an early age in Queens, New York, he fulfilled his boyhood pursuits at the highest echelon with his acquisition of the Double Eagle in 2002 and the British Guiana and Inverted Jenny Plate Block in 2014.

All of the seller's proceeds will benefit charitable ventures, including The Weitzman Family Foundation, which supports medical research and higher education such as the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. Other major Foundation projects include a



museum in Madrid, the first of its kind, devoted to Spanish Judaica.

Weitzman said: 'I had a life-long dream of collecting the single greatest rarities in the two great collecting areas of stamps and coins and then placing these extraordinary treasures, hidden away for decades, on continuous public view. I determined to do that, and I did that. That was my dream. Today my dream is to leave a legacy of charitable works to which the proceeds from the sales of these treasures will go.'



Entrepreneur Stuart Weitzman is renowned for creating 'high-end shoes'. A lifelong philatelist and numismatist, Weitzman grew up in Queens, New York, and fulfilled his boyhood pursuits with his acquisition of the Double Eagle in 2002 and the British Guiana and Inverted Jenny Plate Block in 2014.

MAKING HIS MARK ON PHILATELY

What does a museum do when the appearance of the world's most expensive stamp changes? The Museum of Philately's Devlan Kruck reacts to the return of the one-cent magenta... and reflects on the subtle marking added by its most recent owner

One of the benefits of a virtual museum is the ability, or more precisely agility, to adapt

to change and quickly make revisions at the click of a button, thus ensuring the most up-to-date records are on display. Given the social media age we live in these days it has never been more important. With this in mind, it no doubt won't have escaped anyone's notice in the world of philately that the current world's most expensive stamp, the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta, is being

auctioned on 8 June 2021.

Now under normal circumstances that wouldn't mean we at the Museum of Philately would need to do anything to the stamp entry until after a sale when we would update the price achieved and ownership details. However, something came to light at the announcement of this exciting philatelic news which alters the



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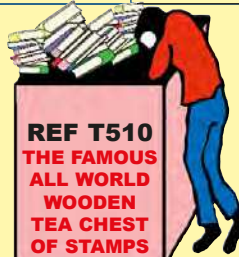
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COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST**
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£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

**REF T626
FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST**
CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON & OFF PAPER, & SINGLE STAMPS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £800+

£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

**REF T627
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► appearance of the stamp to the degree that it was important, if not informative, to revise the record, even before the auctioneers have opened the bidding.

And it's not the front of the stamp but the back that has changed quite noticeably with the addition of a stiletto shoe outline and the initials 'SW' pencilled upon the reverse. The current owner is Stuart Weitzman, a shoe designer to Hollywood stars such as Taylor Swift and Beyoncé, which explains his distinctive scribble. Weitzman also owns the 1918 24c Unique Plate Block of Inverted Jennys, which is being auctioned on the same day.

Whilst the shoe has caused quite a stir, the reality is this isn't anything unusual; the shoe designer is just following in the footsteps of seven others before him who have done the same over the last 125 years. Admittedly the stiletto is quite a bold mark of ownership and in some quarters is considered to be a fashion statement, but in others a piece of artefact vandalism.

Regardless of which camp you are in, from an aesthetic perspective we could see that the back of the stamp had been significantly altered, so we replaced the reverse scan with the latest image published by Sotheby's.



This is an ideal opportunity to point out who else has left their mark on this famous stamp, starting with the shoe magnate and going back to the first owner, Count Ferrary. And note we have indicated who used pencil and who used the more abrasive ink. The latter is undoubtedly more intrusive to the stamp than the former, for obvious reasons.

Stuart Weitzman. Outline of a stiletto shoes with 'SW' initials, pencil

John Eleuthère du Pont. J.E.d.P initials, pencil

Irwin Weinberg & Associates (who took it on a world tour). 'IW' initials, pencil

Frederick T. Small. Comet, ink stamp

Finbar Kenny. 'FK' (Macy's stamps who brokered the sale to F. Small), pencil

Ann Hind. Seventeen point star (over the top of her husband's mark), ink stamp

Arthur Hind. Four-leaf clover (under wife's), ink stamp

Count Ferrary. Circled trefoil (two marks one faint), ink stamp

There are few auctions in which a block of four Inverted Jenny stamps takes second place in the rarity stakes. The block is set to fetch \$7 million



He didn't did he? Current owner Weitzman added his initials and the outline of a high-heeled shoe on the stamp, following the tradition of owners adding a personal mark

If you're wondering why Mrs Hind deliberately put her star over her husband's four leaf clover, it is because when Arthur Hind died he expressly wrote Mrs Hind out of the stamp collection and crucially the proceeds which would come from the sale of the One-Cent Magenta. However, she contested the will, and eventually won the case. When she had the stamp back in her possession, and before selling, she made a point of attempting to rid the reverse of his mark.

Who said the back of a stamp was boring? The reverse of this one is fast becoming more interesting than the front. And finally, if the stamp in question sells to a rich Hollywood designer of handbags, we might, in time, get a bag to go with our shoe. Then we could really say with some confidence that stamps are fashionable.

POST OFFICES JOIN FORCES TO CELEBRATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Eleven postal administrations have joined forces to celebrate the Queen's 95th birthday with a special 'Devoted to Your Service' stamp series.

The special issue is a collaboration between the four Crown Dependencies (Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man), The Bahamas and the six UK Overseas Territories (Ascension Island, British Antarctic Territory, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, and Tristan da Cunha).

The stamps from each philatelic bureau feature a similar design, with six stamps issued by each country, the stamps representing six themes: young princess, the coronation, marriage, leisure activities,

pageantry, and royal duty.

In addition to the 66 stamps, there are also a range of souvenirs, including joint sheetlets, featuring eleven stamps, one from each postal administration.



Barcodes trialled on stamps

Royal Mail has issued new 2nd class stamps with unique barcodes as part of its modernisation drive, with the stamps to sold to business customers in sheets.

The UK's first barcoded stamps were issued on 23 March, with an initial supply of 20 million 2nd Class stamps sold to business customers on sheets via office supply and stationary specialist Viking Direct and the Royal Mail online shop.

According to Royal Mail, the barcodes will ensure that the stamps in question can be uniquely identified, in a move that could pave the way for innovative customer services in future. The barcodes, which will match the colour of the stamp, will sit alongside the main body of the stamp, separated by a simulated perforation line.

Nick Landon, Chief Commercial Officer at Royal Mail, said: 'This initiative will see Royal Mail become one of the first postal authorities in the world to add unique barcodes to stamps. By doing this, we are looking to transform the humble stamp so that we can offer our customers even more convenient, new services in the future. Royal Mail has a long and proud history for creating innovative and intuitive postal solutions.'



This goes all the way back to the Penny Black which established the principle of the one-price-goes-anywhere universal service - to the recent launch of Parcel Collect - where we pick up our customers' parcels from the doorstep. The pilot of barcoded stamps reflects our commitment to constantly evolve our products and services in line with the ever-changing needs of our customers.'

Royal Mail has used barcode technology printed directly on to envelopes and labels for some time. For many years, business customers have used franking machines to print a pre-paid franking mark onto an envelope or a label for parcels, as well as printing a Mailmark barcode onto letters.

CRAWFORD MEDAL NOMINATIONS INVITED

The Crawford Medal for Philatelic literature has extended the deadline for nominations.

The Royal Philatelic Society London is the world's oldest stamp society, founded in 1869. It awards the Crawford Medal annually for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form, whether physical or electronic. It was first presented in 1920, and has been awarded in most of the 101 years since. Nominations had closed for 2021 but due to restrictions caused by the global pandemic the selection meeting has been postponed until 7 July, so the committee has decided to re-open nominations with a new deadline of 31 May 2021.

Nominations are invited for any book on a philatelic subject that has been published and was available for sale in 2019 or 2020. The book does not have to be published by the Royal or be written by a Royal member and nominations are accepted from any individual or society even if they are not Royal members.

Nominations should be sent to Nicola Davies, Head of Collections, at The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or emailed to her at librarian@rpsl.org.uk to arrive by 31 May 2021 at the latest. A non-returnable copy of the nominated book must be supplied to the RPSL library by that date if it does not already have one.

York Fair could return in July

The organisers of the popular York Stamp & Coin fair are hopeful that the event will go ahead as normal on 16 and 17 July.

Organiser Kate Puleston said: 'We are very excited about getting the fair up and running again after its eighteen-month break. We've

begun contacting our regular dealers to invite them back and have been really pleased by the positive response we have received from them. Everyone seems raring to go!' Visit the website www.stampshows.net for opening times and a list of dealers attending.

IN BRIEF

Canada Post recently sent a prepaid postcard to every household in Canada in a bid to encourage citizens to keep in touch with each other. The website states: 'Canadians can mail these postcards to anyone they want, anywhere in Canada, for free. There are six versions of the postcard, and each contains a simple message of love. It's our way of helping you connect to family and friends.'

Brazil recently issued a single stamp featuring a photograph of John Lennon by rock photographer Bob Gruen. The stamp issue coincided with an exhibition of Gruen's work entitled 'John Lennon Em Nova York Por Bob Gruen' and this title features on the simple stamp design.



The collection of Dr. Herbert A. Trenchard, what is considered to be the largest private collection of auction catalogues in the world, has been donated to the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). Writing on the American Philatelic Society website, Scott Tiffney, Director of Information Services, confirmed the size of the collection: 'the donation arrived by truck on 24 pallets and with over 600 boxes of material'.

The Pope's recent visit to the autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan has prompted a war of words around a rumoured postage stamp marking the occasion. Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) were thought to be considering designs for a stamp set, one of which reportedly shows a map of 'Greater Kurdistan' that includes some provinces of Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. Turkey's Foreign Ministry demanded that KRG officials 'immediately reverse the grave mistake', whilst Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said: 'It is crystal-clear that what is published is against international principles and rules.' However, a spokesperson for KRG subsequently said no stamps had been printed, adding: 'the design that will be approved for printing will be in accordance with the Constitution and the law.'

MORE POSTBOXES DECORATED FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

It's been a busy few weeks for Royal Mail, with more special postboxes created, the trial of a new uniform, and the start of the parcel pick-up service.

World Book Day saw Royal Mail unveil five special postboxes honouring British authors and illustrators who have used literature to help keep children entertained during lockdown. The postboxes honoured writers Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola (Shepherd's Bush, London); Cressida Cowell (Oban, Scotland); Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks (Sheffield); Eloise Williams (Cardiff); and Sam McBratney (Belfast).

But there weren't the only postboxes getting a spring clean. Special postboxes were decorated in an elegant plum colour to celebrate Mother's Day, with each box featuring testimonies from local real-life Royal Mail employees. Each design incorporated images of the colleagues' mums, and a heartfelt account of their relationship with them, and how recent lockdown restrictions may be impacting them. The Mothers' Day postboxes were located in Inverness, Lisburn, Pontypridd, and Liverpool. The special postboxes will feature their decoration for one month before returning to their usual colour.

Royal Mail is also trialling a new uniform for its postmen and postwomen, designed to 'better reflect the modern delivery round' and based on feedback from postmen and postwomen across the UK. The new-look uniform will retain Royal Mail's iconic red colour and will be trialled for a twelve-week period on a range of delivery rounds across the nation. If successful, the designs will replace the current uniforms worn by Royal Mail postmen and women.

The new-look posties have been kept busier than ever thanks to



the recently introduced parcel pick-up service. According to initial data, postmen and postwomen have collected over one million parcels since launch, with growth accelerating during the festive period and following the reintroduction of lockdown measures.

Finally, a number of retail brands will begin trialling Royal Mail's new Sunday delivery service across the UK this month. Royal Mail is currently in discussions with additional retailers about rolling out the service to their customers too. The trial is the first salvo in Royal Mail's move to tap into the seven-day-a-week delivery market as more and more consumers expect Sunday deliveries as part of their online shopping experience.

NEW RDP SIGNATORIES, PAST & PRESENT



Five collectors have been named as new signatories of the prestigious Roll of Distinguished Philatelists for 2021, with the signing ceremony set to take place in Harrogate in September.

The Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists recently agreed that the following philatelists be invited to sign the Roll: Dénes Cziráok, RDP, FRPSL (Hungary), Seija-Riitta Laakso, RDP, FRPSL (Finland), Jose Ramon Moreno, RDP, FRPSL (Spain), Henrik Mouritsen, RDP, FRPSL (Denmark), Randolph Neil, RDP, FRPSL (USA).

The invitation to sign the Roll is the highest and most prestigious of honours in philately, recognising achievement, research, publication and service in many areas of philately. The Roll was instituted in 1921 and the signature of His Majesty King George V appears at its head as the first signatory. Its design contains the names of

42 'Fathers of Philately', great philatelists who would have been invited to sign had they been alive at the time. The initial 39 signatures were added at the first ceremony in Harrogate in May 1921.

This year's signing ceremony, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first signatories to the Roll, will take place on 24 September 2021 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate, during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The venue has been chosen as the very first RDP ceremony took place in Harrogate in 1921. Attendance at the ceremony is open to all.

The centenary of the RDP has also given the Board of Election the chance to correct 'a historic injustice'. The Roll was instigated just after the First World War when there was strong anti-German feeling in Great Britain. Germany had been a strong philatelic nation with many eminent philatelists but when the

42 'Fathers of Philately' were inscribed on the side panels, no German or Austrian names were selected. There were, however, some empty name banners at the bottom of the scroll, four of which were filled in the 1950s, but two remain empty to this day.

The Board of Election, with guidance from Wolfgang Maassen RDP, has selected two eminent philatelists to occupy those spaces, one German and one Austrian. A spokesperson said: 'They undoubtedly deserve selection as "Fathers of Philately" but they also stand to represent many of their countrymen who would also merit inclusion.'

They are Otto Carl Alfred Moschkau (1848-1912) of Germany and Victor Suppantischitsch (1839-1919) of Austria.

You can read full biographies of each signatory, including the posthumous awards, on the website at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news



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AUSTRALIA

Serving and protecting

Australia Post is the latest postal authority to issue stamps to thank and pay tribute to the key workers who have been so vital in the world's fight against the Covid19 pandemic.

Australia Post has released a new set of stamps honouring those who have continued to serve and protect their fellow Australians in the face of the global pandemic, and the associated challenges that came with it.

The Frontline Heroes commemorative stamp issue pays tribute to healthcare workers, Australian Defence Force members and police, educators, and essential services including postal workers, supermarket staff and deliverers of food and other essential items.

Australia Post Executive General Manager Community &

Consumer Nicole Sheffield said the stamp designs represented the everyday heroes who continue to keep the country moving by providing important services to the community. 'These brave individuals have been saviours to us all through the last 12 months, caring for our most vulnerable and helping us cope with the many impacts of COVID-19,' she said. 'Healthcare workers have tested millions, Australian Defence Force and the police services have helped monitor our borders and quarantine arrangements, and educators have been quick to adapt to online learning.

'Our posties, delivery drivers and supermarket staff have kept businesses running and provided access to essential products and services, and we thank them together with all Australians for their continued efforts.'

The five \$1.10 stamps were designed by The Australia Post Design Studio and illustrated by Robert Elliott. Associated products include a minisheet, stamp pack, maxicards and first day cover.

Issue date: 16 February 2021, australiapostcollectables.com.au



MONACO

The Kiel Regatta

Monaco's Office des Timbres celebrate the history of the Kiel Regatta – a sporting event which gave Prince Albert I the chance to improve diplomatic relations with Germany – on a new stamp, featuring a design by Martin Mörck.

Driven by his duty as an advocate for peace, Prince Albert I, who had been made aware of the risks of a deterioration in relations between France and Germany, began participating in the Kiel Regatta from 1898 onwards.

The Regatta (held in Kiel, the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany) was a sporting event that attracted members of high society, but it was also – and above all – an opportunity for diplomacy.

Prince Albert I was often accompanied to the German event by French politicians in a bid to promote informal discussions with Emperor Wilhelm II and to try to bring the two nations closer together.

The friendship between Albert I and the Kaiser was based on

their shared passion: marine science. In a coincidence of timing, the two men were together, during the middle of the Kiel Regatta, when they learned about the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on 28 June 1914.

Today the regatta, now known as Kiel Week, is the largest sailing event in the world.

Issue date: 26 February 2021, www.oetp-monaco.com



FAROE ISLANDS

Single stamp honours Faroese pioneer

Described as 'one of the truly great figures of the Faroese labour movement', Andrea Ártung, the chairwoman of Tórshavn's Working Women Association for forty years, appears on a new stamp issued to coincide with International Women's Day.

Andrea Ártung's lifelong dream was finally fulfilled with the labour market wage negotiations in 1977. During tough negotiations with the 85-year-old trade union leader at the head of the workers' representatives, the employers finally agreed to equal pay for men and women. The

hourly wages were increased incrementally year by year until reaching that of men in 1981. Andrea Ártung died on May 30, 1988. She reportedly followed with interest social developments and debates until she finally passed way.

Issue date: 8 March 2021, en.stamps.fo



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GUERNSEY

Philatelic fruit and veg

Guernsey Post have released new stamps for Alderney in recognition of the UN's International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. The stamps featured colourful designs by Guernsey artist Petra Palmeri.

The stamps feature a diverse selection of fruits including strawberries, which are some of the most popular berry fruits in the world, along with physalis, or Cape gooseberry, which is a South American plant native to Peru and Colombia. Oranges, a highly nutritious citrus fruit, also feature, along with brightly coloured tomatoes and quince, which contain a high level of pectin – perfect for making jams and other preserves. Completing the set are vibrantly coloured carrots, which are some of the most versatile root vegetables around; colourful peas, which grow inside long, plump pods and are rich in nutrients; and, onions and garlic, which are cooking staples in many homes thanks to their distinctive flavours and aroma, not to mention their health benefits.

Artist Petra Palmeri said: 'It is a privilege and an honour to be able to create the still life fruits and vegetables for Guernsey Post's stamps. I have really enjoyed painting them and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. These are the first set of stamps I have worked on and it is an overwhelming feeling to know that my artwork could be seen around the world'

Issue date: 7 April 2021, www.guernseystamps.com



JERSEY

Jersey's coastal wildlife

Jersey seabirds and marine life are the subject of a set of six stamps and a souvenir coin. The stamps are part of the 2021 Europa stamp issue, Endangered National Wildlife and have been illustrated by national science illustrator Sara Menon, with two stamps in the set featuring the Europa logo.

Each year, European postal administrations are given a stamp issue title to interpret and illustrate by PostEurop, the trade association that has been representing European postal operators since 1993. The aim of the joint stamp issue is to build awareness of each other's culture and history, with Europa stamps eagerly sought by collectors around the world. Endangered National Wildlife is the title for 2021.

An island with a mild climate and varied coastline, Jersey is both a home and a resting point for a multitude of birds and sea creatures. Featured on the six stamps are: the Atlantic puffin, the loggerhead turtle, the orca, the bottlenose dolphin, the Balearic shearwater and the grey seal, all of which have been spotted in the waters and around the coastal areas of Jersey. The two Europa stamps featuring the Atlantic puffin and the Balearic shearwater have also been presented together in a souvenir miniature sheet.



Award-winning artist Sara Menon lives and works in Aquileia in Italy. She started work as a natural science illustrator in 2002 and today continues to do a lot of work with scientific publications and museums. Sara works in watercolour, pen and ink, pencils and other traditional media. Her work is characterised by very fine details, with hyper-realism being her strong point. In addition to the forthcoming Endangered National Wildlife stamps, Sara created the designs for Jersey Post's 2017 stamp issue, Durrell & Darwin.

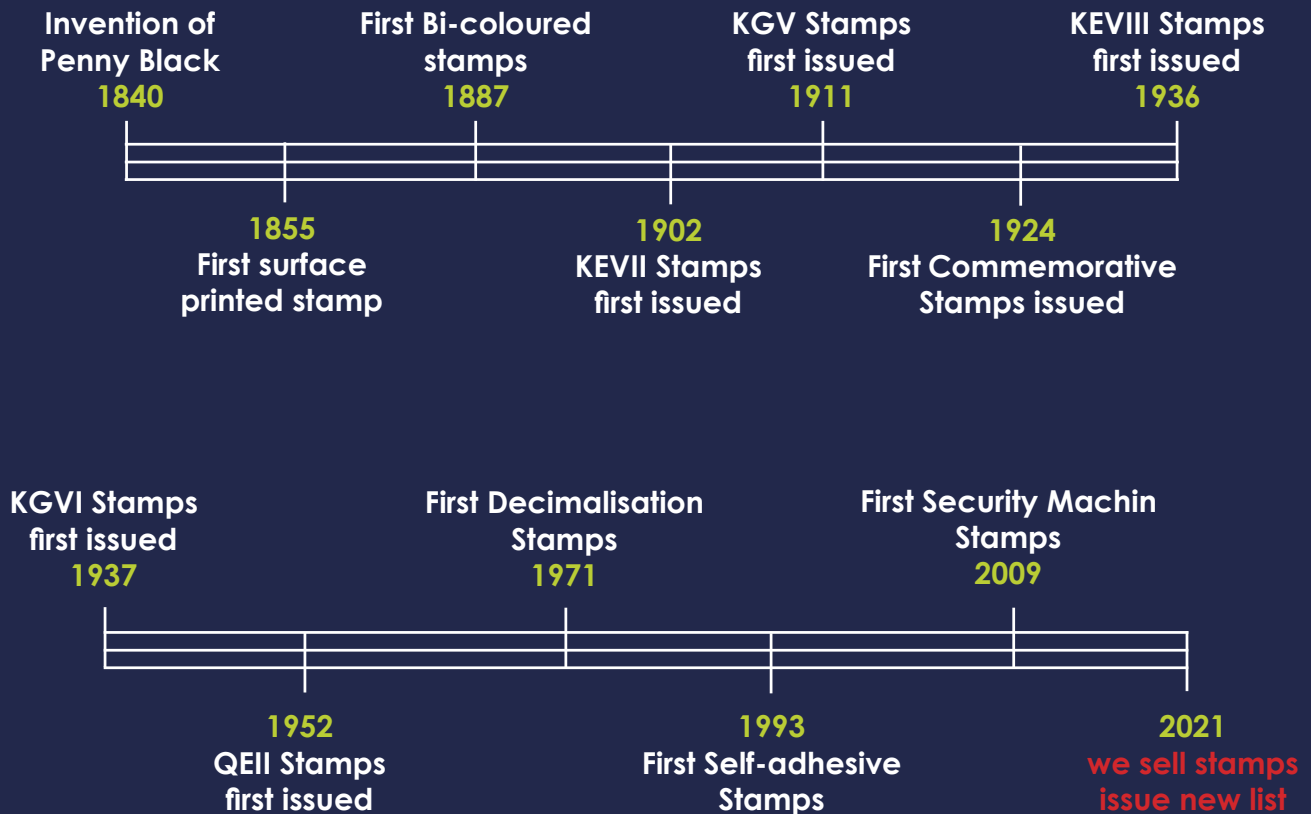
To accompany the stamp issue, Jersey Post has produced fifty strictly limited edition souvenir coins. The face of the coin features an Atlantic puffin, whilst the reverse features an image of Jersey, with an 'X' indicating where on the Island the puffins can be sighted. The silver-plated coin will be presented in an oak presentation box with a numbered certificate of authentication.

Issue date: 11 March 2021, www.jerseystamps.com



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GB STAMPS

The Legend of King Arthur

The tales surrounding King Arthur, the sword in the stone, knights of the round table and the wizard Merlin, are rooted in the 5th and 6th centuries and have captivated people for a millennium and a half. Now Royal Mail add their own interpretation of the stories with a set of ten stamps

At least fifty films have been made retelling the legend of King Arthur and over centuries the stories have come to symbolise part of British identity. So it seems apt for Britain to recount the legends with a set of ten stamps, which each design featuring an original illustration by artist Jaime Jones depicting key moments in the life of King Arthur.

The five 1st class and five £1.70 stamps show dramatic scenes that come together to chart the life of the legend. On the first design, Merlin holds baby Arthur, the future king, whose origins remain shrouded in mystery, and in Merlin's power, until Arthur is revealed to be Uther Pendragon's rightful son and heir. Arthur's birthright to the crown

of England, according to later romance traditions, is confirmed when he pulls out the sword in view of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the whole court, as seen on the second design.

Arthur's famed sword, Excalibur, is the gift of the Lady of the Lake – seen on the stamp as an arm rising from the water – and a symbol of his tutelage by Merlin and his mission in the world. Despite Merlin's warnings, Arthur chooses Guinevere as his wife, and we see the couple illustrated on the fourth value. Her dowry, Malory tells us, is the Round Table, which Arthur will use to build a fellowship of knights united around the values of loyalty and equality, and the knights can be seen meeting around the table.

On the sixth stamp Arthur's nephew and chief counsellor, Sir



Gawain, swings his axe to chop off the head of the Green Knight, whose deadly Christmas game of blows startles Arthur's court and challenges its values.

We see more action on the seventh stamp with Lancelot's slaying of the dragon, an act that is said to show God's grace granted to Lancelot in the fight with the Devil/darkness, despite Lancelot's own sins.

Sir Galahad, the pure knight, is the epitome of perfection among Round Table knights, and the



opposite of his father, Lancelot. His unique success in the Grail Quest reveals the moral failures of Arthurian chivalry, and is represented with an image showing him kneeling before Joseph of Arimathea.

As our stamp story comes to a conclusion we see Arthur and Mordred meet one last time in battle, fulfilling their destiny: Arthur's, to be mortally wounded by his own son, and Mordred's, to commit the sin of patricide and treason. Finally, the tenth stamp shows the wounded Arthur departing for Avalon on a barge driven by three queens. This represents hope for the king's return, and the agency of women in healing and in preserving his memory and stories.



Postmarks and souvenirs

Compared to recent issues from Royal Mail, this ten-stamp set has a rather modest accompaniment of related souvenirs. A First Day Cover retails at £15.95; a presentation pack is £13.65; a pack of the postcards, recreating the designs is available for £4.50; as are a variety of stamp sheets.

The standard Tallents House

postmark for this set features King Arthur's Excalibur sword being raised from the water. The alternative postmark features the words 'King Arthur' in a stylised font. According to Thomas Malory's 'Le Morte Darthur' – one of the best-known accounts of the legends – Camelot is in Winchester, which has been chosen as the alternative postmark location.

STAMP DETAILS

Issue date: 16 March 2021
Illustrations: Jaime Jones
Stamp Size: 35mm x 35mm
Printer: International Security Printers
Print Process: Lithography
Perforations: 14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor Bars: as appropriate
Gum: PVA

WIN THE STAMPS!

We have presentation packs to give away in our regular competition, courtesy of Royal Mail. The Presentation Pack is a beautifully illustrated and fact-packed souvenir written by Professor Raluca Radulescu, a specialist in Arthurian legend. The pack explores the origins of Arthur and gives a fascinating background to the various interpretations through the ages in art and literature. Each of the ten mint stamps contained in the pack features an original illustration by artist Jaime Jones depicting key moments in the life of King Arthur which have gone on to become legendary stories re-imagined over centuries.

For your chance to win, just visit the website at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/competitions and answer the following question:

What is the name of castle and court most associated with King Arthur?

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

Closing date: 14 May 2021. Editor's decision is final. Ten winners will be picked at random from the correct entries. Good luck.

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MARKET INSIGHT

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



A registered cover sent from Pest, Hungary to the Pope in Rome was recently offered by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions and quickly surpassed the modest £100 pre-sale estimate. The cover dated 23 July 1868 was addressed (translation) 'To His Holiness Governing Successor to Christ, to the Glorious Reigning Pope Pius IXth, the Supreme Head of the Holy Roman Catholic World Church, most Hallowed, Revered and Benevolent Father, in Rome'. The cover featured a boxed 'AJANLOTT' on the front along with pair of 25kr stamps, just tied by a single very fine

'PEST' circular date stamp. The reverse of the cover featured a pair of 3kr tied by the same 'PEST' cds. The cover's journey was recorded with transit cds on the reverse including 'TORINO-FIRENZE/2-B' and 'VENEZIA' as well as a smudged Rome arrival cds.

SOLD FOR £4,400



The 'Legend of the Dragon Collection' of Imperial China was recently sold by Kelleher & Rogers in Hong Kong, with the iconic Large and Small Dragon issues of the Ching Dynasty being the highlights of the sale. The selection included a 'dazzling' complete sheet of the 1878 5c orange Large Dragon on thin paper, with selvage all around.

SOLD FOR £64,800



'Once considered as variations of issued stamps of little interest and frequently ignored by stamp catalogues, unusual watermark varieties today count among the most highly sought philatelic rarities,' write the experts at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions. Their recent British Empire & Foreign Countries auction achieved a total figure of £520,771 'due in no small part to the prices achieved by these popular varieties'. Amongst the watermark varieties on offer was a Falkland Islands 1881 4d grey-black showing watermark upright reversed.

SOLD FOR £3,348



The recent two-day Worldwide & GB auction at Cavendish Philatelic Auctions saw nearly 90% of the lots selling on the day, at a total close to £100,000 over pre-sale estimates. Amongst the highlights was a selection of hand-drawn pictorial covers, such as this unique hand-made envelope in the shape of a fish with fins, scales and eyes, sent locally within Taunton and dated February 1843.

SOLD FOR £1,800

The Professor David Rockoff Reference Collection of Maltese Crosses went under the hammer at Cavendish with a very fine and distinctive Kelso cross on cover selling for £340. The cover was dated January 1843 and sent to Edinburgh with the Kelso cross cancelling a four-margin 1d red, TL plate 24.



SOLD FOR £340



A 1938-49 3c 'Adam's Peak' value from Ceylon, with the watermark inverted was recently sold at Abacus Auctions in Australia. Featuring a 'GAMPOLA/12DE/43' circular date stamp, the lot was described as being 'very rare error and the only example we have seen.'

SOLD FOR £1,522



An 'insurance cover' from NASA's Apollo 13 mission was recently offered in Daniel F Kelleher's sale of Aerophilately, Rocket Mail and Astrophilately. Featuring a mission emblem designed by the astronauts' friend Al Bishop, the cover was autographed by Lovell, Haise and Mattingly prior to the flight, with the envelopes serving as an 'insurance policy' in the event of disaster. After Mattingly was replaced for medical reasons the mission experienced a catastrophic explosion that cancelled the planned moon landing, as recreated in the award-winning film *Apollo 13*. The auction description added that the stamp, 'as often seen', is not tied to the cover.

SOLD FOR £1,540



Spink recently sold this 1931 envelope which was carried on the RAF survey flight preliminary phase by Flying-boat S.1162 from Brunei to Singapore. The cover is marked 'By Air Mail', franked at 30c, with a framed 'AIR MAIL/BRUNEI' cachet and shows a Brunei datestamp alongside with arrival datestamp for 9 April on the reverse. The item was described as being rare since 'only ten items of mail were carried.'

**SOLD FOR
£2,000**



Christoph Gaertner recently sold an 1897 Red Revenue 4c on 3c small figure stamp of China. The stamp was described as 'very fine and wonderfully fresh, good colour, cancelled copies are much rarer than mint.'

SOLD FOR £13,260

STAMP DETECTIVE

Chinese post offices in Tibet

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

At the beginning of the 20th century, the status of Tibet was rather unclear. In the autumn of 1909, China sent its army into Tibet defeating the local resistance at Chamdo. Later, the Chinese occupied Lhasa, the Tibetan capital.

It was in this context that the Chinese postal services established a number of post offices in several Tibetan cities in 1909 first using contemporary Chinese stamps. In 1911, a set of 11 values was issued for the Chinese Post offices in Tibet with denominations in Indian currency (pies, annas and rupees) overprinted in Chinese, English and Tibetan. This is a very scarce set as only 3,704 stamps were sold of the 2 rupees value.

The Three Pies value saw a printing of 72,200 stamps which makes it affordable in mint condition. Many collectors specialise in Number Ones of the world (i.e. the very first stamp ever issued by a country or territory). There will always be demand for this stamp which currently sells for more than £20 in mounted mint condition. It is not only of interest to No. One collectors but also to philatelists specialising in Tibet and China.

The 1911 revolution in China resulted in a revolt in Lhasa and the Chinese troops stationed there had to be evacuated by way of India the following year. The last Chinese post office on Tibetan territory was closed in 1918 when the Tibetan authorities regained control of Chamdo.



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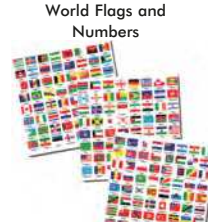
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Hong Kong, Maximum card \$20 Queen Elizabeth II (SG210) 1962

SOLD FOR £4,450



Former Italy Grand Duchy of Tuscany, Letter franked strip of 3x 20c dark blue from Marciana Marina 1860 to Napoli

SOLD FOR £801



France, Unissued 100 black 'Marianne de Dulac, Trésor Central' MNH

SOLD FOR £694.2



Germany, Winter rescue issue 40p+35p transatlantic liner Bremen MNH 1937 (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £409



Kenya & Uganda, £10 KGV black & green 1922 used

SOLD FOR £360



Belgium, 5c Caritas 1910 Lemaire in block of 4, overprinted 1911, variety double overprint on the stamps on the right side (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £667



German former state Wurttemberg, 18kr blue used 1859

SOLD FOR £364



Greece, 1933 definitive MLH

SOLD FOR £400



Senegal, block of four 1f violet (instead of carmine) definitive 1938 MNH

SOLD FOR £347

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INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

Few 100's on Hagners with Pakistan KG6 to 5R's, good page Newfoundland, Cape triangular 1d (on blue) 4d, 6d, rectangular to 5/=-, Brunei River Scenes to \$1 (2 different) good Mauritius from imperfs. Useful lot. Cat £4280 **£475.00**

Some 100's all mint with New Zealand 1909-16 Comb perf set, 1936 to 3/=-, Mauritius 1937 set to 10R, Turks and Caicos 1937 set to 10/=-, first QE2 sets for Nyasaland, Montserrat, Nigeria, Seychelles etc all complete. An exceptionally clean lot Cat £2420 **£345.00**

34 better items inc Canada mint KG5 range (£122) St. Helena used mainly QV range to 6d, (£125) Cape 4d triangle, V. Fine Bahamas QV 1/- on piece, Cyprus 1/2 d O'Print on G.B. A useful lot Cat £835 **£85.00**

FOREIGN

140 plus M/S, an unusual lot inc 1898 Thessaly set of 5, Austria inc 1918 Air set (M) P.O's in Turkey, Lombardy - Venetia from 1850 30c, 1859 10s etc. Useful early mint Italy, Albania 1938 Anniversary M/S etc. Very useful lot Cat £3800 **£350.00**

BRITISH EUROPE

Mainly mint range (57) inc Ireland 1957 Admiral Brown, '58 Aikenhead (these UNM) range (duplicated) KG6 Gib to 2/- (2) Cyprus 1928 1 1/2 pi - 9pi, Malta small range etc Cat £500+ **£70.00**

BRITISH AFRICA

200+ with useful Sierra Leone from first types, further QV to 1/-, few K.Ed, KG5, useful K.U.T with KG5 to 5/=-, KG6 to 5/=-, S. Rhodesia inc 1935 Jubilee (M) .O.F.S to 1/-, Transvaal K.Ed to 10/=- (FU) Swaziland KG6 2d complete sheet of 60 etc. Very useful range Cat £800 **£110.00**

AUSTRIA

Huge collection on leaves from few earlyies, 1922 Musicians (M) 1930 Anti T.B, 1936 Relief Fund, 1950 Plebiscite, 1972 Views set, 1970-97 fairly complete in Howids, all checked were UNM. A good lot Cat £3200 **£375.00**

BAHRAIN

50+ with KG5 to 8as, KG6 to 2R, O'Prints on G.B to 5R on 5/=-, 1960 set etc **£30.00**

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

50 from triangs (9) to 6d fair to fine, rectangulars inc 1876 1d on 1/-, K.Ed to 1/- Cat £3460 **£265.00**

FRANCE

French P.O's and Colonies 65+ M/S (2) with small (17) UNM range Polynesia, Madagascar 1946 to 20Fr (M) P.O's in Crete inc Merson 1Fr (M) 8pi on 2Fr FU (scarce) 5Fr FU Cameroon M/S for first man on the moon (Yvert 7, 7a) UNM etc Cat £960+ **£120.00**

Colonies Few 100's on home made leaves with Alexandria 1899 to 25c, 1902 to 50c, 1921 to 25c etc, Anjouan 1892 to 10c, S'Charges Benin from 1892 4c, 1893 vals to 40c, extensive C.A.R etc **£65.00**

IRELAND

11 O'Prints on G.B, mixed types to 2/6, 5/=-, 10/=- odd tiny fault. Cat £626 **£100.00**

ITALY

Colonies 200+ with Eritrea from 1893 inc 1933 set, Ethiopia 1936 set, various Colonial Institute sets, Corfu to 1L etc Cat £755 **£95.00**

LUXEMBURG

160 mainly mint from 1859, strength in mid period inc 1938 Abbey set, 1940 Hindenburg O'Print set, 1945 Lion set (FU) 1948 Charlotte range to 2Fr, good Officials etc Cat £1640 **£200.00**

MALTA

40 better items inc 1/2 d buff (3) 1886 5/- (FU) 1902 Pnney error in pair with normal, K.Ed 5/- mint & FU (grossly under catalogued) 1926 3/- (UNM) 1925 dues (UNM) 1948 1/6- 10/- UNM (2) etc. Useful lot Cat £1200+ **£235.00**

MONGOLIA

22 from 1924 5c, 1926 to 50mung (M) 1932 Pictorials most to 10 tug. Unused Cat £300+ **£60.00**

NETHERLANDS

Colonies About 140 with Curacao 1873 5c, 10c (M) 25c, 50c, FU, 1936 Wilhelmina set (M) 1946 Aid set (FU) Suriname, 1873 most to 40c (unused) see note in S.G., 1936 Wilhelmina set (M) 1929 Green Cross etc. Clean lot Cat £1070 **£135.00**

NEW ZEALAND

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Australian Bayer stampman_dave, of Carlisle North, WA recently offered this c.1862 imperforate 1d orange, described as having a feint top thin, at US \$50.42 with \$3 shipping

eBayUK seller Worldstamps4U of Beverley, Humberside recently offered this 1872 2d Vermillion, described as mint no gum, at £40 BIN, plus 50p postage

US eBay robertmillsstamps of Byron, NY recently offered this lot of three, described as unwatermarked imperforate 1857 – 1863 1d, 2d and 6d, each with faults, at US \$71.40 with US \$2 shipping

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

A New Zealand Chalon Head?

These Queen Victoria full-face beauties served most of New Zealand's postal needs from 1855 to 1874. You can count on finding an example to match your collecting budget at somewhere between a few £s and a few thousands of pounds, as Ed Fletcher reveals in his regular market guide

New Zealand's first postage stamps, issued in 1855, displayed a striking image of Queen Victoria. The central design derived from an 1838 oil painting by Alfred Edward Chalon which displayed a full-length portrait of the monarch in her state robes at the time of her coronation in 1837. A watercolour sketch of Victoria's head and shoulders as displayed in the oil painting was later created by artist Edward Corbould; and from it Perkins Bacon's engraver William Humphrys designed the stamp which was soon spoken of as the Chalon Head. Some collectors, especially in New Zealand, call them Full Face Queens, acknowledging that on most stamps throughout the world profile portraits of monarchs and rulers were expected on postage stamps. The intricately engraved background surrounding and framing the portrait was produced by a Perkins rose-engine, the same machine used almost two decades earlier to engrave the background for the GB Penny Black. Acknowledged throughout the philatelic world as classics, Chalon Heads first went on sale in New Zealand in 1855,

commencing a run of continuous use that was to last until 1874.

From the early 1850s New Zealand's Government had seriously considered the introduction of adhesive pre-payment postage stamps modelled on the designs used in the Mother Country since 1840. Discussions took place with London printers Perkins, Bacon & Co, both sides agreeing that their beloved monarch must take pride of place, and as prominently as possible, on stamps used by her loyal colonists in the distant antipodes. It did not seem inappropriate to New Zealanders to have on their stamps an image of the Queen in the coronation robes she had worn two decades earlier. Many had brought from Britain similar portraits (some were already proud owners of Chalon Coronation prints), to hang on the walls of their colonial homes. What better than postage stamps to match; and to remind them of their other homes?

The first NZ Chalon Heads, recess printed at Perkins Bacon's London printing works, included a 1d (vermillion), a 2d (dull blue) and a 1s (yellow-green); all with a large star watermark; and all



eBayUK seller roostamp of Huntingdon, UK offered this 1857-63 6d pale brown, described as fine used, for £73 (buy it now)



US eBay seller cf9100 of East Moriches, New York, USA recently offered this imperforate, used 6d, described as trimmed on the right side and corners, for US \$103 plus shipping



Canadian eBay, Gold Silver Guy of Nanaimo, British Columbia recently offered this imperforate 6d red-brown, described as having 3 full margins; partial bottom margin with small clip lower right corner at C\$199 plus shipping

Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions recently sold this 1866 envelope (flap missing) from NZ to Scotland bearing two perf 12½ 2d and a 6d, tied by barred ovals and small C/R.P.O.FD. The hammer price was £150

Empire Philatelists, Henley-on-Thames, recently had this 1863 2d dull deep blue, described as no watermark; thick paper and fine used, for sale at £195 with free shipping



Empire Philatelists, Henley-on-Thames, recently had this 1859 6d bistre-brown, described as fine used, and selling for £195 with free shipping

imperforate. The first printing included 12,000 of the 1d; 66,000 of the 2d, and 8,000 of the 1s, with the contract completed in September 1854. All stamps, together with the printing plates and further supplies of watermarked paper, were then shipped to New Zealand and put on sale from 18th July 1855. Those London printings eventually became the most prized among worldwide collectors. For example, a single mint 1s fetched £69,000 in 2006. Ironically one of the reasons why prices for early NZ stamps occasionally reach such heights had its beginnings in the letter writing habits of the colonists. Throughout New Zealand no law prevented pre-payment of letters in hard cash until April 1862, despite postage stamps being readily available during seven years prior to that date. Thus fewer stamps from those 1855 to 1862

years are available for rich collectors to compete over at auction today.

In March 1857, the postage rate on half ounce letters to the United Kingdom was reduced to 6d, but it was not until 8 August 1859 that a 6d value was issued in brown. The plate was again made by Perkins, Bacon in London and shipped to the colony. Shades include bistre brown, chestnut and deep to pale brown. Along with other values – 3d in 1863, 4d in 1865 – all were by then printed in New Zealand.

Marked changes had occurred after April 1862 when gold discoveries in the colony boosted the economy. Suddenly letters to the Mother Country telling of gold strikes, or placing orders for goldfield equipment, or for what had hitherto seemed overpriced luxuries, stoked demand for postage stamps. Supplies

of the star watermarked paper that Perkins Bacon had initially exported had quickly run out. Two colonial printers in Auckland – J. Richardson and J. Davies – had risen to the challenge by produced their own papers, solving the problem, but at the same time, adding to the complexities for modern collectors by using both unwatermarked and watermarked stock. Although there are only two watermarks to be aware of (Large Star and Large NZ) their periods of use were interspersed with runs of unwatermarked printings.

Even more complicated until you have handled large numbers of NZ Chalon Heads comes the challenge of sorting out the methods which were used to remove individual stamps from their sheets. At first (in 1855) the job was done, as in the days of the GB Penny Black, with



Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions recently sold this 1857-63 imperforate 2d. pale blue, used horizontal strip of three, described as having good even margins all round; one stamp with a heavy crease, otherwise fine and lightly cancelled. The hammer price was £200



£342

North Staffs Stamps of Stoke-on-Trent recently offered this 1862 1s deep green, describing it as a good used stamp on very thin pelure paper. The selling price was £342

Australian dealer shieldsstamps recently offered this NZ - GB, via Marseilles, scarce 10d rate Chalon imperforates cover, described as franked by 1862-3 2d Blue pair (margins almost all round) and 1862 6d black-brown (pelure paper), tied or cancelled by unclear barred ovals, with London (12 Mar) arrival cds alongside. The BIN price was AU \$1,800, with AU \$30 shipping



£1,000



£1,035

Mowbray Collectables of New Zealand recently had this 1855 1s pale yellow-green lot in a forthcoming auction, described as on blued paper, imperforate, with 3 margins and star watermark. The auctioneer's estimated hammer price was NZ \$2,000

a large pair of scissors wielded by the post office counter clerk. The task was made trickier by the extremely narrow margins between stamps on the sheets. That is why premium prices are usually asked for stamps with four clearly defined margins. Attempts to speed up the separating witnessed the introduction, from 1859, of various roulettes, all of them yielding stamps with ragged margins. Perforating machines came into use in 1862; but a small number of imperforate stamps were still on sale in 1864. Chalon Head issues continued until 1874 when

lithographed profile stamps in various designs replaced them.

Differentiating the numerous colour shades encountered will prove even more of a challenge until you immerse yourself in NZ Chalon Heads prior to parting with money. We have included a dozen examples recently seen on sale or at auction. Before buying familiarize yourself with even more; talk to knowledgeable NZ Chalon Heads collectors; have a look at stamps for sale in trusted dealers' stocks. Buy the best example you can comfortably afford .. and enjoy adding it to your collection.



The original 1837 portrait which inspired the later stamp design

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Denmark	Monaco
Estonia	Netherlands
Faroes	Norway
Finland	Poland
France	Portugal
German States	Romania
Germany	Russia
German Zones	San Marino
West Germany	Spain
West Berlin	Sweden
DDR Greece	Switzerland
Greenland	Vatican
Hungary	Yugoslavia
Iceland	
Ireland	
Italy	

COMMONWEALTH

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

REST OF WORLD

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

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

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POSTCARDS

The Lost and the Saved

A big story in 2020 was the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis was the spark and in Britain the statue of slave trade magnate Edward Colston was tipped into Bristol Harbour as the realisation became widespread that many of our large towns and cities owe their original fortunes directly or indirectly to the transatlantic slave trade. Growing discomfort and knowledge of how this money was made began as early as the 1780s with the dilemma being that abolition of slavery would have a major economic impact, hence the fudged solution of abolition of the slave trade by Britain and the USA in 1807. However, slavery itself was not abolished in the Empire until 1833 and the States only resolved the issue with the Civil War.

Meanwhile slavery continued elsewhere and amazingly is featured on Edwardian postcards. A Raphael Tuck postcard on Morocco has an artist's impression of the slave market in Marrakesh and even worse the publisher's description of how the market operates which ends: 'The buyers squat round the walls of the market making bids for such as take their fancy.'

The second illustration is a card sent by Amy to Bella apologising 'This is not a very nice card but it is the only one I have in the house'. It's published by the Universities Mission to Central Africa, established by the Anglican Church with the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Dublin called to do so by David Livingstone. H.M.S. *Philomel* served on the Cape of Good Hope Station and spent many years intercepting slave traders along the coast of Africa. Freed by the Royal Navy, the slaves were then a captive audience for the missionaries and when converted were resettled at the mission station at Masasi in today's Tanzania.



SOCIETY UPDATE

The Great Britain Philatelic Society is to hold a joint meeting with the Collectors Club of New York as part of their programme of talks by some of the world's leading specialist organisations. The meeting will feature some of the world's best collections of British stamps and postal history. Further details will be available nearer the date. The talk will take place on Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 10.30 p.m. (5.30 p.m. EDT). You can find more information and register your interest at www.collectorsclub.org/society-program-series. Full details of the Great Britain Philatelic Society can be found at www.gbpc.org.uk

The Royal Philatelic Society London continue to hold virtual meetings with great success. 172 Fellows, Members and guests in eighteen countries attended Kim Stuckey's excellent presentation 'On British Ice', the story of British Expeditions to the Antarctic in the 1950s. The philatelic material included many rare and unusual usages of the 1954 Falkland Islands Dependencies issue accompanied by contemporary photographs and ephemera of the expeditions. President Richard Stock said: 'It was an entertaining and informative presentation of an unusual and fascinating subject thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. Congratulations Kim and our sincere thanks!'

Read more about our featured societies at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/collecting-resources/featured-societies

The Channel Islands Specialists' Society



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

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

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



Want to be included in the Society Directory and as a Featured Society on the www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website?

Please contact Kay Cotterill on 01778 395065; email: kay.cotterill@warnersgroup.co.uk to find out more.

STAMP QUIZ

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...

- 1** Which African country was first to issue non-colonial postage stamps?
- 2** What were the two oils postmaster had to mix with printer's ink to make obliterator ink for cancelling the first Penny Blacks in 1840?
- 3** In which year was a GB 4½d stamp first issued?
- 4** Which country was first to use catapult mail; and in which year?
- 5** Which king is portrayed on the 1886 first stamp of the Protectorate Kingdom of Tonga?
- 6** Which ship features on the 1.50 franc stamp issued by France in 1935?
- 7** Which sport is celebrated on the 3 cent 1928 Netherlands Olympics stamp?
- 8** What 1925 event was celebrated in Norway with a set of Air stamps?
- 9** What production method was used to create Portugal's first postage stamps in 1853?
- 10** Which ruler appeared on the first stamps of Liechtenstein?

**How did you do?**

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

CINDERELLAS

England-Continent Ferry

A century ago poster stamps were frequently used to promote not only exhibitions and important anniversaries but also all kinds of products and services, writes Christer Brunström. Typical examples are the poster stamps used by The Zeeland Shipping Company (Stoomvaart Maatschappij 'Zeeland') based in the Dutch city of Vlissingen in the south-western corner of the Netherlands.

Vlissingen is quite unusual as it has a name in English: Flushing. In his diaries, Samuel Pepys makes reference to Flushing which in the 17th century was the main harbour of the Dutch East India Company.

In 1876, the Zeeland Shipping Co. Inaugurated a new ferry service linking Flushing with the port of Queenborough (spelt Queenboro on the poster stamps). Queenborough is located on the Isle of Sheppey in the county of Kent. The town has a very long maritime history.

Starting in 1887, there were two daily sailings between the two ports which is mentioned on the poster stamps. They were probably printed and used much later.

There are two distinctly different versions of the stamps. The English version has the wording Queenboro-Flushing and England-Continent while the labels in Dutch refer to the Vlissinger Post Route also mentioning daytime and night sailings.

These two poster stamps exist in a variety of colours and whilst they are not particularly scarce, they are certainly intriguing.

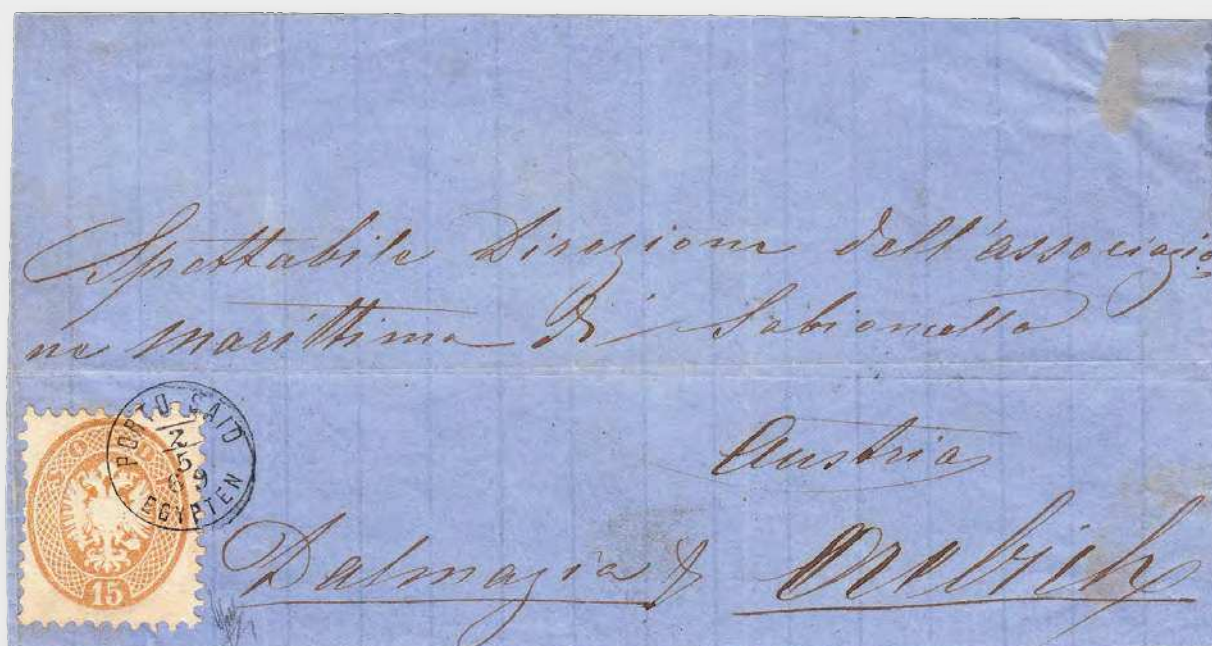
The Queenborough-Flushing service had its ups and downs over the years mainly due to fires destroying the Queenborough pier. In 1927, the shipping line abandoned Queenboro in preference of Harwich.



Austria's unique survivors

This month's treasured item sheds light not just on the postal system of the time, but of the history of the world, its people, and the politics that influences us to this day.

Devlan Kruck unravels the story



Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I (1830 to 1916) was also the King of Hungary, Croatia, and Bohemia, and monarch of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He's a fascinating fellow if you care to dig around in the history files. Not least because quite a few of his closest and dearest came to a premature end during his reign, and this was after he survived an assassination attempt on his own life in 1853, when he was stabbed in the neck, the wound not fatal only because he wore a high collared uniform.

However, other members of his family were not so fortunate. In 1867 his brother was executed in Mexico. In 1889 his only son and heir committed suicide. His wife was assassinated in 1898, and his nephew and heir presumptive was also murdered in 1914. That's just the close family. There are a fair few others who died around him during

this time because the Balkans and much of Europe was a hotbed for wars and border disputes.

But let's not hold this against a man who was clearly a unique survivor, going on to become one of the longest ever serving monarchs in European history and more importantly he, like many other astute emperors and monarchs who trit-trotted around the globe at the time, made sure they had set up foreign post offices to facilitate communication.

In fact, Franz Joseph I's Austrian Post Office in Egypt was among the great and good of Europe, which included the Post Offices of Germany, Russia, Great Britain and France. All who, like Franz Joseph I, were canny enough to see the commercial and strategic importance of the region. And when our featured cover set off from the Egyptian shores in 1869, Franz Joseph I was making his way to the Egyptian shores himself. He travelled on board the screw-driven

This month's treasure is the only known example of a '15s light-brown perf 9½' Coat of Arms issue used on a cover in Port Said

frigate SMS *Viribus Unitis* – meaning 'With United Forces' the Emperor's personal motto, the SMS stands for *Seiner Majestät Schiff* or 'His Majesty's Ship' – to the opening of the Suez Canal, which the French had been constructing for the previous decade.

Now the Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian Navy at the time was a chap by the name Wilhelm von Tegetthoff (1827 to 1871) and with such an important passenger as the Emperor, Tegetthoff oversaw arrangements for ferrying Franz Joseph I to this Suez pow-wow. And these two Austrian big-wigs had an emotional connection: when Franz Joseph's brother, Ferdinand Maximilian (as noted above) was executed by the Mexican government of Benito Juárez, the Emperor sent Tegetthoff to Mexico to bring his body back home, which he did in January 1868.

So, our Naval Chief was a trusted hand, and considered to be one of the best naval officers of the 19th ►

CONVERSATIONS WITH PHILATELISTS

Collecting contacts

► century. And like most of the important nautical captains of the Austro-Hungarian Imperial and Royal War Navy, Tegetthoff spent much of his time, when on land, based in Orebic, which is a port town on the Dalmatian coast in Croatia. The vessel and crew chosen to be Franz Joseph I's floating Royal carriage would leave the very place our cover was travelling to, and coincidentally this Austria cover had come from precisely the place Franz Joseph I, under the watchful eye of our Naval Chief Tegetthoff, was heading, namely Port Said, which you'll be aware is conveniently positioned at northern end of the Suez Canal.

Now the reason for elaborating on all this is because it coincided with a unique philatelic occurrence with our featured cover. In keeping with arrangements on the ground in Port Said, the Austrian Levant Post Office used their own stamps, and the one they chose to use for this mailing is pretty unusual being the '15s light-brown perf 9½' Coat of Arms issue. Now the important point here is that this is the 'only' recorded use of this issue on a cover in Port Said, which like our Emperor is the only survivor.

It's an reminder that the material from this period and region is not just important in philatelic terms but serves as a looking glass into world history. A little delving in the archives and you uncover real-life stories of nations and monarchs – including their unfortunate relatives – wars, historical events, politics and changes in social behaviour.

That's not to mention that there will be those who won't understand why the cover is addressed to 'Austria, Dalmatian, Orebic', given Croatia is now a country in its own right, and there have been several wars fought over it in the intervening period. Suffice to say our featured cover offers us a snapshot into history, proving that collectable pieces like this become even more valuable when you take the time to look a little closer.

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 Michael Cortese, and alongside Charles Epting, I co-host the podcast 'Conversations with Philatelists'. This issue we will be looking back on our interviews this past February. The month started off with an interview that we had been looking forward to for some time – Larry Rosenblum. Larry started his career as a philatelic writer back in the 1980s. An advisor for two philatelic societies, and a member of many more, Larry Rosenblum has spent the better part of four decades writing about and promoting the hobby. During the interview, we discussed his book, *An Introduction to the Stamps of Great Britain*, and his love for the Machin.

Following Larry, we interviewed Roy Betts, a name not soon forgotten. Roy is the Senior Public Relations Representative in Corporate Communications for the United States Postal Service (USPS), meaning that he is in charge of promoting all new USPS issues to the general public. As a second generation US Postal Service employee, Roy reflected on the career path that brought him to his position today, and gave us an inside look at how stamps are marketed to the public.

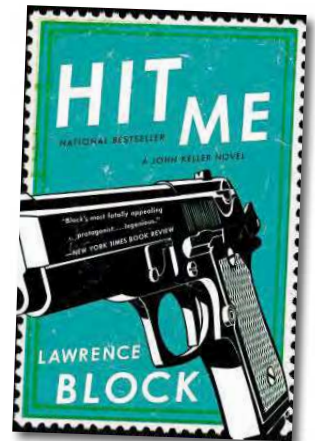
In mid-February, we launched a mini-episode in which we talked to the sponsors and partners of the Philatelic Traders' Society Virtual Stampex show. We discussed the upcoming show with Heinrich Koehler, The Royal Philatelic Society London, Spink, and the American Philatelic Society.

The third full episode for February was one that Charles and I felt quite personally invested in. We spoke with Marcus Orsi and Ricky Verra of David Feldman, on the importance of mentorship for young professional philatelists. Marcus also reflected on the changing nature of full-time dealers and auction houses in the hobby. I feel this is one of the most important conversations we have held thus far.

To finish up February, we spoke with Lawrence Block, an award-winning fiction writer who also moonlit as a philatelic columnist from 2009-2012. In our conversation, Lawrence reflects on his time as a philatelist, and talks about the representation of philately in works of fiction, and how his passion for it shaped character development in his well known 'Keller' series, whose main character is a stamp collecting serial killer. February was a month full of especially engaging conversations, as we hosted such a wide variety of different guests. It was inspiring to witness how philately impacts and touches people's lives in different ways.



Michael (top right) and Charles chat to Roy Betts, the Senior Public Relations Representative for the United States Postal Service



Michael and Charles recently chatted to author Lawrence Block, who combines philately and crime in many of his popular novels



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

This year we're marking the fiftieth anniversary of decimalisation, a major change in Britain's currency that changed stamps and coins forever. As she continues her exploration of the hobby, newcomer Laura McInerney wonders how stamps were affected by the change and exactly why old stamps used 'd' rather than today's 'p' for pence

If you're ever in need of cheering up, I strongly recommend finding the Max Bygraves 'Decimalisation song' (you can watch it over on our sister website allaboutcoins.co.uk) and playing it at full whack. Trumpets blast out as Bygraves jubilantly declares, "there's a hundred new pennies now for every pound", in the sort of voice usually reserved for celebrating the end of a war.

It's now fifty years since the United Kingdom decimalised its currency, as noted in a recent *Stamp Collector* article by Larry Haber (March edition). The history surrounding the event is fascinating in itself. It also coincided with a postal strike ensuring all kinds of fun collectors' items from February 1971, including very delayed first day covers.

For the beginner collector of Great British stamps, decimalisation is a critical concept in categorising stamps. Most auction catalogues and information books batch stamps by monarch: the two Edwards, the two Georges, Victoria and Elizabeth II. It makes sense to do this because the monarch's head appears on all stamps and gives a quick sense as to when it was sold.

In the case of Elizabeth II, however, it is

common to see the era split into pre and post-decimalisation. One key reason for making sure you know which side of the divide you are buying is that mint stamps from before 1971 cannot be used to send post.

A problem for younger collectors, raised in a world far removed from 'old money', is that it's not easy to conceive of a currency based around the number twelve. A quick google will find a variety of conversion tables to help with the maths. But pre-decimal stamps have other oddities. For a start, where modern stamps have pennies denoted by a 'p', pre-decimal stamps have a 'd' on them. For example, the 1958 Cardiff Commonwealth Games stamp depicts a dragon, Queen Elizabeth, and the number '3d'. But what does the d stand for? Growing up no one ever mentioned a unit of currency beginning with d?

Then there's the fractions. In 1953, the special stamps published commemorating Queen Elizabeth's commemoration came in two values: 2½d and 1'3. What on earth do those mean? At first I presumed the 1'3 meant 1 pound and 3 shillings, and perhaps the pound sign perhaps hadn't yet been invented. Flipping back through the catalogue, however, there's a beautiful 1929 stamp, in celebration of the Postal Union Congress, with an elaborate pound symbol denoting the £1 value. Even more strangely, all other stamps in the 1920s mention 'pence' again.

So, where did this 'd' come from, and is there a Max Bygraves song I can listen to that will set me straight?!



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

Great Britain was rather slow in converting to a decimal currency system compared to other countries around the world. Russia's ruble was updated in 1704 to equal 100 kopecks, and both France and the United States went decimal during the 1790s. South Africa's successful decimalisation in 1961 put the idea back on the table for the UK government and a report was issued in 1963 recommending the move. Australia and New Zealand also went decimal during the decade.

Decimal Day finally came for the UK on 15 February 1971 and stamps were issued in new pence rather than the 'd' seen on stamps for the past 131 years. Before the change there were 12 pennies to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound. Today this system seems confusing, especially to younger people who never used it.

The system dates back to Roman times, when a pound of silver was divided into 240 pence, or 'denarius'. Romans used *librum*, *solidus* and *denarius*, or L, s, and d, the 's' and 'd' abbreviations survived until decimalisation, whilst the Roman 'L' gradually changed to the '£' sign still in use today.



READER FEEDBACK

COVER ETIQUETTE & MAXIMAPHILY

Firstly thank you for all you do to make *Stamp Collector* the absorbing magazine it is. Firstly a query re stamp etiquette in regard to passing on stamp covers. If a batch of covers have gone to one's previous address is there any concern about the fact that people might try to contact one at that address thus perhaps annoying or breaching privacy for the people currently at that address? How much is there a need to erase the cover address?

Also I was very interested in the Laura McInerney's article on maximaphily in the March issue. Some years ago I created a cover which I think must be quite unique to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Birth of Poet John Clare. There was a special handstamp, and I used on the card a Robert Burns stamp plus got them all signed by C Day Lewis the then Poet Laureate, which he did with pleasure. In the envelope was a stiffener with one of Clare's poems 'Sudden Shower' and on the front also a poem of his 'Hail Humble Helpstone!' about the village where he was born.

Geoff Clarke, via email

Stamp Collector replies... The etiquette of addresses on covers makes for a very interesting debate. When publishing the magazine and website, we would endeavour to obscure any modern personal address, and this follows data protection policies. However, individual collectors are unlikely to be held accountable for GDPR breaches, so this really is a case of being considerate and, if possible, removing the personal address when possible. How do other readers address this issue?



RE-USE OR RECYCLE!

Hi Laura. I enjoy reading your articles from Switzerland and remember you asking whether it is ever OK to throw away any stamps. My answer would be a definite 'NO!' Simply because you can donate them to many different charities. I find the RNIB (rnib.org.uk) easiest to donate to; they send you a freepost envelope you can order online. [You can also call the RNIB helpline to arrange to donate some of your stamps on 0303 123 9999].

Another fairly limited but unique area of stamp collecting you could consider are UN stamps. As there's only one little post office in Geneva, they normally get nice clean postmarks. Recycle and enjoy!

Richard Cooper, Luusanne

POSTMARKS

Captain Sir Thomas Moore



Captain Tom became a national hero after his effort to raise money for NHS Charities saw him walking around his garden, writes David Gwynn. He wanted to raise £1,000, £10 for each circuit of his garden. He succeeded in raising almost £40 million, earned the love and admiration of the nation, was awarded a knighthood by the Queen and also was the oldest person to achieve a No 1 hit single in the UK.

He began his fund-raising feat when 99 years of age and aimed to reach his modest target by the time of his 100th birthday. As we all know he well exceeded that. His birthday was celebrated with a special slogan postmark by Royal Mail, by an RAF flypast and he was made an honorary colonel.

During the Second World War he served in India and Burma. He rose through the officer ranks to Captain by the time the Japanese surrendered. He then served in Sumatra and on his return to Britain, became an instructor at the Armoured Fighting Vehicle School in Dorset.

Sadly, Captain Sir Tom died after suffering pneumonia and contracting the Covid-19 virus that he did so much to help combat. Let us hope that the *Stamp Collector* campaign for Royal Mail to issue a commemorative stamp to honour him is successful.

Find out more about the 'Stamp for Captain Tom' campaign at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk



Photo credit: Emma Sohl

POST & GO

Stamps for Stampex



Not surprisingly Spring Stampex 2021 was a virtual exhibition, taking place at the end of March. Jersey and Guernsey still issued new Post and Go sets on 17 February – the planned first day of Stampex, as they have done in previous years.

Jersey's issue depicts Coastal Towers. Some are from the Georgian and Victorian era of battlements intended as defence from the French and others as observation and communication tower buildings erected during the German occupation during the Second World War. Guernsey's stamps feature some of the most familiar aircraft which have flown in and out of the islands airport.

The stamps issued by both Channel Islands on their First Day Covers and in the Presentation Packs contain unique datastrings – that is the row of alpha numeric digits that are printed along the bottom of the stamps.

For example Guernsey's latest Planes issue reads B2GG21 G004-1969-007. When deciphering the first block, 'B' denotes the kiosk series, '2' is for the issue date of February; 'GG' is the location

in Guernsey and '21' is the year. The next block of 'GG04' refers to the kiosk reference which is a special temporary code for kiosk 'GG02', used by the Guernsey Philatelic Bureau as a Back Office unit specifically for the production of Stamps for FDCs and Presentation Packs. The 1969 block is normally the session number but in this instance 1969 and is a fictitious session, but some thought has gone into its creation as on 1 October 1969 Guernsey Post became postally independent. The last three digits normally relate to the item No. of the transaction but here it is '007', the seventh set of Post & Go stamps to be issued by Guernsey.

Jersey have a very similar datastring B2JE21 B002-1969-011, including the 1969 but the kiosk they use for FDC and Presentation Pack stamps is a specific Back Office Kiosk B002 and the Coastal Towers issue is the 11th set of Post & Go stamps to be issued.

Let's hope things will be nearer normal by the time of Autumn Stampex in September.

FIRST DAY COVERS

All aboard for the railways theme!

At Buckingham Covers, I think it is fair to say that we like our railway covers and there is such a range of things to collect, writes Brian Austin. This month we go back to 1980 and the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, and no, we are now not that far away from the 200th.

This is the official cover for the celebrations and as well as the stamps there was also a 55p Railway Letter stamp issued. Interestingly, though Benham (who produced our example) did a special cover they did not

sponsor a postmark, instead using the Liverpool and Manchester 'Wheel' first day of issue postmarks and the Great Railway Exposition Manchester special postmark. This cover is signed by the then Chairman of British Rail, Sir Peter Parker and you should be looking to pay around £40 for his signature.

Signed railway covers are few and far between and you can spend hours working out who has signed a cover; always remember, if you can't recognise the signature, it could be the train driver. Railway 'celebrity' signatures you should look out for include former *Flying Scotsman* owners Alan Peglar and William McAlpine, steeplejack and train enthusiast Fred Dibnah and even record producer and train owner Pete Waterman.

Two final tips for this issue: there are lots of full set covers which are not first day (remember the date is 12 March 1980), this is fine, but remember the postmarks on these might not be as rare as you think. Secondly don't concentrate just on special postmarks and TPOs. A few preserved railways did special covers, but used the local first day of issue postmark, so look out for these from the Talylyn, Big Four, Worth Valley, Festiniog and Llanberis Lake railways.



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STAMP COLLECTOR VIDEOS



In conversation with Martin Morck

Discover the stamp designs and career of renowned engraver Martin Mörck in this webinar recording which took place as part of the Collectors' Conference on modern stamps.

The webinar, part of the latest Collectors' Conference, featured a conversation with the renowned Norwegian-Swedish stamp engraver about his career, the engraving process and the many stamps he has produced over the years.

Martin Mörck is a Norwegian-Swedish artist and engraver of postage stamps and banknotes. Over the years he has designed and/or engraved more than 900 stamps, for a huge range of countries, including China, Sweden, Denmark, Jersey, Monaco, and Canada.

The webinar was hosted by Armagan Ozdinc, a prolific collector and specialist of Mörck's works.

The presentation is followed by a Q&A session.

This webinar was originally broadcast as part of the Collectors' Conference: Modern Stamps held at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

The stamps of Edward VIII

A short reign, a lifetime of study

There are only a few stamps of King Edward VIII, thanks to his brief time on the throne, but as Barry Stagg reveals, there are enough errors, varieties, and postal history to occupy a collector for years. Perhaps it's time for us to revisit this short but engaging chapter of GB stamp history

I'm often asked why I collect King Edward VIII stamps when only four were issued, no postal stationery and a reign that lasted less than twelve months! To answer that I need to step back a little to when I started collecting. Like most young stamp collectors of the time, I collected everything until I realised the impossibility of that endeavour and so soon resorted to pursuing just British stamps. But sometime in the 1980s I found that collecting British stamps was becoming too big a task too; I started to look for more bounded areas for collection. I thought King Edward VIII (which we shall now call KE8) stamps were suitable with only four stamps and a handful of errors to find, plus perhaps some coils and booklets; in a few years it should be a done deal! Thirty years later...

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations included a 'House of Windsor' set of stamps from Royal Mail issued on 2 February 2012 and featuring the five monarchs from the start of the 20th century, including Edward VIII who ruled for less than a year



Edward VIII stamps

The twenty items selected here would not only form the basis of a good and interesting collection but could be expanded to make a substantial KE8 stamp study. Further, the selection only includes items that would be in the financial reach of most readers.

Before you start your collection two books are worth finding and reading, Stanley Gibbons' *King Edward VII to King George VI. Volume 2. 14th*

Edition and AJ Kirk's *King Edward VIII. 2nd Edition* (GB Philatelic Publications Ltd). The latter is many years old now and a lot more information has emerged since, but it is still a useful starting guide and can be found on popular web auction sites for a very modest price. The website of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (www.gbpls.org.uk) contains much information on KE8 too.

It has been said many times before but you can collect whatever you





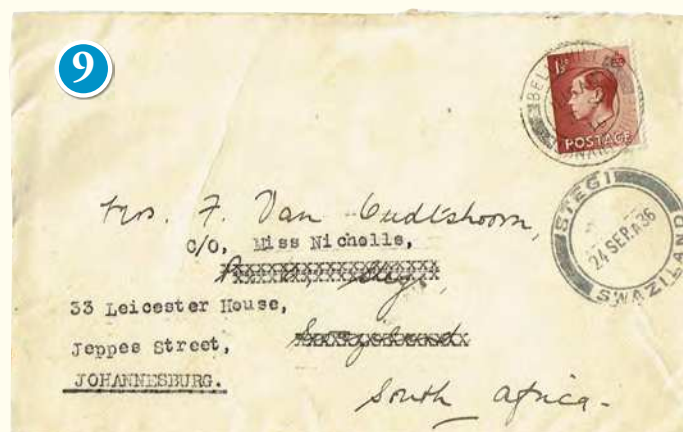
wish. You certainly don't have to collect what is suggested here; the list is a guide on what you could collect and is intended to encourage you to start a KE8 collection. If you do, it will keep you interested for a lifetime.

The first four items of the are the four issued stamps, starting with the ½d. A nice clean KE8 ½d stamp would be easy to find; however, how about searching out a copy with the cylinder number visible in the selvedge? (Figure 1). For a greater challenge try and find a ½d stamp with each of the cylinder numbers – there are at least thirteen of them. Similarly for the 1d, 1½d and 2½d, try finding copies with the cylinder number visible in the selvedge, see figures 2, 3, and 4, respectively. These three stamps have at least seven, fifteen and two cylinders to collect. Many of these can be found fairly easily and at pocket money prices, but a few may take a while to find.

It is important to understand what markings are in the selvedge of a sheet of stamps, and KE8 stamps were printed in sheets of 240 (twelve columns by twenty rows. A complete sheet (of any value) is therefore important in a collection of KE8 items (figure 5).

We should mention that KE8 sheets were printed in pairs, side by side. The left hand side had the cylinder number whereas the right hand side had the cylinder number with a full stop immediately after it. This full stop is often called the 'stop' or 'dot' pane. Figure 5 is clearly from the dot pane and therefore was printed on the right hand side. Apart from the cylinder number in the selvedge there is the Control Number (A36 or A37), the





round hole that locates the sheet for the perforating machine, the sheet number and the horizontal and vertical mid-way sheet arrows. I think it is safe to say that there is still more work to do to fully understand all these markings.

The next five items are commercial envelopes or postcards which have date stamps on, or close to, the stamps' issue date. There are hundreds of First Day Covers with first day cancellations, but these are philatelic and in this context don't count! It is much harder to find commercial envelopes that were sent on the first day of issue. The ½d stamp was issued on 1 September 1936, as was the 1½d and 2½d, and it was the paper rate. It was used for quotations, business invoices and the like. Figure 6 is an envelope dated 10 September that had had a receipt inside; hence it was sent at the paper rate of ½d. The 1d stamp was issued on 14 September 1936 and was the internal postcard rate. Figure 7 is a good example.

The 1½d stamp was also issued on 1 September 1936. It was the

internal first 2oz rate and figure 8 shows a good example of a commercial envelope used on the first day of issue. The 1½d was also the Empire rate, so the cost was 1½d to post from anywhere in the UK to anywhere in the Empire. Figure 9 shows an example posted on 3 September 1936. If you would like a harder challenge then finding an envelope sent to each of the Empire countries could take some time! Under a special arrangement the 1½d was also used for destinations in the USA. Figure 10 is a nice example of such an envelope and is dated 27 January 1937. Finding an envelope addressed to the USA with a 1 September date stamp is particularly challenging. And lastly in this group is a 2½d stamp used for the Foreign rate. Figure 11 shows such an envelope, dated 18 September 1937.

Before the Second World War the UK had over 6,500 merchant ships, the biggest merchant fleet in the world. Hundreds of thousands of British seamen sent letters home, many using the Paquebot mailing arrangements. Figure 12 is a nice



Edward VIII's reign lasted from 20 January 1936 to 11 December 1936, giving today's collectors a window of just over ten months (326 days to be precise) in which to find used mail. The King abdicated after proposing to divorcee Wallace Simpson, and later took on the title Duke of Windsor



example from an Empire country, is dated 10 May 1937 and has a Quebec handstamp. The other Paquebot item to find is one that came ashore in a foreign country. Figure 13 is a good example; posted on-board with a 2½d stamp and sent ashore in Panama, with a Cristobal date stamp of 24 April 1937. Cristobal is on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal.

There are a small number of constant errors on the KE8 stamps (Gibbons lists five) and the three below would be not too difficult to find and would certainly enhance a collection. There are other constant errors but some refer to marks in the selvage or marks that are not easily visible with the naked eye. Figure 14 shows the ½d, the 'Pearl beside the Crown' error that can be found on three Cylinders, 7 dot, 10 dot and 12 dot in position row 20 column 2 (conventionally written as R20/2). You can just see a circle to the right of the crown.

Figure 15 shows the 1½d from cylinder 2, position R18/1. You will notice that the King's smooth hair line is interrupted at the top by a small hair bump or a piece of raised hair. This is the 'Hair flaw'. And the last of errors is shown in Figure 16, from cylinder 2 dot of the 2½d, position R13/12. There is a spot of ink inside the King's ear (shown on the top stamp) and this is known as the 'Flaw in the ear'.

Arguably the most colourful and interesting aspect of collecting KE8 items are the books and booklets (books were sold over Post Office counters, booklets were sold from vending machines). KE8 has four different values of books and booklets: 6d, 2/-, 3/- and 5/-. The 6d has a plain buff-coloured cover, the 2/- and 3/- have a blue and red cover respectively and the 5/- also has a buff colour, the three higher values having advertisements on the front and back covers and inside the books. And there are plenty of books to collect: 32 types of 2/-, 13 types of 3/- and two types of 5/- books. The 6d comes in just one type. Some of these books are well outside the 'pocket money' range but others can be found for a modest sum. Figure 17 shows a 2/- book number 366 (the number is on the top right hand corner).

Stamp panes

As well as collecting the books and booklets many people collect the stamp panes, both with or without the advertising labels. We should point out that all panes can be found with upright and inverted watermarks. Due to the way the stamps were printed there are equal numbers of both. Personally I do not separate the two but others may wish to collect both varieties of watermark on a particular pane.

Figure 18a shows a pane of six 1d stamps and Figure 18b shows

a block of four 1½d stamps with two advertising labels. The latter has sixteen different varieties of adverts to collect. The plain pane of six stamps (found in ½d, 1d and 1½d varieties) can be found with or without cylinder numbers (two cylinders were used for each value) and in three varieties of perforations resulting in over thirty possible plain panes of stamp combinations to collect. Many of these stamp panes are sold for a modest sum although the panes with advertising labels tend to be more expensive.

Each stamp book not only contains various stamp panes but it also includes pages of advertising,



The portrait of King Edward VIII used on the definitive stamps was taken by celebrated photographer Hugh Cecil. The simple design of the stamps was inspired by an eighteen-year-old HJ Brown who sent his idea to the Post Office and reportedly received little credit

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some for the Post Office and some commercial advertising. Figures 19a and 19b are just two of the internal pages that have commercial advertisements on them; whereas figure 19c shows a page of Postage Rates for the world. These make a fascinating collection and used stamp books or incomplete stamp books can be bought for a very modest sum.

A rather different use of the three lower value stamps was to satisfy the requirement for a 2d stamp duty on receipts. Since the Stamp Act of 1891 a 2d stamp was required on all receipts. This was modified in 1920 by requiring a 2d stamp on receipts over £2 and the need for a 2d stamp on any receipt was finally abolish in 1970. Such a receipt is shown in figure 20. Receipts can be hard to find as many were destroyed after use; however, they can be found in dealer's ephemera boxes or on auction sites.

Final thoughts

By no means is this a complete list of KE8 material that could be collected. Apart from stamp coils, meter cancels, postage dues, perforation varieties, TPO mail, air mail and express mail there is a huge amount of Moroccan Overprint material to collect. And we have not covered the interesting and colourful early essay material. We hope we have interested you in starting a KE8 collection and, if nothing else, you now know there is a lot more to King Edward VIII than just four stamps!



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.gbbs.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.gbbs.org.uk

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The Father of Italy

Stamps can tell us so much. This month's example provides an insight into Italy's history and into the man who fought to bring the nation together, and allows for reflection on how the country lost its way at the time the stamp was issued. Chris West explains all

In the 19th century, Italy was not a nation but a series of states, few of which were governed by Italians. The large, southern 'Kingdom of the Two Sicilies' was ruled by Bourbon kings imposed from Spain. The north, including Venice and Milan, was under Austrian control. The only native Italian rulers, apart from the Vatican and four small duchies, were in Sardinia and Piedmont, the area around Turin.

Neapolitan forces, but they were then besieged there. Refusing an amnesty, Garibaldi and a group of followers escaped and marched across the inhospitable central mountains to the Adriatic. His freedom came at a cost: his pregnant wife died on the march.

Another period of exile, in America and at sea, followed, before he was able to return, not to mainland Italy but to a small island off Sardinia. From here, he launched a third attempt to drive out the French and

Garibaldi supported fringe, liberal causes yet this stamp was issued by a fascist government

As a result, nationalism became an increasingly powerful idea as the century progressed. However, it seemed fated to remain a theory.

Enter the man on this stamp (issued to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his death): Giuseppe Garibaldi. He was born in 1807 into a seafaring family, and was a ship's captain by the time he was 25. He became interested in nationalist politics and took part in an uprising – which failed. He fled for his life, and spent his next fifteen years in South America, fighting guerrilla wars against colonial powers.

1848 was a year of revolutions all over Europe, and Garibaldi returned to Italy to try once more to expel foreign rulers and unite the country. By now, he was a charismatic figure, with his trademark flowing hair and beard (both tidied up in this stamp) and red shirt, and was able to assemble an army of irregular fighters. At first, they had great successes, liberating Rome from French /

Austrians. This did not succeed either, but all the time his personal renown had been growing, and he was not a man to give up. In 1860, he landed with a small band of supporters in Sicily, captured the island and began a victorious mainland campaign, marching north. Naples fell. He advanced toward Rome. By the end of the year, he controlled enough territory to do a deal with the northern Piedmontese: all these lands would become one nation with Piedmont's king, Victor Emmanuel II, as their ruler. Garibaldi was a republican, but he understood that the only way to unite Italy at that time was under a king.

He was now a celebrity all round Europe. Half a million people lined the streets of London to see him when he visited in 1864. His legacy lives on in the modern era, too. The thin, currant-filled Garibaldi biscuit, first made by Peek Freans in 1851, is named after him. The club colour of Nottingham Forest FC is the



The Garibaldi stamp featuring an overprint from a small island, now called Kalymnos, in the Dodecanese, a group of islands off the coast of Turkey, controlled by Italy at that time

same red as the shirts that he and his followers wore – a deliberate choice by the club's members when it was founded in 1865.

The stamp above has a dark irony. Garibaldi supported what were then fringe, liberal causes: universal suffrage, female emancipation, abolition of the death penalty. This stamp was issued by a fascist government. By 1932, Mussolini had been in power for a decade, and had made Garibaldi's Italy a one-party state with militia, secret police and ambitions to invade and dominate other countries.

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Worldwide up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams (£1.70)
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CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

CELEBRATED SETS

Italy, Anniversary of the Dante Society, 1932

In the latest guide to a classic set that deserves a place in your album, David Bailey discovers the giants of Italian Culture and the society that brought them to the world – all thanks to Mussolini

Italian Fascism was rooted in the glories of the past. It harked back to the grandeur of the ancient Roman Empire and the cultural achievements of the Renaissance. And it hoped to cover the modern state in the same glory.

The stamp programme was very much involved in this long backward look. From 1922 to 1937, roughly half of Italy's commemorative sets featured historical figures: Cardinal Mazzini, Volta, Virgil, some of them with the inscriptions in Latin.

The 1932 Dante Society set

features some of the country's most important poets, writers and thinkers. It comes in two parts, with twelve stamps for surface mail and seven for airmail. Stylistically, the two sets are very different (and are often found in different sections of a collector's album) so this article will focus on surface mail.

Like most Italian commemoratives of the period, the top two values in the set were sold at a premium, which was for the benefit of the Dante Alighieri Society. This was founded in 1889 by a group of intellectuals



led by Giosue Carducci and four years later it was established by Royal Decree. It had three objectives: to protect and spread the Italian language and its culture throughout the world; to revive the spiritual ties between the mother country and fellow countrymen abroad; and to encourage a love and respect for Italian civilisation among foreigners – a perfect fit for the state's objectives.

The postage values were designed by Francesco Chiapelli (1890-1947) an accomplished artist and engraver whose work is still admired today; his designs for the 1932 Garibaldi Anniversary set (see page 45) have a similar look and feel.

The stamps were printed by





photogravure, except the 10l + 2l.50, which was recess-printed (line engraved).

The Dante Alighieri Society survived the war and has prospered since.

With its aims unchanged since 1889, it operates in over 80 countries promoting Italian culture through exhibitions, conferences, publications, language courses and other events.

Twelve cultural figures 10c sepia

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) is best known the stories in the Decameron: tales told by a group of Florentines who had fled the plague in the city. They served as an inspiration to Chaucer and Shakespeare and were one of the first great works of literature to be written in the Italian vernacular.

15c blue-green

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was a Florentine statesman, philosopher and writer who found himself both in and out of favour with the rulers of the time. It was during a period of exile that he wrote *Il Principe* – a manual of statecraft that he dedicated

to Lorenzo di Piero de' Medici.

The English word 'Machiavellian' tends to be used for plots and intrigues of Byzantine complexity. In fact, his advice is chillingly simple, which led to accusations of atheism and a cynical lack of morality.

20c carmine red

Fra Paolo Sarpi (1552-1623) studied history, theology, philosophy, mathematics and oriental languages. He was also well versed in astronomy – he knew Galileo – and kept up with developments in medical science. His thinking often led to conflict with the Catholic Church and he took a leading role in the Venetian Republic's struggle with the Papacy. In 1607, he was attacked and left for dead by stiletto-wielding assassins. Happily, he survived and recovered.

25c green

As a writer, Vittorio Alfieri (1714-1803) specialised in tragedy: he wrote nineteen of them. But he was a late starter and before he realised his true vocation he travelled extensively in Europe, absorbing



different languages and cultures. (He was forced to leave England after a scandalous affair). He travelled so much that when he did sit down to write he found he'd lost his fluency in Italian and it took spells in Florence and Siena to get it back.

30c sepia

Ugo Foscolo (1778-1827) is credited with writing the first Romantic novels in that his works are influenced by – and often critical of – current events and the men who caused them.

An early Italian patriot, he fought with France against Austria and Russia for possession of Venice but became disillusioned with Napoleon. Then when the Austrians regained control of Venice he had to go into exile. He died in Turnham Green, London but in 1871, his remains were re-patriated by the new Kingdom of Italy.

50c bright violet

The poet and philosopher Giacomo Leopardi (1798 – 1837) is one of the greats of the 19th century. He had an unhappy childhood, he was hardly ever in perfect health and disappointed in love – but he distilled these experiences into outstanding lyric poetry.





75c carmine-red

Giosue Carducci (1835-1907) is Modern Italy's national poet and the first Italian to win a Nobel Prize. In his writing, he led a move away from romanticism and back to the restrained style of the Classical authors.

11.25 blue

Carlo Botta (1766-1837) was born in Italy but spent much of his life in France. He supported Napoleon and served as a surgeon in the French Army. His principal work is a four-volume History of Italy; he had witnessed many events it describes.

11.75 orange

Torquato Tasso (1544-1595) was the greatest Italian poet of the late renaissance - but suffered from mental problems throughout his life. His greatest work is 'Jerusalem Delivered', an account of the First Crusade that combines epic poetry with lyrical romanticism.

21.75 slate-green

The poet Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374) is credited for laying the foundations of European Humanism by promoting the continuity between Classical culture and the Christian message. His sonnets addressed to a

mysterious woman called Laura have drawn parallels with the 'dark lady' of Shakespeare's sonnets.

5l + 2l carmine-red

Another Renaissance figure, Ludovico Ariosto (1474 - 1533) is best known for the epic poem Orlando Furioso, distilled from the romances and heroic poetry of the Middle Ages. 'Orlando' is the Italian form of Roland and 'Furioso' refers to his madness over the loss of Angelica, daughter of the King of Cathay. The National Gallery's Titian painting 'Man with a Quilted Sleeve' was long believed to be of him.

10l + 2l.50 olive-green

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) towers over Italian literature. His 3 volume narrative poem The Divine Comedy is said to be the greatest work in the Italian language and he has been an inspiration to poets and painters ever since - with Chaucer, Milton and William Blake among them. In it, the poet is guided through Hell and Purgatory by the Roman poet Virgil and through Paradise by Beatrice, his ideal woman.

Originally titled 'The Comedy', it is believed to have been dubbed 'Divine' by Giovanni Boccaccio, above.

Collecting the stamps

A glance at the catalogue panel will tell you that the top values saw limited postal use and are therefore cheaper in mint condition. And also that collectors at the time were reluctant to splash out on them in mint. This is not a cheap set - but there is a lot of material available online across the spectrum of conditions and sold as single values or part sets, so you have freedom to collect how you like.

Thematic collectors have another choice. The whole set of stamps was overprinted 'COLONIE ITALIANE' for use overseas. These come in at a fraction of the price.

As always, the best way to get involved in Italy, its Colonies and their stamps is to join the club: the Italy and Colonies Study Circle with a packet circuit, a well-supported auction and a gold-medal winning Club magazine. Find them at www.icsc-uk.com

Many thanks to Tony Clayton (ICSC) for images and information.



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUES

	Mint	Used
10c sepia	£2.34	£1.15
15c blue-green	£2.34	£1.44
20c carmine red	£2.34	£1.15
25c green	£2.34	£0.90
30c sepia	£2.88	£1.15
50c bright violet	£1.73	£0.58
75c carmine-red	£11.52	£5.76
11.25 blue	£3.42	£2.88
11.75 orange	£8.64	£5.76
21.75 slate-green	£17.28	£28.80
5l + 2l carmine-red	£20.88	£216
10l + 2l.50 olive-green	£25.20	£324

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

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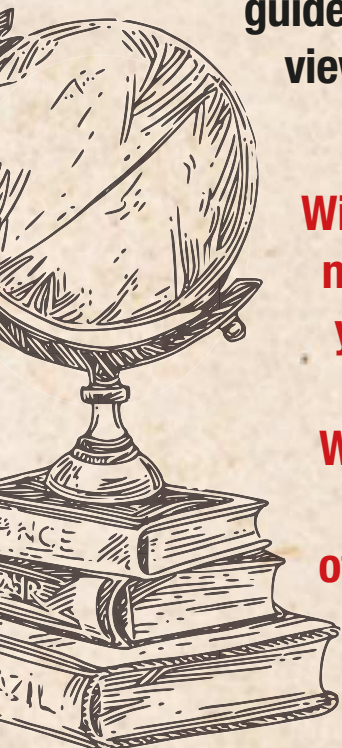
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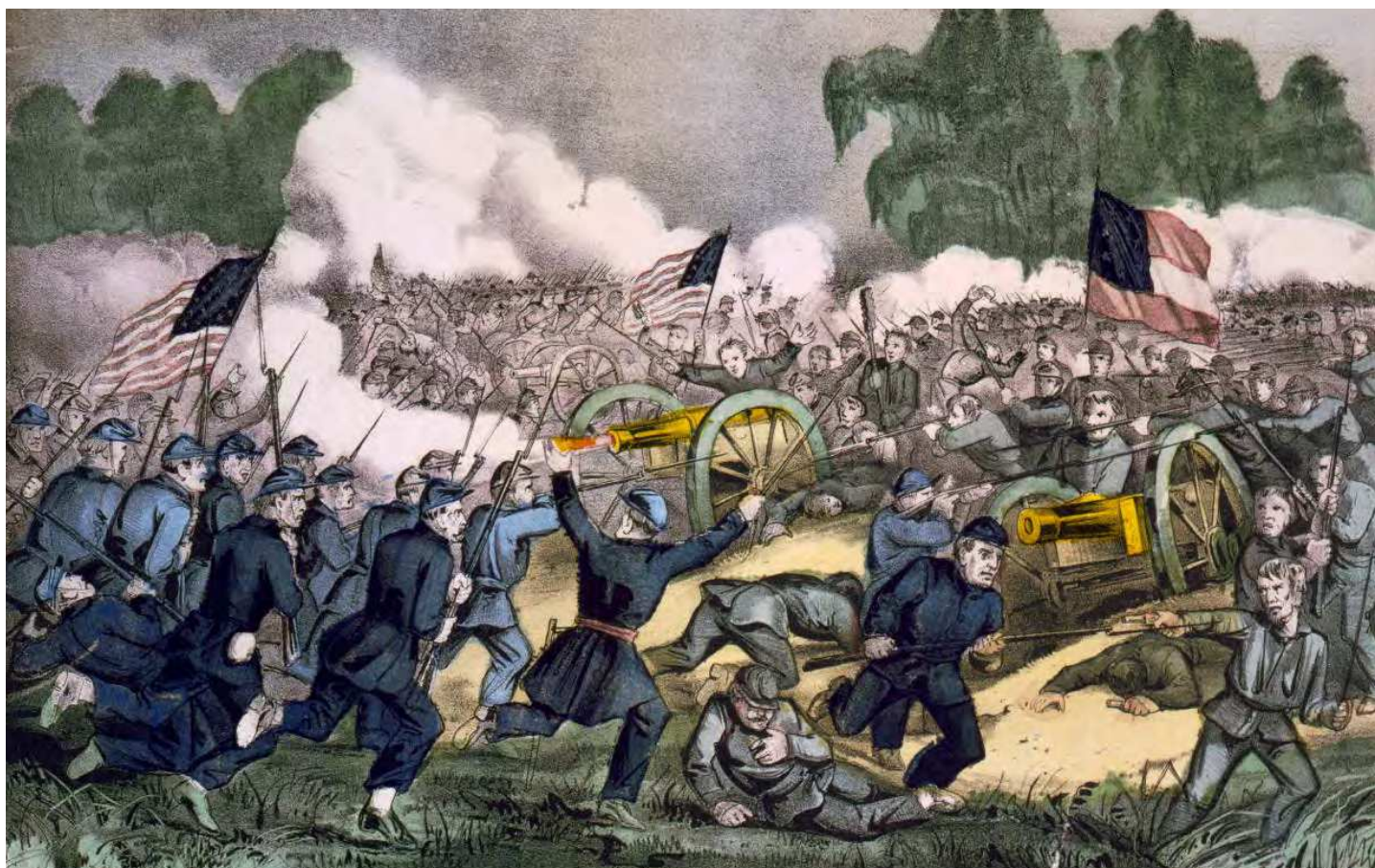
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NEW SERIES: STAMP CIVIL WARS

Stamps of the American Civil War 1861-1865

In the first of a three-part series focussing on the stamps issued during national unrest, David Bailey looks back to 19th-century USA, discovers the stamps and postal history of the American Civil War and uncovers some of the dramatic stories behind them

Antebellum America

The US Civil War began in 1860 with the secession of eleven southern states: first South Carolina, then Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina. But the two halves of America had been growing apart for over half a century.

In 1861, the population of the US was 31.5m people, of whom nearly 4m were slaves.

The Northern States were modernising, diversifying and investing heavily in transport infrastructure. Agriculture was still the main economic sector but it was highly mechanised, while the banking and insurance industries, newspaper

and magazine publishing and telegraph communications continued to expand.

In contrast, the economy of the Southern States depended on large farms – plantations – growing mainly cotton but also sugar and tobacco. They invested heavily in slaves rather than roads, railways or factories. And as the price of cotton rose, that investment paid off. By 1860, 60% of the wealthiest men in America were Southerners. The Southern states were keen to see an extension of slavery into new territories acquired by America, while a growing number of Northerners wanted to see it eradicated. The debate became polarised and conflict was inevitable.

South Carolina seceded from

The battle of Gettysburg, 3 July 1863, published by Currier & Ives in c.1863 (Library of Congress LC-USZ62-13961)

the Union on 20 December 1860, five states followed them and a Confederate Provisional Government was formed on 4 February 1861.

The war broke out early on 12 April 1861, when the Confederate Army shelled Fort Sumter, at the entrance to the harbour of Charleston, South Carolina and the last four states above joined the secession.

The Post Office splits in two

The US Post Office was benefiting from a series of Acts which gave it a monopoly over letter-carrying services and put private competitors out of business. But operating costs were high and profits were hard to find. Revenue from the Southern States was welcome and for the first seven weeks



of the war, postal services continued as normal.

However, the Southern States had been planning a mail service of their own; the Confederate States Post Office was established on 21 February 1861 and took over postal services in the South from 1 June.

The North soon woke up to the new reality. Postal deliveries ceased at the end of May, which stopped any flow of seditious Southern propaganda but it was also feared that stocks of US Stamps held in Southern post offices (worth a reported \$270,000) could be smuggled North and sold to finance the war effort. All this coincided with the renewal of the printing contract with Topham Carpenter

which expired on 1 June 1861.

The Post Office had also received a quote from the National Bank Note Company (NBC) to print the stamps for 30% less. They therefore killed two birds with one stone. The NBC would produce a set of stamps with new designs – and all stamps prior to that would be demonetised. This remains the only demonetisation in US history. All issues from 1861 onwards are still valid for postage.

The Southern stamps

Confederate President Jefferson Davis chose an excellent Postmaster General in John Reagan. He recruited a number of the US Post Office's top people and his department was the only one in the

Confederacy to function effectively throughout the war.

Needing funds to get the office up and running, he set postal rates higher than before – after 1863, these included a 40c rate for 'Trans-Mississippi' mail – letters that would be smuggled through the Union barricade. He then commissioned stamps from lithographers Hoyer and Ludwig of Richmond VA but until they were delivered, local offices had to fend for themselves. Gibbons lists 41 who produced stamps. Some are simple handstamps applied to letters, others are applied to existing stocks. Some are woodblocks, others were produced by jobbing printers or newspaper offices. All are rare, expensive and frequently forged.

The general issues come in ten basic designs, printed by five printers in all three processes: letterpress, litho and line engraved.

US sources state that they came into use from 16 October, with a 5c green followed by a 10c blue. But Hoyer and Ludwig had no experience of printing stamps, they made only small batches of ink and a shortage of lithographic stones meant that every one was cleaned after each print run. So when more stamps were required, the plates had to be remade with a new set of transfers. This means lots of variety for specialists today – but it didn't give Reagan the quality product he was looking for. He therefore sent a man over to London to commission De La Rue to fill the gap until a local printer could do the job properly. These remain the only US Stamps to be printed overseas. Reagan wanted line engraved but his instructions got scrambled in transit and De La Rue produced a 5c in blue printed letterpress and later, a 1c orange which was never issued.

In all, De La Rue supplied 12 million copies of this stamp plus plates and supplies of ink and paper. The first two consignments made it through the blockade. However, the third consignment – on the blockade runner *Bermuda* – was intercepted by the Union warship *Mercedita*. Its cargo of 5 million stamps was destroyed and the plate impounded. After being lost for a few decades, it is now held by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

A further 38 million 5c stamps were locally printed from De La Rue plates and can be distinguished by their poorer impressions and locally made papers.

Reagan finally got a line engraved set in 1863, designed along classic American lines and printed by Archer and Daly of Richmond VA. But it was all too late. In 1864, when Richmond was threatened, printing was transferred to Keating and Ball of Columbia SC, who produced 10c stamps until the town was burned down by General Sherman. Keating's dedicated employees dumped all the plates in the Congaree River.

The Union stamps

The stamps produced by NBC do not differ markedly from the



previous set. The same people are on the same values in similar colours and all facing the same directions as before, except Thomas Jefferson (5c) who now faces left.

NBC presented a first set of proofs in August 1861, a remarkably quick turnaround given the technology of the day. These are known as the 'Premieres Gravures' over here and the 'August Issue' in the US. The Post Office approved the 24c and 30c stamps but made detail changes to the rest. Since supplies of 10c stamps were running low, the unmodified 10c plate was put to press. All the other proofs were supposed to have been destroyed but a few leaked onto the philatelic market and the whole set receives a Gibbons listing.

The revised designs were in use from late August 1862 until the Pictorial set come out in 1869; issues up to 1867 do not have grilles to prevent re-use. Papers vary from thin and brittle to quite thick and the range of shades includes the 3c in 'Pigeon's Blood Pink' a rare and highly sought-after stamp.

Colours were changed in 1863 with the release of a 2c black for bulk mail (Andrew Jackson). A 15c grey black followed in 1866, this was a mourning stamp for President Lincoln, who had been assassinated the previous year.

The impact on philately

The causes and effects of the Civil War are still felt in America today.



Two outstanding covers from Robert Siegel Auctions. Top: the woodblock 5c local issue of Nashville Tennessee in the rare grey-brown shade, used on a Confederate patriotic cover; Exhibition Quality. Above: a Union patriotic cover, captured and re-used with a Confederate stamp.

US auctioneer and columnist John Apfelbaum states 'It is no coincidence that the Red States and the Blue States of the last several elections largely correspond to the North and the South of antebellum US history.' The division even extended to the world of stamps. After the war, collectors in the South wanted no part of northern

philately, so they set up the Southern Philatelic Society instead. It was only after the Second World War that they changed their name to the Society of Philatelic Americans.

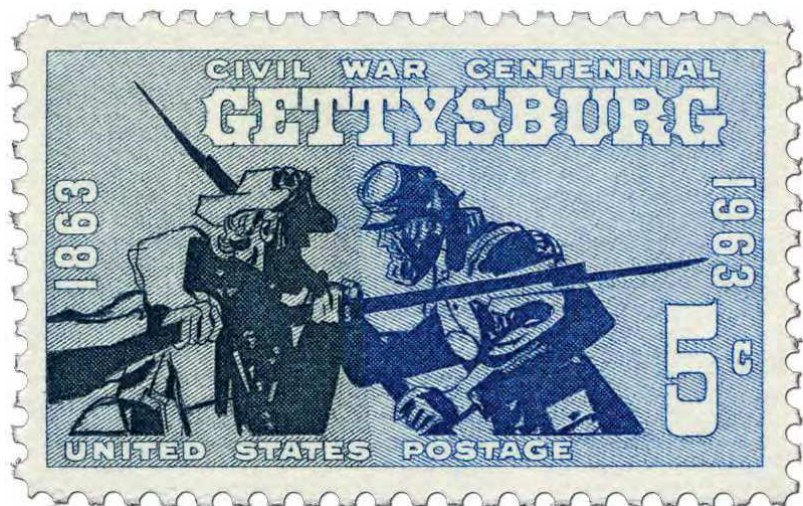
The war also caused a massive expansion in collectable material, particularly postal history.

All wars do this to some extent. Mail

from soldiers on a rapidly changing front line, censored mail, letters home from field hospitals, and prison camps, too. At one point, both sides held a total of 1.5 million POWs.

A unique by-product of the US Civil War was the mass of blockade run covers.

The blockade covered 3,500 miles



of the US coastline and caused a massive expansion of the US Navy, which was countered by a fleet of fast, agile blockade-runners. Most of them were bound for Britain and many of their owners or operators were British, so they could put in at Colonial ports. But it was dangerous work: 1,500 of their ships were sunk or captured during the war.

Another unique aspect is the war of the covers, conducted through the design and use of 'patriotic' envelopes. Many thousands of designs were produced during the war. They were more commonly used in the North and the sentiments expressed run the gamut from noble to brutal.

Encased stamps

The scale of the war effort caused an increase in demand for metals and prices began to rise. This had repercussions for the coinage, which

A USA 1963 commemorative marking the Battle of Gettysburg which took place in July 1863. The battle was the most costly of the Civil War, in terms of casualties

Right: encased stamps were used as currency but the idea proved unpopular with retailers and the post office

The leaders of the Union (on the left) and the Confederacy

was suddenly worth 20% more as metal than as currency. Shortages were inevitable and exacerbated by the fact that the lowest value note was \$5: the 'dollar bill' did not appear until 1862.

Loose stamps were frequently used as coins and permission for this was officially granted by Congress, but they were hardly suitable. That was until 1862, when an entrepreneur called John Gault proposed encasing stamps in a case to look – and act – like a coin. These were to be sold in to retailers at a 20% premium and the costs of production would be further defrayed by selling advertising space on the reverse. But the idea was not popular with the post office and they never took off with retailers or the public. When fractional bills were introduced in 1863 (banknotes with values less than a dollar) they killed it off altogether. Of the 750,000 issued, only around 7,000 survive.

Commemorating the war

The war produced a new pantheon of American heroes who have been appearing on its stamps from the early 20th century. But it took until 1937 for two Southern leaders (Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson) to join them.

The conflict itself has featured on a number of sets. The most striking was the set of five to commemorate the centenaries of major battles, with one stamp per year from 1961 to 1965. A set of 1995 featured twenty personalities of the war and was available as a large miniature sheet. The Sesquicentennial stamps (2011 to 2015) followed the earlier tradition – but with two stamps per year featuring the key engagements. Illustrations are taken from contemporary paintings or prints.

Thanks to Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, United States Philatelic Classics Society, USPS, John Apfelbaum, and Stanley Gibbons for images and information.





TREASURES AT THE ROYAL

Sir Edward Denny Bacon, KCVO, RDP, FRPSL

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 on the career of one of the Society's most celebrated members

The Royal can boast an illustrious list of former members and many of their philatelic achievements are recorded in the society's collections, as Nicola Davies, Head of Collections, reveals

Edward Denny Bacon received this silver salver on 8 May 1930 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of joining the Royal Philatelic Society London. Bacon was certainly an active member and at various points held every executive office of the Society, including President from 1917 to 1923. He was one of the initial members of the Expert Committee and its chairperson for many years.

Known as 'Denny' to his family, Bacon was born in 1860 in Stockwell and collected stamps as a boy. He followed his father into business but, after the company was dissolved in 1895, he dedicated the rest of his life to philatelic work.

The first of the significant curatorial positions Bacon held was (with Miss Jane Hamilton) arranging the Tapling Collection for the British Museum. In 1901, Bacon became curator for Earl of Crawford's literature collection, work that culminated in the publication of *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*, vol. VII, *A Bibliography of the Writings General, Special and Periodical forming the Literature of Philately*. From 1913 until his death in 1938, Bacon was Curator of the king's philatelic collection. It was for this work that he was made Knight

Commander of the Victorian Order (KCVO) in 1932 and his badge and breast star are on permanent display in the RPSL's museum.

Bacon was one of the initial signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (1921), the highest accolade in philately. He received the Crawford Medal (1921) for his publication: *The Line Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain printed by Perkins Bacon & Co.* and the Tapling Medal (1933) for his paper: *1d and 6d Stamps of Victoria 1860-66*. In 1906, he received the prestigious Lindenburg medal from the Berlin Philatelisten Klub. However, on the outbreak of war in 1914, Bacon returned his medal; he re-accepted the medal in 1931.

Although Bacon was the first RPSL member to achieve fifty years at the Society, he was certainly not the last. As of 31 December 2020, 42 current members have completed over fifty years membership to the Society, including four who have been members for over seventy years.



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



King Edward VII

Thanks to the relatively short time on the throne, the British stamps of King Edward VII present the collector with an eminently-collectable subject, as Mike Jackson reveals in this guide to collecting Edwardian stamps

The King came to the throne on the death of his mother, Queen Victoria, on 22 January, 1901, and he died on 6 May 1910. This gives a period of nearly a decade on which to base a collection, and even though there are relatively few values (and no commemoratives) there is plenty of scope for the collector. The aim of this article is to give an idea of the various possibilities.

There were nineteen basic King Edward VII stamps, including both



colours of the ½d and 4d values. The ½d was first issued on 1 January, 1902 in blue-green, but the public complained that the colours of the ½d, 2½d and 6d stamps, which

shared the same design, were too similar. One correspondent wrote: 'I have just now affixed a 2½d stamp to a halfpenny postcard as I write by gaslight!' Post Office workers were

also having problems distinguishing the stamps when sorting letters. Consequently, the colour of the ½d stamp was changed to a lighter colour, yellow-green, which appeared in November 1904.

The change of colour of the 4d from green and brown to orange was probably to save money: it was cheaper to print in a single colour.

Three different printers were involved in the production of the stamps. De La Rue had been printing Victorian stamps for many years, and the contract awarded to them in 1899 had nearly ten more years to run. When the contract did expire at the end of 1910, De La Rue refused to lower their prices, or even share the work with Harrison & Sons who were duly awarded the new contract from 1 January, 1911. Although this was now in the new reign, most of the new stamps depicting King George V were not ready, and so Harrison began printing from De La Rue's plates. They could print only those values which were mono-coloured because they did not have the machines necessary to print bi-coloured stamps, so the task of printing the latter fell to the government department at Somerset House. These King George V-era stamps printed by Harrison and Somerset House are known as the King Edward VII Provisional Printings.

The 1½, 2d, 4d, 5d, 9d, 10d and 1s were bi-coloured; that is, they were printed in two colours, each colour being printed from a different plate. The fact that the registration of the two plates is usually very good is a testament to the quality of the work of De La Rue. The designs of the 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 9d, 10d, 1s were taken from the previous Victorian Jubilee issue.

Initially, all the values were printed on ordinary white paper, except for the 3d which was on yellow paper. In 1905, De La Rue gained approval from the Inland Revenue to use a chalk-surfaced paper in order to improve the quality of the printed impressions, and most of the values can be found printed on this paper.



The basic set of nineteen King Edward VII stamps, including both colours of the ½d and 4d values

Chalk-surfaced paper is smoother and gives off a sheen when obliquely held up to the light. It's a good idea to obtain some examples of both papers so that one can gain experience in differentiating the two types. Except for the 6d, any stamp on chalk-surfaced paper was printed by De La Rue. Different shades are recognised for each value, and again it helps to obtain a range of examples in order to learn how to classify them.

Most of the Edwardian stamps, including all those printed by De La Rue, were perforated with 14-gauge perforating combs. Some late Harrison printings were perforated gauge 15 x 14, the same as adopted for the Georgian series. It is possible that in 1911 Edwardian and Georgian ½d and 1d stamps were being printed by Harrison at the same time.

Various departmental overprints are known, including Britain's rarest stamp, the 6d I.R. Official.

The first stamp booklets appeared in 1904, and were priced at 2s 0½d, an

additional ½d being charged for the booklet itself. Subsequent Edwardian booklets were priced at 2s 0d, but contained only 1s 11½d worth of stamps, accomplished by substituting a cross for one of the stamps.

A range of Edwardian postal stationery can be found, including both Post Office issues and stamped-to-order. Although perhaps not a particularly interesting period for postal history – which is not to say collecting it is not worthwhile – the Edwardian decade was the 'golden era' of the picture postcard, and a collection of postmarks on postcards can be made for a very modest outlay.

Further reading

The most important reference for King Edward VII stamps is Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 2, dealing with the Four Kings. It first appeared in 1967 and is now in its 13th edition (2009). Although now somewhat out of date, the series of



EXHIBITION NEWS

The FEPA have invited discussion on whether two or three frame exhibits should be able to enter international exhibitions competitively on the same basis as one frame exhibits. Since an article in *FEPA News* was published the organisers of NOTOS, which will be held in Athens from 19 to 22 November 2021, have decided to invite applications for two and three frame exhibits. At its recent meeting the FEPA Board discussed this proposal and decided to carry out a survey of opinion. Giancarlo Morolli will contact the FEPA Member Federations asking for their views. Readers are invited to let us know what you think about the proposal by emailing info@fepanews.com

The Federation of Austrian Philatelic Societies (VÖPh) is 100 years old and, in the best philatelic traditions, is marking this significant birthday in cooperation with Austria Post with personal stamps, special postmarks and special registration labels. The first meeting of the Federation was held in Vienna on 9 March 1921 and included such distinguished philatelists as Ludwig Hesshaimer, Karl Willer and Edwin Müller. This important event was commemorated with a personal stamp featuring the Gasthaus Deierl where the first meeting was held and a special postmark. For further information visit the VÖPh website at www.voeph.at



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



handbooks published by the Royal Philatelic Society London remains an important reference. Entitled *The Postage Stamps of Great Britain*, it ran to four volumes. The second and final edition of Part 3 (1964), edited by KM Beaumont and John Easton, contains the embossed and surface printed issues of Queen Victoria and the issues of King Edward VII.

There are not many books devoted to King Edward VII. Two early works are *Marginal Varieties of the Edwardian Stamps of Great Britain 1902–1912* (published in 1912) by Sam Buckley, and *Great Britain: King Edward VII Stamps*, published in 1911 by Fred Melville. In 1962, the Great Britain Philatelic Society published a study by HS Doupe on the varieties on the 1d value entitled *Great Britain Cracked Units*; this subject was greatly enlarged upon by Terry Pusterla in his highly detailed *King Edward VII One Penny Manual*, published in 2009 by MJ Publications. Trevor I Harris of the Hendon Stamp Company specialises in the stamps of this reign, and has produced various price lists which contain useful information. In 1992, the GB Overprints Society published *Morocco Agencies: The Overprinted Edward VII Issues of Great Britain 1907–1913* by MH Gellatly & MK Włodarczyk.

A tremendous study of the plates and controls of the ½d and 1d values was undertaken by Michael Astley in 1992. *The Low Value Stamps of King Edward VII* comprises loose-leaf A4-size landscape photocopies of the author's collection, together with many pages of text and tables, and was produced on a specially-purchased photocopier to give the best possible reproduction of the letterpress-printed stamps (modern digital copiers tend to form the image

using dots, which is not ideal for depicting these stamps). A set of transparent overlays showing control positions was also produced. New pages were issued in June 1993, November 1995, December 1995, and March 2002. This book was the culmination of many years' research, and incorporated the studies of Trevor Clarke and, especially, the late Dr Reg Powell.

The major work on booklets is *British Stamp Booklets* by Jean Alexander and Leonard F Newbery. This was published by the GBPS in nine parts between 1987 and 1997, and comprises a detailed listing (including trials) of all booklets issued from their introduction in 1904 up to 1969. Booklets issued during King Edward VII's reign are covered in Parts 1 and 2.

There have not been many auctions devoted to GB King Edward VII issues, but the following gives the more important sales. The Edward portion of the MH Stothert collection, including many essays and proofs, was sold by Robson Lowe in May 1976; the John H. Weber collection of the issued stamps was sold by Phillips in March 1979; an 'outstanding collection' of King Edward VII was sold by Harmers in May 1980, and the 'Romano' collection by Stanley Gibbons in May 1991 (the 'Romano' sale included a used example of the 6d I. R. Official, Britain's rarest stamp). In October 1991, Cavendish sold much of the Edwardian collection of Dr Reg Powell; and the Edwardian postal history collections formed by Dr Michael Brooks were sold by Cavendish in September 2005. But the finest assembly of the stamps of King Edward VII was sold in two parts by Grosvenor in May and October 2009: this was the 'Aurelius' collection and contained many large multiples and complete panes.

Eminent Philatelists

The Collector King

So far in our guide to history's renowned collectors, we've had a duke, a lord and even a prince, most of the world's greatest collections and huge sums of cash splashed all over the world. What's missing? Devlan Kruck reveals all

Two things are missing from our list. The first is the twelfth person. As you know no legend, biblical or otherwise, would be complete without 'the twelve'. Not even a clock, or a year, or a round table for that matter. And second, yes, you've guessed it, we are missing a king.

As you no doubt know King George V's name is inscribed at the very head of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, in recognition of his knowledge and his lasting contribution to the hobby of philately. This all happened way back in 1921, so it wasn't my idea to put him at the head of this gathering of philatelic greats, it was a much more distinguished, and probably better qualified bunch of philatelists, so we can take it as philatelic gospel, that King George V, is an Eminent Philatelist of majestic proportions.

However, we are not here to chat about the details we already know, like the Royal Philatelic Collection being on a par with The Tapling Collection, and certainly some of that is down to our King. And we don't need to talk about him assembling at the time the most comprehensive British Empire collection. You know all that. What is much more glamorous and intriguing and less spoken about is his legacy.

How about The Royal Philatelic Society London, affectionately known as 'The Royal'? If it wasn't for the then Duke of York appealing to his father King Edward VII, it would still be called the 'Philatelic Society London'. Hmm, doesn't quite have the same ring. There wouldn't be any 'Royal Philatelists' as we call them, or 'Royal Experts'. No, he put that philatelic society on the world map. Chalk that little gem down to King George V.

And what about the world's most expensive stamp? Here's a good one. If our king hadn't underbid Arthur Hind in the Ferrary sale of 1922 by \$10k, that stamp would be sitting in the Royal Philatelic Collection, just think of all the fun we philatelists would have missed out on if that was the case. Such as, being sold to Hind, then nearly sold in 1935 for £7.5k to Percival Pemberton, then sold in 1940 for \$40,000 to Fred 'Poss' Small, then it was sold again in 1970 for \$280k to a syndicate of Pennsylvanian investors, headed by philatelist Irwin Weinberg, and who exhibited it worldwide before things got really glamorous and John du Pont

paid \$935k in 1980, then, in 2014, Stuart Weitzman paid a world record price of \$9.4m. What would the king have thought?

Notwithstanding all that excitement, what about the headlines? Come on! They are still talking about that last sale even today. That's elevated stamp collecting to a whole new audience that wouldn't have even got up out of their seat let alone given it a second glance if our king had bid a few thousand more. So, we can chalk that one down to King George V as well.

What I'm trying to say here is, King George V was mixing it good and proper with the likes of Burrus, Caspary, Hind, Ferrary, and Tapling before they died. Whilst King George V sometimes came off second or third best, he often beat these guys to the prize rarity. But the truth is, it's not always about the collection, albeit our king had that with bells on. It's about his influence, his credibility, his enthusiasm, his desire and sometimes his discretion. And above all that, his leadership. Not a dictator, no he led this hobby like a sovereign head of a nation. Because when we look back at the legacy King George V has left the world of philately it is difficult to see anyone who has made such an impression, and such a lasting one, and led in such a symbolic manner.

Of course it helps being a member of a royal family, and becoming king did us all the world of good. But reality is, when it came down to it King George V did more for philately than any monarch before or since, and whilst on the subject of Royalty, even his collection was blue blood. Did you know that his portion of the Royal Philatelic Collection is known as the Blue Collection. Queen Elizabeth II is in green albums and called the Green Collection, and King George VI's stamps are the Red Collection. Our King of Philately is as blue blooded as you can possibly get in majesty as well as philatelic terms.

Put it this way, if you accidentally cut King George V with a pair of sharp tweezers, his blood wouldn't have been blue, it would have been philatelic. The throne of the United Kingdom he may have taken because it was his birthright and he had no choice in the matter. The throne of philately he took because he wanted to and ultimately because he loved stamps. So, let's all be upstanding for the Collector King.

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





This cotton-reel on cover has a printing error that shows the value as 2-cents instead of 12-cents. The cover sold at a David Feldman Geneva auction in April 2008 for the Euro equivalent of £514,000 (image courtesy of David Feldman Auctioneers)

British Guiana had the honour of producing what has become the world's most valuable stamp... the 1856 one cent magenta, which is set to set a new record price in June, as detailed on page 6

BRITISH EMPIRE STAMPS

High values in British Guiana

The sole British colony on the South American mainland, British Guiana gave philatelists several exceedingly high value stamps, including the world's most expensive example, which is set to be auctioned in June. Only the super-rich can afford to buy the few that come to market but, as Ed Fletcher discovers, British Guiana issued many other stamps worth collecting... and many are affordable

The first named European to visit the shores of Guiana on the northern coast of South America was Sir Walter Raleigh, who may have landed in 1617 during his second expedition in search of the legendary City of Gold (El Dorado). Dutch explorers followed a few years later, intent not on treasure hunting, but on establishing trading posts. Using black slave labour transported from Africa, they developed plantations that evolved to become the settled Dutch colonies of Essequibo, Berbice, and Demerara from which they exported vast quantities of sugar during much of the 18th century. In the early 19th century all three colonies fell to Britain as a consequence of the Dutch backing

the losing side in the Napoleonic Wars. In 1831 Britain consolidated the former Dutch possessions to form the colony of British Guiana, with its

capital at Georgetown, and its borders abutting Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam. In total land area the new colony matched that of the British



The ship under full sail became the prominent design on the colony's stamps throughout most of the remainder of Victoria's reign



George V's definitives of 1913-1921 attractively combined the sailing ship with the monarch's head

Isles, though much of Guiana had a covering of dense forests at that time.

A flood of colonists and speculators from London, Liverpool and Bristol soon afterwards arrived and began developing and extending sugar plantations along the banks of Guiana's numerous rivers (Guiana in the Amerindian language means land of many waters.) They hoped the London government would turn a blind eye on Guiana, given high British demand for sugar; but the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 severely affected the plantations until owners came up with a scheme which brought large numbers of indentured labourers from India to work in the sugar fields for pittance. Further boosts to British numbers in the colony came when tribes living alongside inland rivers offered to exchange tropical fruits and vegetables for metal tools and bladed weapons manufactured in Birmingham. Families newly arrived from Britain cleared land for smallholdings and quickly learned how to grow tobacco, flax and cotton. Over time output and the size of holdings increased, with excess produce contributing to cargoes shipped homeward.

In the pre-stamp era British colonists relied on sea captains who carried private ship letters to and from various ports of call. Rising commercial activity, as well as enthusiasm for private correspondence between neighbours, led to the introduction of postage stamps. To meet the needs of an internal postal system a newspaper office

in Georgetown (*The Royal Gazette*) type-set and printed sheets of small stamps carrying a black circular design. They looked so much like the labels stuck to the ends of wooden reels on which sewing cotton was sold that stamp users called them cotton-reels. They were issued in 2-cents, 4-cents, 8-cents, and 12-cents values, with the printing in black, and the paper dyed in various shades. Local postmasters had serious concerns about the security of the stamps, which appeared very susceptible to forgery. As a precaution they insisted that every stamp sold must carry an ink signature of the local postmaster as a means of authentication.

The story of the later rise in collector value of those cotton-reels was captured in *The Globe* (December 1901) newspaper report dated 1901:

Last year an old lady residing in Demerara, British Guiana came across



Sir Walter Raleigh made it onto a British Guiana stamp 317 years after his first visit in 1617

a couple of circular rose-red 2-cents stamps on an envelope she has pasted into her schoolgirl's scrapbook fifty years earlier. Sight of the stamps reminded her that she had recently seen an advert in the local Demerara press offering to buy examples. She also recalled that in his sermon on the previous Sunday the vicar of her local parish church had mentioned a pressing need for urgent roof repairs. So she took her envelope to the clergyman and said: 'I think these stamps are worth a great deal of money. Try to sell them at the town's auction next month, and please add whatever you get for them to the church's repairs fund.'

A rich collector in the USA received news of the stamps as a lot in the forthcoming auction and at once sent his office assistant by fast ship to British Guiana. Sadly the assistant contracted Yellow Jack [a fever] while waiting to disembark at Demerara and could not attend the auction. The winning bidder, a local man, picked them up for £210. The clergyman received the £210 (less commission) and the winning bidder later sold the stamps to Stanley Gibbons in London for £550. In turn Stanley Gibbons fulfilled a standing order from a Russian aristocrat who was happy to pay a £1,000 selling price.

£1,000 in 1901 would equal £124,000 in 2001; but the cotton-reels had not yet exhausted their ability to surprise us. At a David Feldman Geneva auction in April 2008 an 1850 letter-sheet with a single cotton-reel stamp on pale blue



The pictorials of George V and George VI introduced the world to the interesting people and places of British Guiana

paper showing the value as 2-cents instead of 12-cents, as a result of a printing error, sold for the euro equivalent of £514,000.

By 1852 British Guiana had received from London its first supplies of stamps for use on both inland and overseas mail. Printed by Waterlow & Co on imperforate sheets, the design displayed the Seal of the Colony – a ship under full sail within a frame that carried the motto: ‘DAMUS PETIMUS QUE VICISSIM’ (we give and take in return). Their 1-cent and 2-cents values, in shades of red and blue, met British Guiana’s postal needs until 1856 when an overdue consignment of fresh stamp supplies was reported lost in a disaster at sea. Responding to the emergency, the Georgetown postmaster instructed a local engraving firm to produce a simple type-printed stamp of 4-cents in black on magenta paper. As a result of an engraving error the value of one stamp was cut as 1-cent instead of 4-cents. Only a single example of a stamp printed with that error has ever come to light; and it has so far passed through the ownership of several of the world’s wealthiest collectors. The last time it changed hands, in a 2014 New York auction, the hammer price reached a staggering £5,600,000.

For the next forty years of Victoria’s

reign the colony settled down to a long run of issues dominated by the sailing ship on the Seal of the Colony design, with the motto and other lettering almost identical to that seen on the world’s most valuable stamp printed around the ship. You can probably buy a fine used example for a couple of tens of pounds; or a mint stamp for a couple of hundreds. That is about as close as collectors who are not millionaires can come to the world’s most valuable stamp... but we can all dream.

Important economic and social changes occurred during the reigns of Edward VII, George V and George VI, with some of the changes

reflected in stamp designs. Sir Walter Raleigh featured on one stamp. Some of the gold he came in search of eventually came to light as alluvial deposits in forest streams. A stamp showing miners at work on a stream bank records that period, but there was never enough of the precious metal to justify the name El Dorado. Bauxite deposits brought more profitable mining to British Guiana in later years. Logging, as well as mining, encouraged the growth of rail transport and larger ports, which also encouraged growth in the fishing industry.

In the 1920s and 1930s several stamps depicting the colony’s forests, waterfalls and other scenery helped to attract increasing numbers of visitors. A fledgling air transport service brought visitors from North America. Tourists who were also stamp collectors no doubt spent time combing antique shops, bookshops and other spots where a remote chance of finding a second 1856 black and magenta 1-cent remained. Their interest in stamps certainly rubbed off on the local population when the colony became independent in 1966 and changed its name to Guyana. Today stamp collecting has become a major hobby in Guyana. Another stamp worth millions could surface one of these days.



The modern Guyana Philatelic Society still enjoy showing off the world’s most valuable stamp, though they settle for special t-shirts rather than the real thing

PHILATELIC QUIZ: **ADVANCED** COLLECTORS...

Finding **Expensive Stamps** is a Function of Money
But, Try Finding the **Inexpensive Ones** ...

That's The Real Challenge

and Only on Approval...

Get Your 1st Selection Now + 1st £25 FREE*

Consider **Approvals**
but Take Auction
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UK based COLLECTORS - Send No Money - ACT NOW

Not a lot of Collectors Know This, but some of the stamps they search for were produced in very small numbers ... often down to a few thousands or less of high values. For this reason, I have often wondered why Stanley Gibbons catalogue values for *high values* – particularly those from the British Empire late QV and Kings *periods are catalogued so low?* £200+/- catalogue value for an 'Empire' high value produced in a small printing does not seem a lot to ask; moreover, catalogue price is usually discounted, isn't it?

If the market were to 'move', surely these stamps would be the first to move up.

Naturally, it may take time – but, generally these stamps can be located, albeit not always in the best condition sought.

Counter intuitively one would think that low value stamps produced in larger printings would be easy to find, but sometimes such stamps may be much more difficult to source than high/higher value stamps ... and the reason why is often, but not always, because ...

few dealers can afford to cost-

effectively handle stamps which are theoretically worth pence ...

Witness Stanley Gibbons minimum selling price for a '5p' catalogue value stamp is £1 in their Strand shop ... and who can blame them when premises in the Strand cost 'x' £100,000's to rent each year. Obviously, you need to sell a lot of 'penny' stamps to cover your overhead when your premises are 'opposite' The Savoy Hotel.

However, even in the harsh reality of today's cold 'covid' commercial climate, when you handle stamps cost-effectively, in 'on approval' stamp supply selling-systems, with the added benefit of 'scale', supplying stamps to be selected by hundreds of collector clients ... it is possible, even today, to effectively sell inexpensive stamps and crucially make sufficient profit to stay in business.

Supplying stamps 'on approval' to collectors since 1958, this is the 63-year-old legacy of my Avon & Omniphil Approvals. You may even have been one of our youngest clients, returning to philately 60 years later ... In those days, an advertisement offering a few free stamps in 'Boy's Own' would yield 3,000

response requests for stamp approvals ...

Thankfully the world has 'spun' a few times since and we have all matured – likewise our approvals business has 'grown' as part of a larger organisation, but the same, open value for money principles, which have nurtured and nourished collectors – and our business, hold true today. Furthermore (whilst we supply 'approvals' to collectors 'universally'), we'll offer you a free trial to test receiving a selection of stamps you collect 'on approval' and take your 1st £25 worth absolutely FREE. Respond quickly and we'll 'round' your free stamps selected of your choice up to £30= provided you can pick them from your 1st two selections of stamp approvals ...

Just tell us which countries/subjects you collect, and whether you collect mint and/or used. We'll see what we can send you from our library of over 7,000 books of individually priced stamps, and if you live in the UK, we'll even include a postage paid return envelope ... please apply on line now whilst you are thinking about it, or fax / telephone my Team. Thank you.

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SC0521



The Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter mark used at Port Glasgow in 1814 on letter carried to Bordeaux on the private ship, the 'Edward'



POSTAL HISTORY

Renfrewshire

So far in this series we have highlighted material which is accessible financially but which also adds context and variety to a postal history collection or exhibit, writes John Scott. However on this occasion we are making an exception...

The postal history of Renfrewshire is so bound up with maritime history arising from the importance of the port of Greenock, along with Port Glasgow, and the industrial town of Paisley, renowned for shawls.

There are more than twenty ship letter marks recorded from Greenock and among the rarest and most intriguing are the Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter marks. The Ship Letter Act of 1814 imposed an additional charge on any letter sent by private ship instead of by the official packet service. The charge was one-third of the packet rate and, if there was no packet service to the destination, a 'deemed' rate was applied. A sender wishing to avail themselves of this service had to take the sealed letter to one of a limited number of post offices where a special datestamp was applied over the paper join on the reverse to prevent additional content being added later. Customs officers were encouraged to inspect vessels for any unstamped letters which would be confiscated along with a hefty fine for the



A postcard of the R.M.S. 'Columbia' posted by a passenger travelling from Dunoon to Oban on 28th June 1912





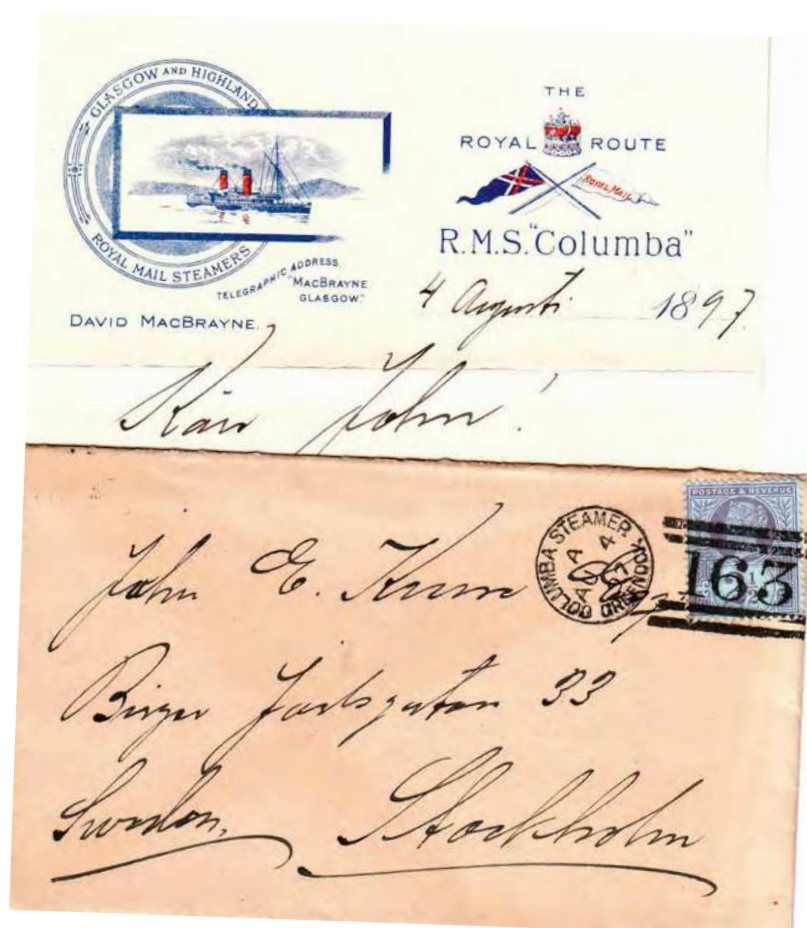
A colourful MacBrayne tourist brochure of 1950 by which time the fleet had reduced to eighteen vessels

captain. Needless to say this payment for a service not provided was not universally popular and by July 1815 the Act was repealed. With a life of under a year it is hardly surprising that letters bearing these marks are among the most elusive and correspondingly expensive. Indeed not a single example has been found from St. Ives or Queenborough and I am grateful to Malcolm Ray-Smith for permission to illustrate the sole example recorded from Port Glasgow.

Before depression sets in, another maritime aspect for which Greenock is well known among collectors is that of the Greenock & Ardrishaig Packets. Even by the 1820s steam boats were taking tourists down the Clyde during the summer season and in 1851 the shipping company of G. & J. Burns hived off their West Highland services to David Hutcheson, with David MacBrayne, a nephew of the Burns', taking over the undertaking in 1879 under his own name. Starting with nine ships in 1851, the fleet had grown to

A letter written by a Swedish tourist on board the 'Columba' in August 1897 cancelled with the ship's duplex mark. Code A signifies an outward journey

a dozen by 1879 and to 33 by 1905. What makes the MacBrayne steamers so unique in British postal history was the opening of on-board post offices on the *Columba* and the *Iona* in 1879 which plied between Greenock and Ardrishaig during the summer season and which continued until the public service became a casualty of the First World War in 1915, although sorting continued until 1917. Post Offices also functioned on board the 'Grenadier' and the 'Chevalier' but since these provided a winter service they are considerably rarer than the first two named. Apart from the postmarks themselves, the Company also produced a colourful range of postcards and stationery depicting both the ships



This postcard, cancelled with the *Columba* datestamp with larger lettering in 1908, should have been surcharged by virtue of the 'Sprig O' Hielan' Heather Frae dear auld Scotia's Hills' contained within the card

and the magnificent scenery of the isles which add to the visual appeal of such a collection. The title of 'The Royal Route' stems from Queen Victoria's use of the Company's steamers in 1847, and on two subsequent occasions, although King Edward and Queen Alexandra preferred the privacy of The Royal Yacht on their visit in 1902.

FURTHER READING

West Highland Steamers, C. Duckworth & G. Langmuir, London 1935.
The Floating Post Offices of the Clyde, James Mackay, Dumfries 1979.
Robertson Revisited, Colin Tabear, Limassol, 1997.



From the Dark Side

Philatelist and postal historian Dane Garrod describes what can be found and discovered in the items of communication before the advent of 'labels with a glutinous wash'

It was at a twice-monthly meeting at a distinguished setting in London of stamp collectors, philatelists, postal historians, call-them-what-you-will, that this writer heard someone describe the display on view as being 'from the dark side' – it being without postage stamps. Well, that as it may be, but it would seem appropriate to take that phrase and see if it holds truth and value.

Although the postage stamp is dated from 1840, before that time there needed to be evidence on letters transmitted of not only the written destination, but of the amount to be collected for postage, unless free postage was requested. To cast light on the so-called 'dark side', which is not really that at all, are two examples that have interesting journeys by foot, horse, and mailcoach, before the railway age transformed direction and speed of delivery. Additionally, they show the usage in final years of the 'free frank', the direct descendant of the franking system that began in principle in 1652.

From that year, all letters of Members of Parliament, of Officers of State and Council, were to be carried free of postage cost. Through the years, changes were made, including a new milestone in 1784 that required an MP to write on top of the letter the post town from where it was put into the postal system, the date and the year, as well as a signature at the bottom. By 1795 the squeeze was intensified with permissible weight of each letter reduced from two ounces to one ounce, and up to ten letters sent per day and fifteen received were the maximum allowed for free postage for those that qualified for this service.

From London just before Christmas a member of the aristocratic Villiers family wrote to Lt General Sir Gordon Drummond at Fellbrigg Hall, near Aylsham in Norfolk. With place and date written as 'London Decr. twenty first 1831', a double-ring (for afternoon and evening) handstamp states 'FREE / 22DEC22 / 1831'. Perhaps there were Christmas greetings contained in the letter-sheet from which this address panel was later cut and saved. But Sir George

Sir Gordon Drummond, the recipient of our cover, was a Canadian-born British Army officer who became Governor-General and Administrator of Canada before retiring to England in 1816



had gone to the south-coast seaside at St Leonards in Sussex for seasonal celebrations, and someone at Fellbrigg Hall added his re-direction address. This was a man with an amazing career as a Canadian-born British army officer of Scottish descent who became Governor-General and Administrator of Canada before retiring to England in 1816. Travel was over Christmas and by Boxing Day morning a second free frank was added in Sussex with a single ring for morning - 'FREE / 26DEC26 / 1831'. If only the Victorian collector had not cut away the rest of the sheet, or even sheets, we may well have had a letter of interest. Perhaps his signature is 'MBVW Villiers' with a third uncertain initial, but perhaps it is not.

Nearly two years later, and still before the abolition of the free frank system and the introduction of the penny post, Lord George Cavendish Bentinck, third son of the 4th Duke of Portland, used one

of his ten-a-day allowance to write from Ireland to England, another to a seaside resort on the south coast. This cut-out has clearly come from a Victorian album as the edges show, and eight lines of the message although not readable now, can just be discerned on the reverse and also through the album page from the back. Hastily written, at the top is 'Cork September One / 1833' and the signature at the bottom is 'G.Bentinck'. A black two-ring handstamp shows 'FREE / SE 2 / 1833 / DUBLIN', taken from one city to the other, probably by mailcoach. Thirty-one year old George was writing to a Miss Mills in Brighton, Sussex. After a sea journey, a second handstamp was added in England in the usual red ink, single ring and stating 'FREE / 4 SE 4 / 1833'.

These are just two examples from perhaps 'the bright side', once one has delved into a part of the details that can be readily found for the combination of postal and social history.



1 The entire shows place and date written as 'London Decer. twenty first 1831'

2 A double-ring (for afternoon and evening) handstamp states 'FREE / 22DEC22 / 1831'.

3 With the addressee away someone at Fellbrigg Hall added a re-direction address.

4 By Boxing Day morning a second free frank was added in Sussex with a single ring for morning - 'FREE / 26DEC26 / 1831'.

5 This cut-out has clearly come from a Victorian album as the edges show

6 Hastily written, at the top is 'Cork September One / 1833'

7 The signature at the bottom is 'G.Bentinck'.

8 A black two-ring handstamp shows 'FREE / SE 2 / 1833 / DUBLIN', taken from one city to the other, probably by mailcoach.

9 After a sea journey, a second handstamp was added in England in the usual red ink, single ring and stating 'FREE / 4 SE 4 / 1833'.



Above: Anya Taylor as Beth Harmon in the popular Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit*, based on the 1983 novel by Walter Tevis (Charlie Gray/Netflix ©2020). Right: the first chess stamp, issued by Bulgaria in 1947

Check your collection

With a history dating back hundreds of years and an intellectual appeal that few other games can offer, Chess is perhaps the world's most famous and popular board game, and as our special guide reveals, it makes for an engaging and visually attractive stamp theme

The lockdown has seen many of us turn to more gentle pastimes, including of course our own engrossing hobby of collecting stamps. Chess has enjoyed a similar revival, but it's only partly due to the pandemic. The television drama *The Queen's Gambit* released on the streaming service Netflix in October of last year was watched by 62 million households in just a few weeks, and has prompted thousands of couch potatoes to swap the remote control for the pawns, rooks, and bishops of the chess board.

Websites such as chess.com have enjoyed a massive spike in visitor numbers, with a reported 6,000 budding grandmasters joining every

day. Sales of chess boards have rocketed, and chess societies and federations have enjoyed an influx of new recruits.

The series is based on Walter Tevis's 1983 novel of the same name and chronicles the life of an orphan chess prodigy. The story, set during the Cold War era, follows American Beth Harmon from the age of eight to 22, as she struggles with addiction in a quest to become the greatest chess player in the world.

With countless budding Beth Harmons around the world challenging each other to games, and a growing number of younger people also discovering the fun to be had by collecting stamps, the chess theme is perfect for these times. There are a huge range of chess stamps to pursue.



A First Day Cover showing the Yugoslavia set issued in 1950 to celebrate the ninth Team Championship of the world, which was held in Dubrovnik

A centuries-old game

You won't be surprised to learn that chess has a very long history stretching back as far as the 7th century when its predecessor chaturanga was played in India. The game developed over the centuries



Poland's 1956 chess stamps were issued to celebrate the holding of the first 'Deaf and Dumb' Championships and so include sign language

The simple design of Finland's single 1952 value shows a knight and rook, whilst Iceland's 1972 stamp (below) featured a chess board design with a world map, in anticipation of the Boris Spassky vs Bobby Fischer match

and by the late 1400s the rules had evolved into something very close to today's game.

Anyone familiar with the way the pieces move, and the intricacies of the game, will not be surprised to learn that it took centuries to perfect the rules. By the 15th century, literature was being written about the game, and by the 1700s grandmasters were impressing onlookers with their adeptness, and in the late 19th century organised competitions became more frequent. Indeed, it is these contests that led to the world's first chess stamps.

The first stamp to depict the game being a Bulgarian value from 1947. One of a set of five issued to celebrate the 1947 Balkan Games, held in Bulgaria, the 9 leva stamp features a knight against an orange brown background.

Many of these early chess stamps were issued to celebrate the holding of competitions, and the second chess issue – a three-stamp set from the USSR – marked the World Chess Championship, held in Moscow in 1948. Two years later, in 1950, we saw two further chess sets, from Yugoslavia and Hungary, respectively. The Yugoslavia set of five values marked the ninth Team Championship of the world, held in

The international appeal of chess is reflected in the number of countries to have issued chess stamps.

Iceland's connection with US player Bobby Fischer, depicted on this 2002 design (far right), began when the match against Spassky was held in Reykjavik in 1972, and Fischer spent his final years living in Iceland



Dubrovnik, whilst the Hungarian set of three coincided with the Candidates Tournament, held in Budapest in April of that year.

These early chess stamps demonstrate the popularity of chess in communist countries, where the game was a part of everyday life. Indeed, 'Chess for the masses!' was a real slogan used in Russia, Lenin spent much of his spare time playing, and the game was considered by many to be a political weapon, the perfect way to teach the strategy of warfare. As is often the case, stamps can be used to describe this part of history and the subsequent USA vs Russia chess contests that grabbed the headlines during the Cold War.

Chess pieces

The pawns, knights, bishops, rooks, masterful queen and all important king have been shown on many stamps over the years, making it possible for the stamp collector to have a game of chess using different designs – though using tweezers would be a must.

Finland's single stamp from 1952 depicts a knight and bishop with a chess board in the background, and Poland's 1956 pair of stamps features the same pieces. This time, however, the design incorporates hands forming sign language, since the stamps marked the first 'deaf and dumb chess championship'.

One of the most notable sets





depicting chess pieces came from Bulgaria in 1962, and there have been many artistic interpretations over the years. In 2004 Hungary issued their 'A little Hungarian Chess History' set with each stamp showing the outline of a chess piece; Aruba followed in 2011 with a similar set.

But perhaps the 'King' of the chess piece designs is a Spanish stamp issued in 2018. The €1.45 value not only depicts a bishop but is in the shape of this chess piece.

Of course, the board itself lends itself to the stamp format, and many designs depict the 64 squares in imaginative ways.

The Grand Masters

The great minds of chess have long captured the imagination of the game's fans, with classic contests recreated online and particular moves being named after those that famously used them. Naturally these personalities appear on stamps.

In 1957 both the USSR and Switzerland issued stamps in honour of Swiss mathematician Leonard Euler (1707-1783), whose 'Knight's Tour' solved the apparently burning question of how a knight can move through all the squares of a chess board, without ever moving two times

to the same square, and beginning with a given square. In August 1958 the USSR issued a 40 kopek stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Russian champion MI Chigorin, who had a great influence on the 'Soviet School of Chess'. Meanwhile, the Philippines paid homage to national hero Jose Rizal on a 1962 value. Rizal, who has appeared on numerous Philippines stamps had

many talents, including poetry, writing, and, naturally playing chess.

Cuba's five-stamp 'Grandmasters' set of March 1976 dedicated a stamp to each of five notable players, including José Raúl Capablanca y Graupera the Cuban player who was world champion from 1921 to 1927.

The same player appeared on each value in a set of four issued by Cuba in 1982 marking the fortieth anniversary of his death, and even more ambitious set in 1988 marked the centenary of his birth.

Perhaps one of the most famous grandmasters is Garry Kasparov. Now retired, the player was the number one player in the world for a remarkable 21 years, and he has appeared on several stamps from countries including Suriname, Mongolia, and Uganda, whose 2012 set recalled the six-game contest between Kasparov and 'Deep Blue'

The seemingly simple aesthetics of chess have been interpreted in many different ways over the years, with Spain's €1.45 value (left) in the shape of a bishop, being of particular note

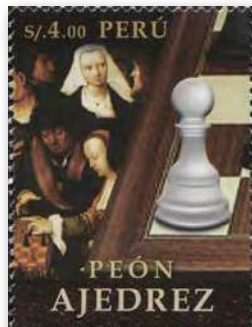
Chess has long been a male-dominated game, or it would certainly appear so judging by the stamps issued. Female champions have been honoured, including Vera Menchik, the first woman to be inducted into the Chess Hall of Fame, and sisters Anna and Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine



an IBM computer (the 'man' won the first match in 1996 and the 'machine' made history the following year in a rematch). His famous battle with previous world champion Anatoly Karpov was celebrated on a Russian stamp issued in 1985.

The Cold War era for chess was epitomised by the arrival of US champion Bobby Fischer, who defeated Boris Spassky of the USSR, in a match held in Reykjavík, Iceland in 1972. Fischer became a recluse after falling out with the chess authorities and later became embroiled in politics when he took part in a rematch with Spassky despite the US government forbidding him to do so. He ended his years in Iceland, and there have been

The selection below includes Britain's contribution to the chess theme. A 1976 set of four honoured William Caxton, who pioneering printing in the UK, and included an 11p value showing 'Game and Playe of Chesse'



The King's Gambit



This Uganda stamp recalls the contest between Kasparov and the 'Deep Blue' IBM computer

a number of Icelandic stamps recalling his famous victory.

But what about the women? The traditionally male-dominated world of chess is reflected in the stamps issued over the years, a fact that Beth Harmon would be all too familiar with, but there are a growing number of stamps celebrating female chess talents.

Former Women's World Chess Champion Mariya Muzychuk, and her sister Anna, are both grandmasters and appeared on a stamp from Ukraine in 2015. Their parents both taught the game and both siblings were entering tournaments by the age of six years old.

In 2001 Yugoslavia issued a set dedicated to famous women chess players, and in 1996 Vera Menchik was honoured with a Czech postage stamp. Menchik held her world title for seventeen years and was the first woman to be inducted into the Chess World Hall of Fame.

Portraying the 64 squares of a chess board on an often square stamp seems apt; the neatness and intelligent ambition of both pursuits strikes a similar chord. Now, with a resurgence in both philately and chess, this engaging theme looks set to remain hugely popular, and no doubt more themed stamps will be issued in the years to come.



Lot 30032 in the David Feldman December 2011 auction of Anatoly Karpov's collection of Belgium, sold for €240,000 (approximately £205,700)

There's a renaissance going on in the world of chess right now thanks to the mini series *The Queen's Gambit*, writes Devlan Kruck. Perhaps it's an exaggeration to claim chess is now in vogue as a consequence of this glamorous portrayal, but the chess playing stereotype of a socially awkward geek, who can probably read your mind, has been positively altered by this edgy and provocative drama. It depicts the chess player in a fascinating and colourful light. Indeed, the cinematography, performances, and costumes sprinkle stardust upon an otherwise monochrome game.

Now, it wouldn't be talking out of turn to make a comparison with our chess playing brothers and sisters and the stamp collector, who is often cast as a fusty old introvert, overly intellectual, slightly boring, and certainly unfashionable; that is if we are over-generalising about a particular category of people. However, not wishing to jump on any bandwagons and purely to illustrate the injustice of such stereotypes, let us introduce philatelist Anatoly Karpov, a Russian Chess Grandmaster, who held the World Chess Champion title from 1975 to 1985, and then again for a further six years between 1993 and 1999.

In the world of chess Anatoly Karpov is quite simply a king of kings; Karpov is a superstar of the chess world. So, you're probably wondering who would win if our orphaned chess prodigy, and crowned 'Queen' of the chess screen Beth Harmon, sat down and played the 'King' Anatoly Karpov.

Well, before we answer that question, let's get two important details out in the open. Firstly, Anatoly Karpov is one of the greatest philatelists of the 21st century, having assembled world class collections of Belgium, Belgium and Congo, Imperial Russia and the Olympic Games. The former sold in four David Feldman SA auctions during 2011 and 2012 for over €6.5 million, and broke three world records for prices achieved in the proceedings. The second crucial detail we need to address is that a 'gambit' is a chess move played to 'trip-up' the opponent. If you fail to spot and adequately deal with the 'gambit' it's almost certain you'll lose.

It won't surprise anyone to hear there's a lot more to chess than a 'gambit', but the psychology behind

such gamesmanship is actually part of the very fabric of the age-old game. For example, our king Karpov started playing chess at four and by the age of twelve he was heralded as a prospective future chess master, and accepted into Mikhail Botvinnik's prestigious chess school. However, Karpov very nearly 'tripped-up' because no sooner had he taken his seat at the Botvinnik educational establishment than his tutor made the following observation: 'The boy does not have a clue about chess, and there's no future at all for him in this profession.' A damning assessment.

History informs us that Botvinnik got it wrong. Or at least it would appear so. In fact, the chess megastar and mentor played a gambit of his own; the wily chess professor knew 'his' prodigy would either spot the trip-up and thus take evasive action, or he'd fall. Apparently Karpov's understanding of chess theory back then was inadequate and Botvinnik thus prescribed the absorbing of chess knowledge via books. Karpov took these written stimulants and drank every drop of chess theory he could lay his hands upon. Overdosed on chess methodology and infused with chess theory Karpov, in 1966, became the youngest Soviet National Master in history at the age of just fifteen.

Our chess and philatelic master today has a private chess library which consists of 9,000 books, and a vast philatelic library about stamps and postal history as well. Karpov learnt early in his life that if you want to be the world's greatest, then reading as much as you can about the subject will improve your game, as well as your gambit.

So who would win our imagined contest between Harmon and Karpov? It's not so simple to envision the result. You see, unlike the simple facts that Anatoly Karpov is one of the greatest chess players of the 20th century, that he's one of the greatest philatelists of the 21st century, and that *The Queen's Gambit* depicts a bold, brave woman taking on the male-dominated chess world of the time, chess isn't actually that black and white.

Anatoly Karpov's early Belgium collection is now available to view online at: www.museumofphilately.com



A-Z THEMATICS

The perfect theme

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October is the UN's World Post Day. The USA's National Stamp Collecting Month and India's National Philately Day also fall in October. However, these high-profile events are just the tip of the philatelic iceberg. There are many annual philatelic events on the collecting calendar, including special days, philatelic exhibitions, and stamp competitions. Postal authorities often produce commemorative issues to mark them, and they all have suitably stamp-y imagery. Laos' 1962, Vientiane Stamp Expo, four-stamp set is a fine example. The 0.70 kip value features a Laotian in national costume, carrying a globe wrapped in postage stamps.

Austria's postal service has been especially supportive of stamp collecting. Their 1950 and 1955 Stamp Day issues, for instance, are



lovely releases, featuring, in one, a boy flicking through his stamp album, and in the other, a man examining a stamp with a magnifier.

Famous stamp collectors make an interesting addition to this theme. Franklin D. Roosevelt was a keen philatelist and, in 1930, George Linn, of Linn's Weekly, created 'A Stamp Collector for President' label, encouraging votes for a fellow philatelist. In 1947, photographs of FDR working on his collection were released. This image inspired stamp releases from the Cook Islands, Monaco, the Philippines, Turks & Caicos, and Yemen, and these would make for a great display page. However, philately's famous faces aren't limited to presidents and kings. They also include the likes of Freddy Mercury, Anatoly Karpov, James Earl Jones, and Maria Sharapova, and they've all appeared on stamps.

The process of stamp design and manufacture has been well represented by postal authorities over the years. Usually, it's stamp engravers and artists who feature, but there are some notable exceptions which make an unusual addition to this theme. Austria's 1962 Stamp Day release shows the process of stamp-die engraving. West Germany's 1972 Stamp Day release shows a gravure printing press.

Stamps on stamps are another winning addition to a stamp topic. There are lots of bright and breezy releases to whet your appetite, but USSR's 1960 Collector's Day issue has it all. It's image of a philatelist's magnifier enlarging a stamp, emblazoned with a dove of peace. The inscription reads: 'Philately serves the friendship of peoples', which seems a very good reason, indeed, to collect.



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Various, Austria, Stamp Day issues.
1960, USSR, Collector's Day friendship stamp.
1972, GDR, Stamp Day release featuring a gravure printing press.

Expand the theme

Slogan/motto postmarks, such as the USA's 'Do Something Wild-Collect Stamps' (c.1992) and GB's more prosaic 'Collect British Stamps' (c.1982) make a fun addition to the theme.

Collecting links

Rammy Molcho's superb and ever-expanding website, 'Stamps on Stamps' is a virtual collection designed to be browsed and enjoyed online. Visit it at: <https://rammym.wixsite.com/stampsonstamps>

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Chronicles of NOELLA BRY

A philatelic distraction based on real events,
by Eva Mealing

CHAPTER ONE THE CURIOUS CASE OF 'THE LONDON GANG'

PART TWO – THE GREAT PHILIP FERRARI DE LA RENOTIÈRE

The grey London afternoon faded into a misty evening shadow. Noella bumped along a crowded cobbled street in a cab that rocked rhythmically in step with its horse. She was in an elated mood. Only that morning she'd left her tranquil life in Yorkshire where her job prospects amounted to domestic chores, to realising her dream and becoming a reporter for a leading newspaper. Now she travelled through the bustling City to interview a solicitor named Donald Garth and begin her investigation into the stamp forgers.

Garth worked in Chancery Lane for the legal firm Pemberton & Garth, and Noella's editor, Armstrong, insisting upon a meeting without delay, had sent a note ahead of her departure to inform the legal man that his representative would shortly arrive. According to Armstrong's confidant Judge Philbrick, Garth, in his capacity as President of the prestigious Philatelic Society London, was coordinating information from a number of concerned parties within certain philatelic circles regarding the activities of the gang, and had prepared a confidential dossier which Philbrick had promised the *Globe's* editor.

So, as soon as Armstrong had supplied Noella with cash to cover her immediate expenses, she deposited her travel bag with the newspaper's cloakroom attendant and stepped outside into a waiting cab for her rendezvous with the solicitor.

Garth turned out to be a tall angular gentleman of about forty years old, immaculately dressed. His short dark hair, alert blue eyes and slim mouth formed an inquisitive but friendly face, and he graciously invited Noella to take a seat in his office. 'Everything is in these papers Miss Bry. Names, locations and philatelic material considered fake. You'll need assistance no doubt with these stamp specifications.' Noella flicked through the pages Garth had provided, pausing at one entry, looked him in the eye and said, 'They've reproduced the first issue 1850 New South Wales with the Sydney view. My goodness.' Garth shifted in his seat. 'You are familiar with the stamp, Miss Bry. Do you collect?' Noella nodded, 'I do, Mr Garth.' The solicitor smiled, 'Delighted to meet a fellow philatelist. I must commend Mr Armstrong on his apt appointment.'

Garth then proceeded to précis his dossier with gesticulating arms, in great technical detail, describing fake surcharges on South American stamps and bogus postmarks from unheard of places. He became particularly animated about forged perforations, his ears reddening with annoyance. 'They must have access to an engraver and printing equipment Miss Bry, to produce stamps of this quality. Our Vice President at the society, Mr M.P. Castle, is an expert on these Australian stamps and informs me they are difficult to distinguish from the originals.' Noella asked why no-one had informed the police. Garth clarified by saying, 'Much of this is circumstantial and the truth is, some material has unwittingly been sold on by reputable individuals. Tact is essential until the culprits are directly implicated.'

Noella took a cab from outside Pemberton & Garth giving the

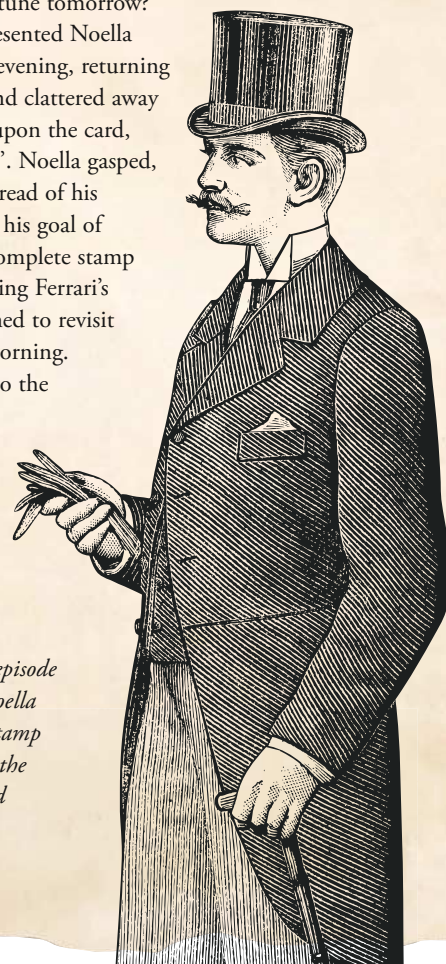
coachman the address, '1, Cullum Street'. According to Garth's dossier it was a stamp shop in the City of London being used as a legitimate front by the London Gang. When her cab driver announced the premises were up ahead, Noella requested the driver to wait a little way up the street so she could walk a short distance to the property. It was now evening and the narrow street, with buildings tightly compressed on either side, provided little in the way of illumination. The display window had a sign which read; 'Benjamin & Sarpy Stamp Dealers' but Noella could see no sign of light inside the shop.

She made to return to her cab, just as a carriage trundled noisily towards her, coming to a standstill right outside the stamp shop. A gentleman stepped from the compartment onto the pavement and asked with a distinct French accent, 'Madame, is this establishment closed?' Noella curtsied, 'Sir, it is. Are you a philatelist?' The gentleman, although clothed in the attire of a wealthy individual, looked dishevelled. His manner seemed awkward. After a moment's delay he replied, 'Madame, I have travelled from Paris and my channel crossing was delayed, so I have come immediately in the hope of keeping an appointment. I shall return tomorrow.' A sense of excitement filled Noella, 'Sir, I'm a collector also and arrived today from the north of England. We seem to have suffered the same fate. Perhaps we will have more fortune tomorrow?'

The gentleman smiled and presented Noella with a card and bid her good evening, returning to his carriage, which rolled and clattered away as she read the name printed upon the card, 'Philip Ferrari de La Renotière'. Noella gasped, 'Ferrari!' Every philatelist had read of his enormous family fortune, and his goal of assembling the world's most complete stamp collection. Noella smiled, placing Ferrari's card into her pocket, determined to revisit Benjamin & Sarpy the next morning.

Noella made her way back to the cab and as she climbed in, she paused for a moment recalling her train journey from York that same day. So much had happened and there was so much more she wanted to know.

...to be continued. In the next episode find out what happens when Noella returns to Benjamin & Sarpy Stamp Dealers. Can she discover what the London Gang's next move is and why Ferrari arrived from Paris?



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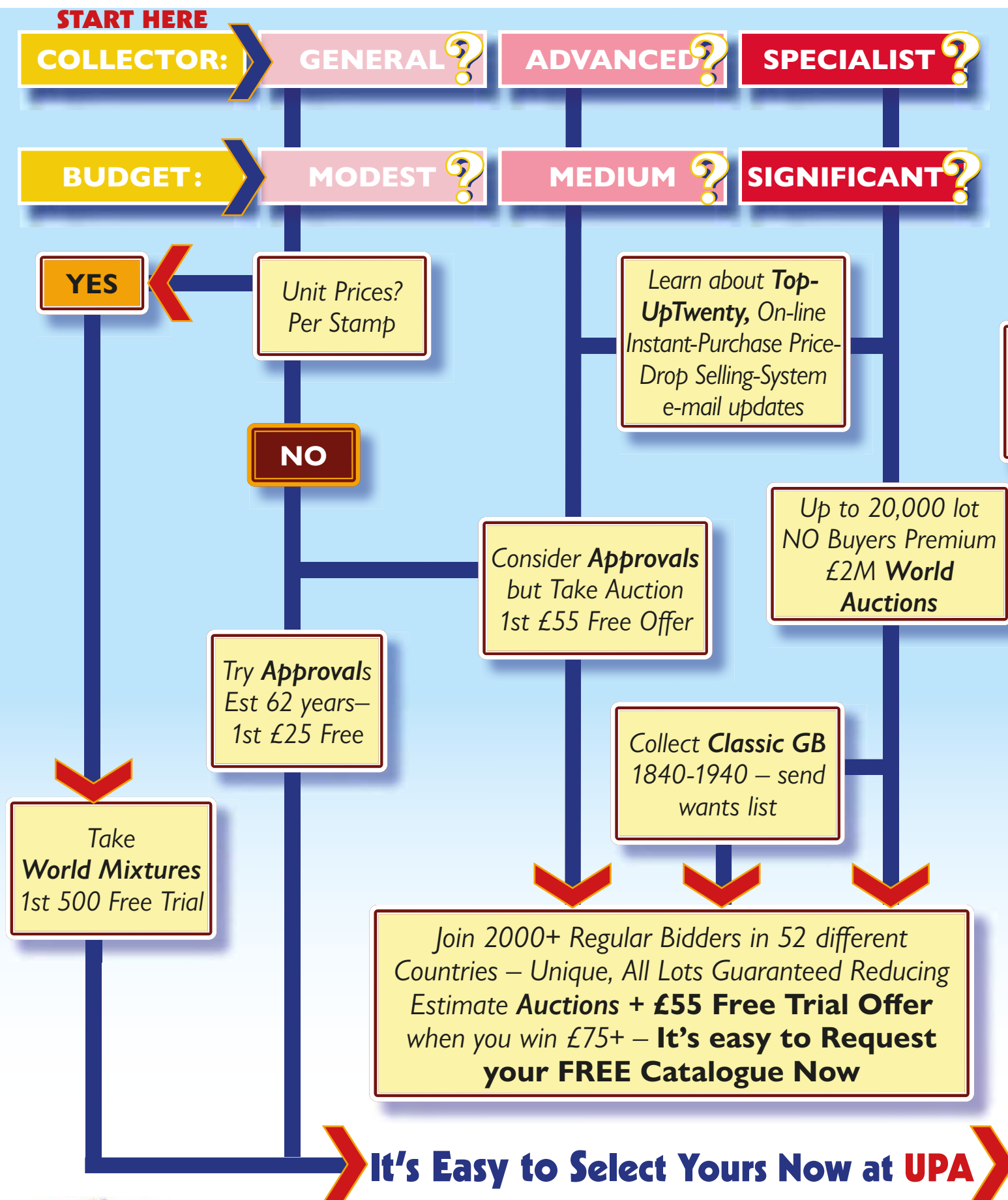
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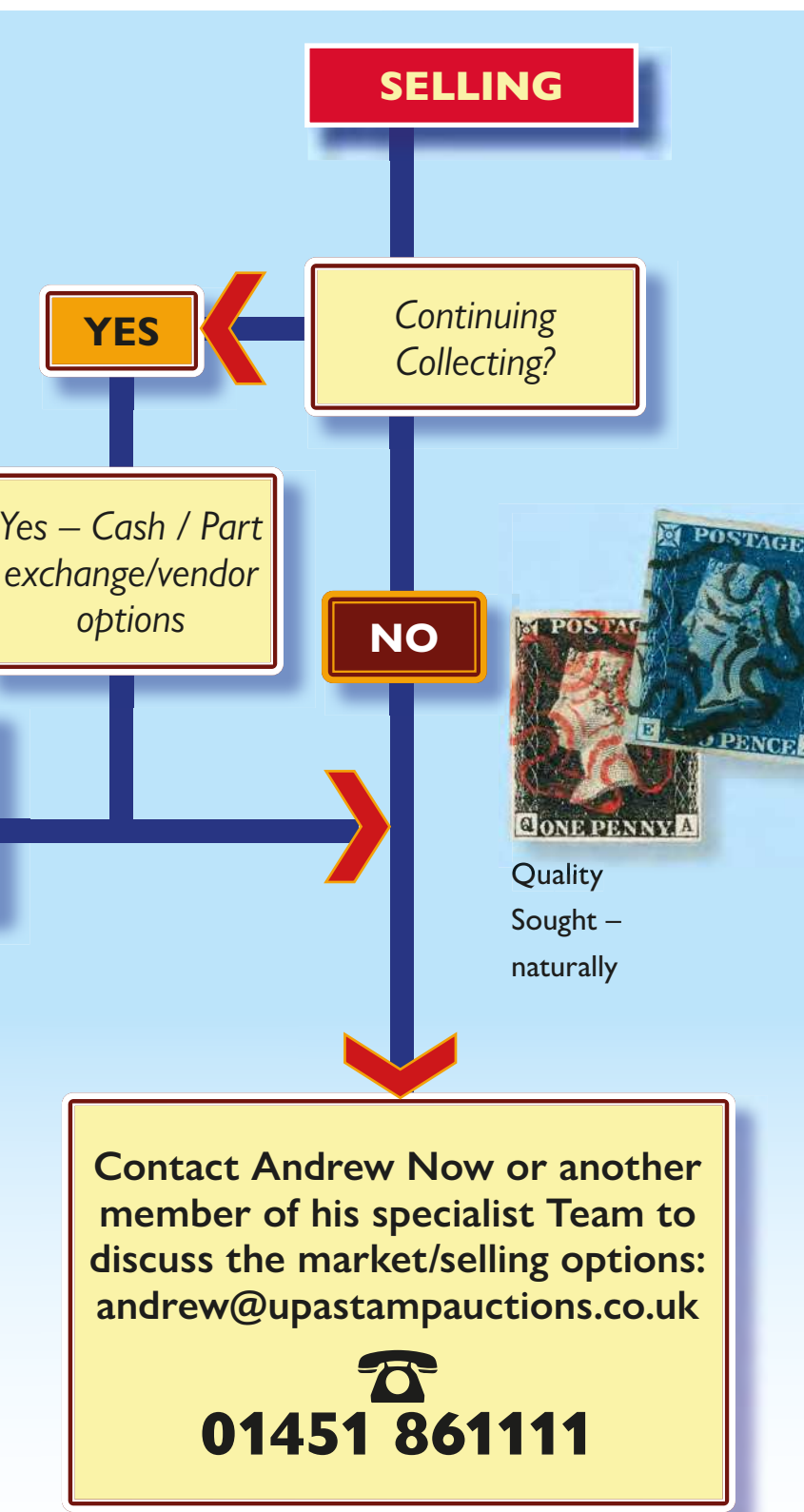
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