

**BUMPER PACK! INCLUDES COIN COLLECTOR ISSUE 10!**

FEBRUARY 2021 Volume 3, Issue 2 [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk)

# STAMP COLLECTOR

## AN AFRICAN ODDITY

How a batch of missing stamps created a fascinating philatelic tale



Discover the howlingly rare Treskilling Yellow



Liechtenstein's beautiful 1930s definitives in detail



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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

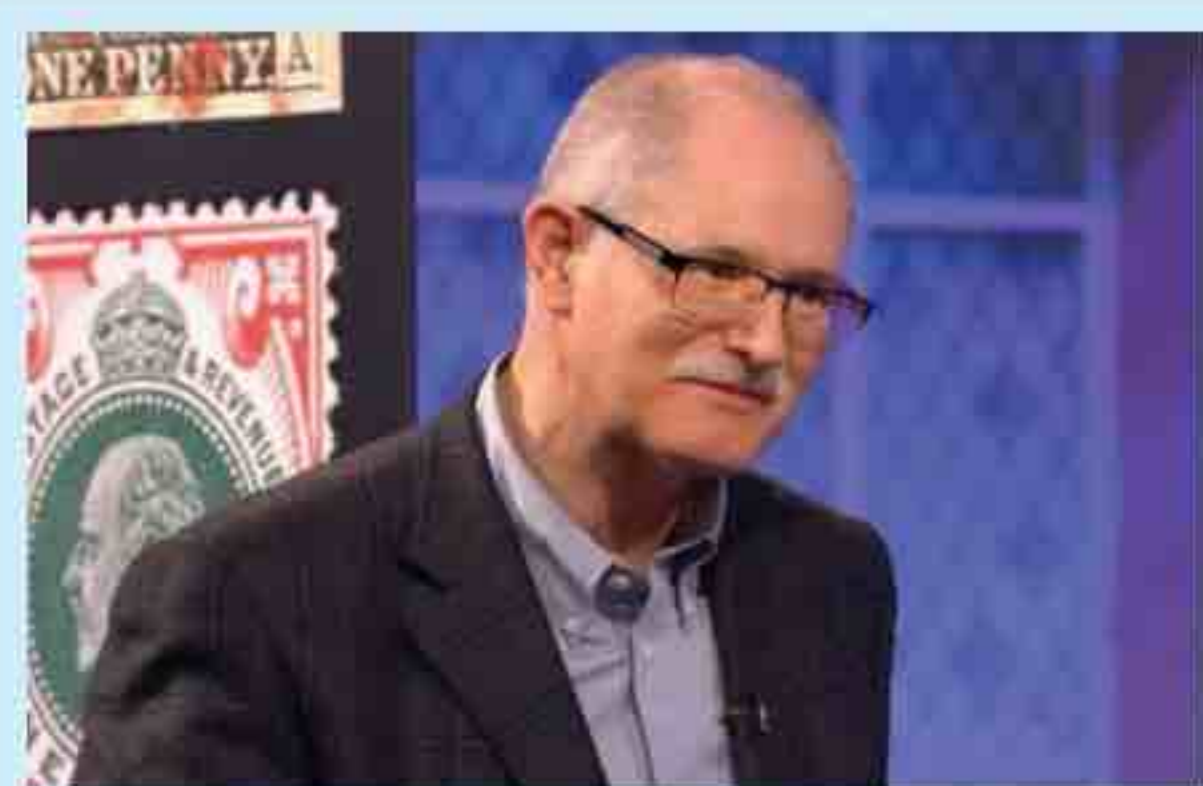
Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

# This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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

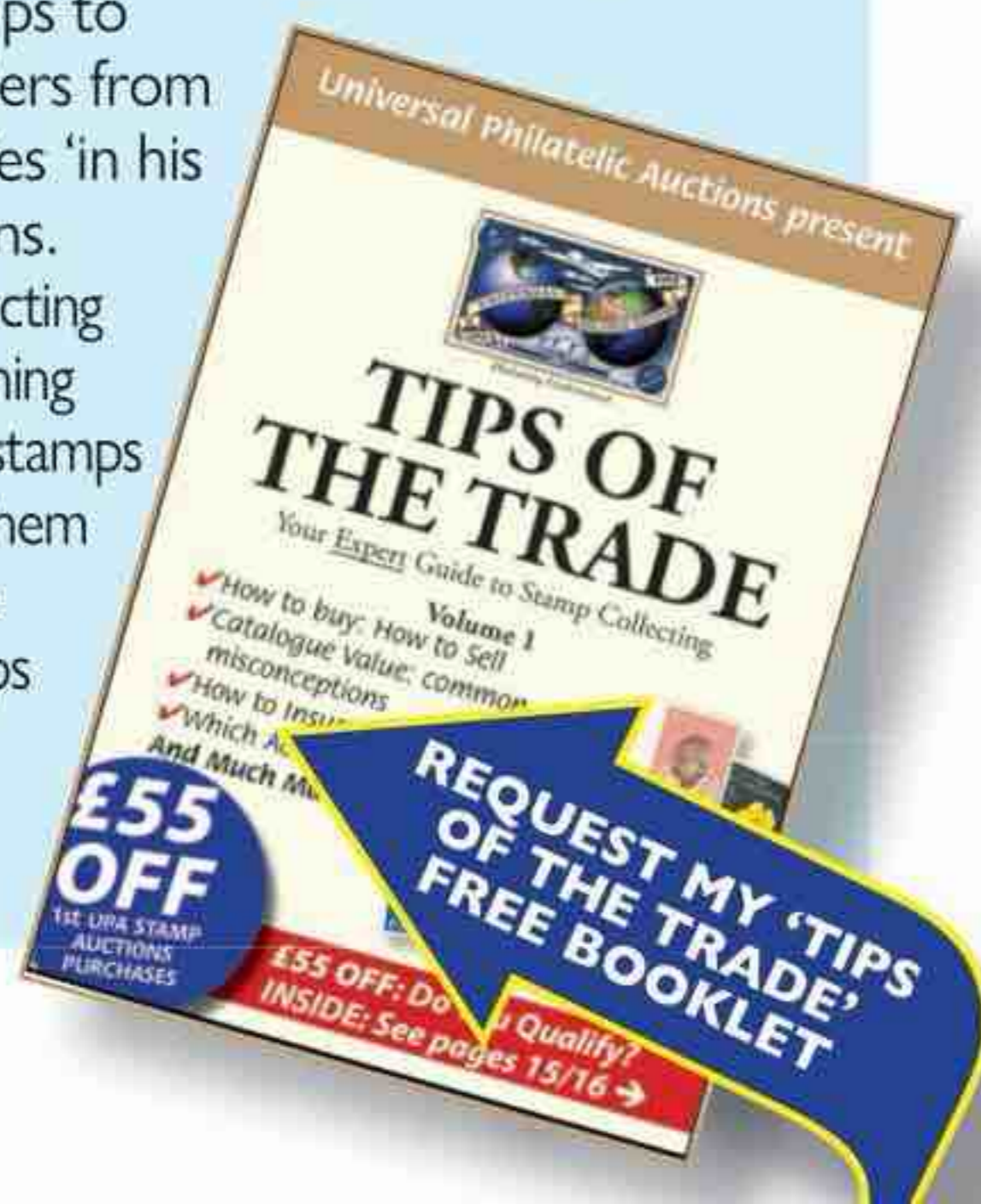
**1** ▶ **If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recently I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers 'what is your biggest problem?'

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

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been

entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction

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

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

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock – but **absent collectors in the place they choose to sell their stamps in**. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that our former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors)**, but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Contact UPA: 01451 861 111**

**UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:**

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely  
D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

**15 OK, What Do I Do Next?**

- 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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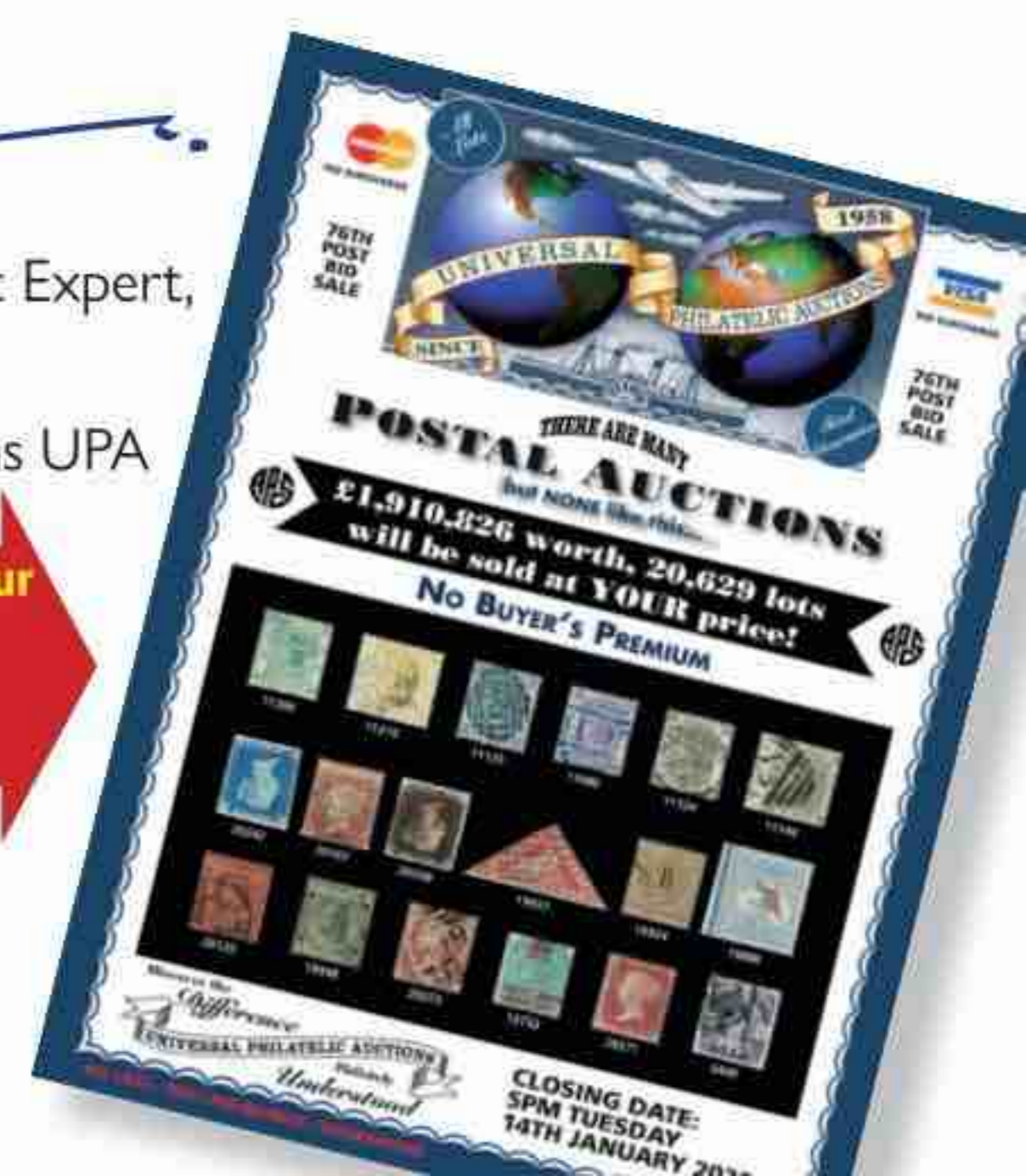


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**When *Stamp Collector* drops through your letterbox you're treated to a friendly guide full of knowledge and know-how, news and views, all helping you to build your collection. It's the perfect collecting companion during these long winter nights!**

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**JOIN TODAY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FANTASTIC OFFER! SEE PAGE 64 FOR DETAILS**

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**STAMP COLLECTOR** ALL ABOUT STAMPS

# Welcome

## LOOKING FORWARD TO A STAMP-FILLED 2021



The recent results of the PTS Awards were a nice reminder of how our hobby continues to adapt to the world around it. Winners included the stamp enthusiast behind a popular YouTube channel, and an experienced stamp dealer who pushed himself out of his comfort zone to embrace the 'virtual world' we have found ourselves in of late.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the awards (you can see the full results in our Stamp Update pages). It just goes to show that this wonderful hobby is truly universal; it's there for everyone, new or experienced, traditional or virtual.

This month we reflect the all-encompassing aspect of stamp collecting with a wide range of topics, dipping in to myriad moments in history and many different locations around the world. I've really enjoyed our examination of Swiss stamps in this and last month's issue. Those early designs are beautiful in their simplicity and somehow reflect the picturesque landscapes where they were used.

The definitive stamps of Liechtenstein detailed in this issue provide a more literal representation of the region's beauty but are again appealing to the eye. We've now covered nearly thirty different stamp issues in our Classic Sets series and the different designs would make for a fantastic collection – do let me know if you've been inspired to collect a particular set, or all of them, thanks to the monthly guides.

Finally, I'd like to take this chance to remind you that there's still time to enter the latest All About Stamps competition, which is focussing on GB stamps. Thanks to everyone who has entered a one-page display so far. Head over to the website ([www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/virtual-events/stamp-displays](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/virtual-events/stamp-displays)) to see entries from our last competition and find out how to enter this time. We'll be showcasing your entries in next month's issue. And, of course, the competition is open to everyone, young, old, newcomer or expert! Have a go!

Matt Hill, Editor

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

## Writing in this issue...



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 focussing on how philatelic history is preserved for future philatelists.



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 81.



Paula Hammond has worked as a publisher, copy-writer, ghost-writer, author, and journalist. She's written over thirty fiction and non-fiction books as well as comics, poetry, and scripts for DVDs and CD-ROMS. Paula writes our A to Z of thematics serie, page 67.

## NEW DEFINITIVES FOR NEW RATES



A set of three new Machin definitives, and four new country definitives have been issued to cover new postal tariffs which came into force at the start of the year.

The Marine Turquoise £1.70, Aqua Green £3.25, and the Plum Purple £4.20 were issued on 23 December and are each self adhesive, measuring 20mm x 24mm with perforations of 15 x 14, and are available as a stamp set, in a presentation pack and on a first day cover.

The new country definitives each have a denomination of £1.70 and feature the 2013 designs showing an English oak (England), a linen slip case courtesy of the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum (Northern Ireland), the thistle sculpted by Tim Chalk (Scotland), and the daffodil created in Welsh slate (Wales). These new country definitives are also available in a set, in a presentation pack, and on a first day cover.

Meanwhile, Royal Mail recently revealed an increase in the price of 1st and 2nd class stamps despite considering 'any pricing changes very carefully' and seeking 'to minimise any impact on our customers' in the current economic environment. On 1 January the price of a 1st class stamp increased by 9p to 85p and the price of a 2nd Class stamp went up by 1p to 66p.

Nick Landon Chief Commercial Officer at Royal Mail said: 'Like other companies, 2020 has been a challenging year for Royal Mail. Our people have worked tirelessly to keep the UK connected

throughout the pandemic and associated restrictions. These price increases will help us continue to deliver and sustain the Universal Service in challenging circumstances.'

According to the Royal Mail, 2020 has seen a 28% fall in the sending of letters. A statement read: 'The Universal Service Obligation, which requires Royal Mail to be able to deliver to 31 million home and business addresses across the UK, comes with high fixed costs... The reduction in letter volumes has had a significant impact on the finances of the Universal Service which lost £180 million in the first half of the year. This demonstrates the need for change in the Universal Service. We are working tirelessly to deliver the most comprehensive service we can in difficult circumstances as the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact our operation.'

## MAIL COULD SOON BE DELIVERED BY DRONES

If you thought the idea of a robot delivering your mail was pure science fiction think again, Royal Mail are working with two providers of 'unmanned aerial vehicles' and recently conducted a drone delivery to a remote lighthouse on the Isle of Mull.

According to Royal Mail, the experiment in Scotland is the first step in a consultation programme and trial which will focus on engaging with the community to explore the viability of using drones to deliver to rural communities on the Isle of Mull. The trials are intended to identify opportunities to support postmen and postwomen in delivering to very remote areas and addresses in the UK.

As with all Royal Mail UK deliveries, the postcode will route the parcel towards its destination. The local postie will then use drone delivery to reach the most remote locations in their patch faster. For the drone delivery, residents consulted on the Isle of Mull will be invited to use the 'DronePrep' platform to assess the viability of their property for drone delivery and pinpoint a suitable landing location using the 'what3words' app, which enables users to identify a 3 metre by 3 metre square location.

Isle of Mull postman Tom Nunn said: 'I am very pleased to be involved in this fantastic trial. It is an exciting opportunity to test out new ways of working to support us posties that deliver in some of the most remote areas of the UK. Some of the houses on the Isle of Mull include a thirty-minute walk to the front door so the use of drones will be a huge help!'

Nick Landon, Chief Commercial Officer at Royal Mail, said: 'Delivering



The drone set to deliver a parcel to an Isle of Mull resident. Whether the drones adopt the same 'pen cancellation' of stamps as some of Royal Mail's postal workers is still to be seen

the first live parcel in the UK by an unmanned drone was a landmark day for us. We are incredibly proud to be working with DronePrep, Skyports and what3words to trial new ways to support the more remote and isolated communities we serve. This is part of our constant drive to incorporate the best innovative technologies into our network. We've seen a huge increase in parcel volumes this year and this is just one of the ways we are looking at to support our frontline delivery staff and deliver fast, convenient and green services for all of our customers.'



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

CAT £375



### REF T501

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

CAT £90

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

£89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



**REF T502  
FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE**

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

£89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



### REF T503

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

CAT £900

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

£169.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

### REF T504

**GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILES**

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

£299.50 PLUS £12.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

### REF T603

**FOREIGN SHOE BOX**

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

£49.50 PLUS £3.75 POSTAGE

### REF T604

**COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX**

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

£49.50 PLUS £3.75 POSTAGE

### REF T605

**CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS & IOM SHOE BOX**

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

£49.50 PLUS £3.75 POSTAGE

### REF T606

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

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

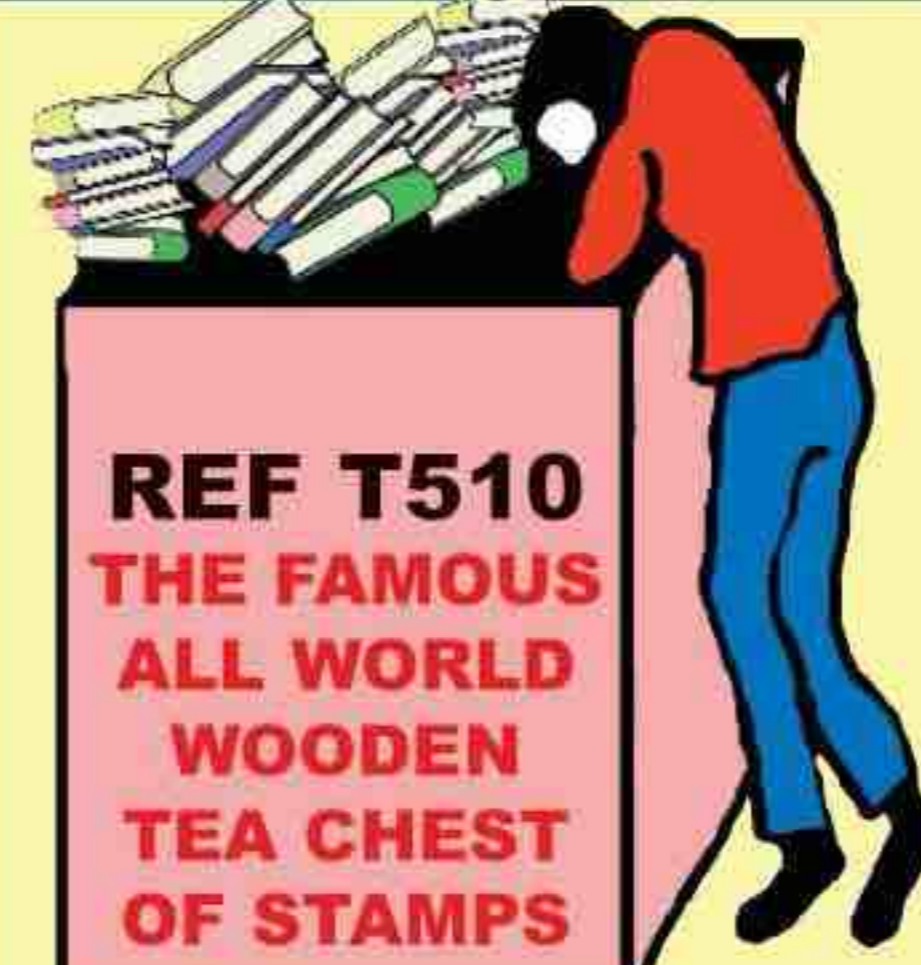
£49.50 PLUS £3.75 POSTAGE



### REF T602 WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX

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

£299.50 PLUS £15.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.



**REF T510  
THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS**

### REF T510 THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS

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

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

### REF T623

**GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST**

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

£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

### REF T624

**COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST**

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

£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

### REF T626

**FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST**

CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES & STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON & OFF PAPER, & SINGLE STAMPS & AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £700+

£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

### REF T627

**ALL WORLD WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST**

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



£299.50 PLUS £20.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



### REF T607

**ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/2 BOX**

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

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

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

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### AUCTION DATES FOR 2021

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12th May, 9th Jun, 14th July



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# IN BRIEF

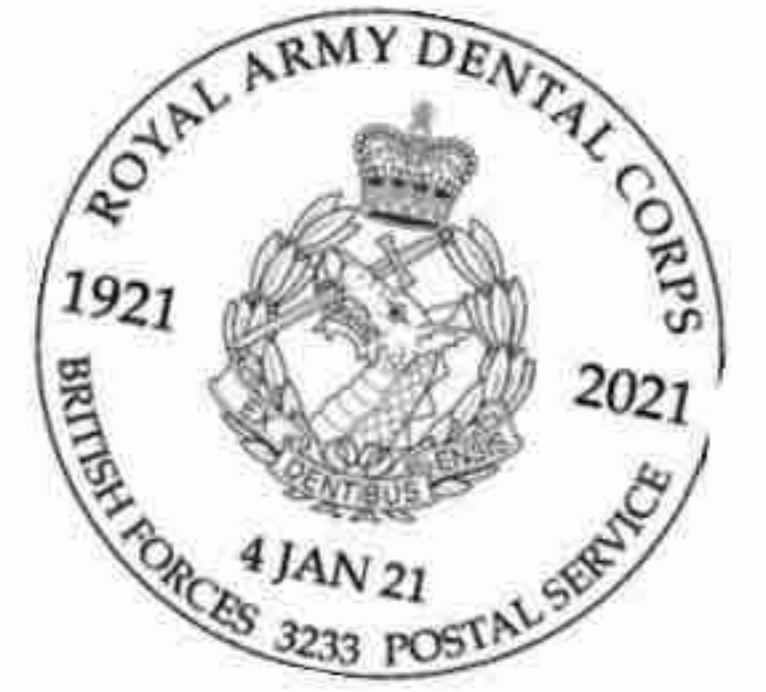
The Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) has launched its own YouTube channel, to host videos of Society Zoom meetings and other presentations provided by members. John Davies of the GBPS said: 'These videos are intended as a member benefit and some are restricted to members of the Society... [The videos] cover a wide range of topics in GB stamps and postal history. To see them you need the direct links which are on the Society website at [www.gbbs.org.uk/videos](http://www.gbbs.org.uk/videos). We plan to add more videos to both the public and members' sections of the channel in the coming months.'

The British Thematic Association has announced its first-ever 'One-Page Competition'. A spokesperson for the BTA said: 'We have launched this to encourage people, regardless of age and experience, to exhibit something from their thematic collection that excites them and will be of wide interest to our members as well as other thematic and topical collectors.' Find out more at: [www.britishthematic.org.uk](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk)

The American Topical Association (ATA) will be holding a free webinar entitled 'Navigating eBay.com for Topical and Thematic Collectors' hosted by Wayne Youngblood. The session will provide advice on simple to advanced searches for a variety of philatelic items on eBay.

The Russian authorities in the city of Oryol, which was occupied by the Nazis during the Second World War, have removed reproduction postage stamps featuring Adolf Hitler's portrait from local newspaper kiosks, following complaints from locals. Russia has strict laws on Nazi propaganda.

# MILITARY COVER MARKS DENTAL ANNIVERSARY



The Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) is a specialist corps in the British Army that provides dental care services to its personnel and their families in war and in peace. The Corps is part of the Army Medical Services (AMS) and celebrates its 100th birthday in January 2021.

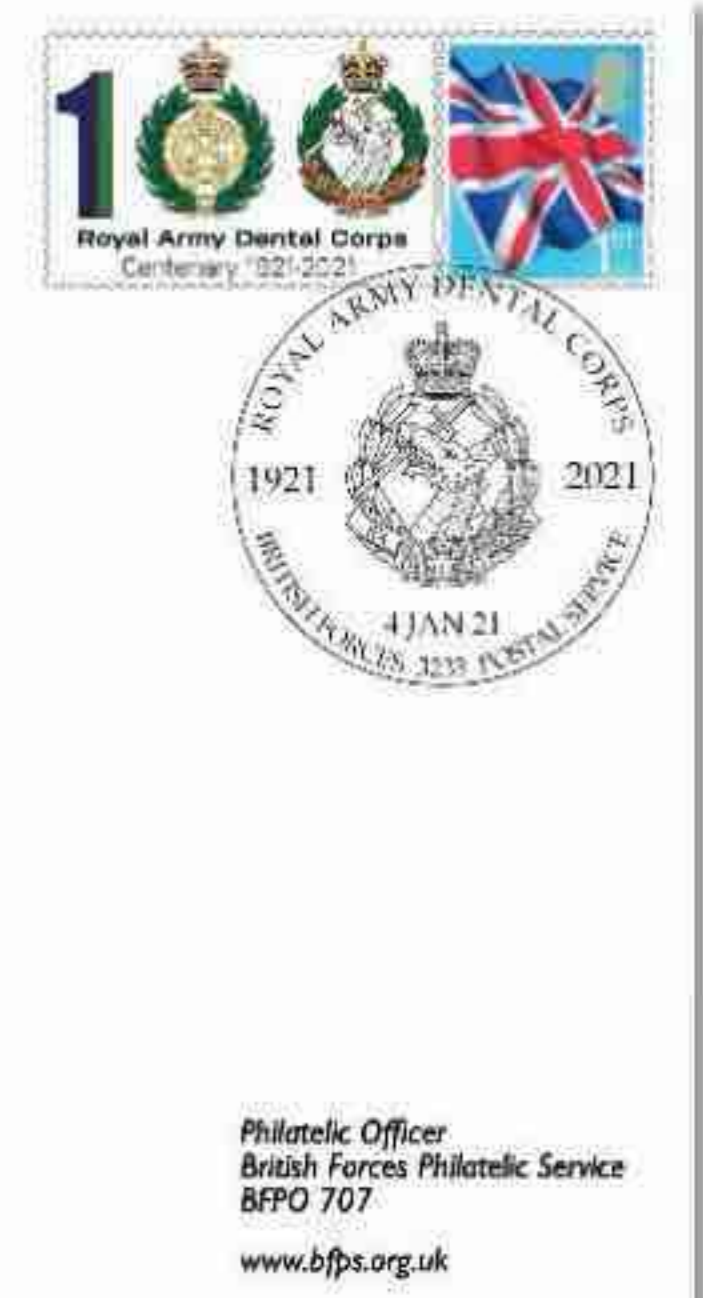
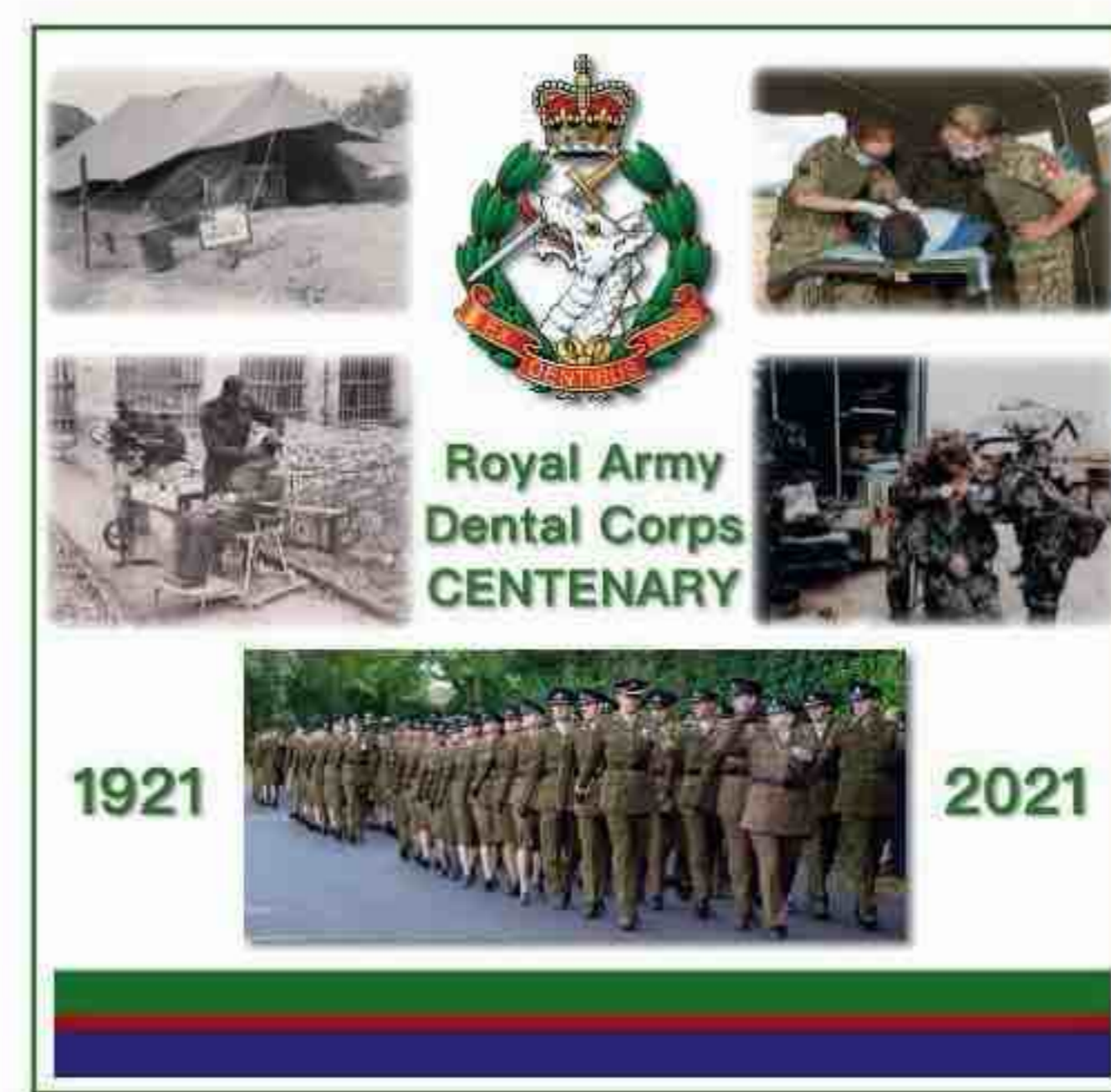
To mark this centenary BFPS, in conjunction with Headquarters RADC, has issued a commemorative cover featuring historical images and the Corps cap badge. A bespoke Royal Mail Smiler® stamp, bearing the Corps centenary logo will be cancelled by the BFPS special handstamp, numbered 3233. The centre of which carries the silhouette of the Corps' cap badge.

The standard edition will cost £9 whilst a numbered limited

edition, signed by the Chief Dental Officer (Army), will cost £18. A limited quantity of the bespoke Smiler® stamps used on these covers will be available to order in full sheets (of twenty) at £38 and half sheets (of ten) at £20. All covers include an information insert and will be presented in a protective

cellophane sleeve making a very collectable souvenir of the RADC's Centenary.

The covers and stamp sheets can be ordered from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk](http://www.bfps.org.uk)) or by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS, The Old Post Office, Links Place, Elie, LEVEN, KY9 1AX.



# NEW 'COMMUNITY' PAGES AT WWW.ALLABOUTSTAMPS.CO.UK

A new 'Community' section of the popular [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk) website has been launched, giving collectors the chance to view stamp displays from fellow collectors, contribute their own displays, and catch up on society news.

The community pages include all the entries from this year's first All About Stamps Competition, as well as details of the current competition which challenges collectors to enter a one-page display on GB stamps or postal history. The 'Find a Society', 'Society News' and 'Featured Societies' pages are quickly becoming a hub for philatelic groups around the country, giving collectors the chance to find a local or specialist club and read the latest updates. Meanwhile, a new 'Young Collectors' section is dedicated to collectors under the age of eighteen and features hints, tips and competitions.

Whilst the pages are currently dominated by competition entries, such was the huge response to our first competitive displays, collectors can share their stamp displays at any time if they prefer not



to enter the competitions. Meanwhile, societies are being invited to contribute their own displays to the growing section of the site.

To find out more just visit: [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk) and click on the 'Community' link on the menu. If you would like to see your local or specialist club as a Featured Society on the site, please contact Sarah Hopton for more details on email: [sarah.hopton@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:sarah.hopton@warnersgroup.co.uk).



# PTS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the first PTS Awards have been revealed, honouring companies and individuals who have helped the hobby during 2020.

The 'Ambassador of the Year' was jointly won by Markand Dave and Bill Barrell. Markand has dedicated his time and energy to many projects within the philatelic community, including his work with 'philaminars' which were a massive success and a brilliant concept to highlight during lockdown. Meanwhile, Bill was nominated for the support he has given the council this year on several projects including Virtual Stampex. Bill actively took a role in Virtual Stampex, helping to introduce people to the concept and the event itself. The stamp and postal history dealer is also on various other societies, including the ABPS as the PTS representative.

'Creative Concept of the Year' was won by Michael Cortese from NobleSpirit and Charles Epting of HR Harmer who launched the popular 'Conversations with Philatelists' multi-platform digital podcast during 2020, covering a wide variety of topics and connecting people from all over the globe.

'Legacy champion of the Year' was awarded to Graham Beck for being one of the first people to set up a YouTube channel dedicated to stamps and stamp collecting. Graham's 'Exploring Stamps' channel has become increasingly popular during 2020, with many societies enjoying the videos as part of their virtual meetings.

Meanwhile, auction house Spink were awarded the 'PTS contributor of the Year' following their sponsorship of the first Virtual Stampex online event.

Suzanne Rae, Chair, PTS said: 'We originally launched the awards to help celebrate the successes of 2020 and to keep inspiring people after such a tough year. 2020 has seen many companies think on their feet, take risks, pivot their business and come up with outstanding creative initiatives.

'We are delighted to be able to announce these winners and are thrilled to be showcasing the amazing work people have done within the hobby and the trade... I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the nominations and for joining in with the awards.'



THE PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY

## AWARDS RESULTS IN DETAIL

### AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

*To celebrate those who are actively promoting the trade and the hobby in new, creative way*

**JOINT WINNERS: MARKAND DAVE & BILL BARRELL**  
RUNNERS UP: STAMPIT

### LEGACY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

*To celebrate those who are actively investing in knowledge sharing & retention for the future*

**WINNER: EXPLORING STAMPS**  
RUNNERS UP: TREVOR PATEMAN,  
CDDSTAMPS, RUSHSTAMPS

### CREATIVE CONCEPT OF THE YEAR

*To celebrate the best in innovations within philately – for the trade and the hobby*

**WINNER: CONVERSATIONS WITH PHILATELISTS**  
RUNNERS UP: ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON,  
MUSEUM OF PHILATELY

### PTS CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

*To celebrate those who are actively contributing to the success of the society outside of the immediate Team and Council*

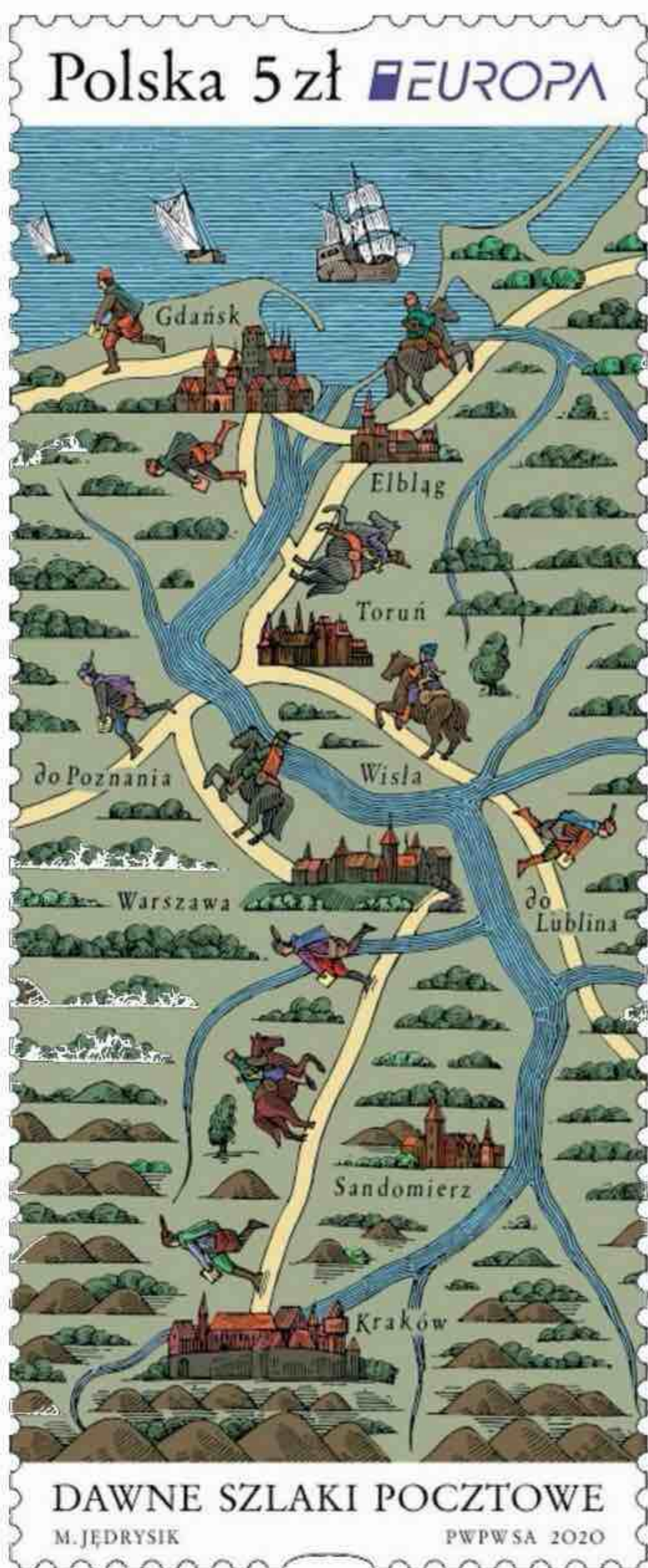
**WINNER: SPINK**  
RUNNERS UP: STAMPBOARDS, STEPHENTAYLOR



Winners of the PTS Awards included Graham Beck (above) for his 'Exploring Stamps' YouTube channel, and Michael Cortese and Charles Epting whose 'Conversations with Philatelists' podcast features a growing library of interviews



# POLISH DESIGN WINS EUROPA STAMP JURY COMPETITION



The results of the 2020 Europa Stamp Jury Competition have been revealed with Poland taking first place for its stamp showing the postal routes along the Vistula River.

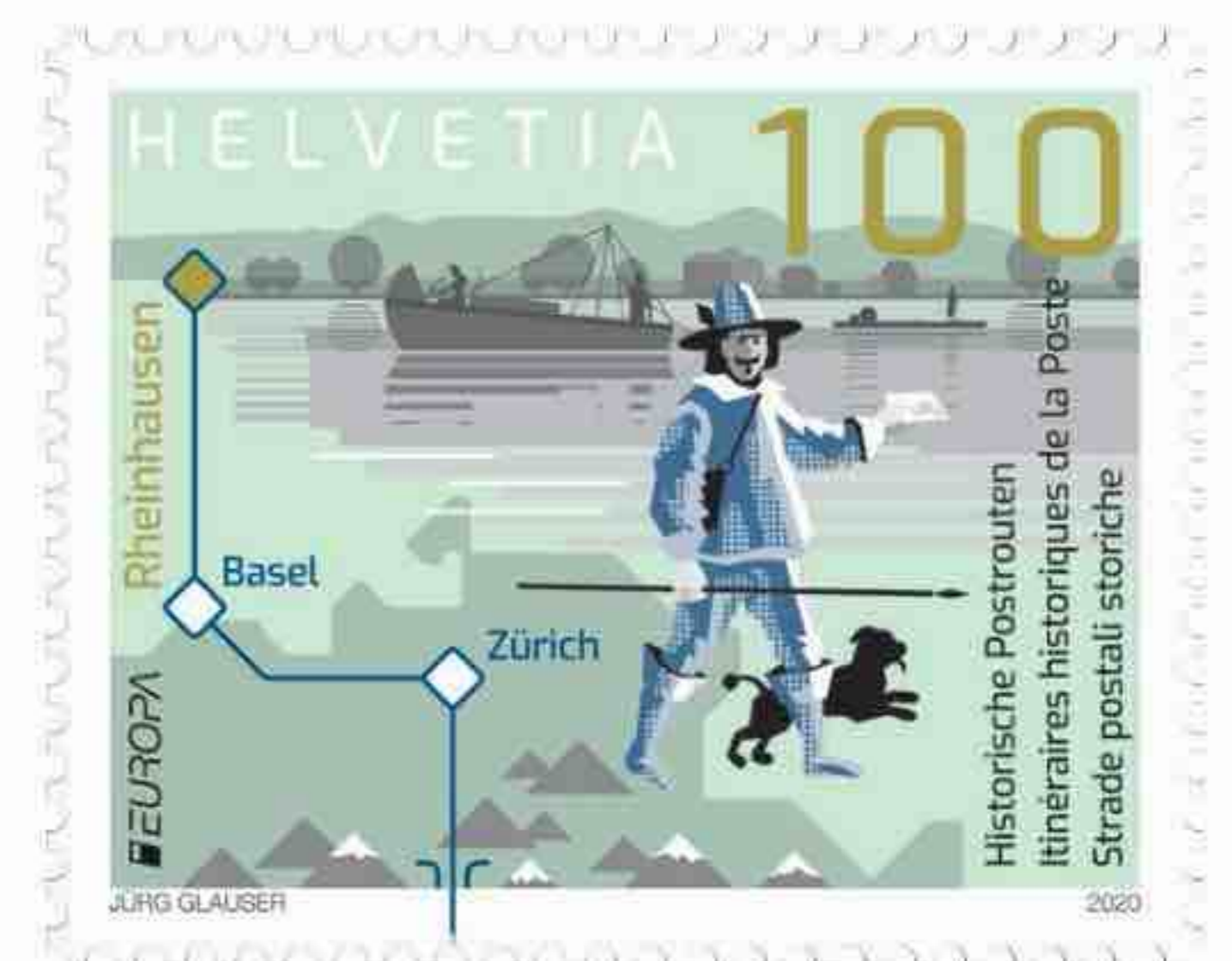
The annual competition asks a special jury of eight philatelic experts to select their favourite stamps issued on the Europa theme for that year, with 'Postal Routes' being the theme for 2020. According to PostEurop this year's judging was held at a later date than usual and in a new hybrid format, with some jurors meeting in person and others discussing the designs over the internet.

The winning stamp from Poczta Polska, the post office of Poland, is in a larger, vertical format, allowing the artist to depict the complex routes around the country's longest and largest river which have been used for communications for centuries.

Expert jurors Stefan Klein and Olaf Neumann, of KommunikationsDesign, said: 'This year virtual jury-meeting brought a very high-quality result and five really fascinating stamp designs as short-listed winners of the international competition. As the theme, ancient postal routes was not an easy task, we were really surprised by the artists' solutions. Especially the winning design from Poland with its special proportions in vertical format which expressed the theme in a perfect manner – the colours and technique of the artwork are really modern and perfect for a small stamp. The same can be said about the other four short-listed winners from Switzerland, Germany, Ukraine and the Faroe Islands. The whole set of the jury's favourites shows big parallels: the focus on riding or walking postal couriers or mailmen, the focus on the human aspect behind the postal delivery system and their adventurous and sometimes dangerous journey in former times convinced us and also the other jury members.'

This year's competition saw three stamps tie for second place for the first time, with Postverk Føroya (Faroe Islands), Swiss Post (Switzerland) and SC Ukrposhta (Ukraine) all coming second, and Deutsche Post (Germany) coming third. Botond Szebeny, PostEurop Secretary General, added: 'When faced with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Postal operators have been quick to adapt and seek alternative affordable solutions to deliver postal items. In a way, the current theme is most appropriate for these challenging times... I would like to congratulate this year's winners, with special regard to Poczta Polska. I would also like to congratulate all of the designers for their accomplished effort in creating such complex and beautiful designs, as they are making it more and more difficult for the jury to elect the winning stamps.'

Since 1956, Europa stamps have been a symbol of Europe's desire for closer integration and cooperation. These special stamps are issued by the European postal administrations and bear the Europa logo. Since 1993, PostEurop has been responsible for issuing Europa stamps and running the jury competition.



## STILL TIME TO ENTER ALL ABOUT STAMP COMPETITION

The closing date for the latest All About Stamps Competition, which challenges collectors to submit a one-page stamp display using GB stamps, has been extended to 29 January, due to demand.

We're asking you to use British stamps or postal history items to tell a brief story, explain a particular aspect of stamps, stamp collecting, production or design. Simply create a philatelic presentation on a single A4 page and email it to [matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk) by 29 January 2021. The competition is open to both stamp collectors and postal historians. Non-philatelic material (such as ephemera, documentation, tickets) is also permitted, provided there is a philatelic element to the entry.

Need inspiration? The new 'Stamp Displays' pages on the [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) website are a great place to get ideas for your entry, with all of the entries from our previous competition, held in the summer, available to view in detail.





# Tony Lester



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## March 6th/7th On-line Auction

Our March Auction will include 75+ World collections/ accumulations, mainly box lots, Foreign incl. Belgium, China, Germany, a collection of USA hand-painted FDC's, BC incl. Australia, Newfoundland, Ceylon, and 250+ lots of GB incl. QV Line Engraved and KGV. Viewing will be available at our offices 3-4 weeks before the auction date.



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## 'MY FAVOURITE THINGS' COMPETITION FOR YOUNG COLLECTORS

Stamp Active Network (SAN) has announced this year's one page competition open to collectors up to the age of eighteen, based on the 'philately of favourite things'.

A spokesperson for SAN explained: 'It could be favourite flowers, authors, toys, animals, sports or transport or it could be anything that the entrant likes to do or see or places they like to go to. The possibilities are endless. Entrants may choose to focus on one area, like football or cars, or they may wish to cover a range such as sports or transport.'

Stamps, covers and other philatelic items can be used on the page, which must have a title, and either captions or a short write-up that tells the story. The entrant's full name and address (home or school) should be on the back of the page, also their age on 1 September 2020). Entries should be on good quality paper (A4) or a similar size album page, and placed in a clear protector. The entries can be either hand-written or prepared using a computer. A scan of the page should be sent to stampactive@btinternet.com by 28 February 2021.

There will be three age groups: up to seven; eight to ten; eleven to fourteen; and fifteen to eighteen, with prizes being awarded for first, second and third) in each age group, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins. The best overall entry will receive an Amazon voucher for £100.

Winners will be announced in the philatelic press and on the Stamp Active Website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk). and entries will also be on display as part of Virtual Spring Stampex 2021 from 25 to 29 March 2021.

If you are unable to scan your entry, it can be posted to: Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB. Entries will only be returned if you send a stamp-addressed envelope.



## WIN STAMPS WITH THE NEW MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW!

As a thank you to our growing number of loyal *Stamp Collector* subscribers, we've introduced a new Subscriber Prize Draw which will take place every month giving one lucky subscriber a range of new stamps, covers and presentation packs from post offices around the world.

Editor Matt Hill said: 'We want to thank all our subscribers for their support, and whilst the challenges of 2020 have been tough, we've actually seen a big increase in collectors signing up to receive the magazine by post, as getting to the shops has proved to be difficult at times. We're working on a number of projects to bring subscribers more benefits, and the prize draw is the first of these.'

'You don't need to do anything, we'll put every subscriber's name into a hat and pick one out at random each month. We'll then send that lucky person a selection of new stamps from post offices around the world.'

**We're pleased to announce that the first winner of the prize draw is James Clark of County Durham. Congratulations, the stamps are on their way to you!**

If you have yet to subscribe to *Stamp Collector*, turn to page 64 for details of our latest offer... save money, get every issue delivered to your home, and be in with a chance of winning!

## POSTAL MUSEUM DONATIONS WELCOME

The ongoing restrictions across the country mean that many museums and visitor attractions are having to close their doors, including The Postal Museum which, at the time of going to press, is closed until further notice.

The Postal Museum, which includes the Mail Rail attraction, recently confirmed that bookings are not being taken for January, but that you can book tickets for dates in February and March.

A statement from The Postal Museum said: 'As an independent museum and educational charity, we are particularly vulnerable as we rely on ticketed income. We have received life-line funding from Arts Council England and DCMS from the Culture Recovery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund's Heritage Emergency Fund to help us through this challenging time, but with every new closure we face new challenges.'

'Donations are vital for the museum – please consider making a donation today to support the future of The Postal Museum. Alternatively, plan your future visit by booking for 2021, buying vouchers as a gift this festive season or become a member. This will help us enormously and supports us directly.'

'We will open again soon and until then, we will continue to share stories of extraordinary communication from our archives and collections.'

*Find out more about The Postal Museum, which is located in North London and is just a mile away from King's Cross St Pancras and Farringdon stations, on the website: [www.postalmuseum.org](http://www.postalmuseum.org)*



## ISLE OF MAN

### Show birds on show

Isle of Man Post Office's latest stamps feature popular and unusual species of birds captured by photographer Luke Stephenson, who has spent a number of years photographing the varied species of show bird. This distinctive style shows the birds with a vibrant and decorative background, contrasting with the colour of the plumage.

The following species are featured on the stamps; The Fife Canary (1st class value), Gouldian Finch (EU value), Budgerigar (Large letter value), Redpoll Hybrid (ROW value), Paradise Tanager (£1.82) and the Diamond Sparrow (USA value).

During a three year period of photographing birds Luke Stephenson met many people who were very enthusiastic about their hobby and were happy to share their knowledge. This became very infectious and turned Stephenson into a sort of collector of birds himself: not by owning or breeding them, but simply by photographing a certain species and adding it to his collection. Ultimately the photographs were turned into a book and a selection forms this stamp issue.

*Date of Issue: 9th February 2021, [www.iompost.com/stamps-coins](http://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins)*



## GUERNSEY

### Definitive Bailiwick birds



Guernsey Post's philatelic bureau has announced the release of a new set of definitive stamps depicting some of the colourful birds found regularly in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

The new designs follow the release earlier in 2020 of definitive stamps depicting some of the birds found on the island of Alderney. Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post said: 'Guernsey's diverse habitats provide a haven for visiting and resident birds. Despite its small size, over 200 species are recorded in the Bailiwick each year and the islands see around 80 breeding bird species including quite a few rarities.'

'We're really excited to feature some of these colourful birds on our latest definitive stamps, from garden visitors and waders to birds of prey.'

The stamps depict a House Sparrow (1p value), a noisy and sociable bird which feeds and breeds near people, whilst the colourful Greenfinch (5 p), another regular garden visitor, is distinctive for its twittering, wheezing song and flash of yellow and green as it flies.

Another garden bird is the Great Tit (3p), probably best known for its piercing song, which can often be heard in the spring and summer. The high-pitched twittering contact calls of the fluffy pink Long-tailed Tit (4p) get them noticed; the Song Thrush (6p) is both resident and migratory with some heading off to sunnier climes to winter there.

The most distinctive feature of a Pied Wagtail (2p), which can be spotted in gardens and on sea walls, is its ever-wagging tail. It is now a rare breeding bird but remains a common passage migrant

and winter visitor to Guernsey.

Waders are a common sight on Guernsey's beaches, including the tall Grey Heron (£1 stamp) with its long neck and legs and heavy dagger-like bill poised as it stands still for long periods stalking its prey. Meanwhile, depicted on the £4 stamp is the Northern Gannet.

During the winter migrant blackbirds (7p) arrive from Northern Europe to join Guernsey's resident birds. At this time of year, they can often be heard singing to themselves in the undergrowth. Swallows (8p) are also migratory birds that fly several thousand kilometres each year after wintering in southern Africa.

The 9p and 10p stamps depict the Magpie and Common Tern respectively. The Lapwing (20p) is one of the largest waders and is also known as the Green Plover or Peewit (after its 'pee-wit' call); the Lesser Black-backed Gulls (£2) used to be a summer visitor, but an increasing number remain in the Bailiwick during the colder months too; and the Cormorant, depicted on the 30p stamp, is a large water bird with an almost primitive appearance, its long neck making it look almost reptilian.

Birds of prey are breeding well in the Bailiwick. It is common to see Buzzards (40p and 50p stamps) soaring over the islands: they have an impressive wingspan of around 120cm and weigh up to 1kg.

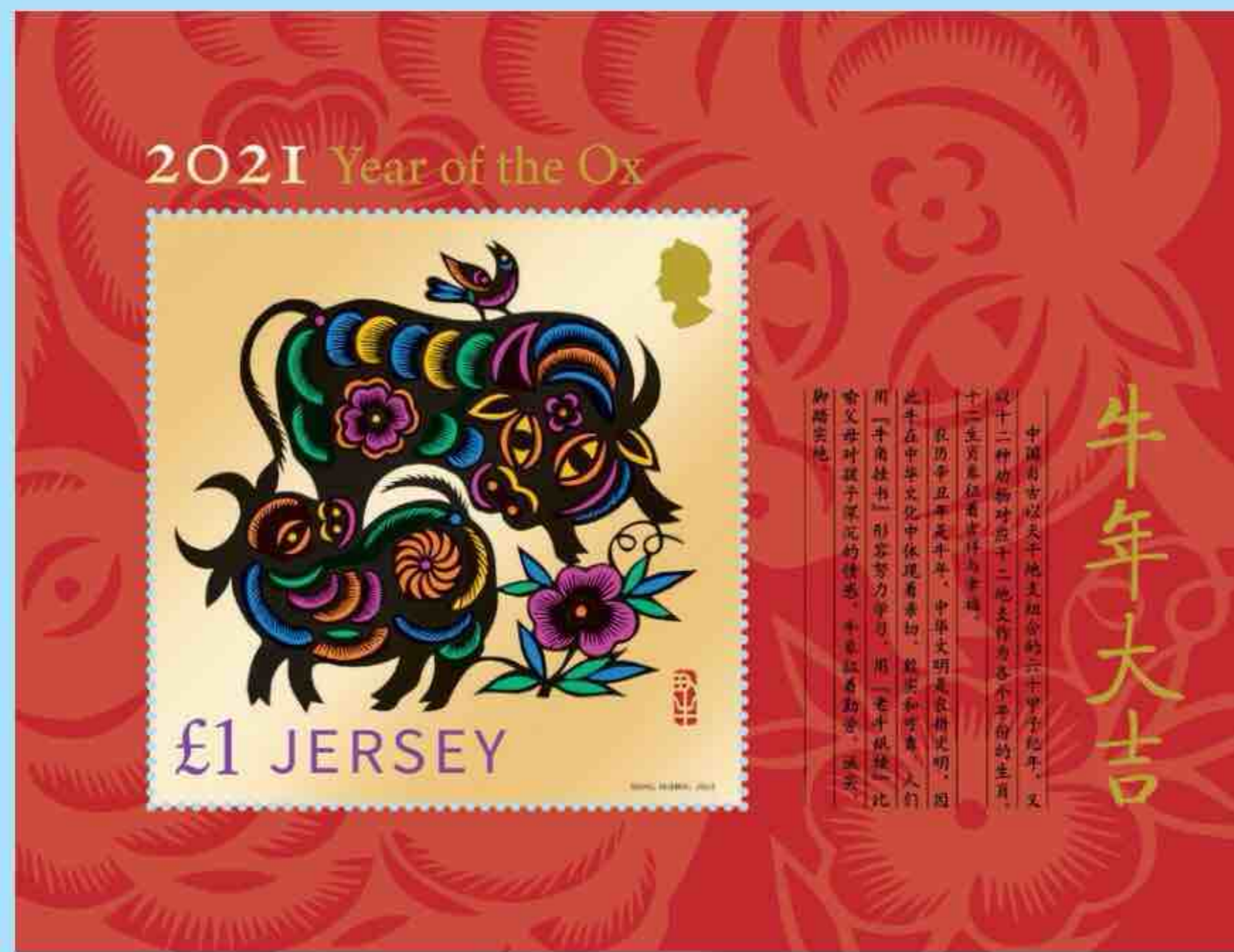
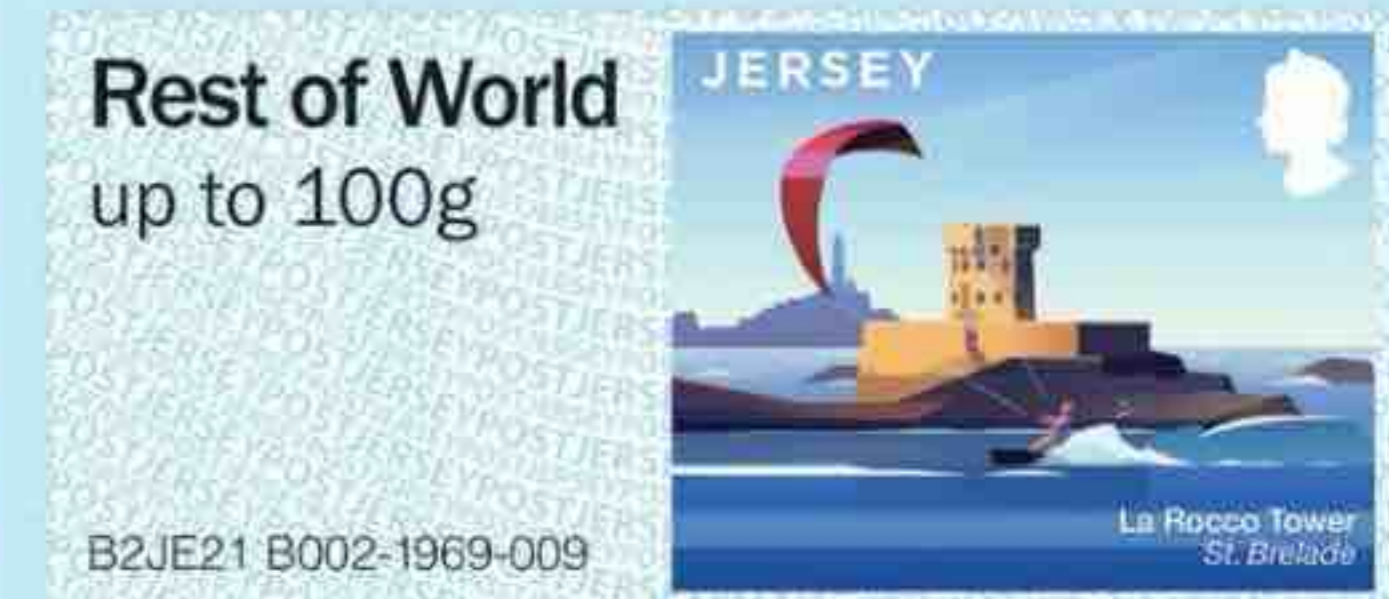
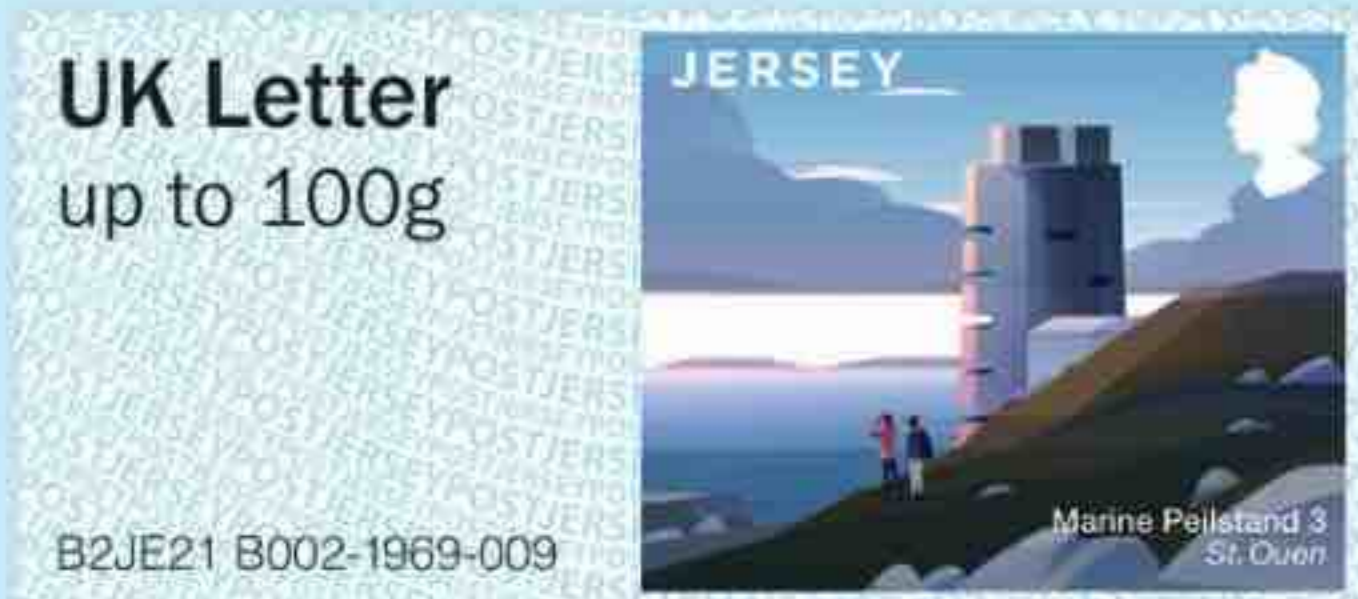
*Date of issue: 17 February 2021, [www.guernseystamps.com](http://www.guernseystamps.com)*

# Commemorative Jersey Stamps

The latest issues from Jersey Post

## Post & Go Jersey Coastal Towers

Issue date: 17 February 2021



## Lunar New Year Year of the Ox

Issue date: 5 January 2021



## Historic Jersey Maps

Issue date: 17 February 2021



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## IN BRIEF

Award-winning playwright August Wilson will feature on a USA stamp, to be issued on 28 January. One of America's greatest playwrights, Wilson is hailed as a trailblazer for helping to bring non-musical African American drama to the forefront of American theatre. Wilson collected innumerable accolades for his work, including seven New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards; a Tony Award, for 1987's 'Fences'; and two Pulitzer Prizes, for 'Fences' and 1990's 'The Piano Lesson.'

Luxembourg recently issued a special 'twenty years of reign' stamp to mark the two decades of reign of HRH the Grand Duke. Claude Strasser, Director General of POST Luxembourg and Emile Espen, Head of the POST Philately Service, received an audience with the Head of State to discuss this project, and the Grand Duke was presented with a souvenir frame including a sheet of the commemorative stamp and a first day cover.

Åland Post are set to start a new three-year stamp series on 2 February featuring veteran tractors. For the first two stamps, Åland photographer David Lundberg has shot two treasures from the 1900s: a Cletrac crawler tractor and a Fordson iron wheel tractor, model F. Other subjects to be covered in the Scandinavian country's 2021 stamps include historical maps, satellite meteorology, endangered wildlife (the Europa theme for 2021), and The Tall Ships Races 2021.

## JERSEY

### Coastal Towers

Six new stamps from Jersey feature fortifications that define Jersey's coastline. From Georgian and Victorian era battlements intended to defend the Island from French invasion, through to concrete strong points constructed around the coast by the occupying German forces during the Second World War.

An example of Jersey's Conway coastal defence towers, developed by General Conway, Archirondel Tower was to have been one end of a giant harbour which in the middle of the 19th century would have provided protection from the French Navy for vessels of the English Navy's Channel fleet, and other shipping. The harbour itself was never completed.

The Marine Peilstand 3 tower is the focal point of Batterie Moltke, an uncompleted wartime artillery battery built by German forces. One of nine planned towers in Jersey, MP3 was designed for use in observing targets at sea in order to direct guns of the battery covering Jersey's coastline and the stretch of water between Jersey, Guernsey and Sark.

Seymour Tower stands two miles offshore from La Rocque, on the south east coast of the Island,

in a rocky section of an internationally recognised RAMSAR wetlands site on the south east tip of Jersey's National Park.

La Tour de Vinde, (aka Noirmont Tower) is a Martello tower that the British erected between 1808 and 1810 to command the approaches to St Aubin's Bay, Jersey. The name comes from the Norse, where "vinde" means to tack or go about. Once a sailing vessel heading for St Aubin's Bay had passed the point it could tack to approach the harbour.

Situated on a hill-top, Victoria Tower overlooks Anne Port Bay, St Catherine's Breakwater and Mont Orgueil Castle. Built in 1837 to safeguard the approaches to the castle, this fortification was one of the last Martello towers to be built in Jersey.

Originally known as Fort Gordon, La Rocco Tower was built between 1796-1801, the 23rd and last coastal tower in Jersey in the Conway design. It has been an iconic Jersey landmark for over two centuries, and cannot be missed when visiting the bay.

*Issue Date: 17 February 2021, [www.jerseystamps.com](http://www.jerseystamps.com)*



## FAROE ISLANDS

### Faroese postal history

This year the Faroe Islands will celebrate two postal related anniversaries. The first is the 150th anniversary of the Danish Postal Service's Postal Act of 7 January 1871, when the Faroe Islands became a part of the Danish postal area for the first time. The second is the 45th anniversary of the Faroe Islands' takeover of the Faroese branch of the Danish postal administration.

On 1 April 1976, Postverk Føroya, later Posta, was established and became responsible for mail deliveries in the Faroe Islands, as well as the issuing of Faroese postage stamps. Posta Faroe Islands celebrate the two anniversaries with a look back at fragments of Faroese postal history on a souvenir sheet containing three stamps.

The sheet's background features the original text of the Postal Act of 1871, printed in Gothic script. This update of the Danish Postal Act led to the organization



of postal affairs in the Faroe Islands for the first time.

The three stamps show Faroese postmen at work, the sealskin knapsack used to carry letters, and a quick sketch by master engraver Czesław Słania, depicting a rowing boat and, in the margin, the words: 'Royal engraver's CZ. Słania's suggestions for the location of the inscription. 10.9.75.'

*Issue Date: 7 January 2021, [en.stamps.fo](http://en.stamps.fo)*



**Guernsey Definitive:**

**Birds:** Set of 17 stamps



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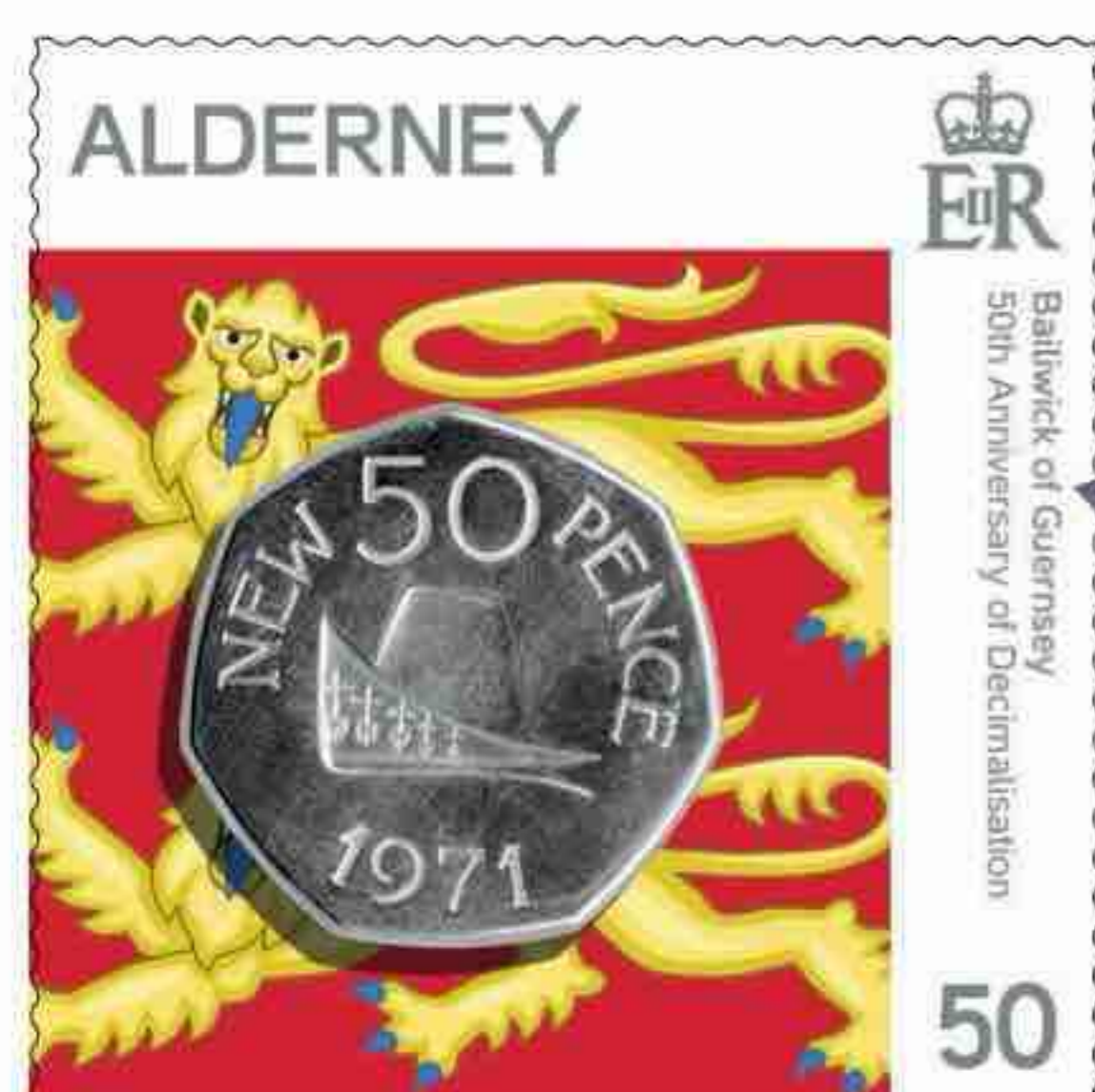
**Clematis Gold:**

C.Sarah Elizabeth - Miniature Sheet

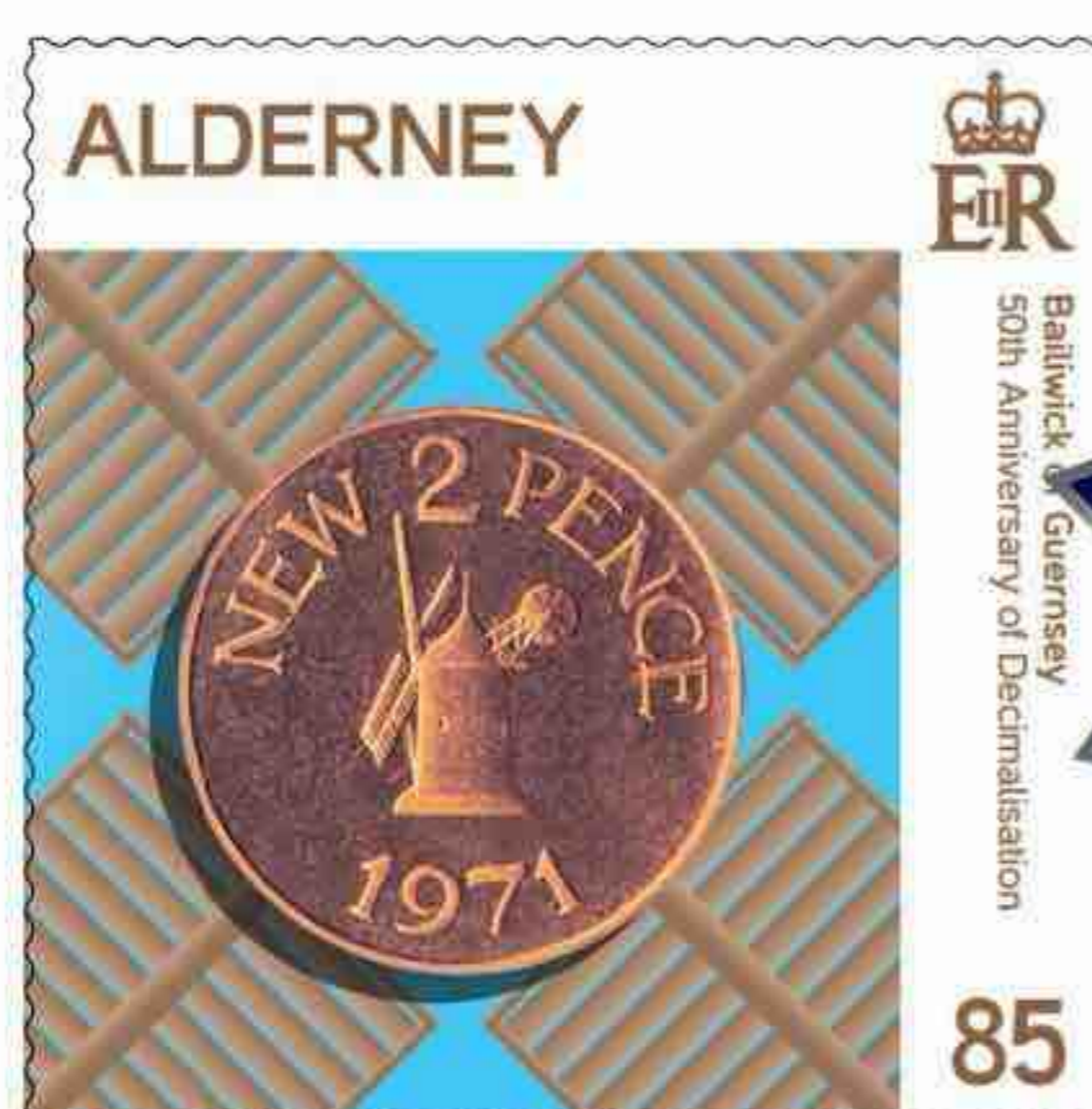


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## PHILIPPINES

### *Family stamp reflects difficult year*

The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) recently celebrated National Stamp Collecting Month with a Christmas stamp featuring a tribute to the contemporary Filipino family.

The image of the family includes a mother in medical uniform wearing a face shield, reflecting the Covid19 pandemic and its effect on us all.

PHLPost said in a statement: 'At the end of this extraordinary difficult year, the Christmas stamp will remind us that spending time together with the Family will bring much needed respite from the worries and adversity, and looking forward for better days to come.'

Last year was a difficult one for all countries, and the Philippines also suffered the onslaught of the Taal volcanic eruption and the recent devastation from Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses. The statement added: 'In the face of harrowing grief we are bound together by our shared responsibility to each other. All of this, we learned from the basic unit of our society, the family.'



Issue date: 29 November 2020, [www.phlpost.gov.ph/stamp-release](http://www.phlpost.gov.ph/stamp-release)

## SLOVENIA

### *Slovenia honours Tour de France heroes*

Slovenia Post have celebrated the double victory in this year's Tour de France of cyclists Tadej Pogačar and Primož Roglič with a miniature sheet featuring a single stamp.

Described as 'the greatest achievement of Slovene cycling' which 'triggered a new wave of sporting euphoria in Slovenia' the Tour de France win saw Tadej Pogačar win the famous race ahead of compatriot Primož Roglič who looked as though he was destined to win the race before being overtaken on the penultimate stage.

Slovenia Post explains: 'Roglič rode well, but, with a stunning ride that many have described as one of the finest in recent decades, Pogačar took the lead in the general classification and, the following day, celebrated an extraordinary victory on the Champs-Élysées... The initial euphoria has died down, but the echo of their achievement will resound for a long time to come. Cycling clubs across the country are reporting a record jump in the numbers of children and youngsters wanting to join. All of them with the same dream. The dream of becoming the new Primož or Tadej!'



Issue date: 4 December 2020, [en.posta.si/home/stamps](http://en.posta.si/home/stamps)

## FRANCE

# La Poste to mark centenary of *The Kid*

La Poste, the French post office, have revealed the design of a new €1.50 stamp to celebrate the centenary of *The Kid*, the first film to be directed by Charlie Chaplin.

The stamp, set to be issued on 1 March, features an illustration by Stéphane Humbert-Basset showing the silent comedy star in his famous role of The Tramp with the eponymous kid, played by Jackie Coogan, in the foreground. The stamp is also available in a sheet of ten with a decorative frame, and 600,000 copies are set to be printed.

The life and career of Charlie Chaplin has been celebrated on a huge range of stamps over the years, with Great Britain honouring the star on a 64p stamp in 1999.

Issue date: 1 March 2021, [www.laposte.fr/toutsurletimbre](http://www.laposte.fr/toutsurletimbre)



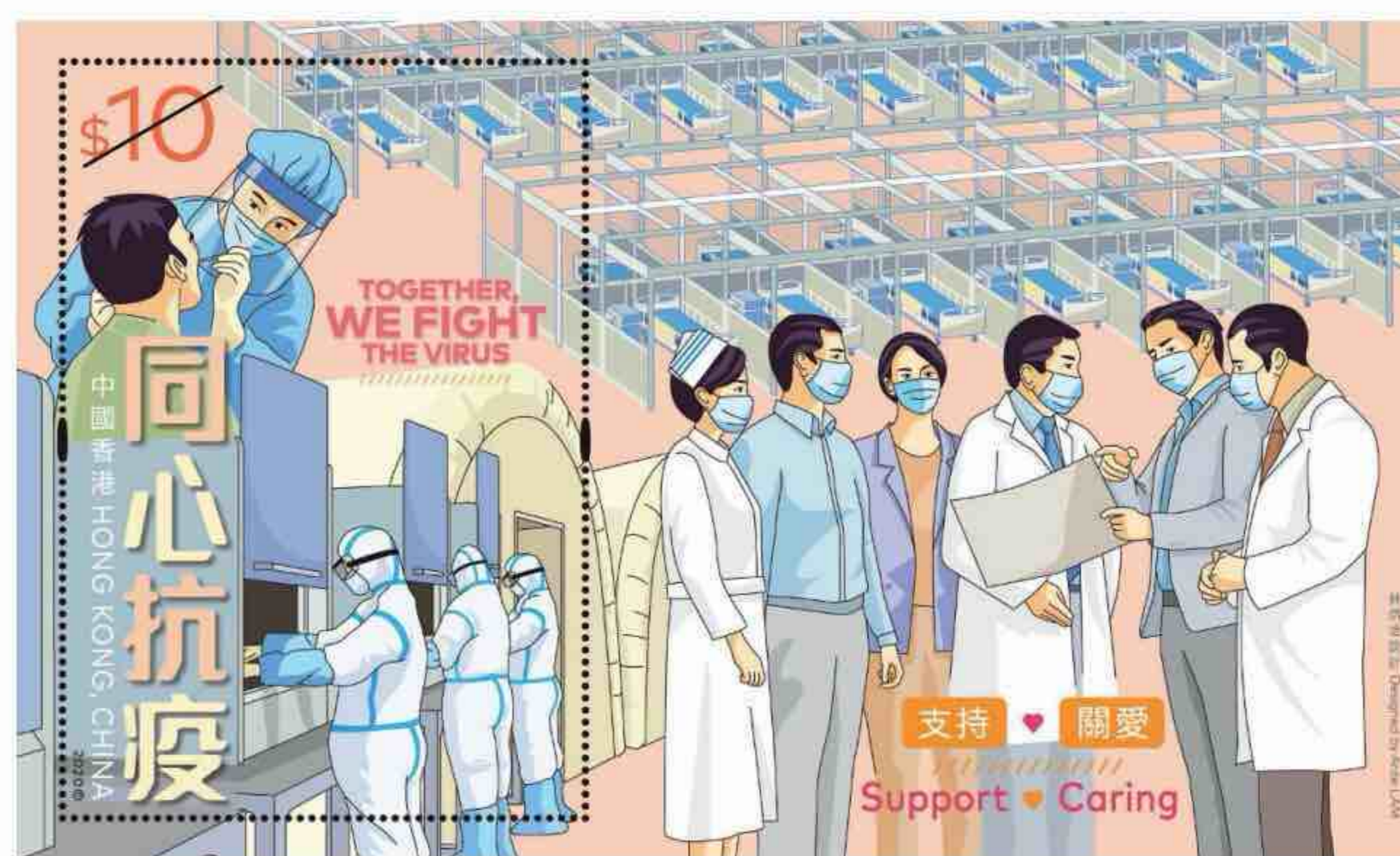
## HONG KONG

# More Covid stamps

Hong Kong Post are the latest philatelic bureau to add to the growing number of stamps issued honouring key workers.

The two 'Together, We Fight the Virus' miniature sheets each feature a single \$10 stamp, and were issued on 29 December. According to the Hong Kong government's website, the first sheet features 'unsung heroes who strive to ensure the provision of essential services while fighting against the disease alongside with Hong Kong people. They include the healthcare professionals, research personnel, ambulance workers working hard on the front line, uniformed group members taking care of the quarantine centres, postmen delivering mail containing anti-epidemic materials as well as workers engaging in cleaning and disinfection work.'

The second sheetlet depicts 'the Central Government's care and attention for Hong Kong' featuring test support team members, a two-storey temporary hospital, and laboratory staff. 'All these show the Central Government's deep concern and unreserved support to Hong Kong in the fight against the epidemic,' the statement adds.



The stamp sheetlets and first day cover were placed on sale from 29 December with associated philatelic products, including the presentation pack and first day cover, available from 26 January 26.

Issue date: 29 December 2020, [stamps.hongkongpost.hk](http://stamps.hongkongpost.hk)

## IN BRIEF

A stamp, originally planned to be jointly issued by China and India in April 2020 to celebrate seventy years of bilateral relations, has been cancelled. A simple statement on China's State Post Bureau website confirmed the cancellation but gave no reason. According to the *India Times*: 'Diplomatic relations between China and India have been tense since June, when at least 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the western Himalayas after being attacked by Chinese troops.'

La Poste, the French post office, have revealed the design of their Valentine's Day stamp which features the famous perfume Chanel No.5. The stamp joins a series of designs issued over the years celebrating France's luxury goods and, let's face it, buying the stamp for your Valentine will be a lot cheaper than getting a bottle of the perfume!

Following being awarded the title of World's Most Beautiful Stamp 2019, Norway Post have issued a special folder containing the winning stamp which featured the painting 'Gate i Røros, 1903' by Harald Sohlberg.

The Rockheim Hall of Fame, situated on the harbour front in the Norway city of Trondheim, is the National Museum of Popular Music in Norway, and each year Norwegian music stars are recognised for their achievements. Three musicians appear on a single stamp in a new set from Norway, namely singer and composer Radka Toneff (Domestic 20g); Halvdan Sivertsen (Domestic 50g); one of Norway's most beloved folk singers; and Jonas Fjeld (Domestic 50g); who began his career in the early 1970s with the rock band JFRRB before going on to be a solo artist.

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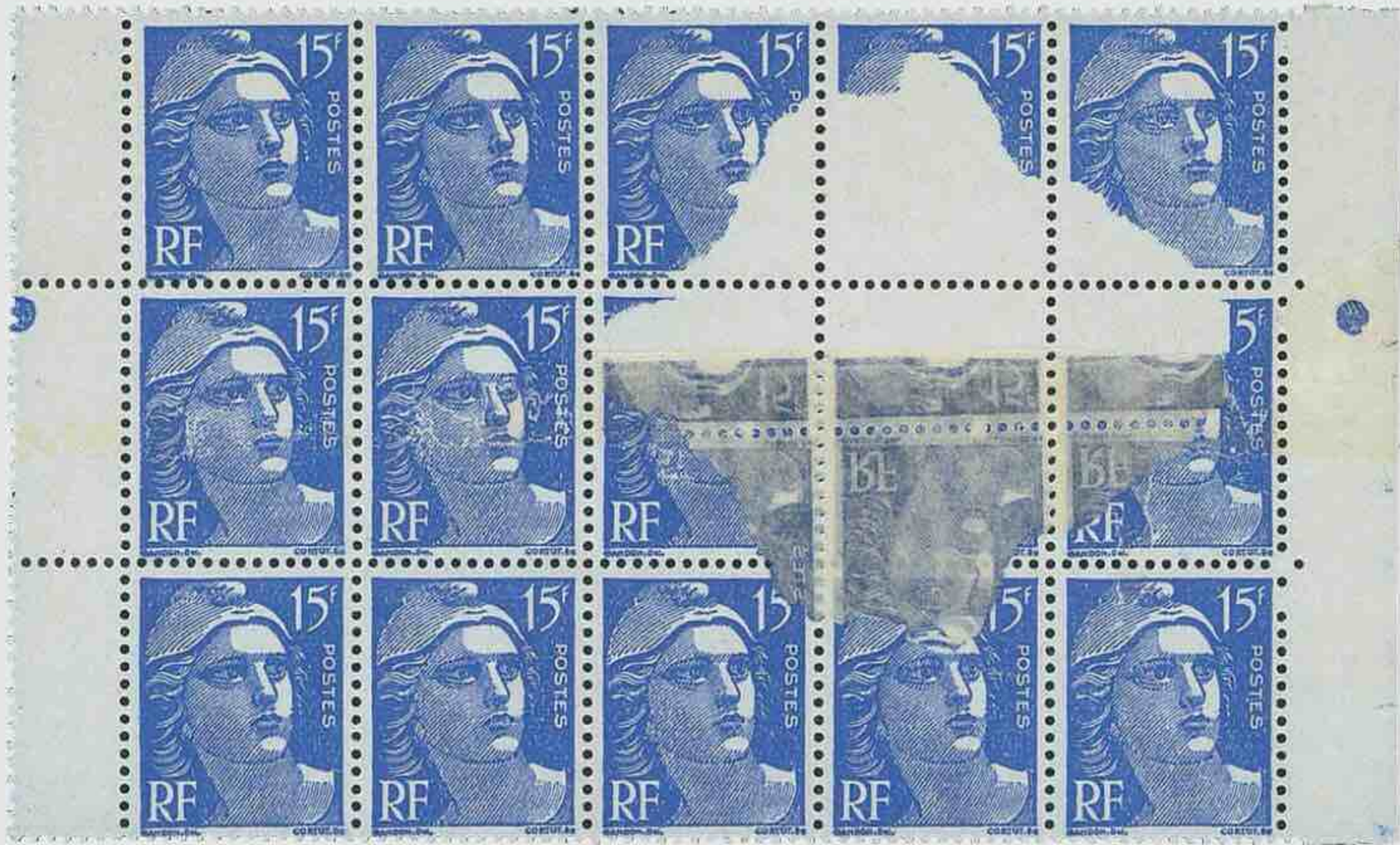
# GB 1924-2016 COMMEMORATIVES UM

DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M	DATE	SET	U/M
1924	Wembley	9.00	1970	Cottages	0.15	1982	Christmas	0.90	1993	Greetings	7.50	2001	Christmas	3.40	2009	Eminent Britons	7.00
1925	Wembley	33.00	1970	Anniversaries	0.20	1982	COMPLETE YEAR	5.80	1993	Clocks	1.10	2001	COMPLETE YEAR	34.00	2009	Olympics	7.00
1929	P.U.C.	12.50	1970	Dickens	0.30	1983	Fishes	0.80	1993	Orchids	1.30	2002	Kipling Stories	7.00	2009	Christmas	6.50
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	140.00	1970	Games	0.20	1983	Commonwealth	0.80	1993	Art	1.10	2002	Golden Jubilee	3.40	2009	COMPLETE YEAR	58.00
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	37.50	1970	Philympia	0.20	1983	Engineering	0.60	1993	Roman	1.10	2002	Occasions	3.50	2010	Album Covers	7.50
1935	Jubilee	3.50	1970	Christmas	0.15	1983	Uniforms	1.10	1993	Canals	1.10	2002	Coastlines	2.70	2010	Royal Society	7.50
1935	Jubilee Inv.	18.00	1970	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1983	Gardens	0.90	1993	Autumn	1.30	2002	Queen Mother	3.00	2010	Dogs and Cats	7.50
1937	Coronation	0.10	1971	Ulster	0.20	1983	Fairs	0.90	1993	Holmes	1.10	2002	Circus	3.40	2010	Stewart	5.50
1940	Centenary	2.70	1971	Literary	0.20	1983	Christmas	1.00	1993	Christmas	1.40	2002	Aircraft	3.40	2010	Mammals	7.50
1946	Victory	0.10	1971	Gen. Anniv	0.20	1983	COMPLETE YEAR	5.80	1993	COMPLETE YEAR	16.50	2002	C.wealth Games	3.50	2010	LONDON 2010(6v)	9.00
1948	Wedding	12.50	1971	Universities	0.30	1984	Heraldry	0.90	1994	Railway	1.40	2002	Peter Pan	3.50	2010	Britain Alone	6.50
1948	Liberation	0.10	1971	Christmas	0.20	1984	Cattle	1.10	1994	Greetings	7.50	2002	London Bridges	3.50	2010	Stuart	5.50
1948	Olympics	1.50	1971	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1984	Urban Renewal	0.90	1994	Paintings	1.40	2002	Pillar Boxes	3.50	2010	Olympics	7.50
1949	U.P.U.	0.30	1972	Explorers	0.30	1984	Europa	0.70	1994	Postcards	1.40	2002	Christmas	3.50	2010	Railways	5.00
1951	Festival	0.10	1972	Gen. Anniv	0.20	1984	Summit	0.30	1994	Tunnel	1.20	2002	COMPLETE YEAR	42.00	2010	Medical	5.00
1953	Coronation	8.50	1972	Churches	0.40	1984	Meridian	0.95	1994	D-Day	1.20	2003	Birds of Prey	7.00	2010	Pooh	5.00
1957	Scouts	2.00	1972	BBC	0.30	1984	Royal Mail	0.80	1994	Golf	1.40	2003	The Secret of Life	3.50	2010	Christmas	6.50
1957	Parliament	0.20	1972	Christmas	0.15	1984	Council	1.00	1994	Four Seasons	1.40	2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	7.00	2010	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
1958	Games	0.50	1972	S. Wedding	0.25	1984	Christmas	1.15	1994	Medical	1.20	2003	Endeavours	4.00	2011	Gerry Anderson	6.00
1960	G.L.O.	1.00	1972	COMPLETE YEAR	1.50	1984	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	1994	Christmas	1.40	2003	The Coronation	7.00	2011	Musicals	7.00
1960	Europa	1.50	1973	E.E.C.	0.30	1985	Trains	1.30	1994	COMPLETE YEAR	18.00	2003	Prince William	2.60	2011	Magical Realms	6.50
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.50	1973	Tree	0.10	1985	Insects	1.25	1995	Cats	1.40	2003	Scotland	3.80	2011	WWF	7.50
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10	1973	Explorers	0.45	1985	Composers	1.00	1995	Springtime	1.40	2003	Pub Signs	3.40	2011	Shakespeare	5.50
1961	Parliament	0.70	1973	Crickets	0.30	1985	Safety at Sea	0.95	1995	Greetings	7.50	2003	Transport Toys	3.40	2011	Morris	5.50
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.50	1973	Paintings	0.30	1985	Royal Mail	0.95	1995	N.Trust	1.40	2003	British Museum	3.80	2011	Thomas	5.50
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	8.50	1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	1985	Legends	0.95	1995	Europa/Peace	1.00	2003	Christmas	4.60	2011	Olympics	7.50
1963	F.F.H. (O)	0.50	1973	Parliament	0.25	1985	Film Stars	1.20	1995	Science Fiction	1.20	2003	COMPLETE YEAR	50.00	2011	Crown Jewels	7.00
1963	F.F.H. (P)	8.50	1973	Wedding	0.25	1985	Christmas	0.95	1995	Shakespeare	1.20	2004	Locomotives	3.80	2011	Hanover	6.00
1963	Paris (O)	0.10	1973	Christmas	0.70	1985	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1995	Communications	1.30	2004	Occasions	3.50	2011	UK A-Z Part 1	9.00
1963	Paris (P)	1.50	1973	COMPLETE YEAR	2.70	1986	Industry	0.95	1995	Rugby League	1.40	2004	Lord of the Rings	7.00	2011	Christmas	7.50
1963	Nature (O)	0.10	1974	Tree	0.10	1986	Comet	0.95	1995	Christmas	1.70	2004	Northern Ireland	4.00	2011	COMPLETE YEAR	75.00
1963	Nature (P)	0.80	1974	Fire	0.30	1986	Birthday	0.95	1995	COMPLETE YEAR	18.00	2004	Entente Cordiale	0.90	2012	Olympics - 4v	9.00
1963	Lifeboat (O)	0.75	1974	UPU	0.30	1986	Nature	0.95	1996	Burns	1.30	2004	Ocean Liners	4.00	2012	Roald Dahl	5.50
1963	Lifeboat (P)	15.00	1974	Britons	0.35	1986	Medieval Life	0.95	1996	Greetings	7.50	2004	Horticultural	4.00	2012	Windsor	5.00
1963	Red Cross (O)	1.30	1974	Churchill	0.30	1986	Sports	1.30	1996	Greetings (Phos)	14.00	2004	Society of Arts	3.20	2012	Britons	7.50
1963	Red Cross (P)	20.00	1974	Christmas	0.25	1986	Royal Wedding	0.30	1996	Wildfowl	1.40	2004	Woodland Animals	7.00	2012	Comics	7.50
1963	Cable (O)	0.50	1974	COMPLETE YEAR	1.50	1986	Parliament	0.35	1996	Cinema	1.40	2004	The Crimean War	4.00	2012	UK A-Z Part 2	10.00
1963	Cable (P)	4.00	1975	Charity	0.05	1986	R.A.F.	1.30	1996	Football	1.70	2004	Christmas	4.00	2012	Fashion	7.50
1964	Shakes (O)	1.20	1975	Turner	0.30	1986	Christmas 6v	1.10	1996	Women/Europa	1.40	2004	COMPLETE YEAR	45.00	2012	Diamond Jubilee	8.00
1964	Shakes (P)	3.50	1975	Architecture	0.40	1986	COMPLETE YEAR	8.80	1996	Childrens TV	1.40	2005	Farm Animals	7.00	2012	Dickens	7.00
1964	Geog (O)	0.90	1975	Sailing	0.35	1987	Flowers	0.95	1996	Cars	1.70	2005	S. West England	3.20	2012	Space Science	6.00
1964	Geog (P)	8.00	1975	Railway	0.35	1987	Newton	0.95	1996	Christmas	2.20	2005	Jane Eyre	4.00	2012	Lest - Poppy	1.20
1964	Bot (O)	0.90	1975	Parliament	0.10	1987	Architecture	0.95	1996	COMPLETE YEAR	32.00	2005	Magic	3.30	2012	Christmas	8.00
1964	Bot (P)	8.00	1975	Austen	0.35	1987	St. Johns	0.95	1997	Greetings	7.50	2005	World Heritage	4.80	2012	COMPLETE YEAR	75.00
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.10	1975	Christmas	0.35	1987	Heraldry	0.95	1997	Tudor	1.90	2005	Trooping The Colour	4.00	2013	London Underground	5.00
1964	F.R.B. (P)	1.75	1975	COMPLETE YEAR	2.10	1987	Victorian Britain	0.95	1997	Faith	1.60	2005	Motorcycles	3.20	2013	Jane Austen	5.50
1965	Churchill (O)	0.15	1976	Telephone	0.40	1987	Pottery	0.95	1997	Terror Legends	1.30	2005	Tastes in Britain	3.30	2013	Doctor Who	8.00
1965	Churchill (P)	0.60	1976	Reformers	0.40	1987	Christmas	1.00	1997	Architects of the Air	1.80	2005	Classic ITV	3.30	2013	Great Britons	7.50
1965	Parliament (O)	0.30	1976	USA	0.10	1987	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	1997	Horse	1.50	2005	Smilers	7.00	2013	Football Heroes	8.00
1965	Parliament (P)	0.20	1976	Roses	0.40	1988	Linnean Society	0.95	1997	Post Offices	1.50	2005	Battle of Trafalgar	3.80	2013	Coronation Anniversary	6.50
1965	Army (O)	0.25	1976	Culture	0.40	1988	Welsh Bible	0.95	1997	Enid Blyton	1.75	2005	Christmas	4.00	2013	Butterflies	7.50
1965	Army (P)	0.50	1976	Caxton	0.40	1988	Sports	0.95	1997	Christmas	2.20	2005	COMPLETE YEAR	46.00	2013	Auto Legends	6.00
1965	Lister (O)	0.25	1976	Christmas	0.40	1988	Transport	0.95	1997	Golden Wedding	1.60	2006	Animal Tales	4.60	2013	Merchant Navy	6.00
1965	Lister (P)	0.50	1976	COMPLETE YEAR	2.30	1988	Australia	0.95	1997	COMPLETE YEAR	21.00	2006	England	7.00	2013	Dinosaurs	7.50
1965	Arts (O)	0.25	1977	Sports	0.40	1988	Armada	0.85	1998	Endangered	2.20	2006	Queen's Birthday	4.80	2013	Childrens Christmas (2v)	2.50
1965	Arts (P)	0.70	1977	Chemistry	0.40	1988	Lear	0.95	1998	Diana	1.30	2006	World Cup Winners	3.30	2013	COMPLETE YEAR	72.50
1965	B.O.B. (O)	2.75	1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.45	1988	Christmas	1.15	1998	Queens Beasts	1.30	2006	Architecture	3.30	2014	Childrens TV	9.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	3.50	1977	Government	0.10	1988	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	1998	Lighthouses	1.80	2006	Portrait Gallery	7.00	2014	Working Horses	6.00
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.10	1977	Wildlife	0.45	1989	Birds	1.00	1998	Comedians	1.80	2006	Victoria Cross	4.00	2014	Remarkable Lives	7.50
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.10	1977	Christmas	0.45	1989	Greetings	4.00	1998	Health	1.40	2006	Sounds of Britain	3.40	2014	Buckingham Palace	4.50
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.25	1977	COMPLETE YEAR	2.00	1989	Food	1.00	1998	Fantasy	1.80	2006	Smilers	5.00	2014	Great British Film	6.00
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.50	1978	Energy	0.40	1989	Anniversaries	1.00	1998	Carnival	1.40	2006	Christmas	5.00	2014	Sustainable Fish	7.50
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.25	1978	Buildings	0.40	1989	Toys	1.00	1998	Speed	1.75	2006	COMPLETE YEAR	50.00	2014	Commonwealth Games	7.50
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.40	1978	Coronation	0.40	1989	Ind. Arch.	1.00	1998	Christmas	1.70	2007	Beatles	4.00	2014	The Great War	7.00
1966	Burns (O)	0.15	1978	Horses	0.40	1989	Microscopes	1.00	1998	COMPLETE YEAR	16.00	2007	Sea Life	7.00	2014	Seaside Architecture	6.00
1966	Burns (P)	0.45	1978	Cycling	0.40	1989	Mayor	1.00	1999	Inventors	1.40	2007	Sky At Night	3.80	2014	Prime Ministers	7.00
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20	1978	Christmas	0.40	1989	Christmas	1.20	1999	Travellers	1.40	2007	Inventions	4.00	2014	Christmas	8.50
1966	Abbey (P)	0.05	1978	COMPLETE YEAR	2.20	1989	COMPLETE YEAR	11.50	1999	Patients	1.40	2007	Slave Trade	3.80	2014	COMPLETE YEAR	72.50
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.20	1979	Dogs	0.40	1990	150th Anniv.	1.50	1999	Settlers	1.40	2007	Seaside	3.60	2015	Alice In Wonderland	10.00
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.20	1979	Flowers	0.40	1990	RSPCA	1.10	1999	Workers	1.40	2007	Grand Prix	4.00	2015	Smilers	10.00
1966	W. Cup (O)	0.15	1979	Elections	0.40	1990	Greetings	4.00	1999	Entertainers	1.40	2007	Harry Potter	5.00	2015	Inventive Britain	10.00
1966	W.Cup (P)	0.15	1979	Racing	0.40	1990	Europa	0.95	1999	Royal Wedding	0.85	2007	Scouts	3.60	2015	Bridges	7.50
1966	Birds (O)	0.15	1979	Year Of Child	0.40	1990	Queens Award	0.95	1999	Citizens	1.40	2007	Birds	7.00	2015	Comedy Greats	7.50
1966	Birds (P)	0.15	1979	Rowland Hill	0.40	1990	Gardens	1.00	1999	Soldiers	1.40	2007	Uniforms	4.50	2015	Great War	7.50
1966	Winners	0.05	1979	Police	0.45	1990	Hardy	0.20	1999	Christians	1.40	2007	Diamond Wedding	4.00	2015	Magna Carta	8.00
1966	Technology (O)	0.15	1979	Christmas	0.55	1990	Birthday	1.10	1999	Artists	1.40	2007	Christmas - 8v	6.50	2015	Battle of Waterloo	7.00
1966	Technology (P)	0.20	1979	COMPLETE YEAR	3.20	1990	Gallantry	1.00	1999	Above and Beyond	1.40	2007	COMPLETE YEAR	55.00	2015	Bees	8.00
1966	Hastings (O)	0.40	1980</														



# MARKET INSIGHT

## AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



Spink recently offered the 'Hermione' Collection of France, 1849-1950, Parts VII and VIII, and highlights included a collection of the typographed and engraved 1945-54 Marianne de Gandon issues in ten albums and stock books. Formed over a forty year period with meticulous attention to detail and passion, the collection comprised printer's proofs, deluxe proofs, imperforate varieties, mis-perforation varieties, official paper repairs, pre-printing paper folds in visually arresting multiples, blocks with striking defective and incomplete impressions, varieties of 'postes', varieties of the 'Marianne' design, and perforated examples in multiples with imperforate.

**COLLECTION SOLD FOR £35,000**

'With the ever present threat of Covid hanging over us, Cavendish's recent two day auction saw a record number of on-line bidders



participating in a highly successful venture,' the auctioneers wrote after the recent sale. In the modern section of the two-day sale, a 1969 Guernsey 3d unmounted mint with the very rare 'Block CA watermark' variety quickly surpassed its pre-sale estimate of £220.

**SOLD FOR £600**



Examples of the famous Hawaiian 'Missionary' stamps were on offer at Robert A Siegel recently, including this 1851, 5c Blue example boasting large margins, and a cork cancel leaving numeral '5'. The stamp was described as 'a remarkably attractive used example of the rare Hawaiian Missionary 5 cent blue. One of the finer examples known

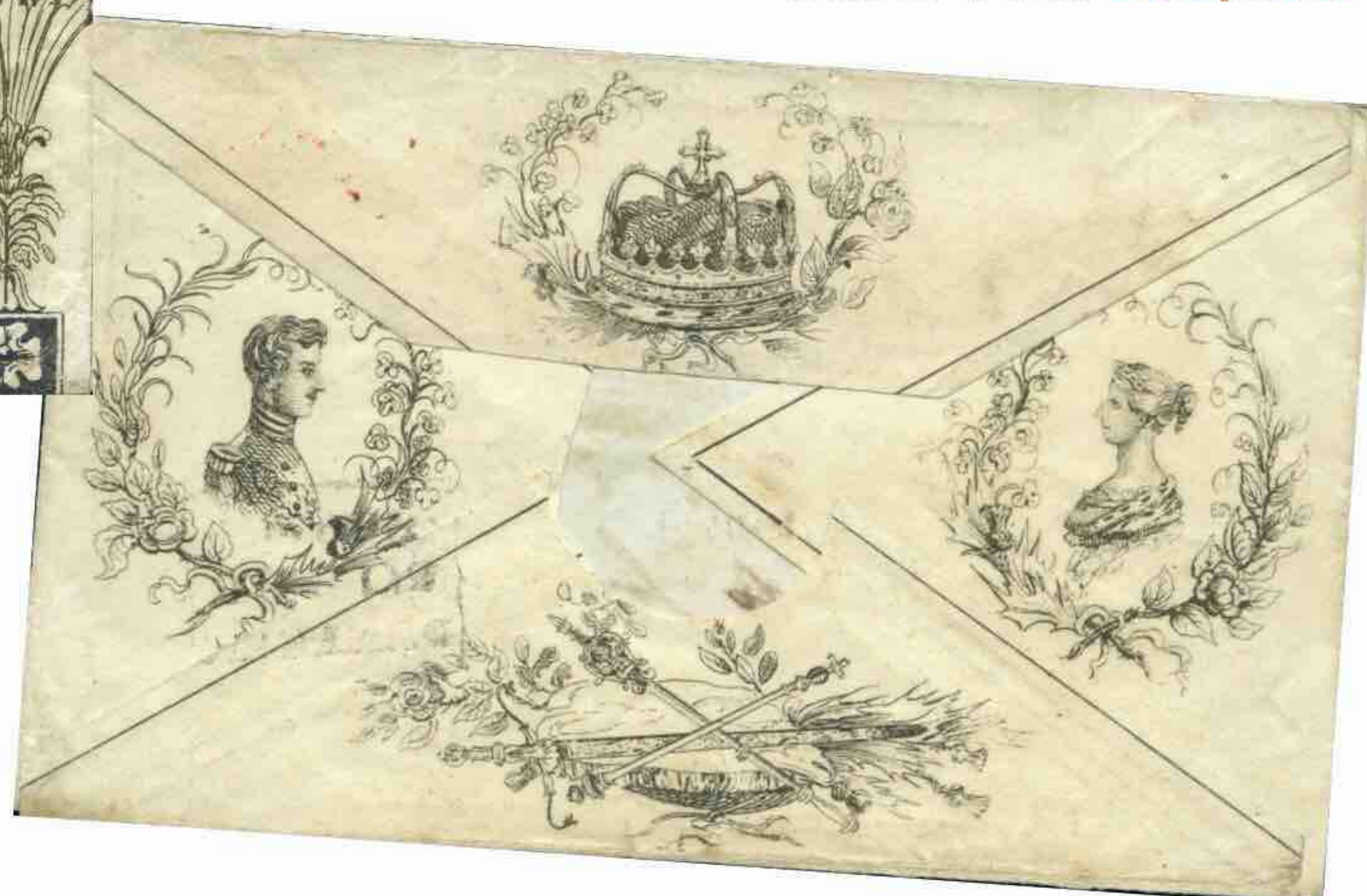
of this major worldwide philatelic rarity... the example offered here, neatly cancelled with wide margins and no major repairs, is one of the finest extant.'

**SOLD FOR £30,170**



The recent series of sales at David Feldman included a wide range of British material including this beautifully illustrated 1840 Victoria & Albert envelope, printed in gold ink, which was sent from Edinburgh to Lockerbie and prepaid in cash. Described as being 'a spectacular example of this very rare illustrated envelope' the auctioneers noted that experts Bodily, Jarvis and Hahn record 'only five complete used examples, this being the only one prepaid in cash'.

**SOLD FOR £4,800**



# INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

## BRITISH EMPIRE

60+ a truly classic range inc Oil Rivers 1892 O'Prints on G.B set (M) Gambia Cameos to 6d, outstanding Mauritius from 1848 1d, (4 M'gin) 2d, 1858 4d (superb 4 M'Gin FU) 1859 Dardenne 1d, 2d etc, Sudan 1896 set (M) St. Helena from 1d imperf (4 M'gin) etc Cat £8500  
**£950.00**

## BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA

Some 100's tidily displayed in stock book inc Transvaal from first types, QV to 6d, K.Ed to 10/=, Arms types to 10/=, V.R.I O'Prints to 10/=, few Zululand to 3d (M & U) S.W.A. 1935 Jubilee set (M) Natal with QV to 1/= inc 1882 1d W'Mk inv Orange Free State Cat £1050  
**£135.00**

## ALBANIA

100's in stock book from Skanderberg types, early pictorials to 2Fr, 1925 Airmail to 50q, later with 1905 buildings (M) 2 sets, range M/S inc 1962 Space (perf & imperf) 1964 Olympics 1965 Space pair etc. untidy but useful lot  
**£135.00**

## CEYLON

About 60 from 1863 2d unused pair. 1883 to 8c in mint blocks of 4 (scarce) 1899 Official set (M) 1903 set (M) etc. Lovely lot Cat £1150+  
**£185.00**

## DENMARK

Many 100's mint and / or FU in Davo 1851-1991 from range imperfs, Posthorns to 100 ore, 1907 5Kr P.O., 1921 to 5Kr, 1924 Anniv set, 1926 Official S'Charge set (scarce) 1929 Cancer, 1930 Birthday etc. useful back of the book Cat £3500  
**£425.00**

## FAROEES

Few 100's complete mint and / or FU (generally both) 1975-82 then many better to 1991. all on Davo leaves  
**£45.00**

## GERMANY

French Zone About 140 mainly UNM with most defin sets for three states, Baden inc Goethe and Rastatt sets, Rhineland inc Red Cross set, Goethe etc cat £570  
**£75.00**

## GREENLAND

130 from 1938 vals to 1Kr, 1950 to 5Kr, 1960 set Queen Margrethe types complete etc to 1991  
**£45.00**

## GREAT BRITAIN

Untidy accumulation (many 100's) in stock book from 50+ imperf 1d reds inc strip of 3 and piece with full Liverpool

'spoon' cancel (5 Oc 1855) 1847 Embossed trio 6d, good 10d cut into top and bottom, 1/= fine, range later surface printed inc scarce unused, K.Ed to 1/=, 1925 Wembley FU, KG6 square high value set, QE2 etc Enormous cat value  
**£175.00**

## GERMANY

East 100's all checked were UNM, appears complete 1949-57 inc 1950 Pieck set, Science Academy 1951 China Friendship 1952 Portraits, 1953 Pieck pair with 1 DM, both, Marx with M/S (all4) Schiller M/s etc. A superb range Cat £4030  
**£525.00**

## MOROCCO AGENCIES

200+ in slim stock book from O'Prints on Gib. O'Prints on G.B K.Ed to 1 peseta, KG5 to 5fr, strong Tangiers etc. Mint and / or FU with some duplication Cat £910  
**£150.00**

## PALESTINE

100's duplicated in pocket book from 1918 (July - Dec) to 5pi, good range O'Prints inc scarce 9pi, 1927-45 range to £1 inc blocks etc. Useful lot to research Cat £1260  
**£175.00**

## RHODESIA

About 70 1910 Double Heads with values to 2/= mint and FU (no 8d), a wide range of shades and perfs all S.G identified (appear correct) Cat £3120  
**£475.00**

## SAAR

100's Main value in mint (much UNM) inc 1948 set, Welfare, '49 Horses, Relief Fund, 1949- 51 set, 1950 Kolping, Wust, Stamp Day, Council of Europe pair, Relief Fund, then fairly complete to 1959 inc both Heuss sets Cat £2800  
**£350.00**

## SARAWAK

90 from 1869 3c, 1880 to 32c, 1918 to \$1, 1926 to 30c, 1928 to 50c, 1932 to 25c, 1931 most to \$1, mint, a couple are toned Cat £1130  
**£200.00**

## SEYCHELLES

70 from 1937 Coro, 1938 to 5R's, few early commems, 1969 set etc. All fine mint Cat £510  
**£100.00**

## SWEDEN

Many 100's from 1855 4Rbs, 1858 to 50 ore (9 ore superb used on piece) 1872 to 1 r'daler, 1903 5Kr, various 1916-1918 Charities 1924 UPU to 60 ore, 50 ore, later with much useful to 1970's. Condition of earlyies, well above average. Cat £5125  
**£475.00**

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Spink's recent 'Stamps of the World e-Auction' included a Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika £25 black and red, large part original gum, 'ever so lightly off-white, otherwise fresh and fine' which sold for £13,000.

**SOLD FOR £13,000**



The Leo Malz Specialized Collection of Palestine and Israel was recently sold at Daniel F Kelleher in the USA and amongst the highlights was a 1948, 3m 'First Coins' corner block of six, imperforate vertically and in right margin. The lot featured characteristic light colour 'dry printing' and was said to be 'a great rarity, from the only recorded sheet with this variety'.

**SOLD FOR £4,750**



Cherrystone Philatelic Auctions recently sold an 1850 Poste Locale 2½ Rp black and red, without black frame around cross, type 8, cancelled by grids, margins all around, said to be 'one of the rarest stamps from classic Switzerland' (see our guides to classic Switzerland in the January 2021 issue and on page 44 of this issue).

**SOLD FOR £4,330**



David Feldman recently sold this folded letter featuring an 1843 5 + 5 c Double Geneva, addressed to Cologny and sent in March 1844. 'Of the only eighteen known double Geneva letters that have only one stamp on the letter, at most six are flawless,' noted the lot description.

**SOLD FOR £60,000**

## STAMP DETECTIVE

# Canal Zone variety in demand

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

The United States ran the Panama Canal Zone from 1904 until 1979 and then jointly with Panama until 1999 when it was returned to the Panamanian authorities. Stamps were issued for the Canal Zone. The first issues were Panamanian stamps suitably overprinted.

In 1928 a set of postage stamps was released featuring persons involved in the construction of the canal. The 2-cent value shows Major General George Washington Goethals (1858-1928) who was the chief engineer and supervisor of the construction of the canal. He also served as the first

governor of the Canal Zone.

This stamp was overprinted 'AIR MAIL' along with the new value of 20 cents in 1929. A mounted mint copy in very fine condition sells for about £3 while an UMM example can cost as much as £6 depending on centring and gum.

A rather interesting variety exists of this stamp. It is known as the dropped "2". It is the kind of variety that can easily be spotted without the need of a magnifying glass. Shown nearby is a pair where the stamp to the left exhibits the dropped "2". Such a variety catapults the value to some £30 to 40

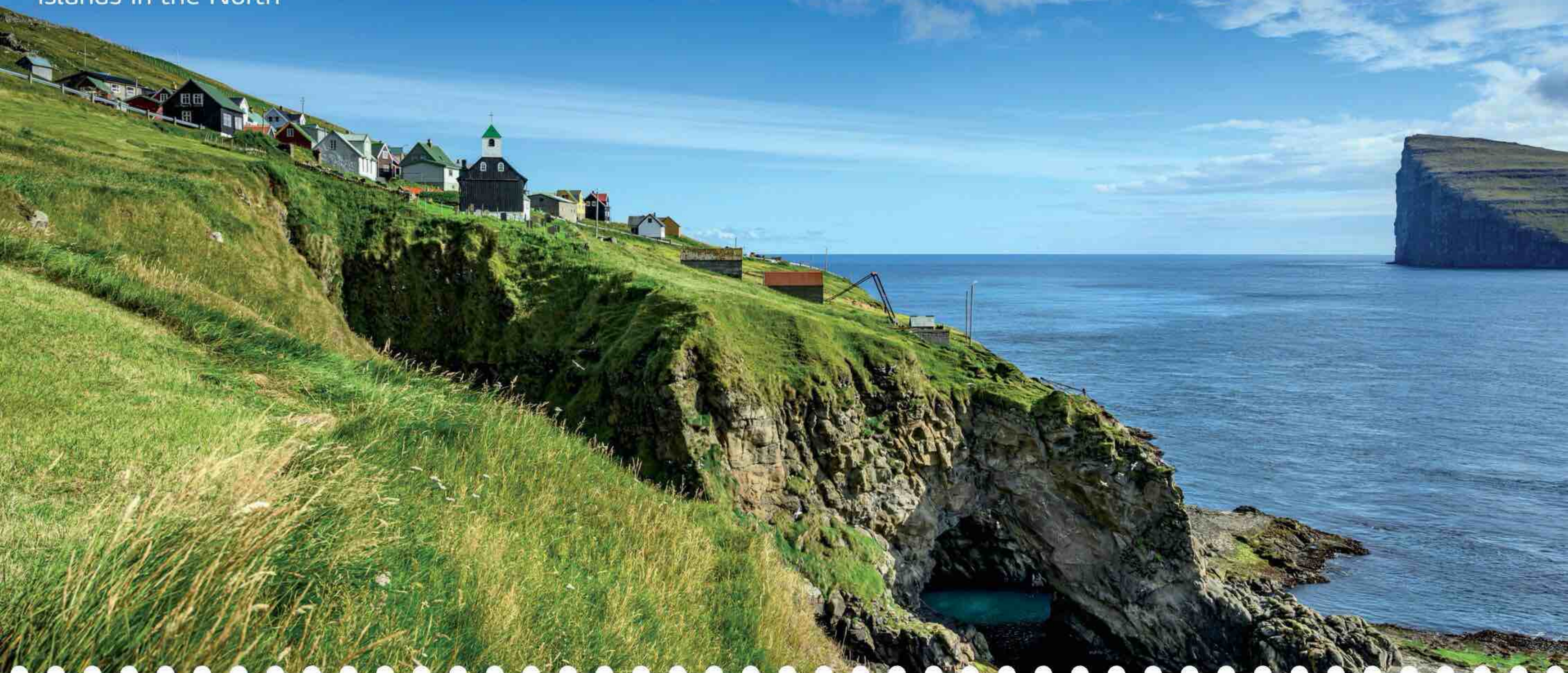


depending on the quality.

Most philatelic bargains are picked up by knowledgeable collectors who know what to look for. Many dealers will ignore this variety and tend to price it as the regular issue.



Masterpieces from the remote islands in the North



The village, Kirkja on Fugloy island. Photo: Fotostudio.

# Faroe Islands Stamps

## New Stamp Issues 19 February 2021



### Transplanted - immigration stories

As an island nation, the Faroes have a long history of immigration and emigration. Even the Faroese with the deepest roots on the islands have ancestors who came from somewhere else: Norway, Denmark, Scotland, Ireland. Leaving a home and settling in a new one are universal human experiences, commemorated in this series of stamps by the sculptor Joel Cole, a Faroese American.

Posta Faroe Islands - one of the smallest Postal Services in the world, yet known for its unique, beautiful and creative stamps, which have gained worldwide recognition since 1976.

**Buy Faroese stamps at [www.stamps.fo](http://www.stamps.fo)**

Posta Stamps, Óðinshædd 2  
FO-100 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

Tel. +298 346200  
[stamps@posta.fo](mailto:stamps@posta.fo)



### Villages: Kirkja & Hattarvík

Fugloy is the Faroe Islands' easternmost island, but unlike other small islands in the Faroes, it is divided in two settlements, each with their own identity. Photos: Fotostudio.



### The Eysturoy Tunnel - underwater roundabout

The subsea "Eysturoy Tunnel" in the Faroes opened officially on 19th December 2020. The tunnel which is 11 kilometres long connects the islands of Streymoy and Eysturoy. The roundabout artwork was designed by local artist Tróndur Patursson.

Photos: Eysturoyartunnilin/Ólavur Frederiksen.



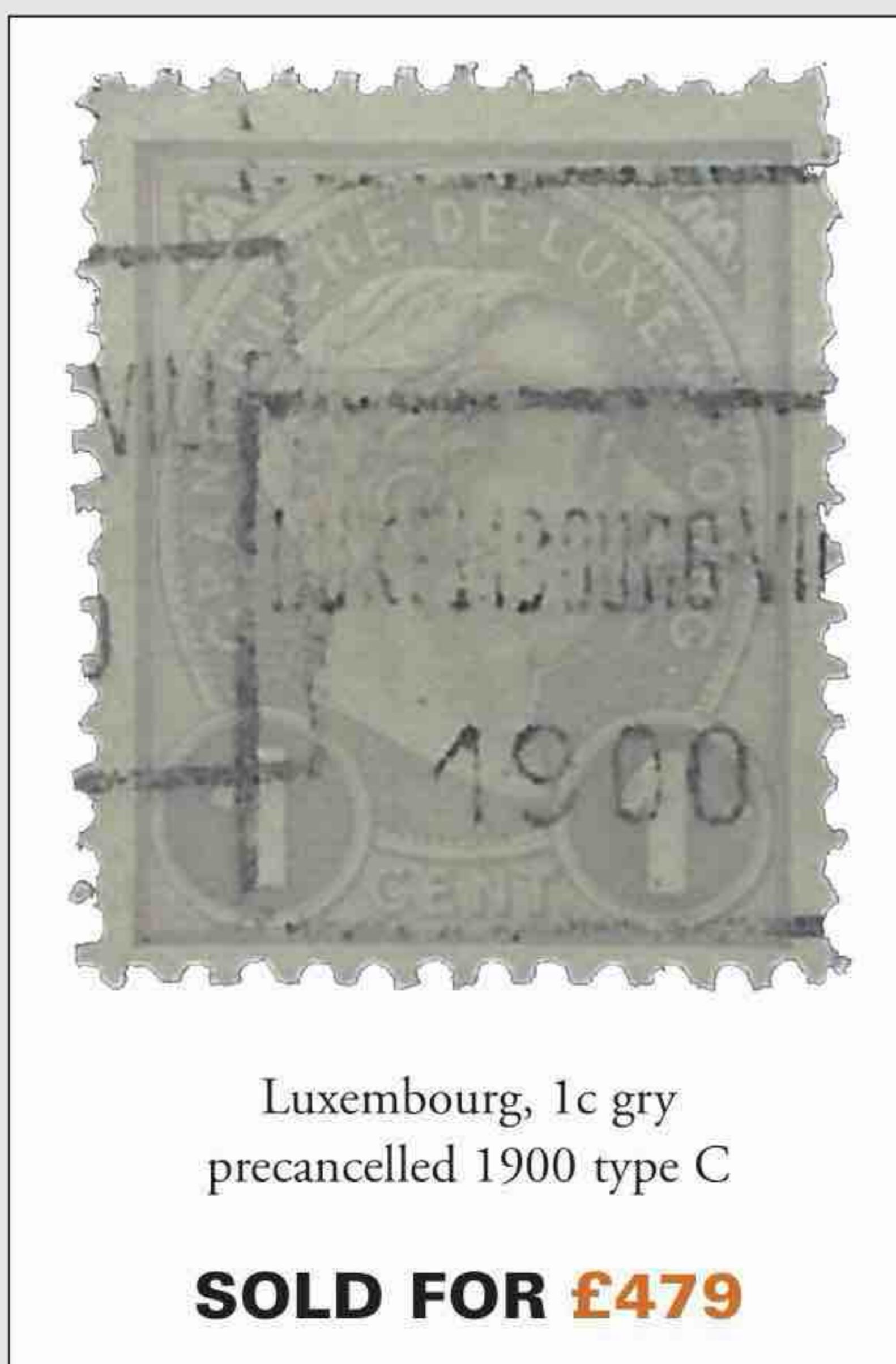
# LATEST INTERNET SALES

Your quick reference guide to recent online sales, in association with [delcampe.net](http://delcampe.net)



France, block of 4x  
15c grey Sage Type I  
1876-78 MNH/MLH

**SOLD FOR**  
**£1,993**



Luxembourg, 1c gry  
precancelled 1900 type C

**SOLD FOR £479**



Belgium, Block 10 stamps 75c  
Heraldic Lion inverted stamps (tête-  
bêche) with gutter and advertisings  
1930 MNH

**SOLD FOR £712**



Great Britain, 2/6 ; 5s ; 10s (SG 260+263+265)  
KEVII 1902 issue MNH (with cert.)

**SOLD FOR £881**



South Africa, Complete set KGV 1913  
(SG3/17) MLH

**SOLD FOR £488**



Spain, 19c brown MH

**SOLD FOR £445**



Mariana Islands (Spanish era), Entire  
letter with full contents from Saipan  
August 1874 to Agaña (Guam)

**SOLD FOR £4,523**



Switzerland, local  
Post Neuchâtel 5c 1851 used

**SOLD FOR £427**

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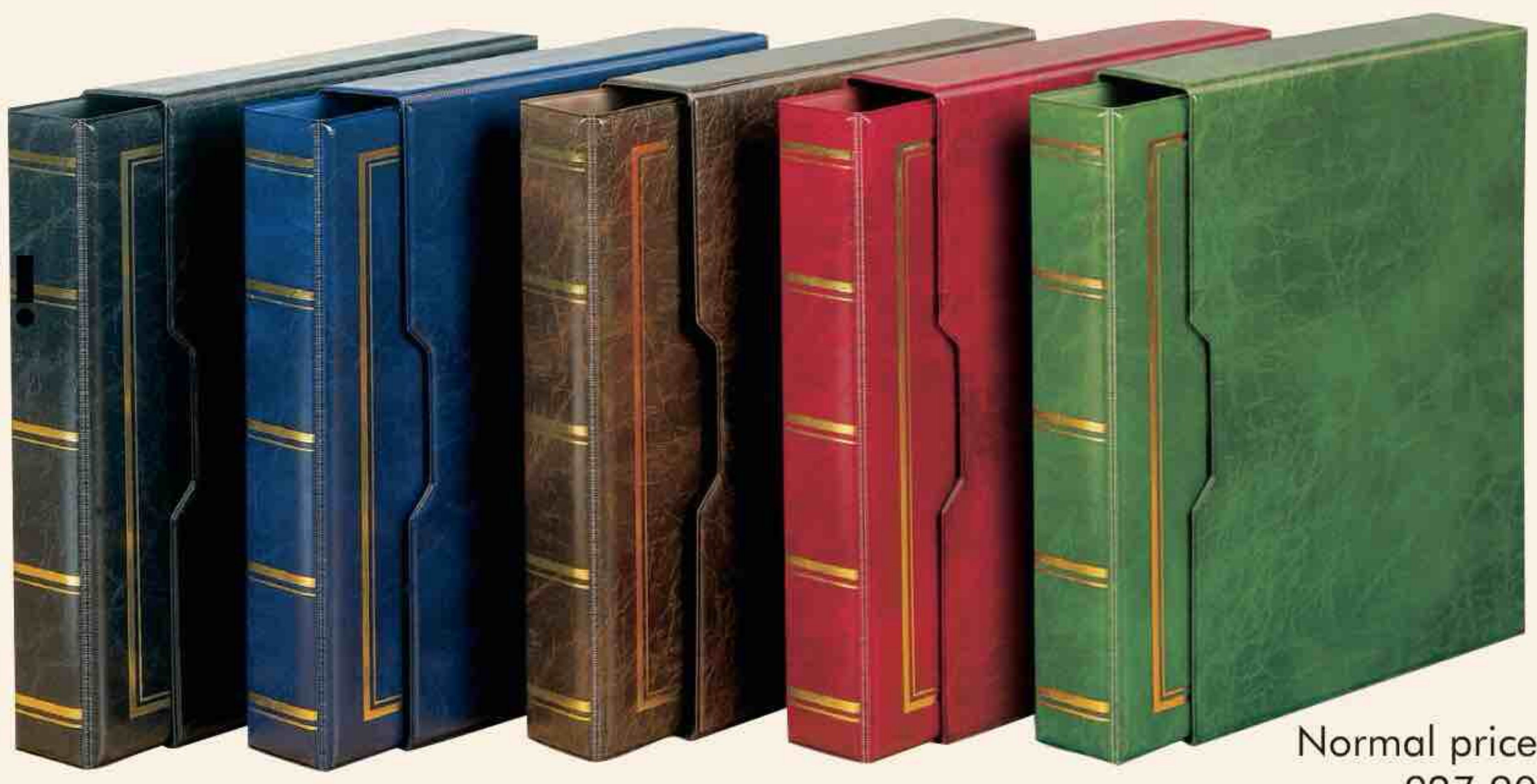
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			Twelve Pockets 46 x 216mm
			<b>RAG65</b>
			Fourteen Pockets 38 x 216mm
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<b>RCV15</b>	<b>RCV25</b>	<b>RCV75</b>	<b>RCV85</b>	<b>RCV55</b>	<b>RCV65</b>
<b>RCZWL</b> Vario Interleaves £3.50 Pack of 5			See website for further pocket sizes		Overall page size: 215 x 280mm

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<b>RAMM2A</b>	<b>RAMM3</b>	<b>RAMM3V</b>	<b>RAMM4V</b>
			Holds Twelve 295 x 70mm
			<b>RAMM12</b>
			20 Pockets 56 x 55mm
			<b>RAMM20</b>

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HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

# KGVI 1948 Royal Silver Wedding stamps?

The wedding anniversary of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth gave Britain the perfect excuse for some positivity after a gruelling period of war and shortages. So what should you pay for the 2½d and a £1 stamps and what varieties and covers are on offer? Ed Fletcher investigates



Right: a portrait of the King and Queen by Dorothy Wilding, a name well known to stamp collectors



UK eBayers jamesandhatty, from Yorkshire, offered this 1948 Royal Silver Wedding King George VI 2½d stamp, MNH, at 99p plus 99p postage

The dreadful hardships 1947 brought to our islands had begun with a 51-day freeze-up that commenced on 18 January; merging into February blizzards, March snow drifts (some more than ten feet deep even in urban areas), and April floods caused by torrential rainstorms that overwhelmed many river defences.

Throughout those hellish months postal workers battled to keep Britain's mail deliveries moving via road, rail and arduous door-to-door deliveries. Optimistically politicians promised spring-time relief; instead May brought bread, potato and petrol shortages, with postmen delivering ration books, and with school children sent home because school boilers had run out of coal, even logs. Little wonder then on 31 December the entire population washed their hands of 1947 and began to look forward to a little sunshine beaming into their lives in 1948.

It took until 26 April for the sunshine to arrive; summed up by a *Western Morning News* editorial on that day which succinctly described the feelings of most in our nation:

Established eBay dealer statusinternational, of Forest Lodge, Australia offered this 1948 KGVI Silver Wedding set 2½d & £1, described as superb fresh MNH at the buy-it-now price of US A\$23.24 (approximately £13) plus \$9.50 economy international shipping

US eBayer 1gorgeousgift of Mount Dora, Florida offered this pair, described as MNH and in very fine condition & well-centred. The asking price was US\$34 (£25) plus \$3.25 USPS First Class International Mail.

Australian eBay stamp dealer, toygirl70, offered this GB 1948 Royal Silver Wedding set, used, at A\$15 (£8.50), plus A\$3.20 standard international flat rate postage.





eBayUK dealer, thefirstadhesives, of London, offered this sheet described as King George VI 1948 silver wedding £1; a complete sheet of twenty stamps, all in extremely fine condition. The buy-it-now price was £595 with free shipping.



UK eBay dealer saltdean stamps of Lancashire, recently offered this 1948 Royal Silver Wedding (two values) Airmail First Day Cover, described as a plain handstamped addressed envelope bearing a complete set of two values; used with a 'NORTH FINCHLEY 26 AP 48' single ring cds, and with various backstamps. Odd bumped corners and some slight wrinkling. The buy-it-now price was £150, with £2.20



UK eBay dealer stampbark of Leicester, offered this GVI 1948 silver wedding £1, described as very fine used with a buy-it-now price of £15.99 plus £1 postage.



UK eBay dealer willowbarn collectables of Shropshire recently offered this 1948 Silver Wedding low value plain FDC at £3.95 plus 85p postage.

**HAPPY DAY!** Today we are able to pay homage to the Throne, which is the summit of OUR social system, and to the normal, happy family life which is its foundation. Those who 25 years ago gave their acclamation to the marriage of the Duke of York and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon could not foresee all that has happened since. They did know, however, that they were witnessing the union of a very happy couple and a most fortunate adaptation of the institution of Monarchy by which a member of the Royal House made an alliance outside the circle of Royalty to the delight of the whole nation.

On the same day the *Yorkshire Post* beat most competitors in giving its readers some other good news:

**TWO NEW STAMPS...** A special issue of postage stamps has been made to commemorate the Silver Wedding anniversary of the King and Queen. The issue consists of two denominations, 2½d and £1, to be known as the Royal Silver Wedding issue. Both will be on sale at the opening time for public business to-day, the 2½d at all post offices, and the £1 at all post offices in London, and all main offices and a number of sub-post offices in the provinces. It is expected that the stamps will remain on sale for about one month, and that they will continue to be sold until the printing is exhausted. The 2½d stamp, which is double the normal size – that is, the same size as the Peace stamps of 1946

– is blue, and of a similar hue to the ordinary 2½d stamp. The £1 stamp is silvery blue in colour, size 1.23 inches wide by 1.6 inches deep. The design for the 2½d stamp is the work of Mr. George T. Knipe (of Harrison and Sons, Ltd.). Miss Joan Hassall, A.R.E., designed the £1 value. The decision to produce these stamps was made in conformity with the tradition of issuing special stamps celebrating important events connected with the Royal Family, of which the King George V Silver Jubilee and King George VI Coronation stamps were examples. There have been only six previous special issues. A Leeds Post Office official told The Yorkshire Post that £1 stamps of previous special issues were



£180

This Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions lot was described as a 1948 Silver Wedding 2½d and £1 on an illustrated FDC registered from Rhyl. Price Realised £180

£210

This Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions lot was described as a King George VI: 1948 Silver Wedding 2½d and £1, fine used, on an illustrated registered FDC. Price Realised £210



R No 4252



£250

This Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions lot was described as a 1948 Silver Wedding 2½d and £1 on a first day cover, locally addressed in Carshalton, with charming hand-painted illustration of Windsor Castle at left. Price Realised £250

withdrawn some time ago, after their use on foreign cablegrams declined. Most of the new issue, he thought, would be bought by stamp collectors.

The cash-strapped British film industry worked its socks off to capture on its movie cameras the ceremonial side of the day's events at Westminster Abbey and the cheering crowds who had gathered since before dawn at the gates of Buckingham Palace. Copies of the film were rushed to cinemas across the country; with statistics a week later indicating that four-fifths of Britain's population had paid for tickets. Sadly,

the budget ran to only a black-and-white reel, though the voice-over commentary was impressively handled by actor Robert Donat, already famous as the hero of *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Desperate for more colourful mementoes, large numbers of people bought pairs of the stamps as souvenir. Many made their own watercolour decorated envelopes and used them to fashion First Day Covers. They might be surprised to learn that today those self-illustrated FDCs often match, or even surpass, the selling prices reached by commercially printed FDC envelopes.

So, how much should you pay to add the 2½d or the £1; or preferably both, to your collection? We found a noticeably wide span of selling prices. An absolute beginner can buy the lower value mint for under £1; an experienced bidder at auction might spend £250+ if he/she wants a self-illustrated FDC. The good news for all readers is that the popularity of this issue back in 1948 has left us a generous legacy of the stamps available at all spending levels, as you can see from the examples we spotted during our market survey.

# MAYFAIR

## PHILATELIC AUCTIONS



1858



478



387



2194



3383



596



3555



3496



375



606



385

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# STAMP SIDELINES

## POSTCARDS

### Postcards most horrid

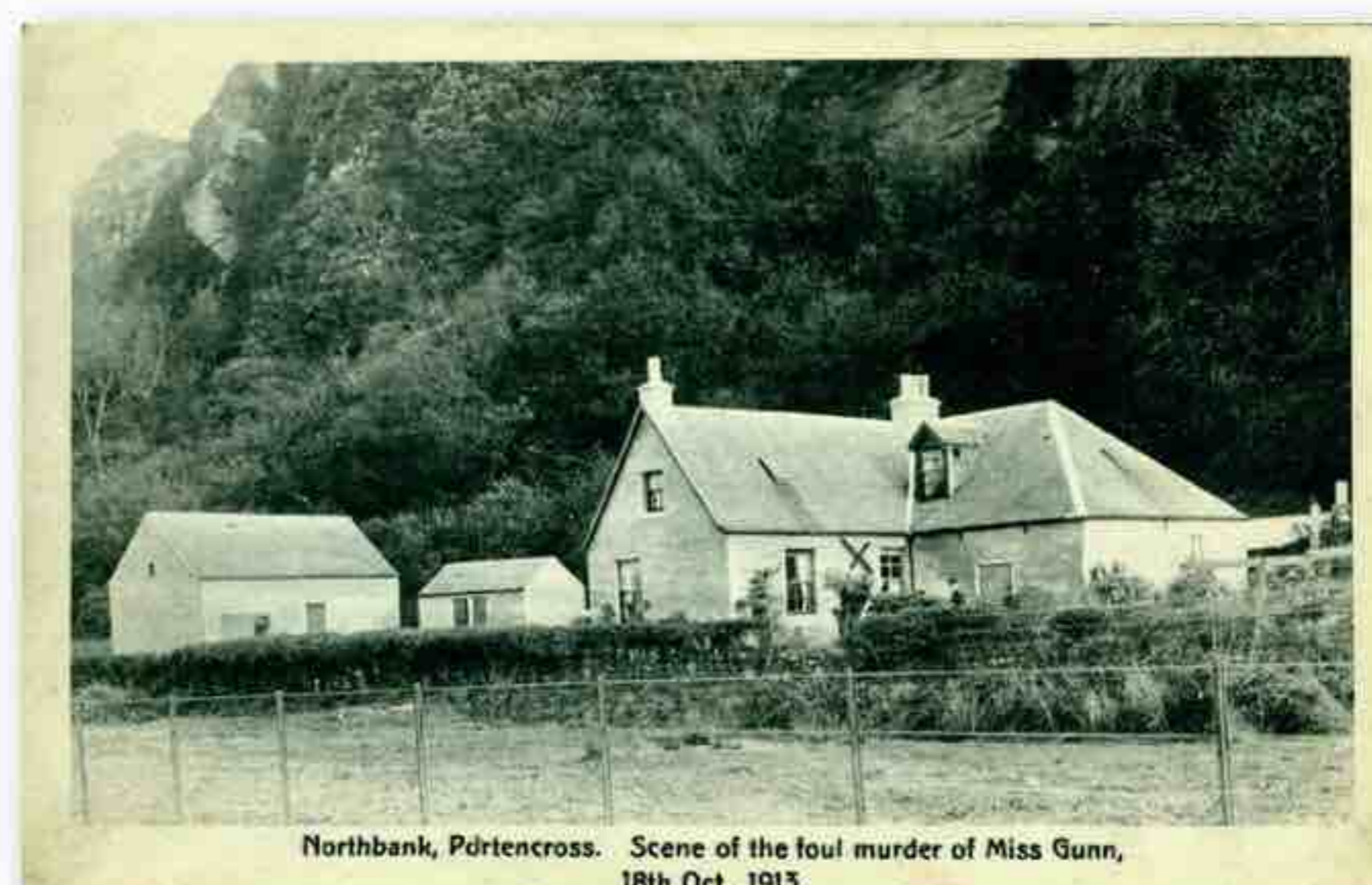
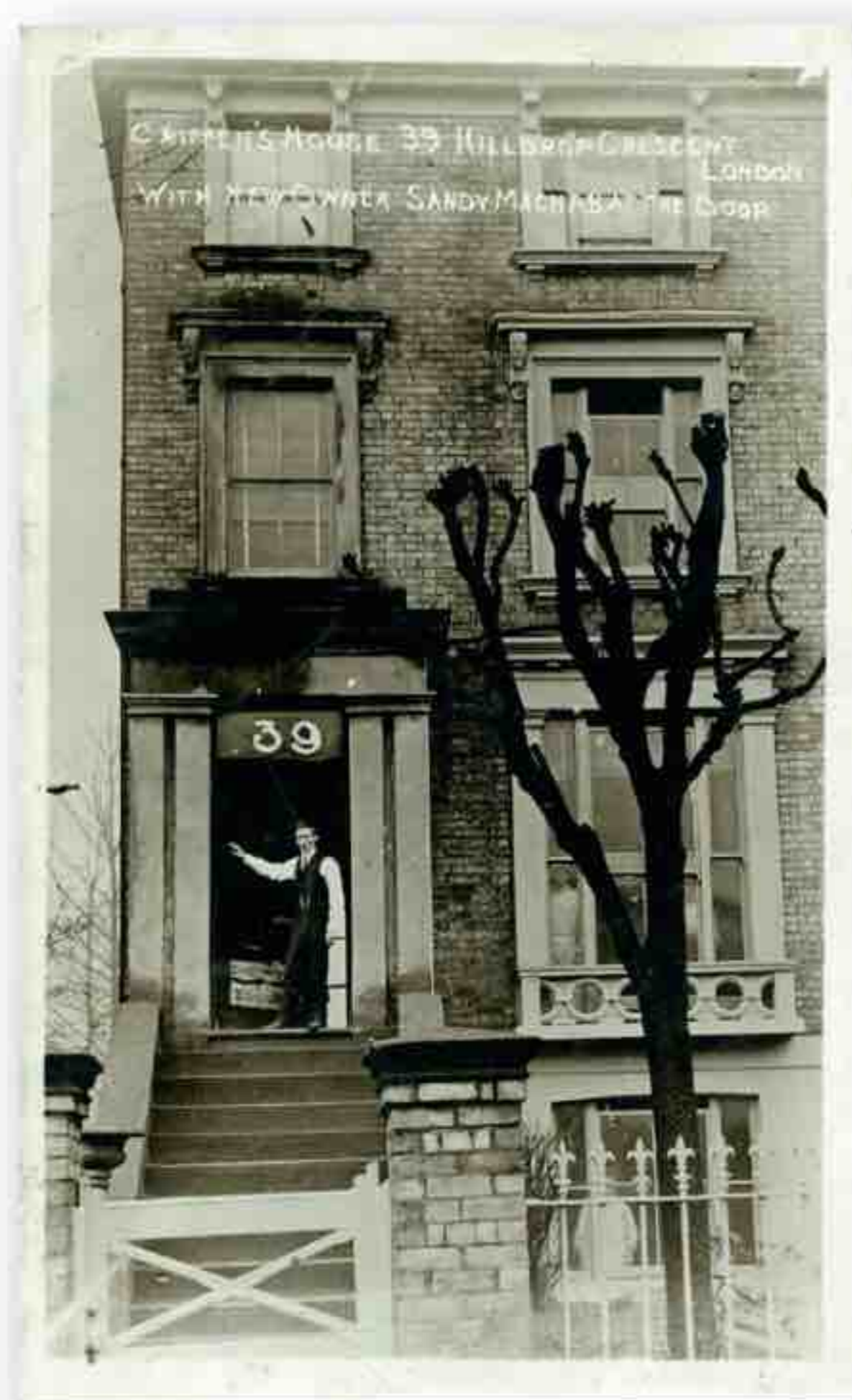
My small collection of murder-related postcards always goes down a treat when I display it at clubs, writes Richard Stenlake.

In August 1908, 68-year old Caroline Mary Luard and her husband had parted company while out for a walk in Fish Pond Wood, near Sevenoaks. She failed to return home and was later found shot dead in a summer house. A whispering campaign and anonymous letters drove Caroline's husband, Major General Charles Edward Luard, to take his own life a few days later. The case remains unsolved, although theories as to the

motive and the identity of the murderer proliferate. In another unsolved case with no apparent motive Miss Gunn was shot through the window of her Ayrshire cottage in October 1913. Although they depict otherwise unremarkable views postcards of these and similar murder scenes cost about £8 to £15 when you can find them.

From cold cases to those instances when the culprit was quickly apprehended and found guilty. In the 1909 East Wemyss Murder, Alexander Edmundstone did in fifteen-year-old Michael Brown, robbed him of a factory payroll and went on the run. At his trial he was found guilty after ten minutes. Despite pleading insanity he was hanged by John Ellis, the Chief Executioner who had a long career in which he executed over 200 people and became a celebrity. He published his memoirs and was featured on postcards, but it all must have got to him as, after years of heavy drinking he slit his own throat. One of his clients had been Dr. Crippen who had murdered his actress wife Cora. Although her torso had

been found under the basement floor, the postcard shows new owner, Sandy Macnab, was pleased with his new house! I don't know what he paid for the house, but I just had to have this postcard priced at £26.



## POST & GO

### Overseas Rates Change – Part 2



Last month Stuart Leigh looked at the Post & Go stamps issued from kiosks located in Post Offices following the Overseas Rate changes on 1 September, at the same time the kiosks located in various museums started to re-open after lockdown closures.

One of the first being the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) on 2 September, along with the Royal Naval Submarine, Fleet Air Arm, HMS *Trincomalee*, and Naval Museum of Firepower over the next few days. On 17 September, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Steam Museum of the Great Western Railway re-opened.

Unlike the NCR kiosks in post offices, the kiosks in the museums are made by Intelligent AR and are programmed differently, therefore, as well as purchasing a collector strip they are capable of issuing any of the six options of stamps individually.

Since the first stamps were issued, there was some confusion about Zone 1-3, as it could be interpreted to mean Zones

1, 2 and 3. The museum kiosks were re-programmed, and on 18 September read 'World 100g Zone 1&3', so the stamps originally issued from the Shakespeare Museum and the Steam Museum, which had only opened on 17 September, had a life of only one day.

It was only on 29 October, when the Postal Museum re-opened with the kiosk A012 re-designated Mail Rail and temporarily re-located in the entrance hall of the Postal Museum, that the kiosks were available to the general public – issuing the stamps with the new overseas rates.

The Postal Museum also celebrated the 150th anniversary of the pre-stamped postcard on the Mail Coach stamp. There have still been no stamps issued at the Royal Signals Museum in Blandford Forum due to the COVID-19 lockdown closures. The NCR kiosks in the Post Offices have not been up-dated, they are still dispensing 'World 100g Zones 1-3'.



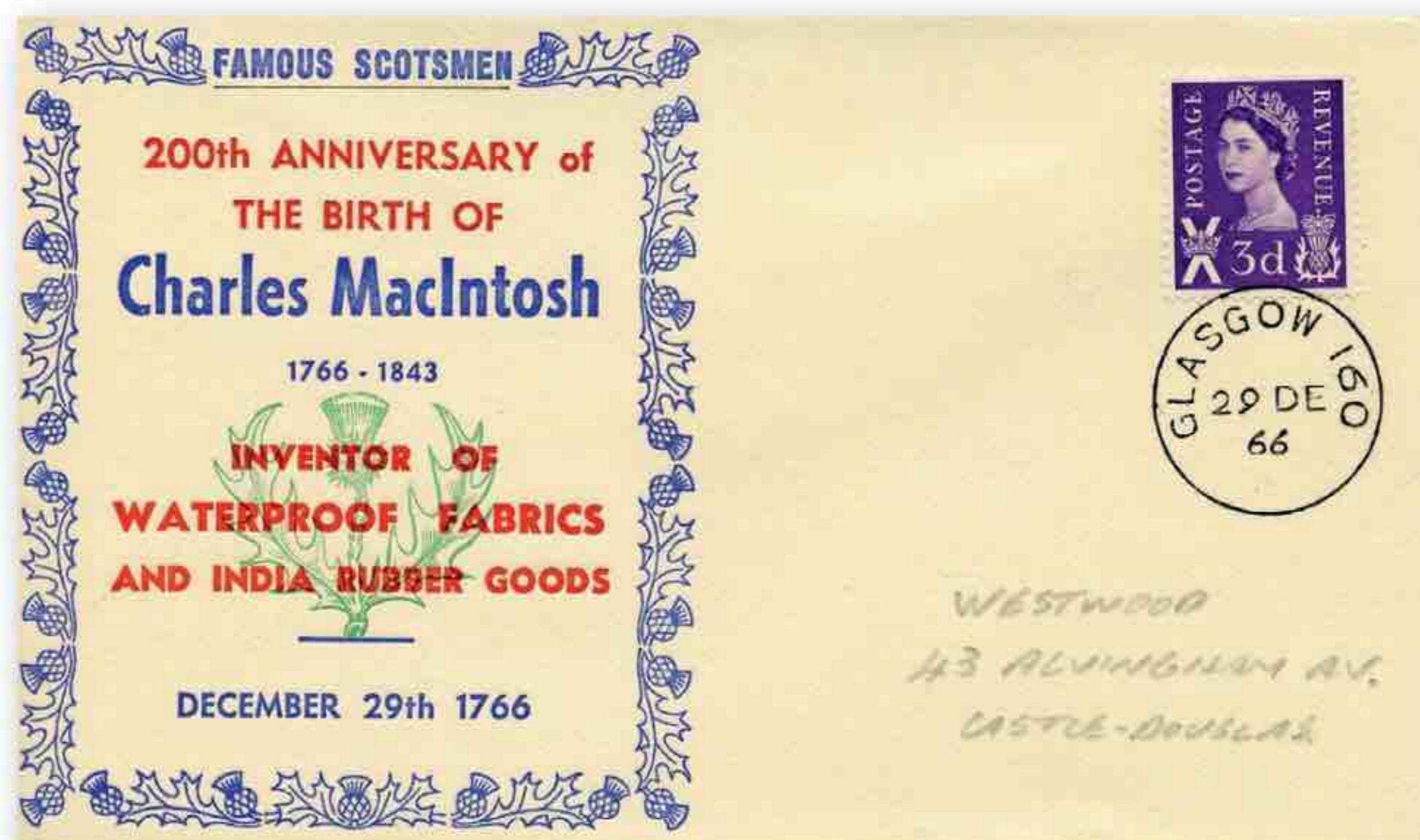
## FIRST DAY COVERS

# Looks like rain

Just because a cover looks like a First Day Cover it doesn't always mean it is, advises Brian Austin. Once you know the work that goes into it, you really want it to be postmarked on the day of issue, but sometimes it just isn't.

This Charles Macintosh 200th Anniversary cover would be a lovely regional FDC, with a clear Glasgow CDS, but in fact came out eight years beforehand.

This is just one example from a small selection of Scottish thematic covers that have appeared on the market, but the quality means they must have been done by someone with experience of cover production. The choice of this



Victorian inventor is unusual, and I don't believe it was issued as part of a series, making me think it was more aimed at the Scottish market. The others also seem to be of a high standard and include the visit

of Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin to Glasgow, two Ski Championships and the 150th Anniversary of Gas Lamps being lit for the first time in Glasgow.

Even then they were never going to be the world's biggest sellers, and probably done for a small band of Scottish collectors. But today different illustrations on pre-decimal FDCs are becoming more sought after and it won't be long before people start hunting out similar, good quality, thematic covers to add to their collections.

## POSTMARKS

# First scheduled air mail service

1919 was an important year in European history, writes David Gwynn. The First World War had ended with the defeat of Germany and its allies. The Paris Peace Conference was taking place to share out the spoils of war and decide the fate of Germany itself. Allied troops occupied German territory, and amongst them was a large contingent of British servicemen.

Air power had come of age during the war. The opportunities being presented for air services of various kinds were becoming obvious. Necessity also prompted the development of specific services. For the United Kingdom, a speedy mail service to serve those troops in Germany was a necessity.

The Royal Air Force and the Postal Section of the Royal Engineers collaborated to establish air mail services to Germany. Some experimental flights took place in late 1918 linking Folkestone with Cologne. These became regular scheduled flights from 1 March 1919.

In 1969 the British Forces Postal Service marked the fiftieth anniversary of these flights with two special postmarks. One used at Folkestone celebrated the UK – Germany leg of the flight, while one used at Cologne celebrated the return leg. These postmarks were used on special commemorative covers and make an attractive pair.



## CINDERELLAS

# The original staycation

Many readers of this magazine will be familiar with Butlin's and some of us will have spent a summer or two at one of the company's seaside resorts that were once dotted the UK. It all started with the opening of a holiday camp at Skegness on 11 April 1936.

The company was started by William 'Billy' Edward Butlin (1899-1980) who wanted to offer affordable holidays for British families and the camp at Skegness was the first one in a large chain of similar camps which not only offered accommodation in long rows of chalets but also lots of family fun activities and entertainment.

After a hiatus during the Second World War, Butlin's resumed its holiday camps where the members of staff wore red blazers earning them the nickname of Redcoats. In the 1950s, the weekly cost for a family at one of the camps was £7.

It was undoubtedly during the 1950s and early 1960s that the illustrated stamp was printed and used.

Featuring a portrait of Billy Butlin and one of his holiday establishments, the stamp carries a denomination of 2/6d. During the year people could buy the stamps and then affix them to a card which could then be redeemed as full or part payment for a stay at one of the camps. The holiday saving stamp was printed by De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

Dealers offering copies of the Butlin's Holiday Saving stamp tend to ask some £5 for an unmounted mint specimen.



# The odd 'one' out

Are you any good at spotting the odd 'one' out? Asks Devlan Kruck. What if there was a sheet of 100 stamps, all the same colour and design, and exactly the same appearance, except for one, which has a couple of very subtle differences, do you think you'd notice?

**Y**ou might well spot an odd stamp if you knew you were looking for it. However, if you weren't expecting there to be an odd one, and looking at the sheet of 100 stamps was routine and familiar, I dare say we all might miss it. I wonder if that explains why there is only 'one' Treskilling Yellow?

As you might expect, there's been quite a bit written about 'The Treskilling Yellow' which, would you believe, is now a registered trade name. In philatelic circles it is also known as the 'Swedish 1857 3 skilling banco error of colour'. It should be a 'green' stamp, but it's yellow, and more importantly this error of colour is the only known example. Odd that, don't you think?

There are several books published about this 'one' stamp, including a 2004 book titled, imaginatively *The Treskilling Yellow*, with 185 pages. It's a fascinating read. In addition there have been literally thousands of articles put into print in magazines and even national newspapers, and even today someone is writing about it.

And rightly so, because until 2014, when the British Guiana one cent magenta sold for \$9.5m, it was the world's most expensive stamp, and as such holds several world records starting as far back as 1984 when it was sold at a David Feldman SA auction for 997,500 Swiss Francs. Back then that was an enormous sum of money, and no one could imagine a stamp going for that sort of price at the time. But, in 1990 it broke its own world record, when it was sold at another David Feldman SA rarity auction for 1,897,500 Swiss Francs, double what it had achieved just six years previous. And that's not the end of the record breaking; it was sold by another David Feldman SA auction



in 1996 for a whopping 2,875,000 Swiss Francs. A philatelic trinity of world records!

I appreciate that's a lot of records and even more Swiss Francs, but it does demonstrate the point that in just over a decade the little yellow stamp pulled in 5,750,000 of them. That's big bucks for something that only weighs 0.02675 grams, and apparently means it is worth about \$32 billion per pound. That is quite simply mind blowing. A humble stamp worth more than diamonds by weight.

However, being critical, the condition of this stamp isn't sparkling, it has a cut in the upper left side, and the top margin has been reperfed at some stage. But it's

The used stamp is the only known example of the 1855 3sk stamp mistakenly printed in yellow, instead of green

the rarity that gives this stamp its elevated position among the world's most expensive stamps. It's the 'only one in the world!'

So the question is, why is there only one? And that question has been asked over and over again since its discovery in 1885 by Georg Bachman, a Swedish fourteen-year-old schoolboy who sold it to a stamp dealer Heinrich Lichenstein for just 7 Swedish Kronor.

The fact that it is the only 'one' has caused controversy, and at times resulted in experts claiming it must be a forgery. But we shouldn't need to worry about; not only has it been proved genuine in a court of law, back in 1932, scientists confirmed it

is genuine in 1975, even employing 'crystallography' to prove that it was printed on the same paper used for the '1857 8 skilling yellow', and that the ink is an exact match.

And given that its past owners, to name but two, have ranged from Count Ferrary, one of the worlds greatest stamp collectors who acquired it in 1894, and a fully fledged King, King Carol II of Romanian, who was a keen philatelist and purchased it in 1937, we don't need to discuss its provenance. Today it belongs to Swedish billionaire, aristocrat and politician, Count Gustaf Douglas who purchased it in 2010, though the price remains a secret.

So, why is this stamp printed in yellow instead of green and how can there be only one? As you probably guessed from our intro, whether a 3 skilling green or an 8 skilling yellow, they were all printed in sheets of 100. The printing plates were laid down by hand in a ten by ten formation and each stamp was a single impression of an individual block placed into a frame, each stamp on the sheet was reliant upon the correct value block being placed, by human hand, into the printing frame.

If when assembling the 8 skilling plate for printing, one single 3 skilling block is erroneously placed among the other ninety nine 8 skilling blocks and nobody noticed, then the sheet would have been printed with just one 3 skilling yellow amongst the other correctly printed 99 8 skilling yellows. Assuming that the person responsible for quality control, who checked the sheet prior to sending to the post office also missed the error, and then the postmaster, who sold the 8 skilling stamp, didn't realise it actually had 3 skilling imprinted, then we have an explanation as to how it happened, and crucially 'why' there is only 'one' surviving example.

Because if there was, say, a sheet of these 3 skilling stamps printed in yellow instead of green or even several erroneous blocks positioned on the sheet, then you'd expect there to be more than one example out there, and in truth you'd anticipate that if there was a sheet the quality control would have spotted it and rejected the sheet. If there were more than one erroneous

block then the odds of spotting the mistake increased. But it would mean that 'only' one sheet was printed. That's an odd assumption, but one we have to run with and accept this stamp is 'an error of colour', and the only way that an error of this type could have occurred.

Mind you, there was a lawsuit in 2012 brought to the high court in London, by a Baron Jean-Claude Andre claiming that he had stored a locked trunk at the Clydesdale bank vault in which allegedly there were six covers bearing a total of nine Treskilling Yellow stamps, and when he went to retrieve these valuable covers, they were missing from his trunk. The case was thrown out, perhaps because of the logic we've just applied to there being only 'one' example of the Treskilling Yellow.

And anyway, if those covers were stolen sometime before 2012, surely another example of this stamp would have surfaced by now? Wouldn't it?

If another example mysteriously appears, then maybe Baron Andre was telling the truth, in which case we'll have to revisit our hypothesis. But more importantly, it would rewrite history, and whilst as a philatelist that's exciting, I suspect that wouldn't be such good news for Count Gustav Douglas.

You see, as 'odd' as it might seem, the value of 'The Treskilling Yellow' is down to 'one' reason. It is the only 'one'.

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



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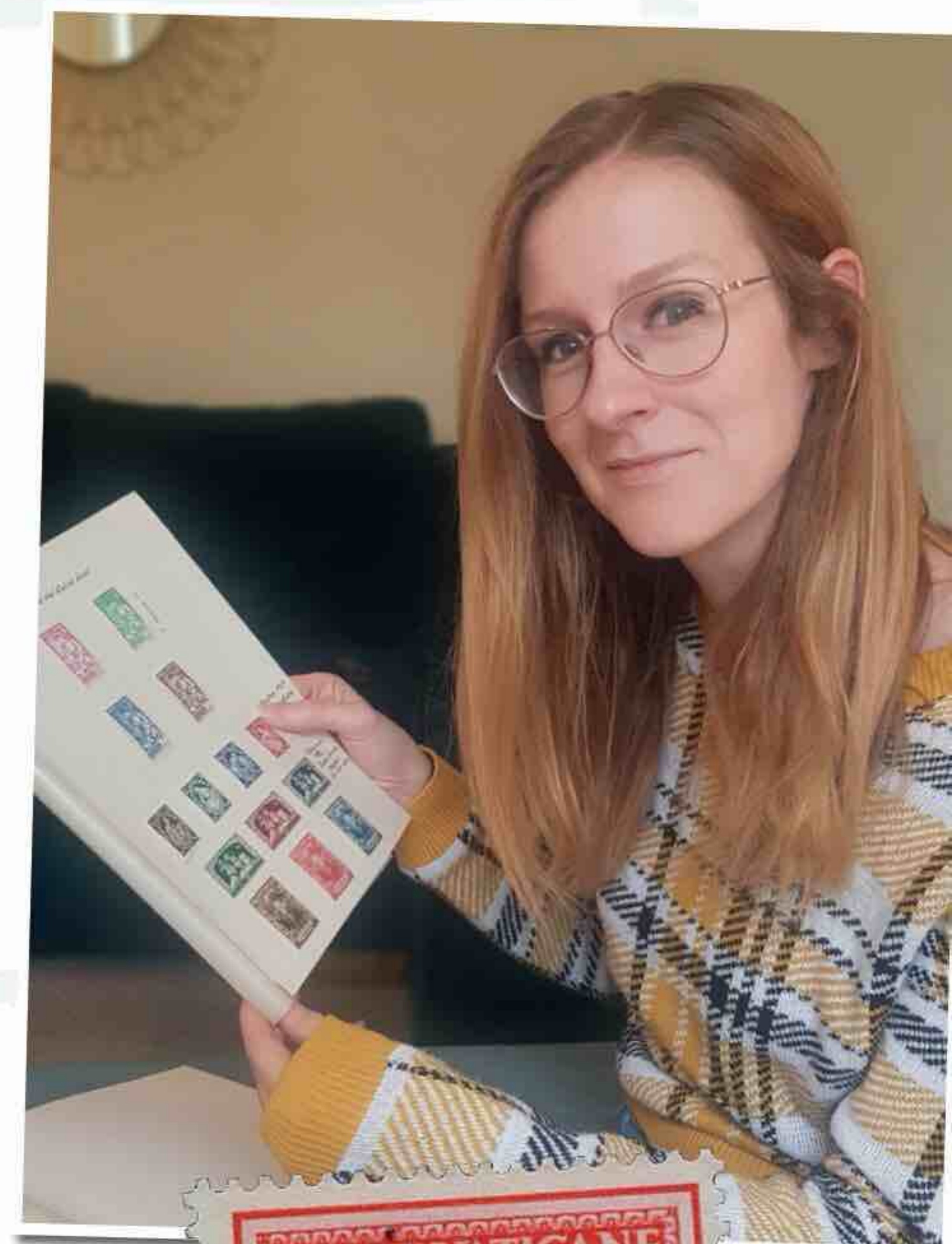
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# Adventures of a STAMP NEWBIE

## COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS

It wasn't quite a religious experience when beginner Laura McInerney was recently introduced to the stamps of the Vatican, but the encounter prompted a number of questions, as this month's beginners' column reveals

**D**octors have the Hippocratic Oath. Boy scouts have their promise. Even the mafia has a code. All of which has led me to wondering recently: what sort of etiquette should be expected of stamp collectors?

The thought struck when I was sitting having lunch with some nuns after attending a funeral. One mentioned that she heard I collected stamps. 'Is it true?' she asked, peering through her glasses, 'Because I have something you should see.'

A few moments later she held out a padded envelope and hastened me to look inside. Pulling out the contents I was faced with hundreds of modern, postally-used Vatican stamps and covers. Many had higher face values – sometimes as much as €3 and €5 – presumably as Sisters had sent packages encompassing gifts. I think I spied one showing the Sistene Chapel ceiling, while another was the Vatican's 2018 entry into the Europa contest and showed St Peter floating over the Ponte Sant'Angelo in Rome.

Although my newbie eyes are still not good at appraising stamp value, I was aware that the stamps were likely to have good saleability, if not now, then

at least in the future, given that 'Vatican' often comes up as a theme in auction catalogues. Although I'm not sure if there are certain things people are looking for? Are some Popes more valuable than others?! And how much post gets sent from there?

Noting my excitement, the nun told me that I must take anything that looked interesting. I frowned. See, I didn't actually find them interesting. I don't collect Vatican stamps. And I'm unlikely to start given my main theme is women on stamps!

So, here's this month's question: what's the morally right thing to do in that circumstance? Should I have grabbed them anyway and sold them online? Is one obliged to save such a bounty and create an exhibition? Or, under the circumstances, was it best to do as I did and suggest they would likely be very valuable to the right people so it was better to donate them to a charity with a specialist stamp arm?

Before packing up I pointed to a small pile of used stamps but without postmarks, and noted those weren't likely to be much good for collectors. 'Oh! Can they be peeled off and used again?' one of the Sisters asked in a hopeful voice. 'No, that's definitely illegal,' I replied, discouraging her from such a contentious habit. At least those rules are clear!





# Readers' EXPERT ADVICE



Each month we answer Laura's questions about the hobby, this month providing an introduction to the stamps of Vatican City. Feel free to send in your advice for Laura

The world's smallest independent country, known as the Vatican City State, is not only landlocked, it's entirely surrounded by Rome, the capital of Italy. It has an area of just 108.7 acres, and a permanent population of 783 (only Pitcairn, Tristan and South Georgia rank lower in the world population table). It's also the world's sixth most densely populated country, and the entire country also has the distinction of being a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

So what of the stamps? The Vatican wields an authority, morally, spiritually and politically that far transcends its modest acreage. And when it comes to philately size doesn't matter either.

On 1 February 1929 Benito Mussolini concluded a series of treaties between the Italian government and the Holy See, recognising the Pope's sovereignty in the Vatican City. The treaties were ratified just a few months later and the Vatican City State (Stato della Città del Vaticano) immediately came into existence.

The first issue of stamps under this name went on sale on 1 August of that year. Three different motifs by E Federici were printed by intaglio or photogravure at the Italian Government Printing Works in Rome. The lower values featured the papal arms while the higher denominations portrayed Pope Pius XI, who also appeared on the large horizontal stamps intended for express mail. Stamps for postage due, parcel post or express parcels were created by overprinting the definitives with appropriate inscriptions.

The first commemoratives did not appear until April 1933 when a set of four with a charity premium, recess-printed by the Institut de Gravure in Paris, marked the beginning of the Holy Year. Thereafter, however, the majority of stamps were produced at the Italian Government Printing Works, which enjoyed a virtual monopoly until 1999. Since then Vatican stamps were often printed by Courvoisier of Switzerland or the French, German, Austrian or Swedish government printing works and in more recent years by Cartor, Enschede, Questa, Walsall or even Ashton Potter of Canada.

## Long sets

There were three other commemorative sets during the papacy of Pius XI, publicising international congresses in the Vatican; all three are now expensive and highly desirable. A new definitive series featuring scenery and landmarks appeared in 1933, followed by a rash of provisional surcharges in 1934 which rank among the rarities of Vatican philately.

During the long reign of Pius XII (1939-59) the frequency of issues accelerated but the vast majority of these stamps are relatively inexpensive. This period was dominated by some quite remarkable long sets, such as the set of fourteen marking the quatercentenary of the Council of Trent (1946) and the set of thirteen depicting different aspects of St Peter's Basilica (1953). By that time multicolour photogravure was coming into fashion and the stamps became more dramatic in appearance.

It was in the 1950s that the stamps of the Vatican really took off

with collectors. Understandably, these stamps had immense appeal for Catholics, both philatelists and laymen alike, but their strong religious themes continue to attract collectors of all branches of the Christian faith.

A handful of stamps of this period have soared in value, notably the 1949 airmail pair, the Decree of Gratian pair (1951) and the miniature sheet of 1952 celebrating the centenary of the first papal stamps, but by and large stamps since then have been more modestly priced. For example, the 150th anniversary in 2002 was marked by a set of three and a matching souvenir sheet, infinitely less expensive than the issue of 1952.

## Conservative output

With an average output of around 20 stamps a year, the Vatican was actually one of the more conservative postal administrations in the last quarter of the 20th century. While the pace of new issues has escalated rapidly elsewhere, it continues to operate a moderate policy.

To be sure, many of the stamps of recent years have reflected the stance of the Papacy on many issues of global concern, such as conservation and world peace, though naturally religious themes continue to rank high, ranging from the anniversaries of saints to the annual Christmas and Easter sets.

Aspects of the treasures of the Vatican, surely the world's leading repository of works of art, are a fertile source of stamp subjects. A pair of stamps and a souvenir sheet of 2006 celebrated the fifth centenary of the Vatican Museum and reproduced the dramatic sculpture group by Michelangelo showing Laocoon and his sons wrestling with the serpent, the raised embossing process on a black background creating a three-dimensional effect.

Another recent phenomenon has been joint issues, the Vatican linking up with such countries as New Zealand and Singapore to focus attention on their religious ties.

## Decorative sheets

The Ufficio Filatelico releases stamps in batches, perhaps two or three at a time, four times a year. In addition to stamps and miniature sheets, the Vatican has produced self-adhesive automatic machine stamps, above the average for such rather mundane labels, with attractive multicoloured motifs and a central panel for the value.

Postal stationery is also on offer and consists mainly of pre-stamped postcards, such as the set of four publicising the archaeological excavation of the Catacombs. Pictorial aerogrammes have become increasingly popular in recent years, such as the recent issue touching on the global pandemic.

## SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

Whether you would like to contribute to our 'Adventures of a Newbie' column, by answering Laura's queries, or would like to share your views on any other aspect of stamp collecting, feel free to write to us at: *Stamp Collector*, Warners Group Publications, c/o The Maltings, Bourne, PE10 9PH, or simply email the editor at: [matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk)

# 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.

So what better way to test that knowledge than with a quiz?

Test yourself with the teasers here and challenge your collector colleagues...

- 1** Which famous British ship featured on the top value (1s 0d) stamp in the British Ships set issued in January 1969?
- 2** Name the QV stamps featured on the set of three issued for the Philypia 70 Stamp Exhibition in 1970...
- 3** How many stamps were in the GVI Festival of Britain set issued in May, 1951?
- 4** What was the value of the single stamp issued to commemorate the coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth in May 1937?
- 5** In which years were Downey Head stamps issued?
- 6** What were the two elements of a Duplex Cancellation?
- 7** What was the popular name given to reduced size stamps issued in South Africa during World War Two?
- 8** Which country issued a Twelve Pence Black. and in which year?
- 9** What is the popular name for the first stamps of Brazil?
- 10** During which famous war were 'OXO' cancels seen on some British mail?



## GET INVOLVED ONLINE!

The new 'Community' section of the website over at [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) gives you the chance to enter the latest stamp competition, display your stamps, and get the latest news from philatelic societies around the world.

Head over to the website today to find out more about the GB Stamps One-Page Competition, which challenges collectors around the world to produce a one-page entry using British stamps, with the overall winner receiving the All About Stamps Medal. The closing date for the competition has been extended to 29 January 2021, so there's still time to enter!

The 'Stamp Displays' pages are a great place to get inspiration and ideas for your entry, with all of the entries from our previous competition, held in the summer, available to view in detail, covering subjects as varied as Pillar Box Fires and Islamic Spain!

Just head over to the website and click on the 'Community' link in the top menu to get involved, and if you run a philatelic society just drop us a line ([matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk)) to find out more about becoming a featured society.

Get involved in the stamp community on the website: [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk)

## How did you do?

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Seven copies of the Vaud 5 on a cover to Paris. This star item from the Erivan collection was sold by Corinthia in December 2019 for a hammer price of CHF 150,000 (approximately £125,000)

## STAMPS OF SWITZERLAND

# FROM CANTON TO COUNTRY

In the second part of his in-depth guide to early Swiss stamps, David Bailey tells how the cantonal designs marked the transition from local to a national postal service and created a new visual identity for a new country

**K**nitting Switzerland's cantons together to form a country was a long and complicated process. The first areas to be nationalised were the post, the mint and the revenue and customs, replacing over 450 different currencies with Rappen and Francs.

The army was part-nationalised but the country carried on with 25 different jurisdictions and people at the time were saying it would take until 2000 to sort it all out.

### Charging by weight and distance

All Cantonal Post Offices were nationalised in 1 January 1849 and Switzerland's first national postal rates applied from 1 June 1849. Charges ranged from 5 to 20 rappen depending

on the weight of the letter and the distance it had to go.

Weight was measured in loths – approximately ½ ounce. Distance was measured in bands called rayons, rather like Royal Mail's different zones for airmail letters. These bands went from 1- 4 Rayons and were expressed in a notional unit of travelling time called the 'way hour'. This was the distance one could travel in an hour and was just under 3 miles.



In the short-lived 'Winterthur' stamp, the ornament ensured that most copies have four good margins

So the basic letter rate of 5 rappen would take a letter weighing 1 loth anywhere in rayon 1, or up to ten hours travel. However, there was also a local rate of 2 ½ rappen, and stamps would be needed for this.

### The Provisionals

Transitional stamps were issued first by Geneva, and then by Zurich, while the Basel Doves continued in use; their face value was 2½ of the right sort of rappen.

In Geneva, 2 ½ rappen was equivalent to 4 centimes, and so Schmits, their regular printer, was commissioned to supply some stamps.

They created an ornate, floral design using a posthorn and the white cross on a red field; this had been Switzerland's national symbol since the restored confederacy of 1815.

The stamps were printed by

lithography, with 100 to a sheet as before and were released in October 1849. In December of that year a new currency law was passed which decreed that 2 ½ rappen was now 5 centimes. It would come into force on 22 January 1850. As a result, every stamp on the stone had to be modified by hand, so there are 100 different variations of the 5c and the short lived 4 centimes is a great world rarity.

The 5c stamp was widely used throughout Switzerland until all the cantonal issues were declared obsolete on 30 September 1854. The print run was an estimated 100,000 and some magnificent covers have survived.

All the provisional stamps are known by the names of Swiss towns or cantons. For instance, the first Genevas are known as the Vaud 4 and Vaud 5. This may be because they were once thought to have come from there, but nobody knows for sure and specialists in these stamps are still exploring different theories.

Zurich followed in February 1850, with a similar bi-coloured stamp but printed letterpress. Uniquely, it features thin strips of printers' ornament in the gutters between the stamps, which makes for attractive multiples.

It was for use in Zurich plus Schaffhausen, Thurgau and Zug, but is known as the Winterthur. And in terms of scarcity and value, it is up there with the Vaud 4; it was only in use for three months.

The final provisional was released after the first federal issue had already appeared and is known as the Neuchatel. It is thought to have been printed in Geneva because the locals were unhappy to see their stamps denominated in centimes, not rappen. The Geneva Post Office therefore commissioned Schmidts to design and print a similar stamp in the right currency. The print run

The transitional 'Neuchatel' issue appeared after the first federal stamps; perhaps as a reaction to them. This was difficult to achieve with two or three colour printing

The first federal issue; for local post in German-speaking areas



is thought to be 25,000; the earliest date of use is in August 1851; but little else is known for certain.

### The Federal Issues

After unification, the Swiss economy began a period of rapid expansion. And if British industry was powered by steam, Switzerland's revolution was hydraulic.

In 1847, Switzerland had just one railway line, from Zurich to Baden. By 1860, there were 1,000km of track. Textiles, woven on power looms, became a major industry, while tourism and banking began to emerge as significant economic sectors. All this fed the demand for stamps and to meet it the Swiss PTT turned to Carl Durheim, a pioneering lithographer and photographer based in Berne.

By now, there were more stamps to look at and learn from and the wavy lines and scroll-work of the Federal stamps was inspired by stamps of Bavaria.

The Swiss stamps form a set of three, for 2½, 5 and 10 rappen and inscribed 'ORTS POST' or 'POSTE LOCALE', 'RAYON I' and 'RAYON II'.

The Orts Post stamps, for German-speaking areas, were drawn first and the design was slightly modified for the 'Post Locale' value, then considerably so for the 5r and 10r that followed.

All were printed in the same way, on lithographic stones. A grid of forty originals was drawn by hand. This was used to print transfer sheets which were laid down by hand to make a single 'plate' of 160, or sometimes eighty stamps; one stone for each colour.

But the design proved to be a major problem. There was a thin black key-line around the Swiss

cross, which had to line up in perfect register with the red plate. This was a problem for the platemaking and printing methods of the day

After wasting a lot of time (and countless sheets of stamps) the key-line was erased by hand from every black (or blue stone). This creates two official versions with and without the line. There were also stamps printed where the cross was only partially erased. These cost much less than stamps with the frame complete.

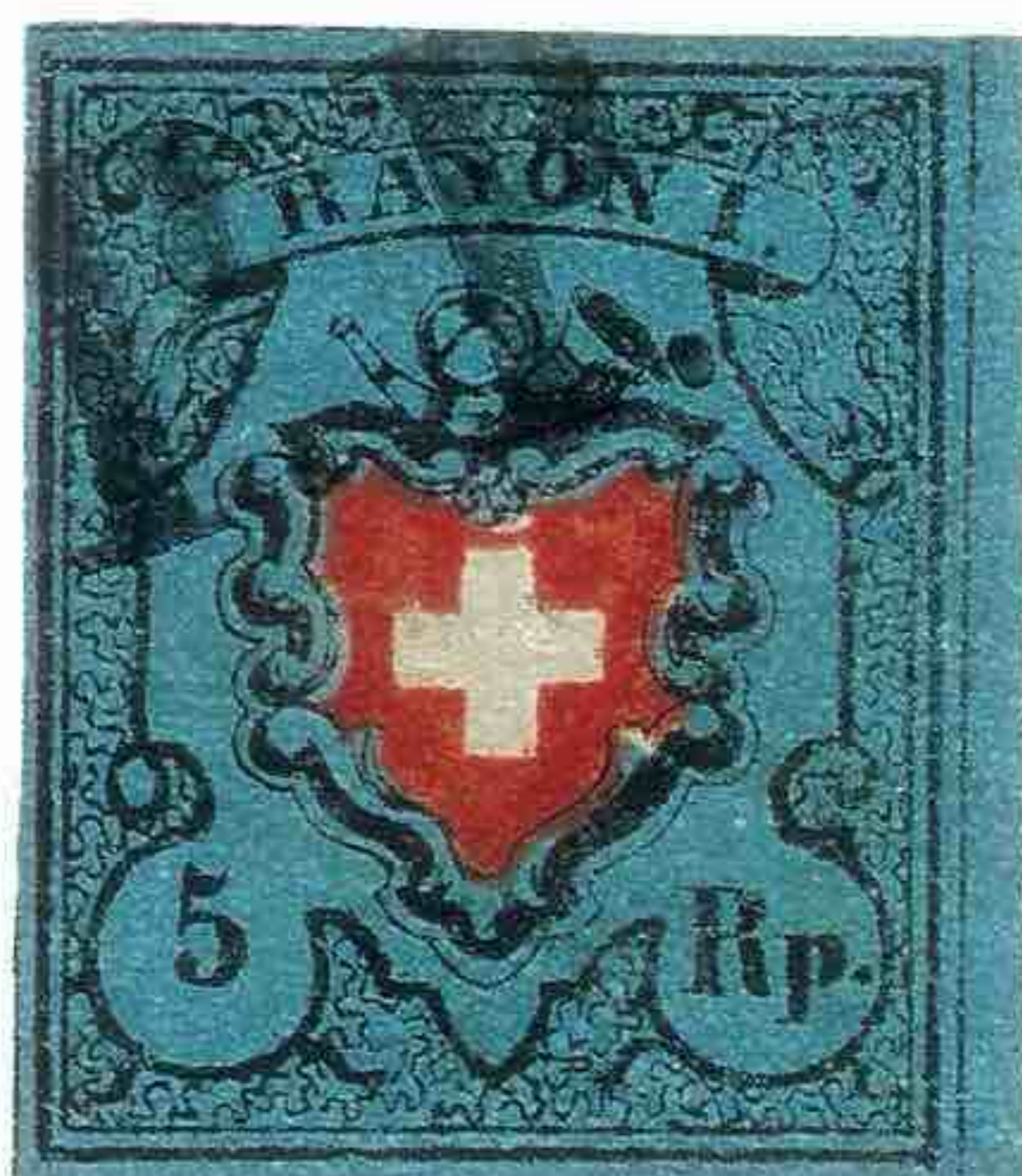
The first 'Rayons' were printed in three colours: red, black and blue (5r) or in red, black and shades of yellow and brown (10r). These are known by various shades of tobacco, which was an important crop in Switzerland until the mid-20th century.

As demand for stamps continued to rise, the pressures on the printer became more acute. Three colour printing by lithography was time-consuming and expensive; so the stamps got simpler, while the post office looked around for other ways of doing things.

In 1851, the Rayon I stamps appeared in just two colours. And in January 1852, a new stamp for the Rayon III rate was printed in only one colour instead of the proposed two. Curiously, this was denominated in both rappen and francs. Prior to this, there had indeed been some discrepancy between the values of the two currencies. But this was removed from 1 January 1852 and all the post offices in Switzerland closed between Christmas and the New Year to ensure a smooth transition. A redrawn 15r stamp for Rayon III duly appeared in March.

The early 'Rayons' are found both with and without a black keyline to the cross

The stamps for Rayon II are known locally by shades of tobacco





**Ceres, Britannia and Helvetia**

It was clear that Switzerland needed a new solution to the problem of high-volume security printing that didn't cost the earth. So late in 1851, Dr Kuster, the Director of the Federal Mint, visited Paris and London to see how it could be done.

In Paris, he saw how the Ceres stamps were printed letterpress and in a set of six, with one design in different colours for different values.

In London, he visited Perkins Bacon, where it is believed he saw the Britannia

stamps being printed for Barbados, Trinidad and Mauritius. But he may also have visited Somerset House to see the Embossed set, printed on silk thread paper as a security device. Because the resulting set has elements of all of them.

The Seated Helvetia stamps first appeared in September 1854, with a set of four, running from 5r to 40r. A profile head of Helvetia had already appeared on the Swiss coinage and was well received by the public. But now, she was carrying a spear and

From left: the redrawn Rayon III stamp has larger figures of value. This example was purchased for under £50 in a recent AVH Auction; they don't all fetch stratospheric prices - especially if you look for 'good used' rather than 'very fine'

Later printings of the 10r are in a distinctive deep blue shade. Note also the corkscrew hair

Below: a magnificent mixed franking. Two 'Strubels', 1 Franc and 5 centimes, took this cover to Singapore, where an Indian 4 annas stamp paid the onward journey to Manila. Starting price was CHF 10,000. Hammer price was CHF 130,000 (approximately £25,500)

displayed the Swiss cross on her shield. The value was expressed in the three Swiss official languages. The country name does not appear; the image was enough. The Helvetias were printed by letterpress, but with light embossing and used 'Dickinson' silk thread paper.

The printer was J G Weiss of Munich, who printed the Bavarian stamps. They, too, were on silk thread paper. Unfortunately, the crown of laurels around the head reminded people of the children's' cartoon character Struwelpeter, 'shaggy Pete', who had a mane of corkscrew hair. The stamps became known as Strubels and the name has stuck.

**Studying Strubels**

Despite Switzerland's long history, the Swiss Confederation was a new country, where much needed to be invented. The white cross gave it a symbol. Helvetia gave it a face.

The Seated Helvetias were in use from 1854 to 1862. The first two printings were made in Munich. Then in October, production was transferred to a new facility at the Royal Mint in Berne and at first, quality suffered.





More printings followed – in a variety of papers – and the series became a magnet and a challenge for specialists, with an extensive body of literature on the various printings and how to identify them. There are obvious parallels here with another European classic: the Large Hermes Heads of Greece.

As with any stamp series, the best gateway to knowledge and advice is to

A true rarity – rarer still on cover. This 1 Rayon blue and red has a blue keyline around the cross on the shield. It was not supposed to. In the *Corinphila* sale, bidding started at CHF 250,000. Hammer price was CHF 310,000 (approximately £257,000)

join a club. For Switzerland, see the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain, which was founded over seventy years ago, where members enjoy a monthly newsletter, access to the library and a busy exchange packet circuit. Find them at [swiss-philately.co.uk](http://swiss-philately.co.uk).

Many thanks to: *Corinphila*, the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great

Britain, *Colnect.com*, *Cherrystone Auctions*, *Stamp Collecting World* and the following books for images and information used in these articles: *AS Allender: Switzerland; the Cantonal Stamps; Otto Pfenninger in the London Philatelist, 1895; MC Zinsmeister: Switzerland 1850 – 1958; Richard T Hall: Philately of Switzerland. An introductory handbook.*

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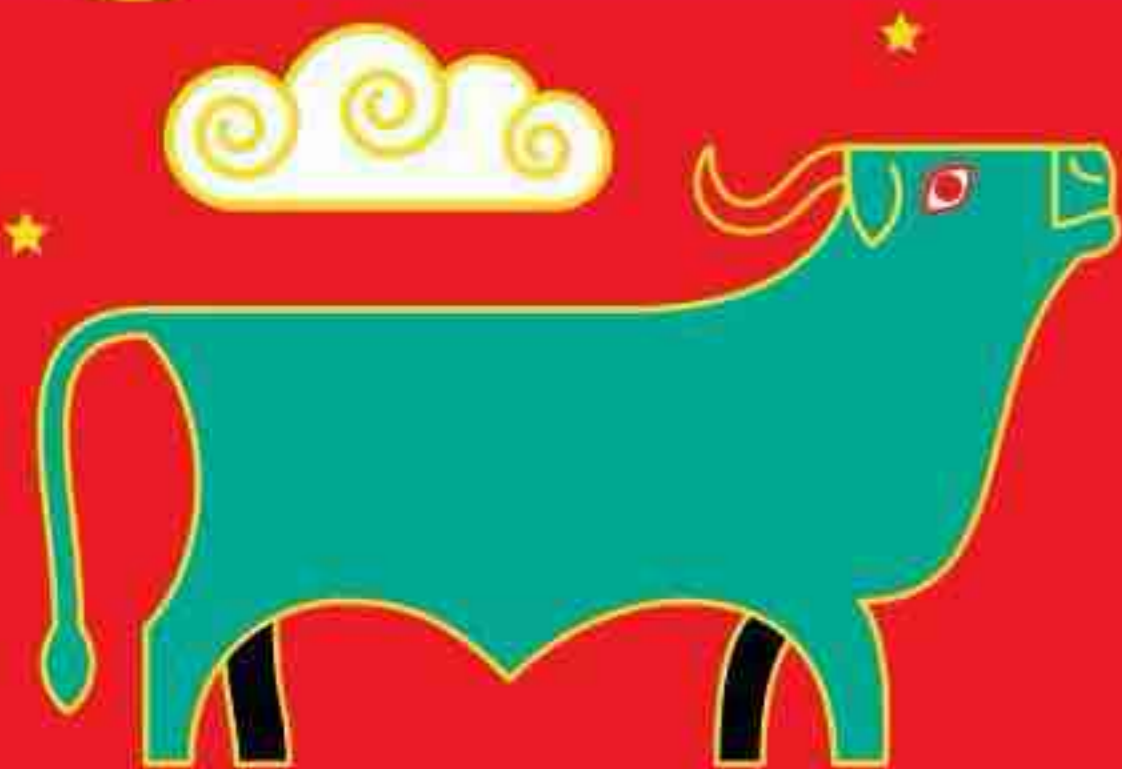
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**RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN 1957-2020**

# Mail on the minor railways

In the final part of his guide to railway letter stamps, Frank J Wilson describes the many railways to have issued their own stamps since the 1950s, which give railway enthusiasts and stamp collectors plenty of designs to pursue

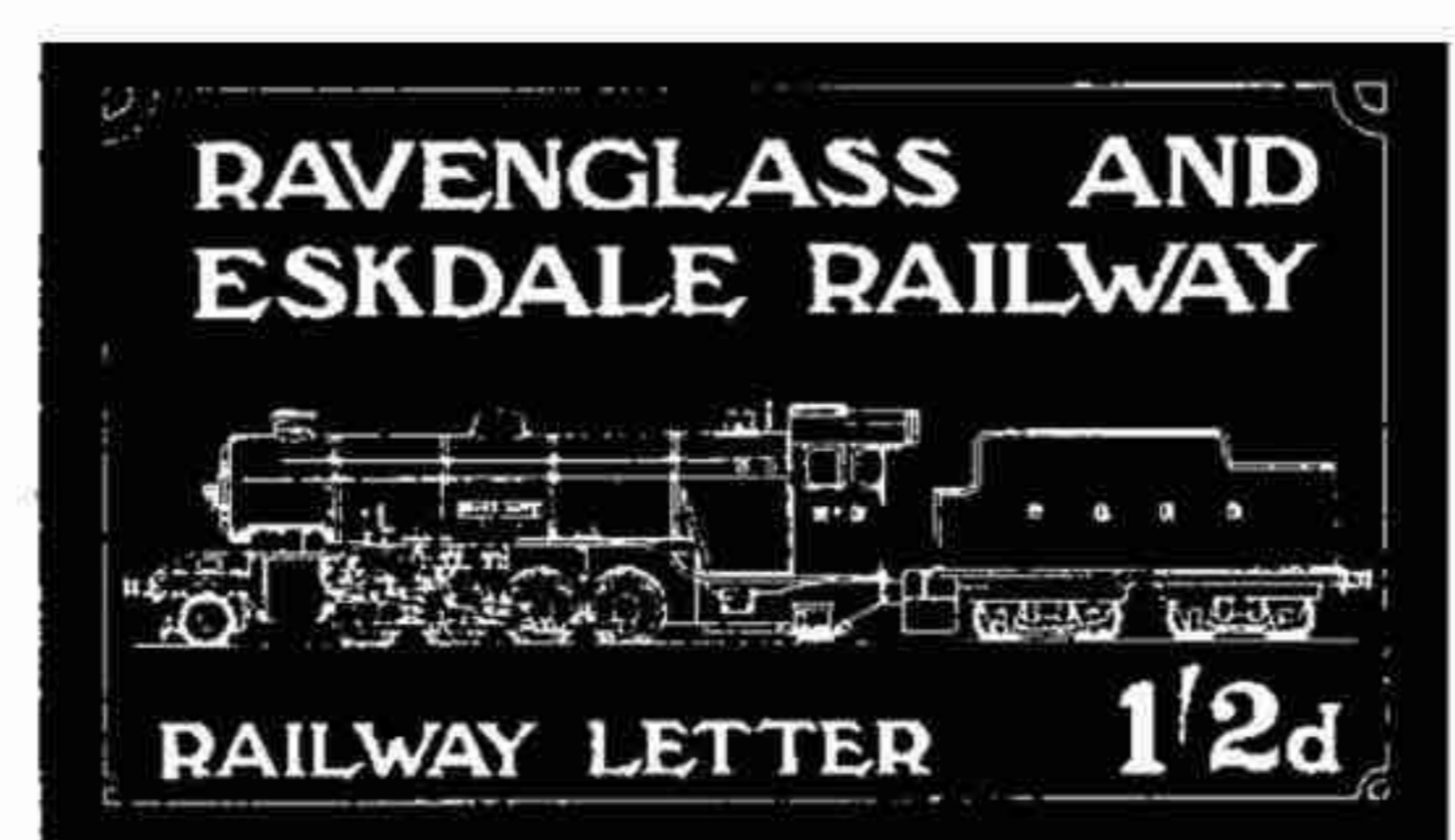
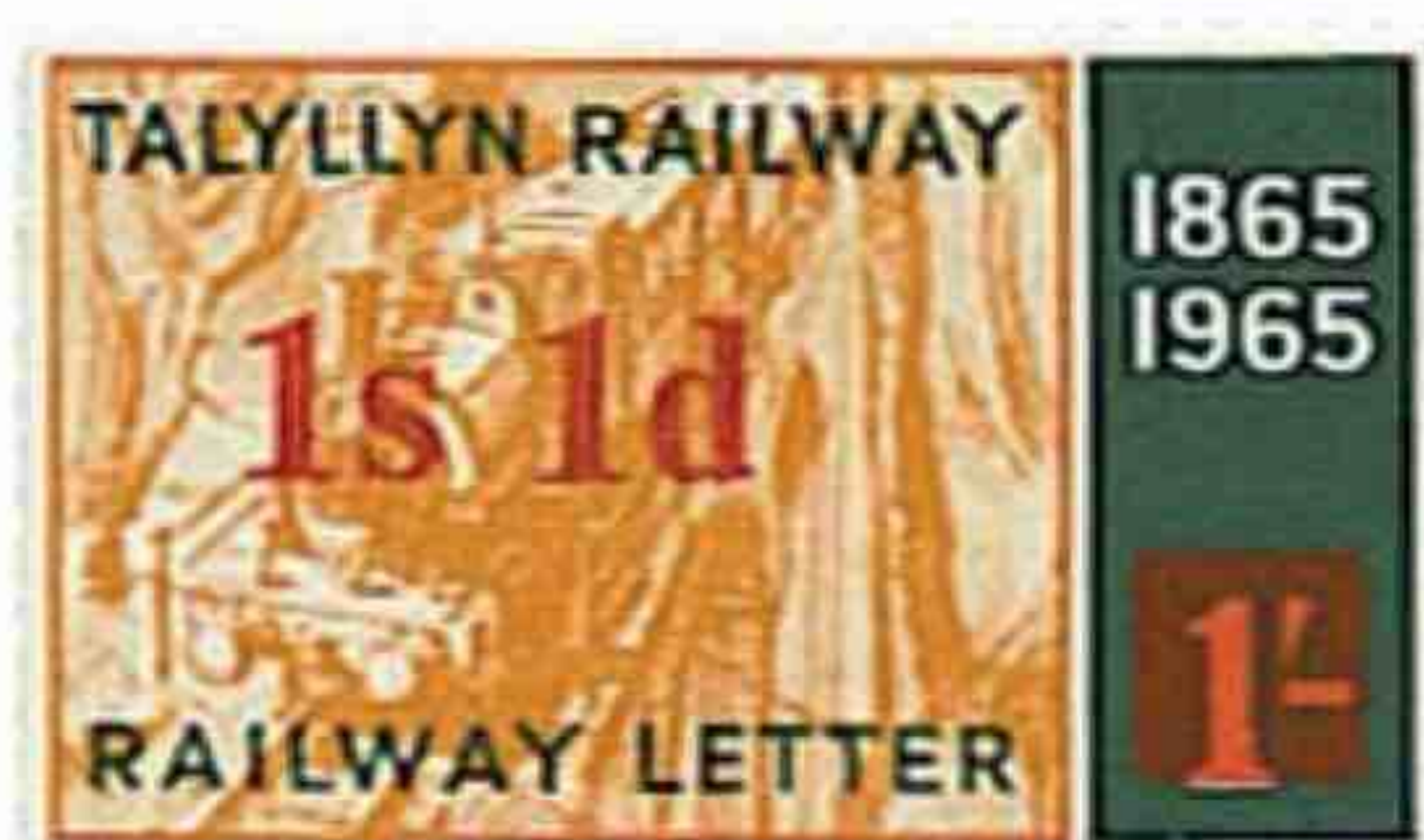
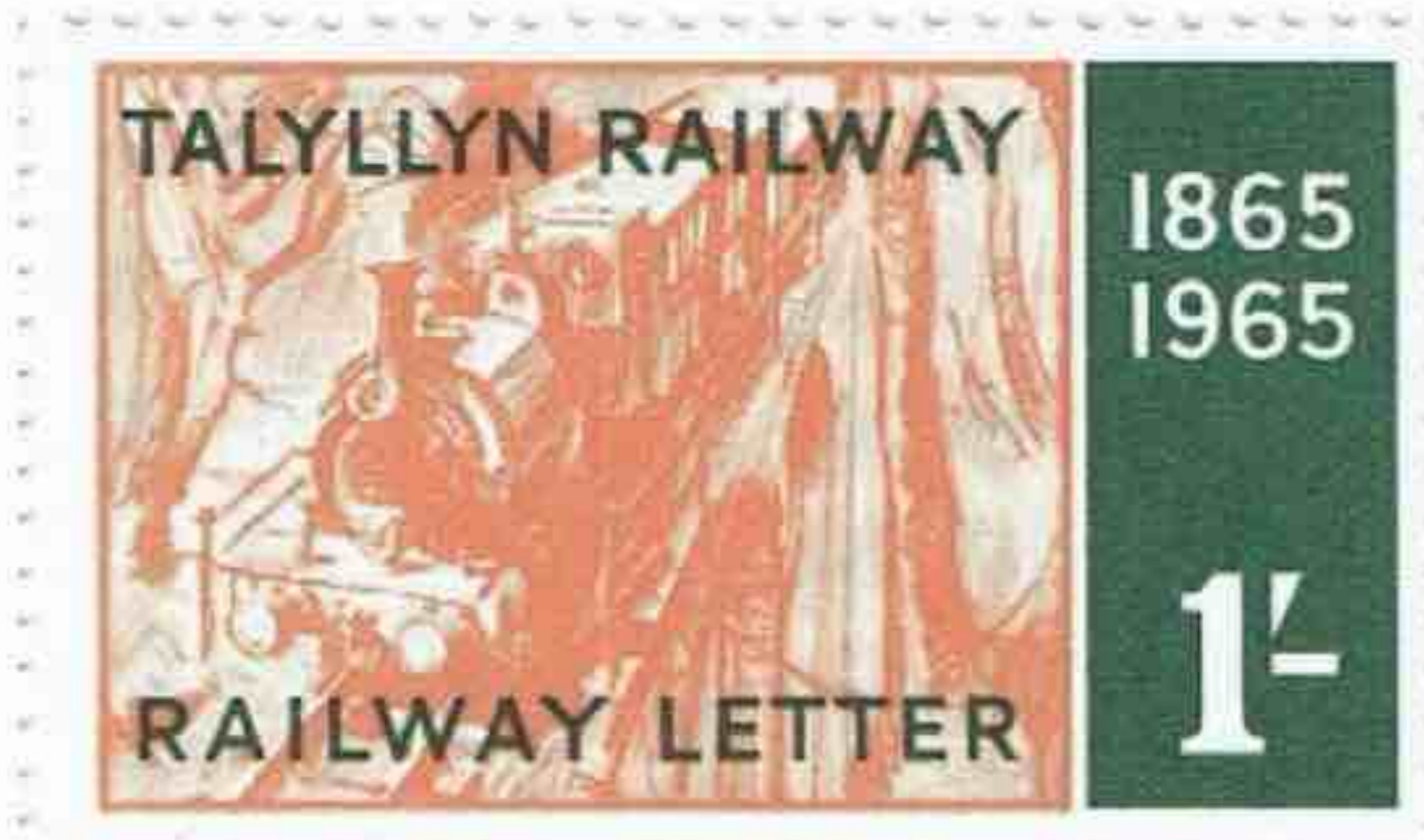
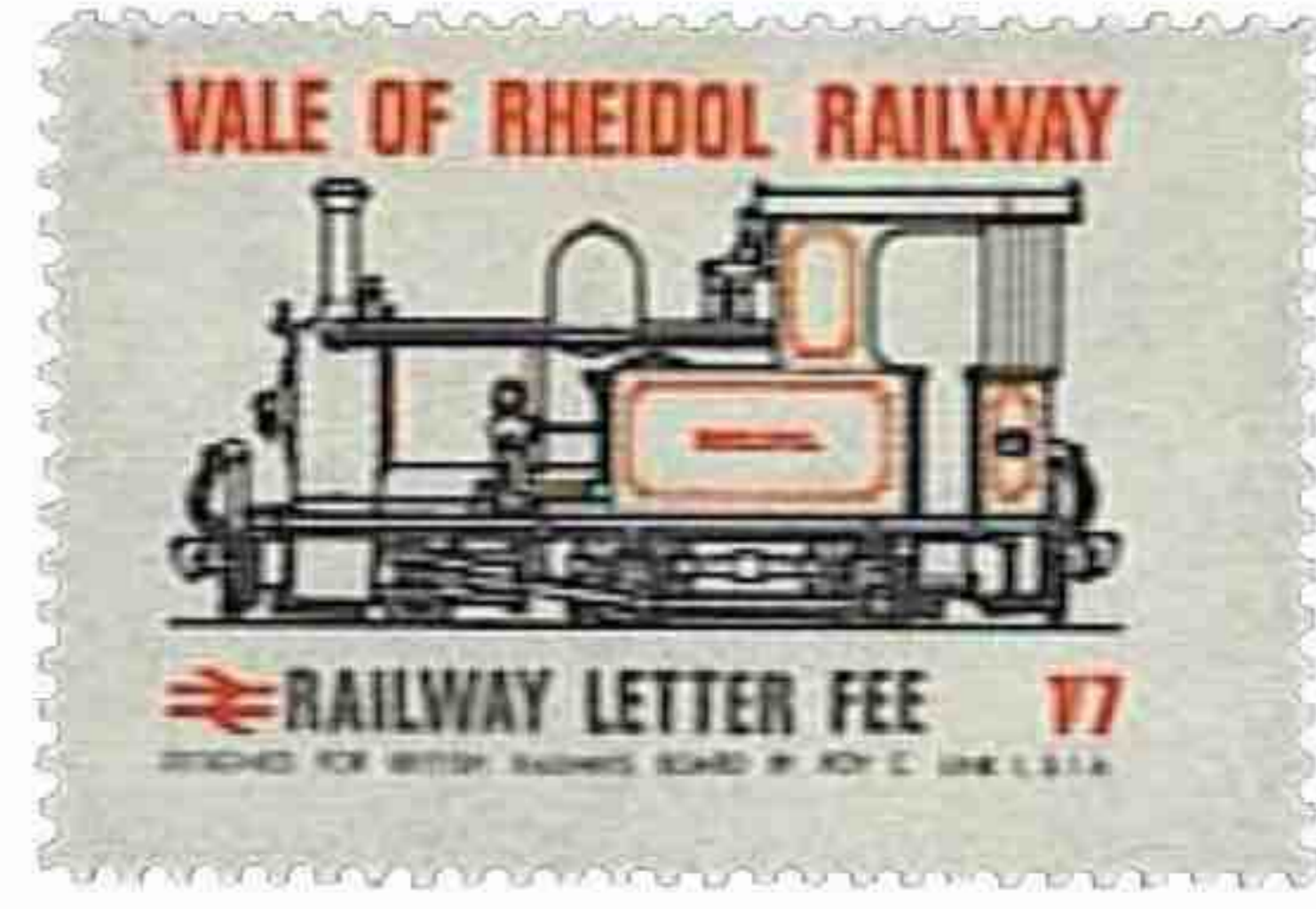
**O**n 1 February 1891, an agreement between the Post Office and several railway companies came into force under which letters could be carried more quickly than the normal postal service. For this benefit the railways could charge an additional fee, payment being shown by a special adhesive stamp affixed to the bottom left corner of the envelope. As their successor British Railways continued to operate this service until 1984.

In 1957, the recently preserved Talylyn Railway, realised that it was a signatory to the original 1891 agreement and as it had not been

listed as being nationalised, it was still permitted to carry on the service. It issued a set of twelve 11d stamps in two sheetlets as a fund-raising exercise. These are some of the rarest of the railway letter stamps as in 1958 some of the stamps were overprinted 1/= due to an increase in postage rates. They only printed 1,500 sheets of which approximately 1,052 were surcharged in 1958 leaving only an approximate issue of 448 of each design.

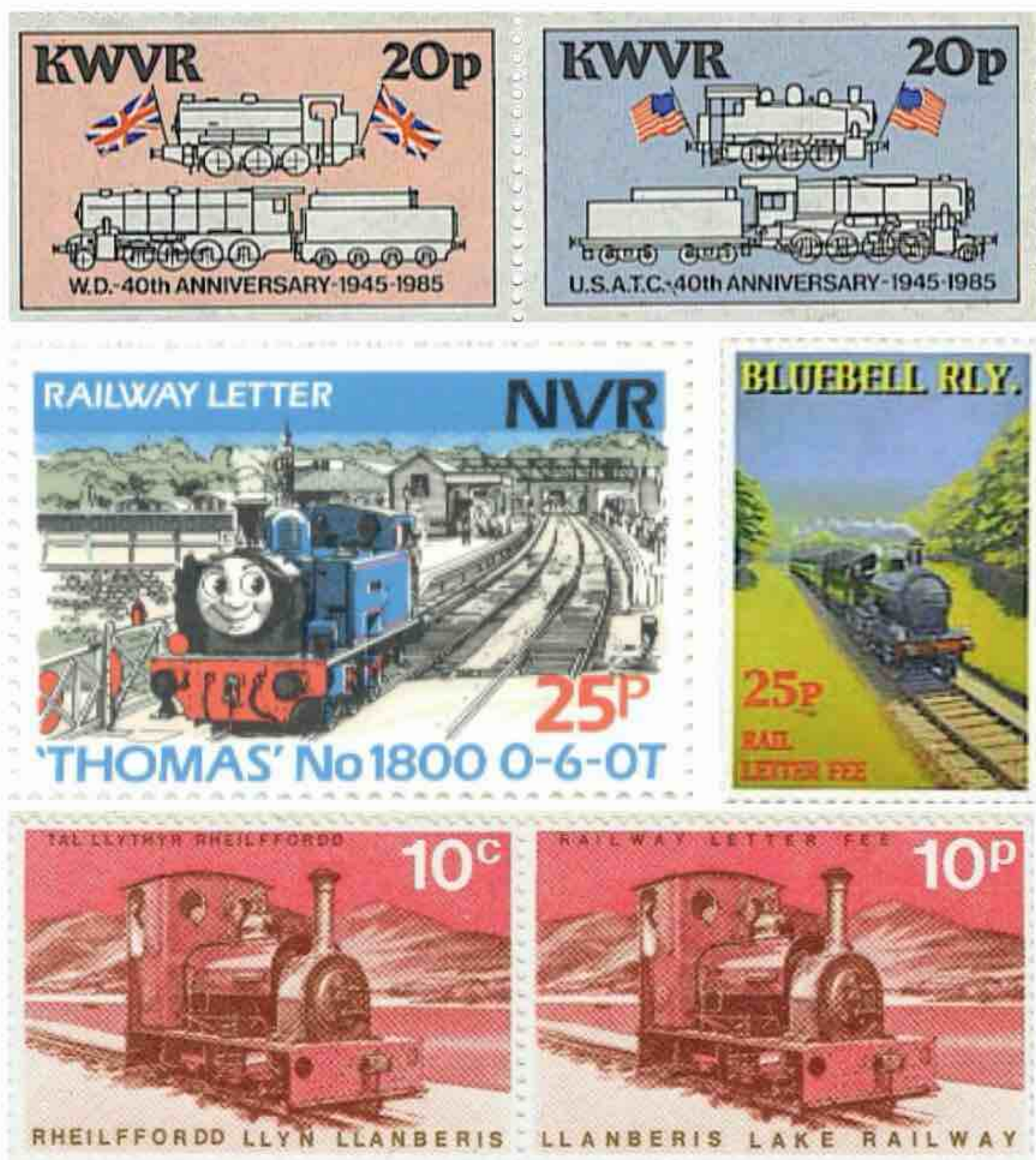
The Talylyn Railway made further issues in 1965 for the Railways' Centenary and in 1966 a provisional surcharged issue when the fee was increased to 1s 1d.

The Festiniog Railway company found their copy of the 1891



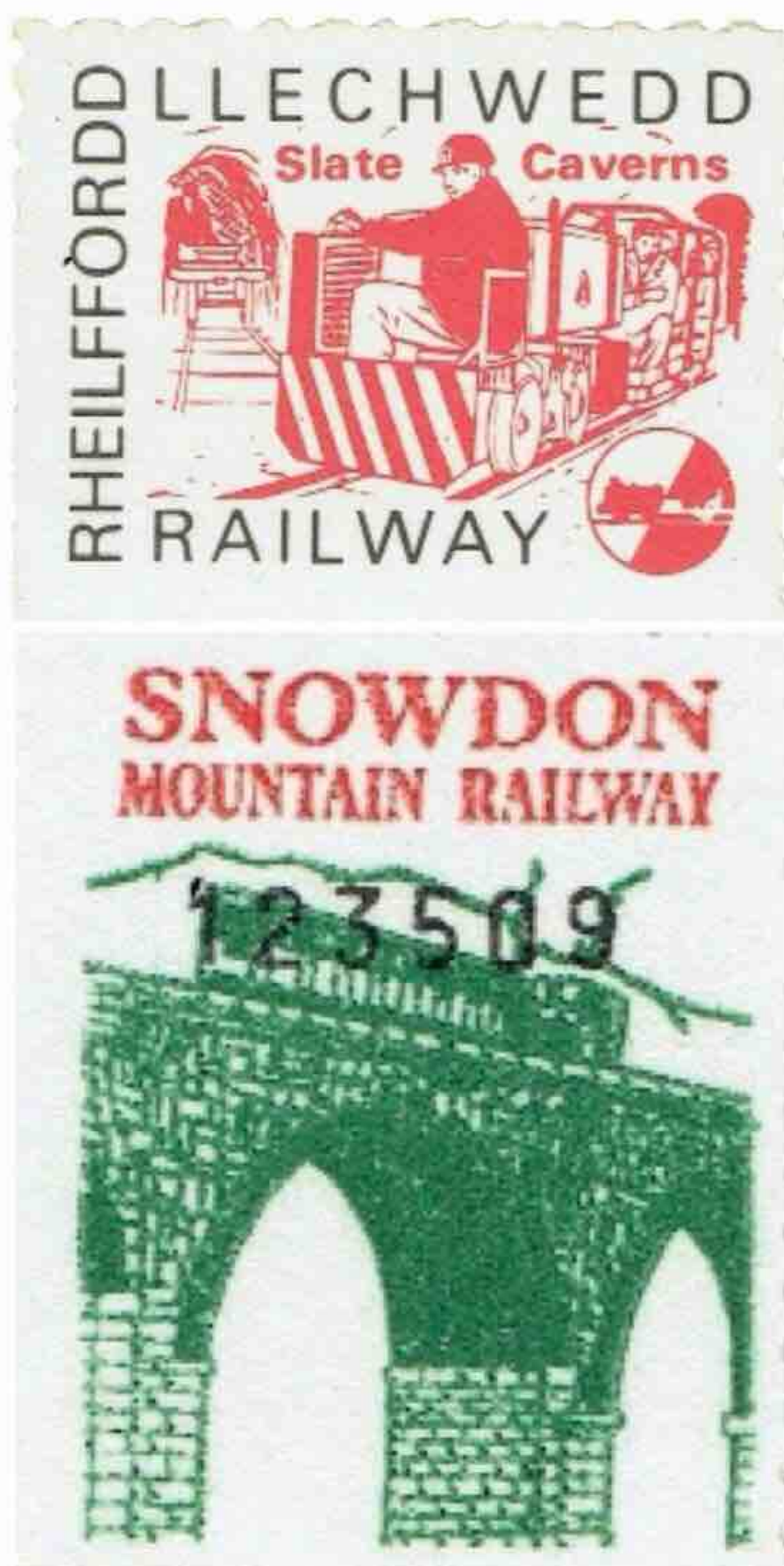
Agreement with the Postmaster General for carrying railway letters and it was confirmed valid by the Postal HQ, London in 1968 and the Railway Letter service was reintroduced on 28 May 1969. The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway also issued a stamp on 1 July 1969.

Although British Rail has not issued any railway letter stamps, they were the owners of the Vale of Rheidol Railway and in 1970 issued four stamps for the carriage of mail over the Vale of Rheidol Railway only. Other issues followed.



A new agreement with the Post Office, superseding that of 1891, became operational in June 1974. It allowed railways who were members of the Association of Minor Railway Companies to apply to operate a railway letter service. It also gave the Association authority to fix rates. An additional fee was also to be paid for transfer of letters to B.R. until that ceased in 1984.

Since that time, many other preserved railways have issued stamps including the North Yorkshire Moors



Railway, the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, Bluebell Railway, and the Nene Valley Railway to name just a few.

The stamps mostly show personalities, locomotives and rolling stock associated with their railways. Amongst the popular images are those of Thomas the Tank Engine and the Flying Scotsman. Other railways have also issued letter stamps. These include the Llechwedd Slate Caverns which issued stamps for use on their Incline railway, the Llanberis Lake Railway, and the Snowdon Mountain Railway. The Llechwedd Slate Caverns even issued stamps in 1979 commemorating Alice in Wonderland.

Although many railways have stopped issuing railway letter stamps there are four railways that still issue stamps on a regular basis. These are the Festiniog Railway, Nene Valley Railway, and the Tallyllyn Railway. Also, the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway which was not a signatory to the Agreements.

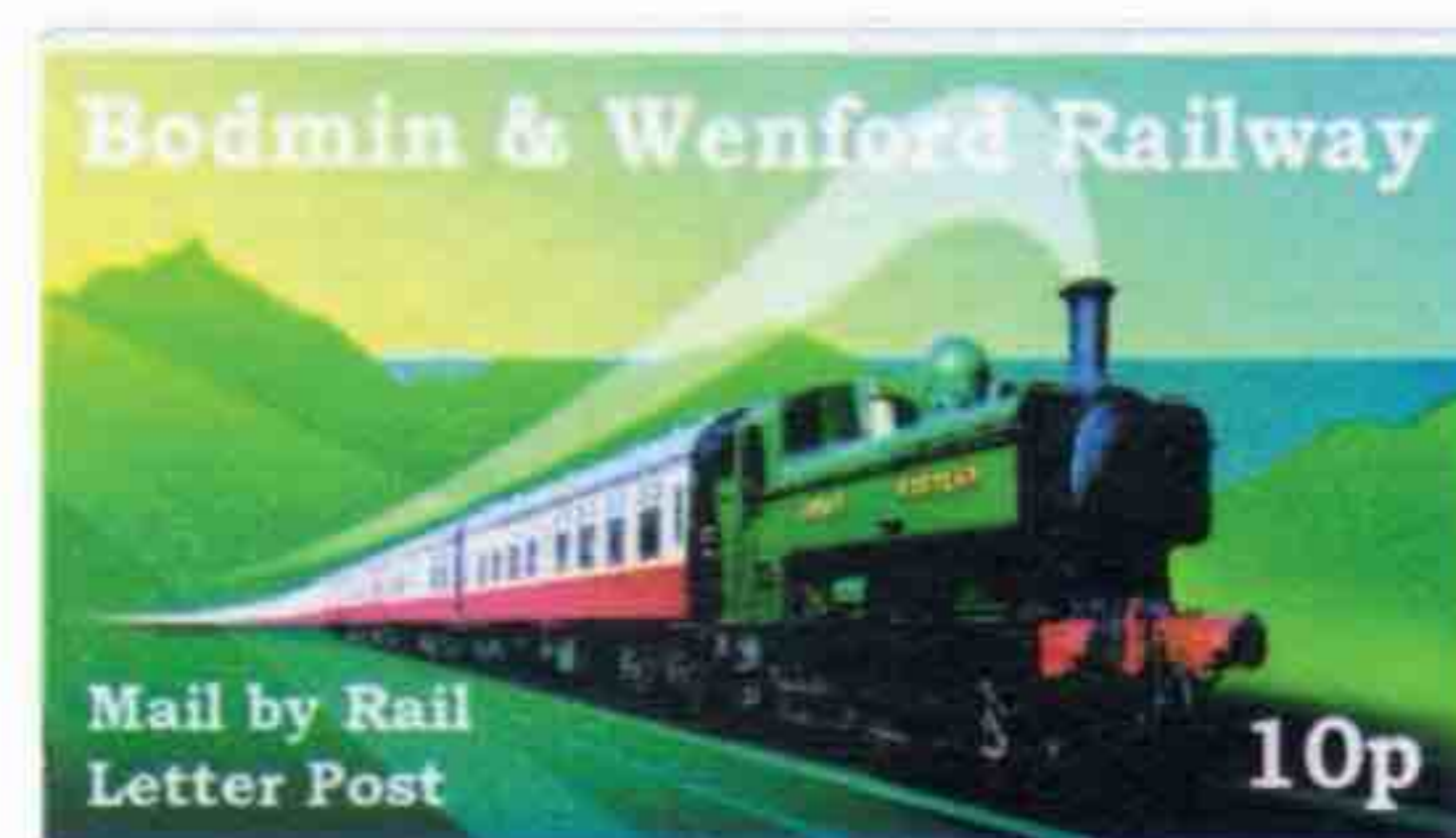
The Isle of Man Railway, the Manx Electric Railway, and the Snaefell Mountain Railway occasionally have an issue of stamps. However, they do not offer a regular railway letter service as the stamps are only used on special occasions.

There have been various issues from railways that purport to be railway letter stamps but are generally only issued for fund raising and not for a letter service. In recent years these have included the Bodmin and Wenford Railway and the East Somerset Railway.



MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY STAMPS S.122

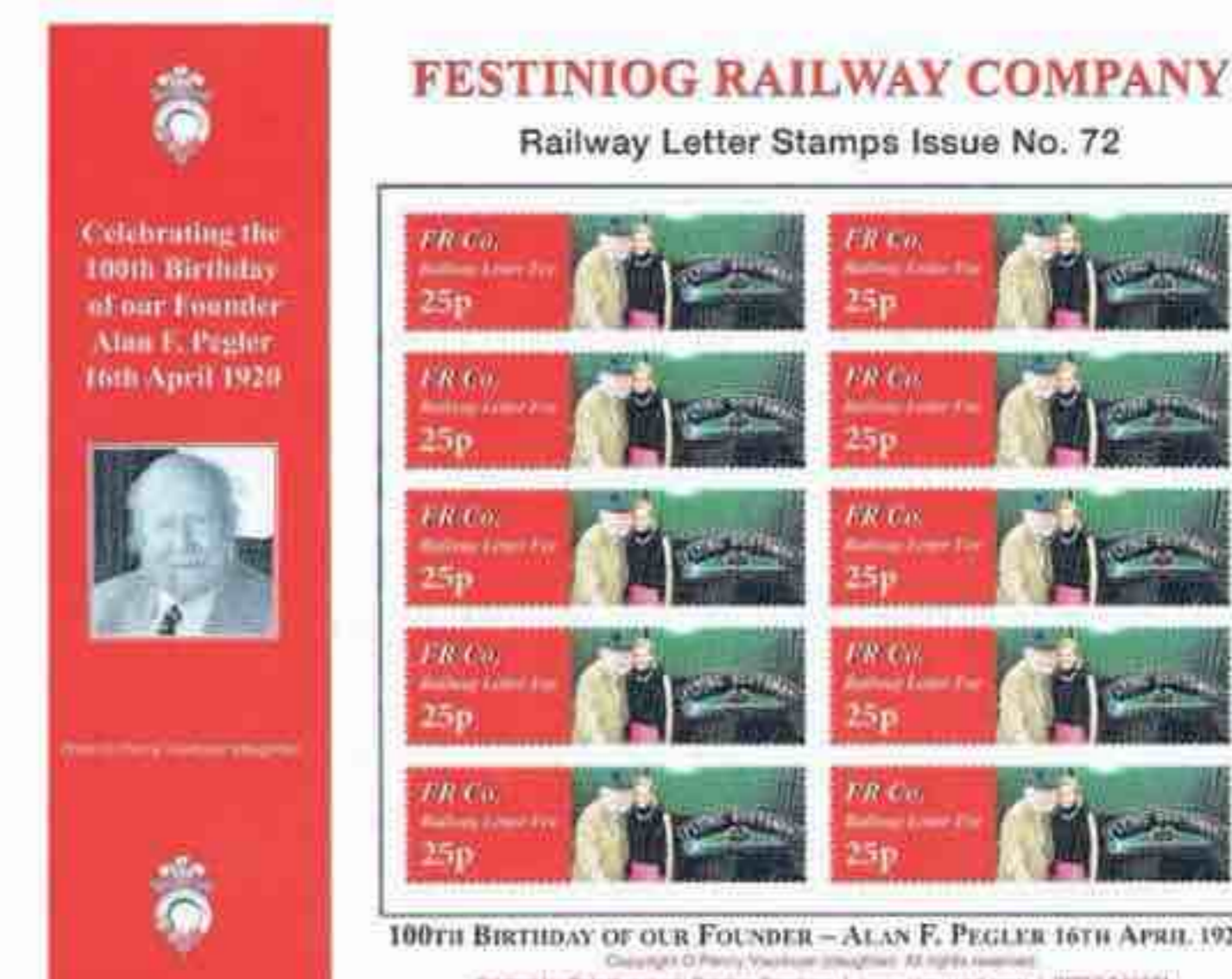
Diesel Day 30th June 2019 - Our 2 Ruston & Hornsby plus Fowler 0-4-0



For a number of years, the Bagley Wood Railway issued many railway letter fee stamps, but this was a garden railway and although popular with collectors did not offer a railway letter service.

One of the latest issues is from the Festiniog Railway and it commemorated the 100th birthday, on the 16 April 2020, of Alan Pegler, their founder pictured alongside the Flying Scotsman.

Full details of all the stamps issued by the many railways and details of those that were only issued for fund raising or were bogus can be found in the Great Britain & Ireland Railway Letter Stamps handbook and catalogue published by the Railway Philatelic Group. New issues are also listed in their quarterly journal Railway Philately. Full details are to be found at [www.railwayphilatelicgroup.co.uk](http://www.railwayphilatelicgroup.co.uk)



# PHILATELIC QUIZ:

# ADVANCED

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**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.

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**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 ...

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Graded XF 90



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

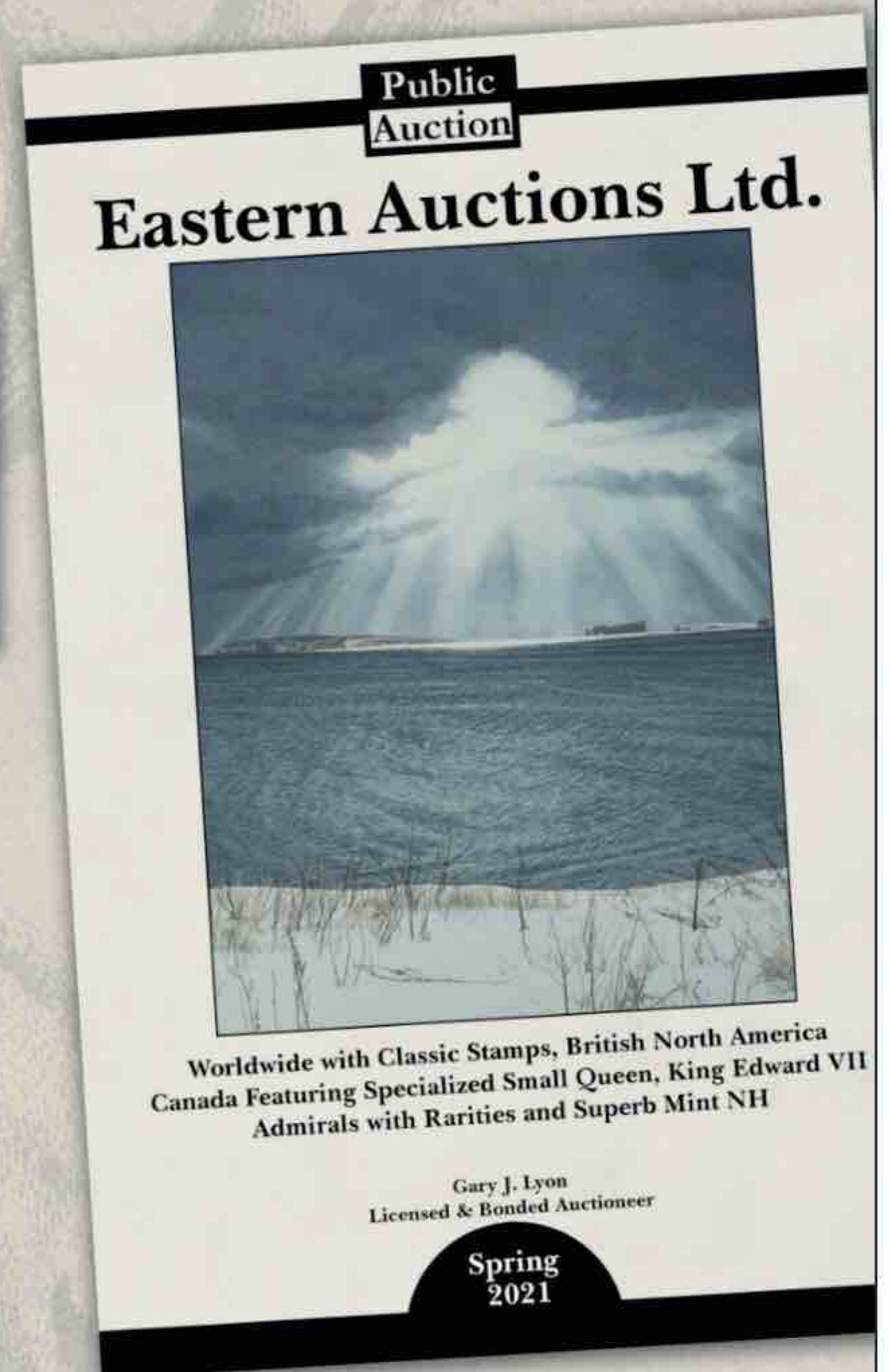


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## CLASSIC STAMPS IN DETAIL

# Liechtenstein 1930 definitives

### CELEBRATED SETS

In the latest instalment in our popular series on a classic stamp set and how to add it to your collection, David Bailey examines the 1930s definitives of one of Europe's last principalities – and discovers how it gained a set of stamps to reflect the beauty of its Alpine setting

**L**iechtenstein is a rare echo of an older Europe; one split up into dozens of duchies, free cities, kingdoms and principalities. It is still run by a Crown Prince whose family have been in charge since 1699, but who didn't actually live there till 1938.

Liechtenstein (capital Vaduz) is located in the Upper Rhine Valley,

Below, from left: Liechtenstein's first stamps were designed and printed in Austria; almost Transylvanian, Gutenberg Castle in the set of 1921

bordered by Austria and Switzerland and occupying 62 square miles of stunning alpine scenery. Most people speak an Alemannic dialect of German, as well as German itself.

Thanks to its financial services sector, Liechtenstein is the second-richest country in the world where the number of companies exceeds the population of just under 39,000. It's also a major centre for winter sports, and the world's largest exporter of false teeth.

Up until the first world war Liechtenstein was close to Austria; it used Austrian currency and Austria ran its postal service. So its first postage stamp designs were created by Austria's Koloman Moser: pure Hapsburg Jugendstil.

From 1921, it became a fully independent principality, a constitutional monarchy under the octogenarian Prince John II. It now used Swiss currency and ran its own



postal service. The 1930 definitives were the first set for Prince Francis I, who ascended the throne in 1929, aged 76. It was designed by Hermann Clemens Kosel, a prominent water-colourist and graphic designer, whose posters for alpine hotels and resorts are highly collectable now.

The set depicts a fairy-tale world of mountain valleys, snowy peaks and quaint old buildings, with handy huts for hikers. And as such, it's





a complete contrast to the darkly Gothic 1921 set (see the two stamps of Gutenberg Castle).

The stamps were printed by Rosenbaum Brothers of Vienna, a fine art publisher and photogravure printers founded in 1883. The company folded in 1986 (but not before printing some of the 1981 Royal Wedding Omnibus sets). For this set, they used perf gauges of 10 ½ and 11 ½ in no particular order and in all four possible combinations: 10 ½, 11 ½, 10 ½ x



11 ½ and 11½ x 10 ½.

As a result, there is no single definitive set of fourteen values. The set perforated 11 ½ is the longest (twelve stamps), but omits the 3r and 40r.

### Collecting the stamps

Many of our Celebrated Sets are most often traded as a single unit, with single values being hard to find. Not this one. Some collectors simply want fourteen 'face different' stamps. Others want to get as close as possible to the full series of 35, so single items or groups of two or three are often found online. Completing the 35 will require money or luck (or both). Two stamps have five-figure catalogue values, mint and used. But even a part set will be an introduction to an interesting new country. Liechtenstein stamps are widely collected in Austria and Switzerland; they deserve to be better-known here.

### The stories on the stamps 3r Grape Girl

Wine has been made in Liechtenstein since pre-Roman times, thanks to the slopes, the sunshine, the soil and the Foehn summer wind which



helps sweeten the grapes. Production largely stopped during the dark ages but was revived under Charlemagne, when wine-making was centred on the Monasteries.

Production peaked in 1871, when wine was Liechtenstein's top export. But by 1930, this was an industry in decline, thanks to poor harvests, parasites and foreign competition. However, it still had huge symbolic importance; there are bunches of grapes on Vaduz' Coat of Arms, granted in 1932.

Happily for wine drinkers, the industry lives on, producing a range of red and white wines and with





tasting venues all over the country, including one in the cellars of the Crown Prince.

**5r Chamois Hunter**

Alpine Chamois are hunted for their meat, their skins and for sport. Hunters take up positions above the chamois because they are mostly

looking out for threats from below. The Three Sisters peaks are in the background; Edelweiss flowers and pine cones feature in the borders.

**10r Alpine Cattle Farmer**

Two cows and their keeper are seen by a mountain lake. They will graze on the upland pastures till Autumn, when the drive down to winter pastures is the occasion for a noisy, colourful celebration. Above the picture, gentian flowers fill the border.

**20r Vaduz Castle Courtyard**

Vaduz castle sits high above the tiny capital city it gave its name to. It dates back over 700 years and the courtyard shown here was once the main entrance.

This is still the official residence of the Crown Prince and so is not generally open to the public. But the views from the hilltop make it well worth the climb.

**25r Mount Naafkopf and the Samina Valley.**

**030r Chapel of St Wendelin and Martin, Steg.**

Steg is in the Treisenberg region, where the people have been speaking their own dialect since the 14th century; the name means 'footbridge' across the River Samina. There has

been a chapel at Steg since the 1700s, when the area was used for mountain pasture. Today, it is a centre for summer hiking and winter skiing holidays. At the top of the stamp, a cross is framed in pine branches.

**35r Rofenburg Chapel**

The Chapel of the Holy Cross in Eschen was formerly a meeting room and dates back to the 16th century. It's in the Unterland of Liechtenstein, whose appeal is picturesque rather than spectacular. The Chapel is seen framed in a stone archway.

**40r St Mamertus' Chapel**

This Chapel in Triesenburg is the oldest in Liechtenstein, dating back to the 9th or 10th centuries. St Mamertus (May 11) was a Bishop of Vienne in France, who initiated the Rogation Days; three days of prayer leading up to the Feast of the Ascension. The prayers seek God's protection; particularly for crops. A beehive, grapes and other fruit are seen at the top of the stamp; ears of corn grow at the sides.

**50r Kurhaus at Malben**

A Kurhaus (literally 'curehouse') was originally a spa. The building in the





picture was described at the time as a 'hut used by hikers'. Today Malben is another centre for cross-country skiing and its Kurhaus is a little more luxurious.

### 60r Gutenberg Castle, Balzers

Gutenberg Castle grew out of a medieval church and cemetery that was enlarged and fortified from the 12th century onwards. Today, it is one of Liechtenstein's two surviving castles. Having fallen into disrepair, it was restored in the early 20th century and has been owned by the Principality since 1979. Today, it is a museum.

### 90r Schellenburg Monastery

The subject of this stamp is actually the Convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. It was established in 1858 as part of a campaign by the people of Bendern to set up a Parish of their own and the first building was attached directly to the local church. Today, the community has forty sisters and its 150th anniversary was commemorated by a stamp.



## SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUES

Value and colour	Mint	Used
3r Brown Lake	£0.83	£2.10
5r Deep Green	£2.10	£5.25
10r dark violet	£1.88	£5.25
20r deep rose red	£31.88	£5.25
25r black	£6.38	£33.75
30r deep ultra	£6.38	£7.88
35r dark green	£8.25	£15.75
40r light brown	£8.25	£8.25
50r black brown	£78.75	£15.75
60r olive black	£78.75	£32
90r violet brown	£78.75	£262.50
1f 20r olive brown	£93.75	£281.25
1f 50r black violet	£52.50	£58
2fr grey green and red	£63.75	£105

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

#### 1f 20r Vaduz Castle

An outside view of the castle, emphasising its commanding position.

#### 1f 50r Pfalzer Club Hut

Pictured here in the depths of winter, the Pfalzerhutte comes alive from mid-June to mid-October as the starting point for some of Liechtenstein's best hiking trails. Much modified since the war, it offers a restaurant, bedrooms, dormitories and emergency camp beds in surrounding buildings.

#### 2f Prince Francis I and Princess Elsa

Francis may have ruled Liechtenstein

but he spent very little time there; his family had other estates and he was born in Austria and died in Czechoslovakia.

He married in secret in 1919. Elizabeth von Gutman was a German widow who had converted from Judaism in 1899 and his brother Johann disapproved of the match. Following Johann's death, he had a second wedding ten years later.

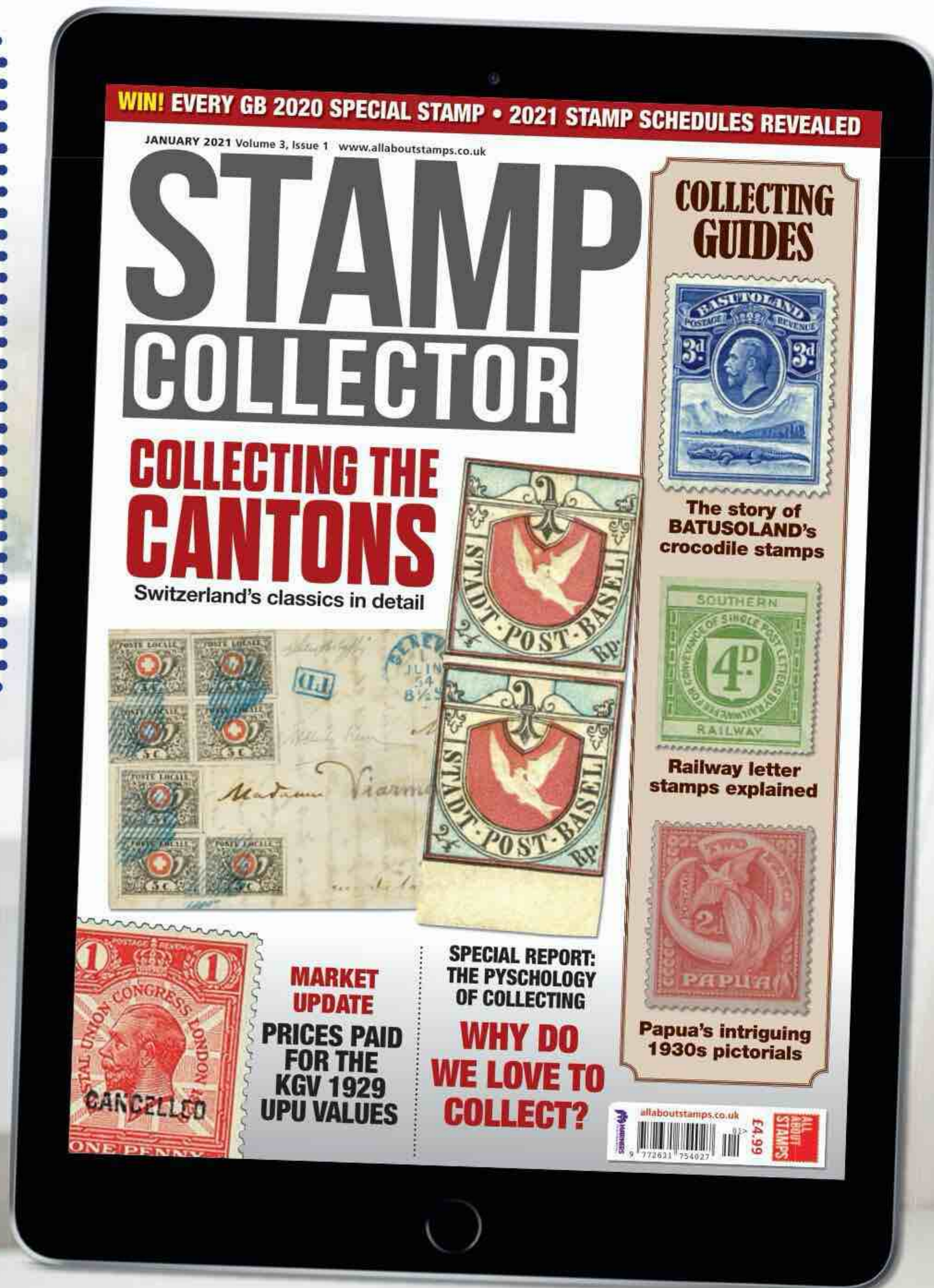
*Many thanks to Liechtenstein Stamps and the Background 1912-1973 by Marian Carne Zinsmeister and website Colnect.com for the information and images used in this article.*

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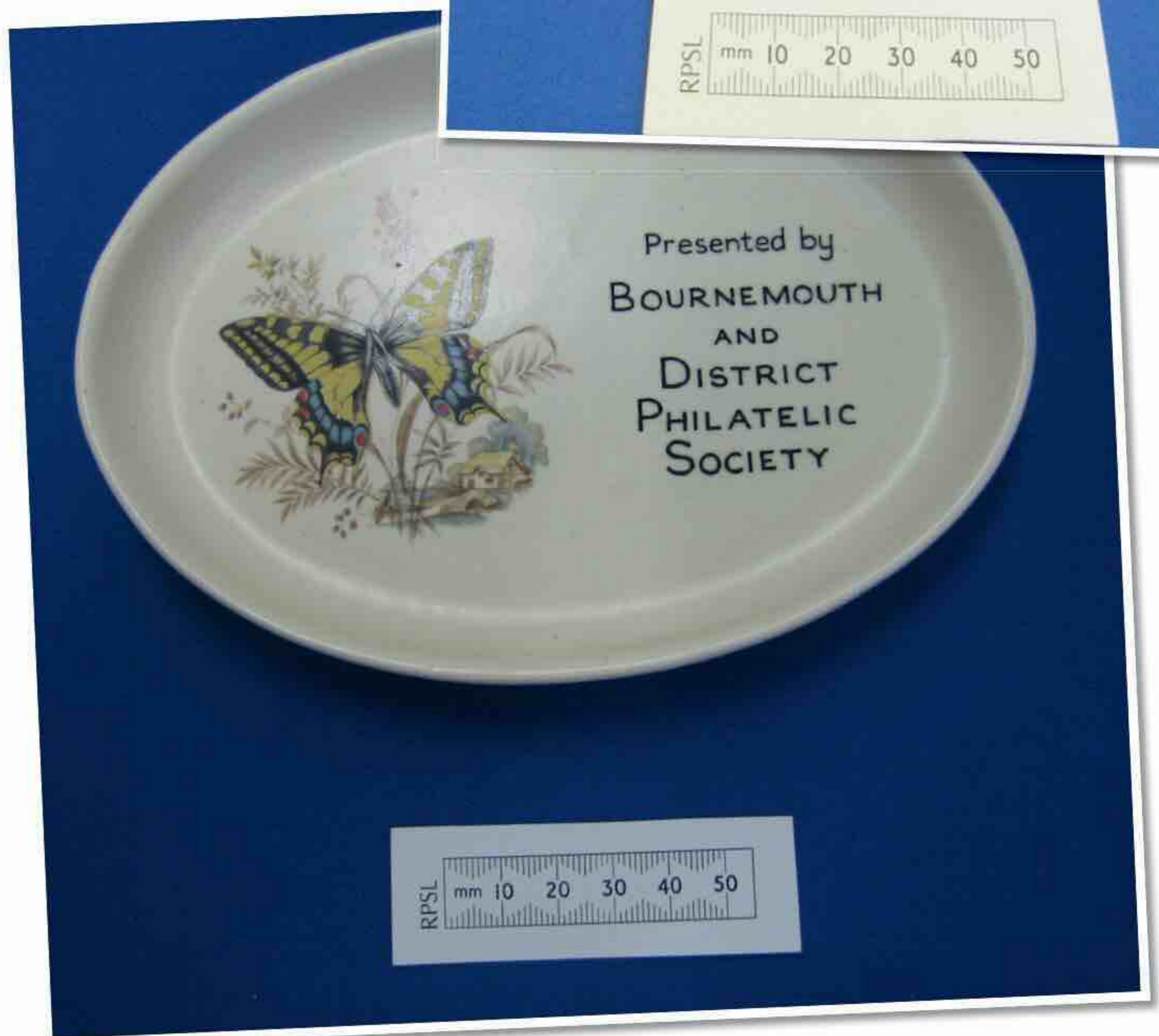
The Royal is the world's most prestigious philatelic society, but it wouldn't be anything without the range of local and specialist clubs, and this vital link is reflected in the collections of the Royal Philatelic Society London, as Nicola Davies, Head of Collections at the RPSL, reveals

One of the RPSL's main objectives when managing and developing its collections is to preserve the history of philately. One important facet of this is documenting the various ways in which people have become involved in organised philately and the role played by local and specialist philatelic societies.

Our library holds bulletins and newsletters from local clubs and specialist societies, no matter how small or how short-lived. We also collect records, ephemera and artefacts relating to philatelic societies. Many of these items have come to us as donations from individuals, usually members of the RPSL, who are also members of these other societies. The late Rosemary Green FRPSL used her skills gained during her career as a librarian to curate and catalogue the material that she and her parents had collected during their many decades involved in philatelic societies and organisations. We are very fortunate that this vast collection of archives and philatelic memorabilia was bequeathed to the Royal. One example is this commemorative dish dating from when her father, Harry Green FRPSL, was Chairman of the Hamworthy, Poole and District Philatelic Society in 1968-1969. He was also a founder member of the Belgian Study Circle and his significant correspondence relating to that society is held at the Royal.

Increasingly, as societies have closed, the Royal has become the natural repository for their records and artefacts. When the Hertford and District Philatelic Society ceased in 2015, they decided to donate their trophies to the RPSL. Pictured here is the E.B.S. Scott Clarke Trophy awarded by Hertford and District Philatelic Society from 1972 onwards. The last recipient being Susan McEwen FRPSL in 2010.

For more information about what we hold in our collections, please visit our online catalogue [www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue](http://www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue) or contact by email: [research@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:research@rpsl.org.uk).





## *An African oddity*

When a case of stamps went missing on its long journey to British Central Africa, only arriving a year later, the Postmaster was forced to improvise, creating an unusual issue which has kept philatelists busy for more than 100 years

**T**he scramble for Africa in the late 19th century saw many countries become distant pockets of the British Empire, and the region and period provide much interest to philatelists, as many pioneering colonial postal services were introduced across the continent at this time. The nature of these early services, amid the undeveloped African culture and without the tools of industry used back in Europe, means that many varieties of stamps were produced, often with primitive designs.

An example of an intriguing early African issue is the provisional one penny stamp produced in British Central Africa in 1898. The Mosely Collection housed at the British Library contains a variety of examples of this

stamp, including an inverted error, one of only a handful known to exist. Few casual collectors will appreciate the story behind this simply designed item.

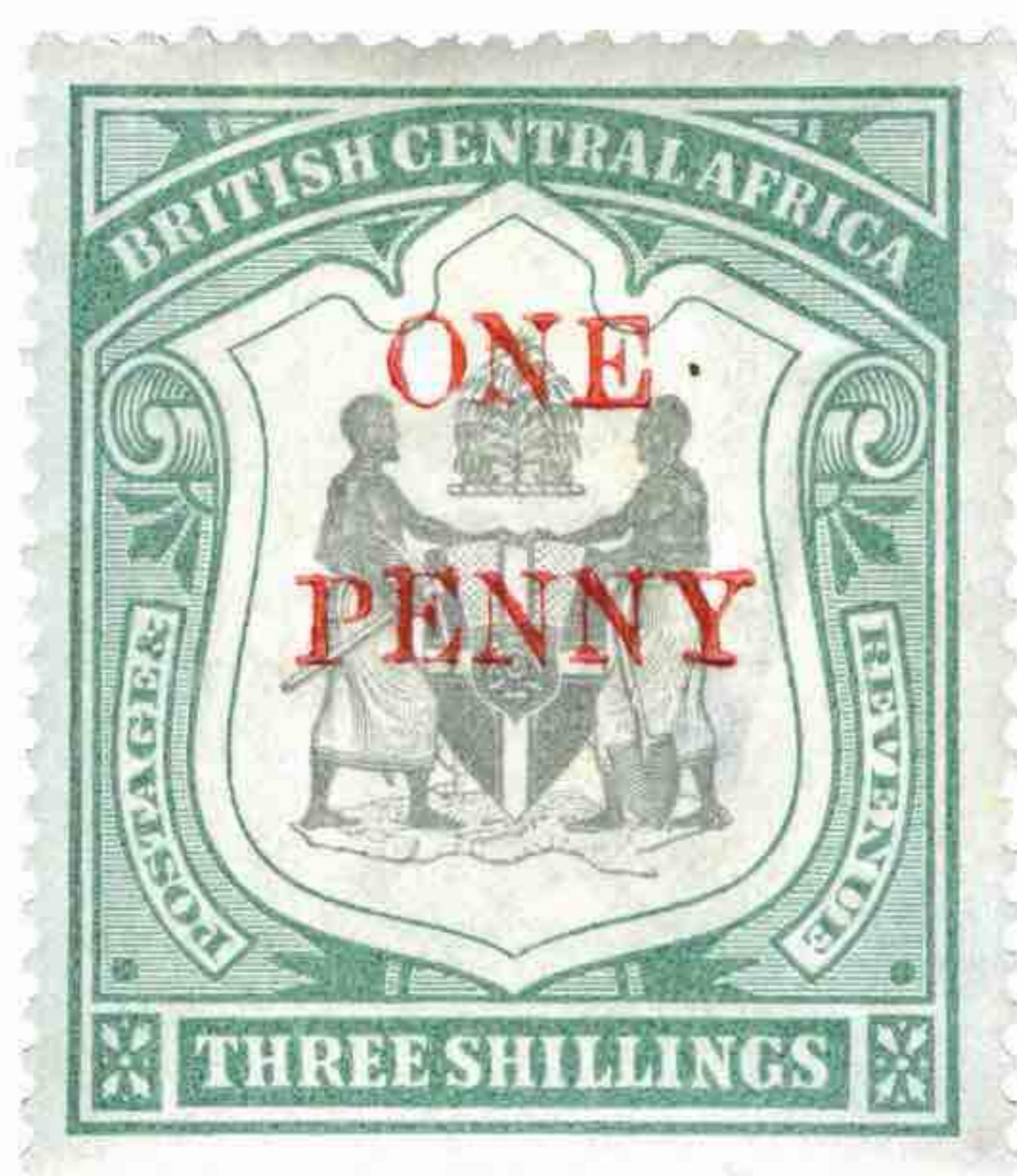
The African country of Malawi has a colourful modern history, and it is here that our stamp story takes place. Once referred to as the Nyasaland Districts, due to the proximity of the huge lake known as Lake Nyasa – now Lake Malawi – the country soon became known as British Central Africa, and it was this name that was used in the notice announcing the introduction of postage stamps in July 1891. Initially, surcharged stamps of Rhodesia were made available, but by 1895 the protectorate had its own stamps, designed by Henry ‘Harry’ Hamilton Johnston, the British explorer and commissioner of the country. Various





printings in different shades continued until January 1898 when 1d values became scarce.

According to renowned philatelist Edward Denny Bacon, writing in the Royal Philatelic Society London's journal *London Philatelist* in August 1914, the shortage of one penny values was caused by a case of the stamps going astray 'while on a barge at Chinde on the Zambezi river.' The



Far left: Dr Edward Mosely of Johannesburg, South Africa. The Mosely collection was donated to the British Museum by his daughter, Kathleen Cunningham, in 1946 and is now held as part of the British Library Philatelic Collections

case would not arrive at its destination until 'early in the next year' and so John T Gosling, the Acting Postmaster-General, was forced to make alternative arrangements.

Initially three shilling stamps were surcharged 'ONE PENNY' – at least three variations of this overprint exist – but stocks were soon exhausted. Provisional one penny stamps were therefore produced and a notice from the General Post Office in Zomba was issued on 11 March, 1898, providing details of the provisional stamp. The notice reads: 'All unstamped correspondence, liable to a charge of one penny, should be brought to the Post Office counter, and payment made in cash. Postmasters will affix a Token to all letters so presented, as an indication that the postal charges thereon have been paid.'

As Bacon points out in his article, it is interesting to note that Gosling refers to the new postal item as a 'token'

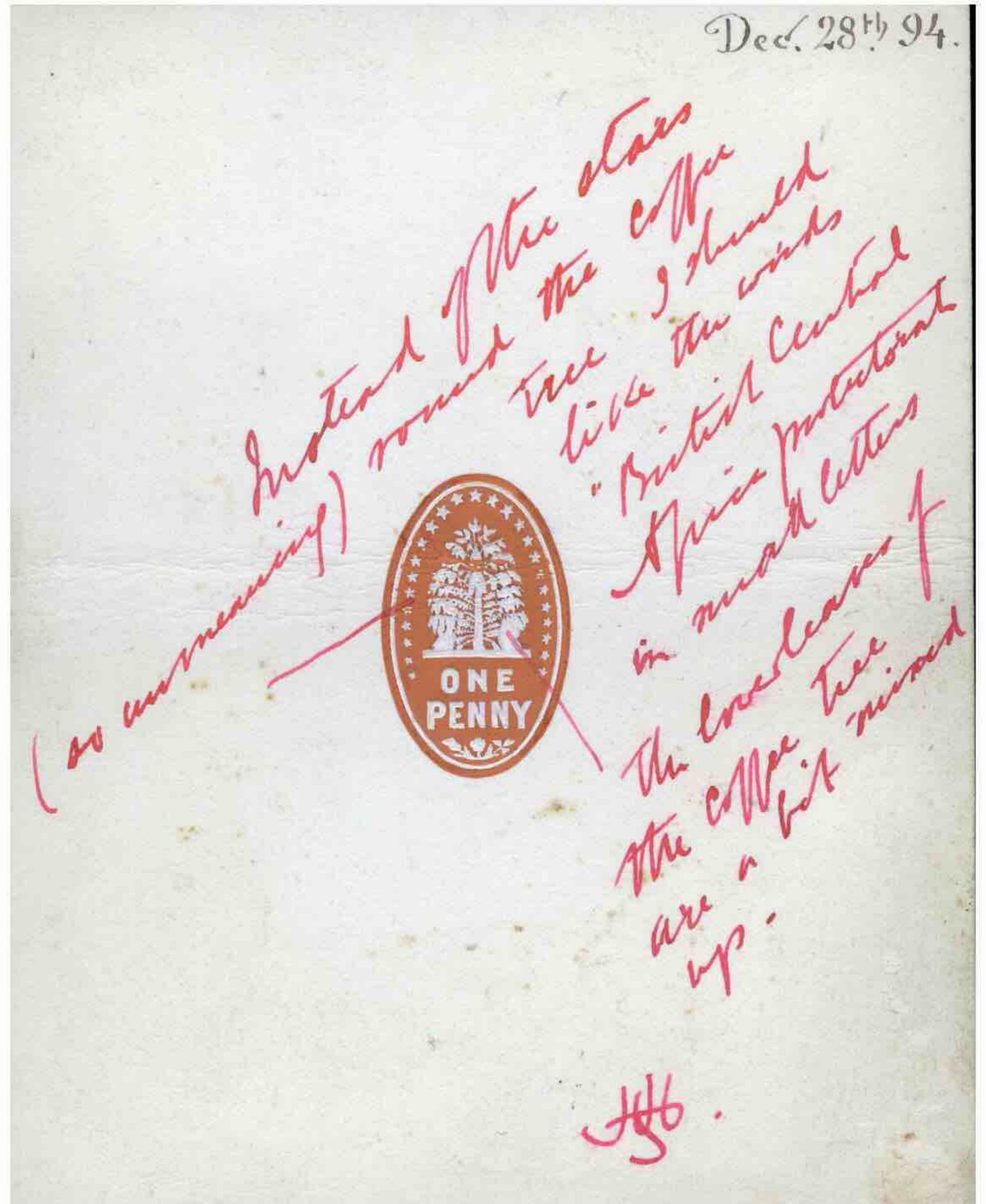
rather than a stamp. This distinction is justified since the provisionals were for administration purposes only and not sold to the public, unlike the other value stamps which were still being made available to those wishing to pre-pay for postage. At that time postal users had the option of paying for their postage in cash or by affixing postage stamps to their mail.

The provisional stamps were simple in design, with the words 'INTERNAL' and 'POSTAGE' at the top and bottom of each stamp, respectively. In the centre of the thin vertical frame the stamp used for bankers' cheques was embossed, showing a tree design with the text 'BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE' and 'ONE PENNY'. This 'die and force' design was originally suggested by Johnston for 'embossing cheques and the like' and would have originally been used to emboss revenue or fiscal stamps onto documents. This gives ►

rise to the stamps being referred to as 'cheque stamps' by collectors. With just a small hand press available, the centre design would have been applied one stamp at a time, and so each centre varied, making every stamp subtly unique. The stamps were initially imperforate – though examples were later issued with perf 12 in June 1898 – produced in two rows of fifteen in sheets of thirty, and printed in blue ink before the centre design was added in vermilion.

Such was the improvised nature of production, many varieties were produced, which have kept philatelists intrigued ever since. Bacon's lengthy examination in the *London Philatelist* concludes that there were two print settings, the first producing 'vertical frame-lines of the stamps crossing the space between the two rows'. This inconsistency was due to this initial process involving two separate printings – the pairs of vertical lines separating the stamps being added only after the other lines had been printed. The second setting, with these vertical lines 'not crossing the space between the two rows' was quickly adopted, presumably to save time, and so this version is more common.

While the first printing, which according to an official notice published in November 1898 consisted of '£20 worth' or '4,800 stamps', featured John Gosling's initials on the reverse of each stamp, the second printing – of '24,000

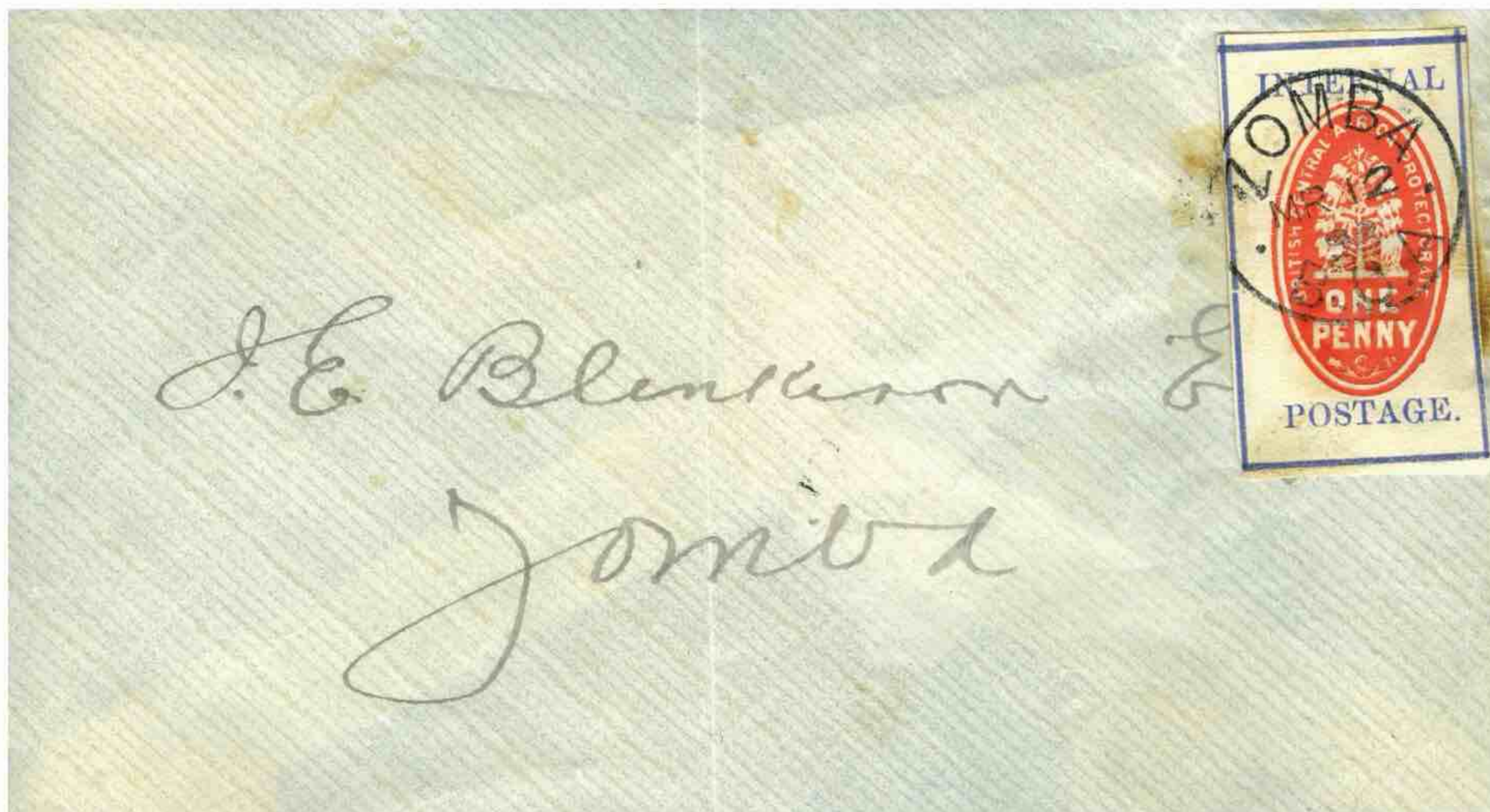


stamps' – showed a control number between one and thirty, and an arbitrary letter on the reverse.

In his study, Bacon refers to stamps of the first setting as 'decidedly rare' and goes on to mention the stamps with inverted centres. 'All the specimens I have

seen of these,' he writes of the inverted examples, 'come from the top row.' The example on display at the British Library is one of these few erroneous stamps. Writing about the Collections in the Library's newsletter of Spring 2000, collector Ian Lane generously suggests the person charged with adding the centre design was 'more skilled than that of the printing press as there are only a few instances of centres being inverted, missing or misplaced.'

However skilled the hand press operator may have been and whatever the reason for the error, be it deliberate or not, the very few examples of the stamp provide us with another intriguing philatelic tale. Although Edward Bacon prepared his in-depth article almost 100 years ago, into a compelling display, such is the complexity of the issue, philatelists are still exploring and uncovering new aspects of this fascinating philatelic oddity.



## Eminent Philatelists

# Oscar Berger-Levrault

(1826 - 1903)

If you've been reading this series from the beginning, you'll have noticed that the French had a fair amount of input into establishing philately as we know it today, writes Devlan Kruck, and their contributions were particularly noteworthy in the very early days of stamp collecting.

In fact, it wasn't that long ago that we thanked Georges Herpin, our Papa, who birthed the word philately.

And it is no surprise that we derive the word 'catalogue' from the old French word 'catalogus'. But, there have been several other cross-channel transactions which also point to the influence of the French. As much as it pains me to say this as an Englishman, the French were ahead of the rest of the world's philatelists, because if it wasn't for our next legendary collector, we'd all be in a right pickle.

The hobby of collecting stamps would be chaotic if it wasn't for Oscar Berger-Levrault (1826 - 1903) a French philatelist, who is credited with the invention of the stamp catalogue. Admittedly, the story goes that he achieved this with the help of an English guy by the name of John Gray, but the reality is Berger-Levrault is the man we need to applaud. Collecting as far back as 1861, he was one of the first stamp collectors who dealt with the scientific system for the establishment of stamp collections. He published a stamp and postal stationery register 'Description of the stamps known to date' on 17 September 1861, which is referred to as the world's first stamp catalogue. Apparently, he only intended it for friends and only printed just forty or fifty copies, one of these did survive and found its way into the library of the British Museum, now the British Library in London. So, once we're all open and have shed our tiers, you can go and see the world's first stamp catalogue.



Like all good ideas, it didn't take long for others to catch-on and develop improved catalogues which expanded upon the 975 stamps Berger-Levrault had listed. Indeed, it was another Frenchman, Alfred Potiquet, who some say produced the world's first stamp catalogue in December 1861, the same years as Berger-Levrault, but crucially it was based upon the former's list. We are splitting hairs trying to decide who was first and, because they are both Frenchman, the earlier statement, that the French beat us to it, still stands.

Interestingly, The Royal Philatelic Society London has an original copy of Potiquet's 1861 work, and they claim it is the world's first stamp catalogue. If you dig around the old philatelic archives you will see John Gray our English pioneer, developed similar works in parallel to these two Frenchmen, and the world's first

illustrated catalogue was produced by Frederick Booty, an Englishman. However, my vote goes to Oscar Berger-Levrault who just pips Potiquet as the author of the world's first stamp catalogue. All the others, in my view, seem to find their origins from the list Berger-Levrault compiled.

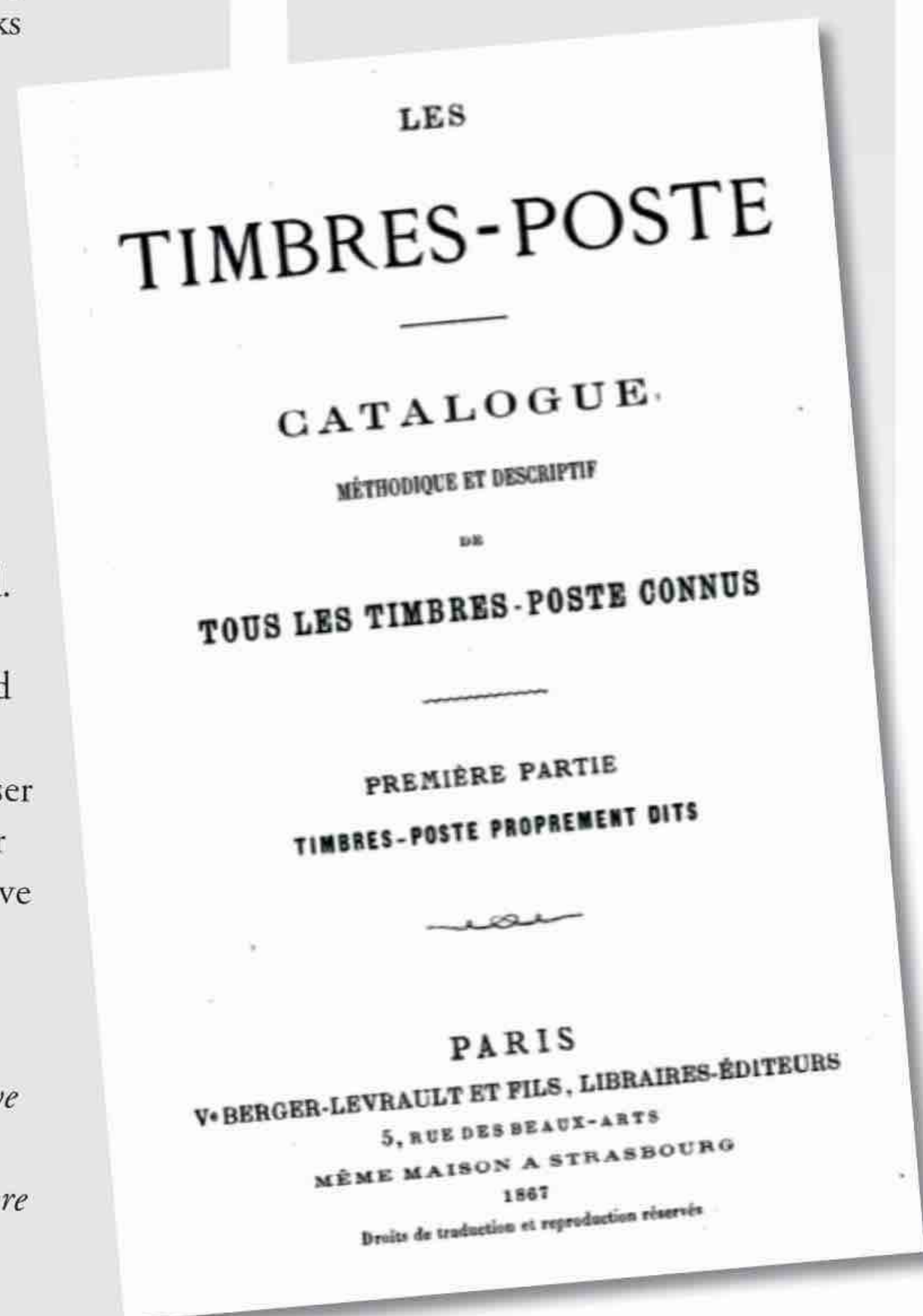
You may disagree, but as you return to sorting your collection, and have need to reach for that stamp catalogue, just remember the organiser Oscar Berger-Levrault, and nod your head to the French (again), or as we've become accustomed maybe even say 'merci beaucoup'.

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

## EXHIBITION NEWS

The 'Open Philately' class of exhibition – which allows philatelists to include objects from other collecting fields in support of, and in order to develop, an understanding of the philatelic material shown – was given a boost recently when the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) announced that a special Open Philately Commission would be formed with FIP Members being invited to appoint delegates. FIP Vice-President Reinaldo Macedo has been appointed by the Board to be responsible for the Commission and to attend that meetings.

Meanwhile, during the 135th FIP Conference meeting, FIP Board members confirmed that a Vermeil medal at national virtual exhibitions held in 2020-2022 shall be accepted for FIP World exhibitions only in 2021 and 2022, on an experimental basis.







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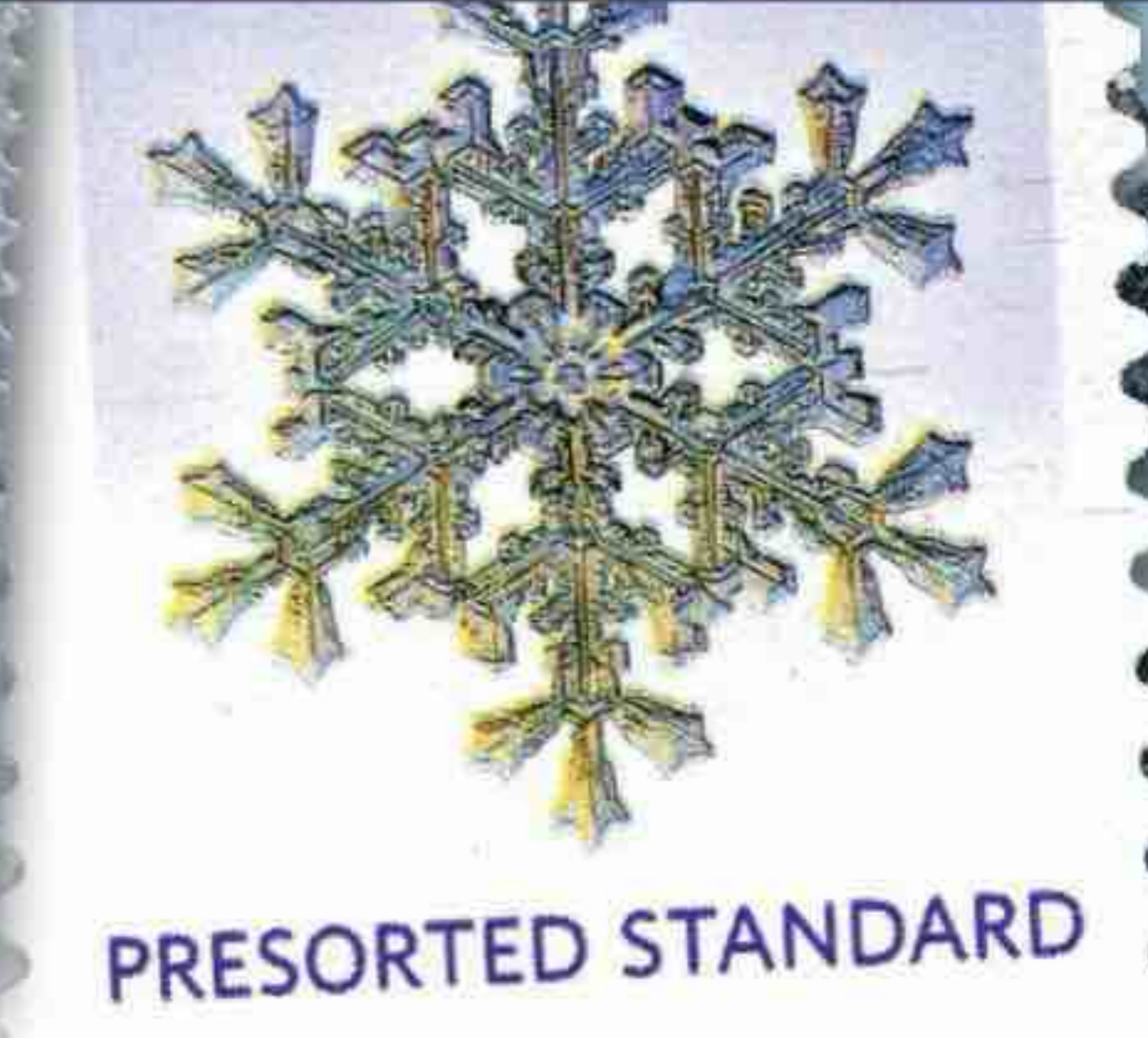
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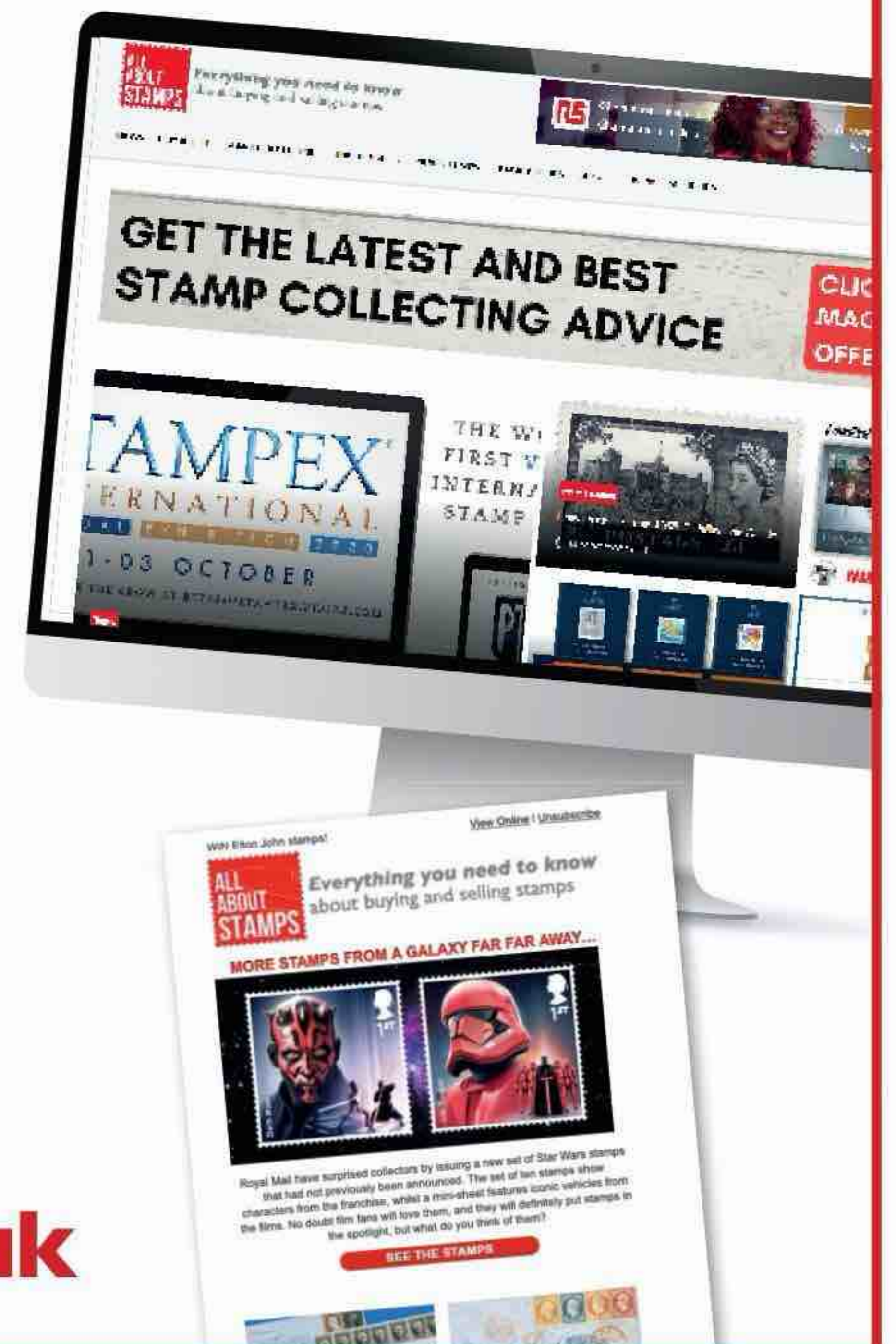


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## A-Z THEMATICS

# Searching for perfection

Is there such a thing as the perfect stamp? The quintessential example of beauty, quality, or just sheer class? Has any postage stamp ever been declared 'the best', the most admired or desired?

The answer to all of these questions, says Paula Hammond, is yes

Every year, philatelic shows organise popular votes to identify the best stamps in specific categories and the winners of such competitions make a great starting point for a 'perfect' stamp thematic. The International NexoFil Awards is one such event, rewarding great stamp art and design. Their Best Stamp in the World in 2020 was Norway's Harald Sohlberg, 150th Anniversary commemorative, which featured a scene from his painting of a street in Røros in the winter. Runners up included Peru's Citadel of Machu Picchu and Austria's Crypto stamp (see the news story in *Stamp Collector*, January 2021). Other awards, such as the Premio Internazionale d'Arte Filatelica, offer equally beautiful food for thought when building this thematic.

One of the joys of a theme like this is that someone has already done much of the legwork for you, and competitions like the NexoFil offer up new stamps to include in your thematic every year. However, while it may be fairly simple to gather consensus based on one year's worth of stamp releases, determining the most perfect stamps over 180-odd years of postage

stamp history is much trickier. Fortunately there's no shortage of candidates.

Naturally, every collector has their favourite stamps – and over the years every publication has drawn up their own 'best of' lists – but what one philatelist may love, another might roundly hate. Despite this, there are some stamps that seem to tick everyone's boxes and this small number of quintessentially stamp-y stamps make a wonderful addition to the theme.

Canada's 1929 magnificent Bluenose schooner 50-cents issue has been dubbed Canada's Finest Stamp, and few would disagree. Another good candidate for inclusion in a quintessential thematic is the US's Trans-Mississippi issue. This series of nine stamps were produced to commemorate the Trans-Mississippi International Exposition in 1898. Lauded by collectors across the globe, all are well-loved, but the 1\$ Western Cattle in a Storm is generally regarded as the best of the best.

Britain's 1929 Postal Union Congress stamp, Switzerland's simple but elegant Basel Dove, and China's 1980 Golden Monkey stamp are also consistently voted for as examples of the very best postal issues.

Even here, though, this is a thematic that generates plenty of debate. While China has a long tradition of producing superb postage stamps, the Golden Monkey stamp owes much of its popularity to the fact that it includes the colour red and the number eight, both of which are considered auspicious. But is it as perfect the 1964 Stage Art of Mei Lanfang souvenir sheet? That's only something you can decide.



### Q IS FOR QUINTESSENTIAL

#### Why collect?

- Annual stamp competitions ensure regular additions to the theme.
- Guaranteed to make a beautiful collection.
- Covers the full spectrum of the hobby.
- Generates lots of debate.
- A thematic that offers variety and interest.

#### Notable releases

1845, Switzerland, 2½-rappen Basel Dove. The world's first tri-coloured stamp and a sought-after rarity.  
1898, USA, Trans-Mississippi issue.  
1929, GB, Postal Union Congress £1 stamp.  
1929, Canada, Bluenose schooner 50-cents.  
1964, China, Stage Art of Mei Lanfang souvenir sheet.

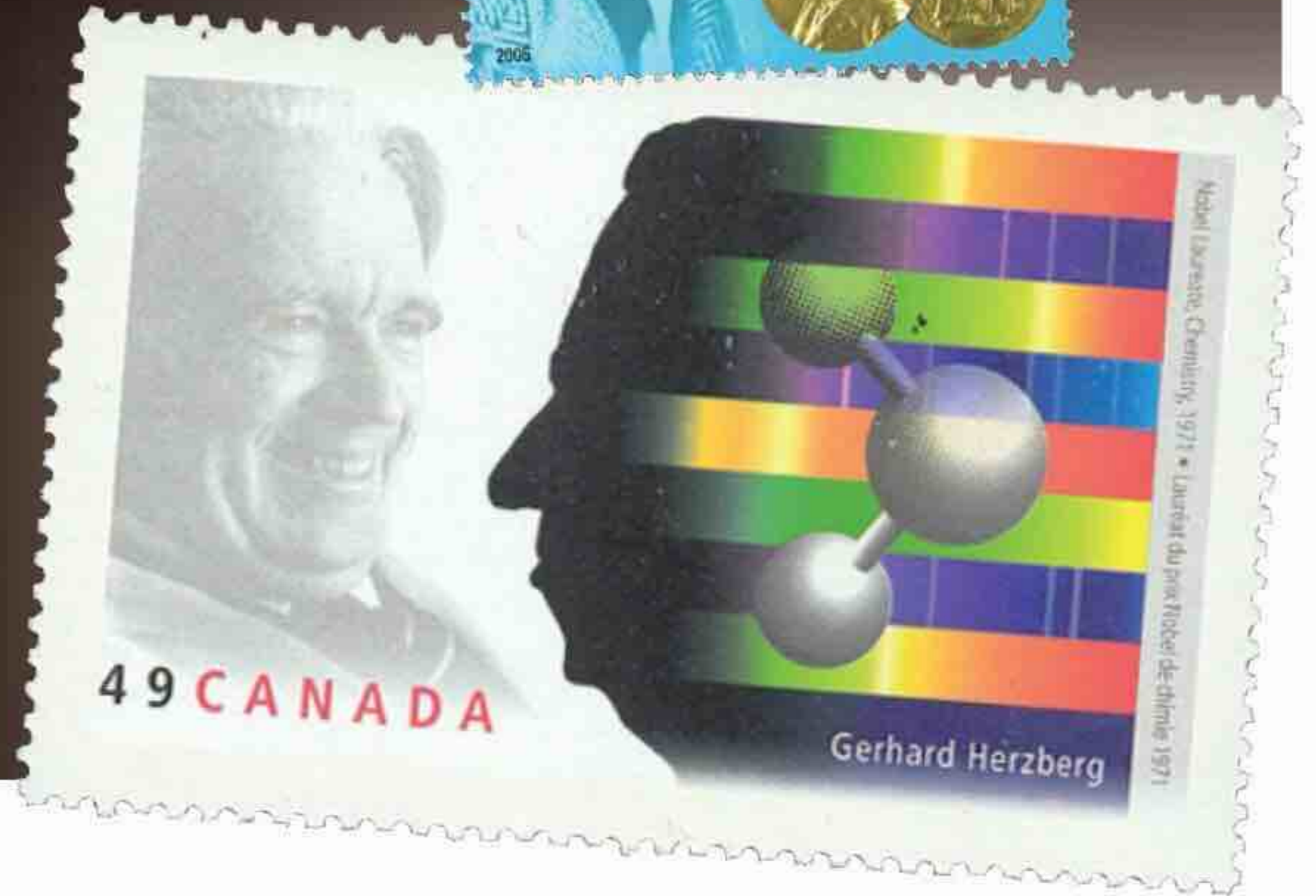
#### Expand the theme

Why not try for a collection of 'Uglies'? Of course it's subjective, but wouldn't it be fun to showcase some not-so-beautiful designs and see if your collector colleagues agree?

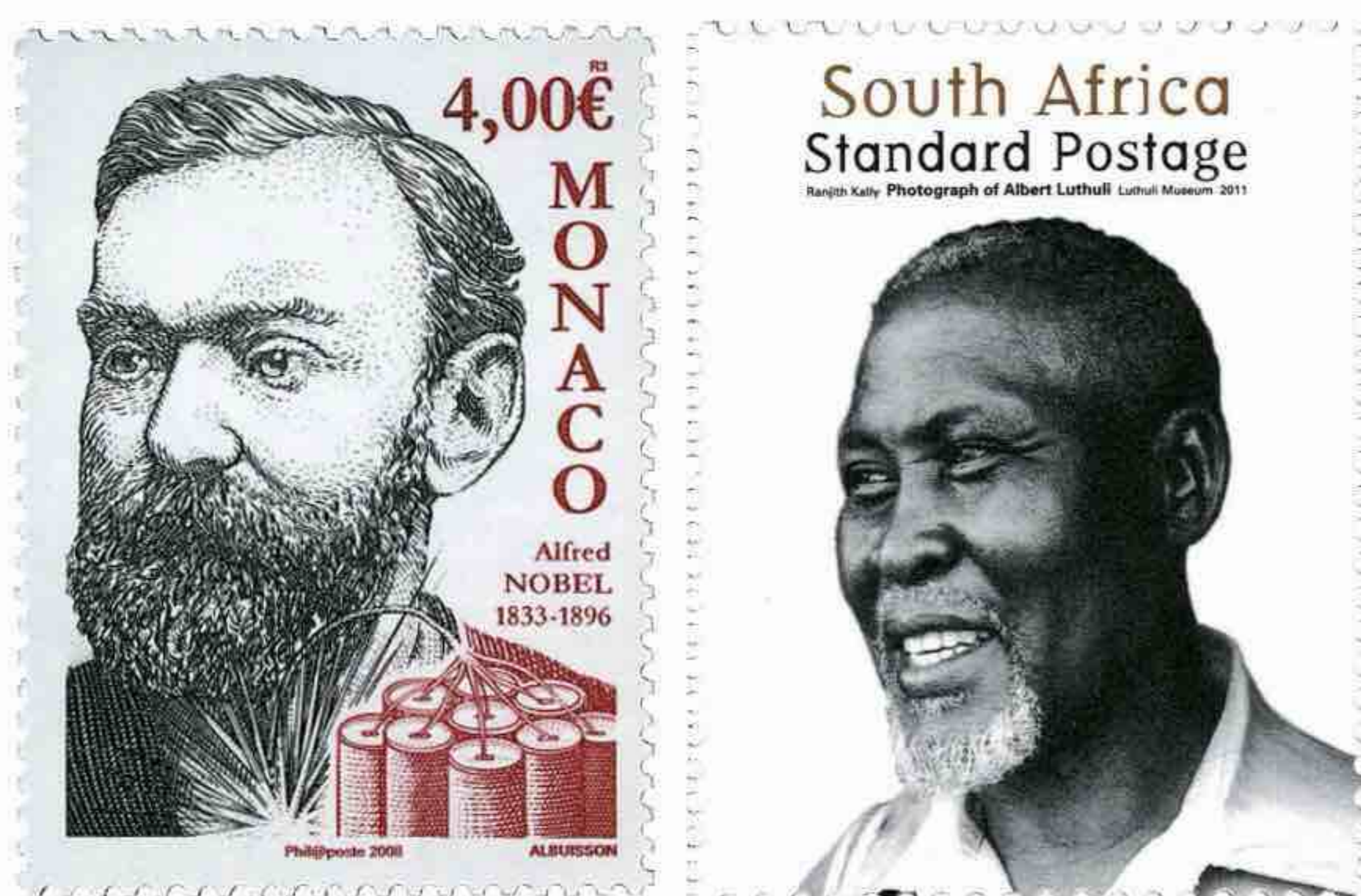
#### Collecting links

Look out for the NexoFil Award announcements in *Stamp Collector* or on the [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) website, which include categories such as the most original format; most innovative; best hand-engraved; best off-set; best mixed printing; best other printing technique; best definitive; best souvenir sheet, and best luxury proof.

# A noble theme



The Nobel Prize is a theme which offers a wide range of interesting and varied subjects including the foundation of the prize, its many recipients, Alfred Nobel himself, and even those who refused it



The Nobel Prize was founded by Swedish-born Alfred B Nobel, an engineer and scientist who devoted much of his life to the development of explosives and scientific inventions (including dynamite) for which he held more than 350 patents. Alfred was born in Stockholm in 1833 and made a fortune during his lifetime through his work as an inventor, engineer and chemist. He lived an unassuming life, despite his huge wealth and towards the end of his life, decided that he would like to ensure that he was remembered for something other than inventing substances such as dynamite. His final will, made a year before his death, established a substantial prize fund which he requested should be given to people and organisations who had conferred the 'greatest benefit on mankind'. In his will, Alfred donated 94% of his assets to establishing the prize. The will caused much controversy at the time, and was contested by Nobel's family, meaning that the prize was not actually established until five years after Alfred's death.

Since 1901, prizes have been awarded in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature

Far left: official portrait of Alfred Nobel by Emil Osterman (© The Nobel Foundation)

and peace, with an economics prize added in 1968. Each winner receives a gold medal, diploma and approximately \$1 million prize money. The prize announcements are made each October, with the prize ceremonies taking place in December in Stockholm (Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize). The Norwegian Parliament, known as the Storting, awards each year's peace prize and the Storting's centenary, in 2005, was celebrated on a Norwegian stamp.

### Nobel Prize stamps

The Nobel Prize has been a popular subject in philately, with more than 175 stamps issued over the years, by around fifteen countries. The anniversaries of the birth and death of Alfred Nobel (1833 and 1896), and the anniversary of the creation of his will (1895) have been celebrated in stamps.

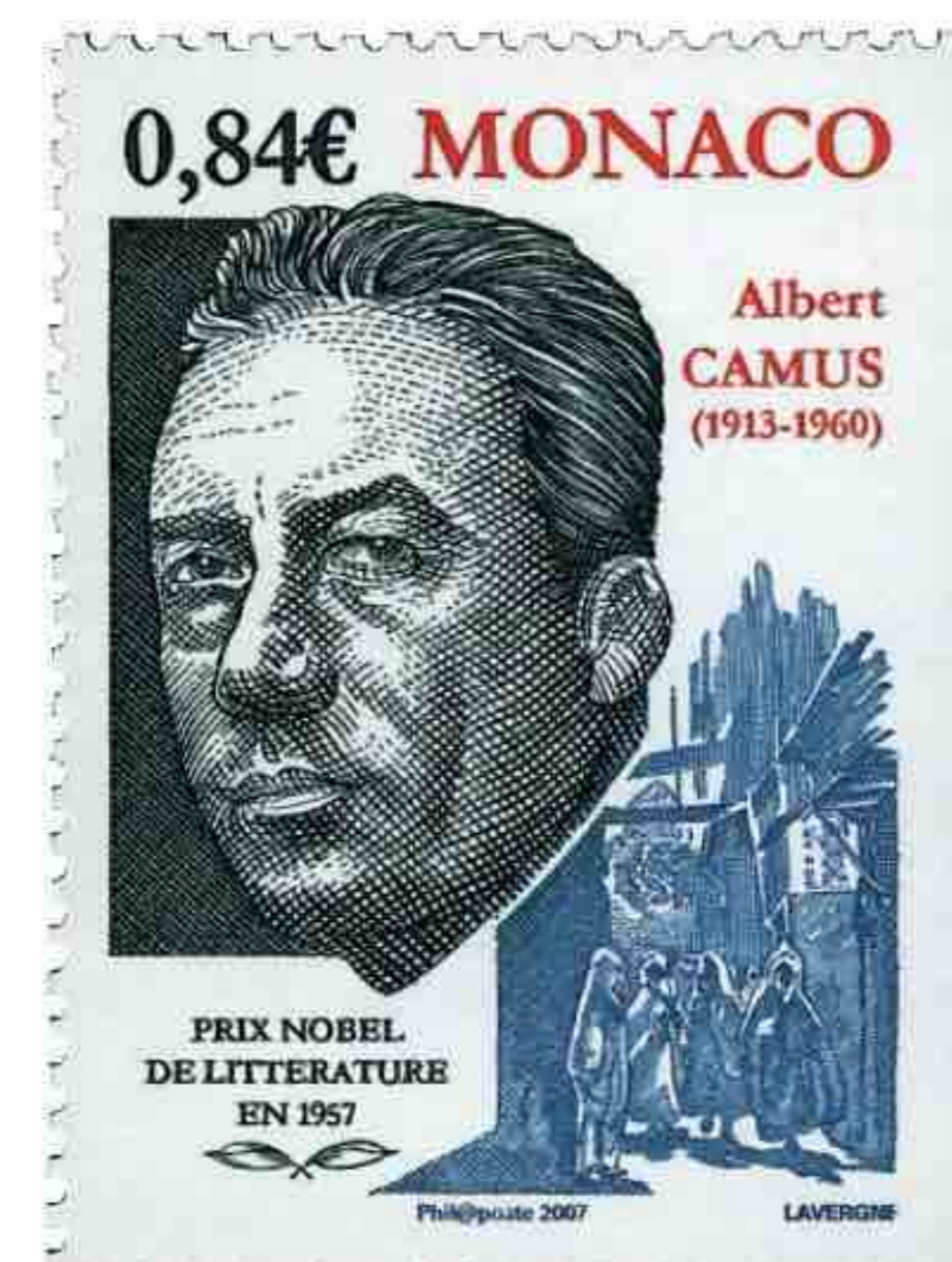
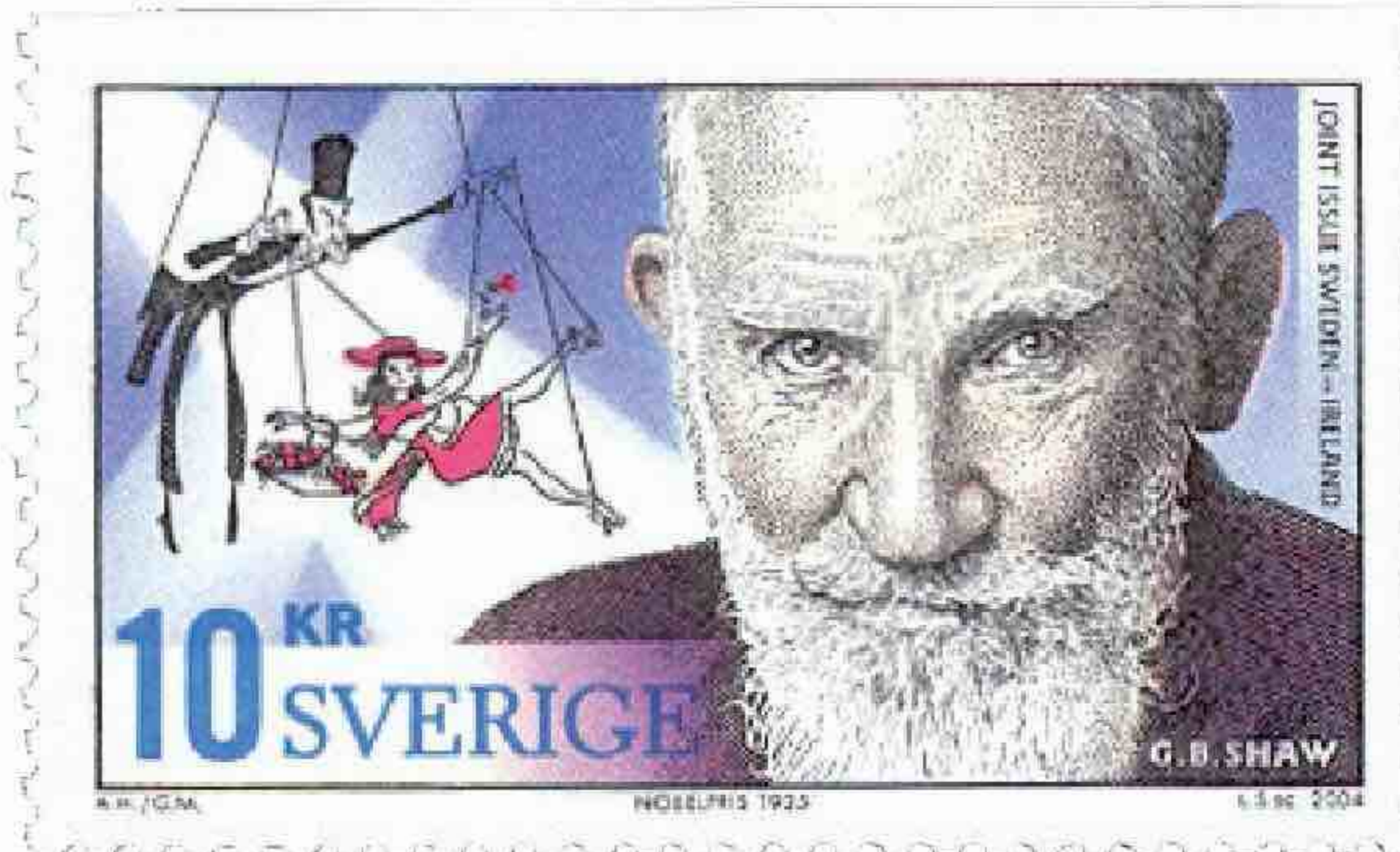
Sweden, which hosts the majority of the Nobel prize giving ceremonies, has been one of the most prolific producers of Nobel-related stamps. The country's first stamps relating to the theme date to the 1920s and feature some of the institutions and buildings associated with the prize. The first official Swedish Nobel stamp was issued in 1924 and shows Stockholm City Hall, where the Nobel Banquet is held. These were followed by sets of stamps which honour each year's winners, which have been issued every year from 1961 onwards – a number of the earlier issues do have plate varieties, allowing a specialist study, while some of the booklets of stamps also demand higher prices and in-depth analysis. Sir Ronald Ross, a Briton who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902 for his work on malaria is one of many scientists



who have been featured on Sweden's stamps over the years. Ross has also appeared on stamps from India (in 2007, the centenary of his discovery), the Grenada Grenadines (in 1995) and, more subtly, on the recent 88p value of Britain's Medical Breakthroughs set. It is interesting to note that Ross's appearances on stamps, like many other recipients, are not always on specific Nobel Prize designs, and so a thorough collection on the Nobel theme requires greater research.

Various anniversaries of the prize and of its founder have been celebrated on stamps. A Monaco issue from 1983, for the 150th anniversary, showed a profile of Alfred Nobel. The centennial of the prize, in 2001, was another occasion for which stamps were issued. Sweden Post and the USA joined forces to issue four stamps commemorating the prize. The US stamp comprised a profile of Alfred on a 34 cent stamp, whilst three Swedish values showed the back of different Nobel medals. In the same year Sweden Post issued another two stamps with Peace Prize motifs, representing charities the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, and Royal Mail issued its own centennial stamps. This was a set of six stamps which were billed as Britain's first 'scratch and sniff' stamps. Each value had a different feature, with a scratch and sniff medicine stamp which gave off a eucalyptus scent; a hologram molecule on the physics stamp; a heat-activated electrically-charged





particle representing the chemistry prize; a minuscule T S Eliot poem for the literature stamp; an embossed dove for the peace prize; and an economic science stamp printed by the intaglio printing process.

**Nobel Prize winners on stamps**

One of the first candidates to be awarded a Nobel Prize was Henry Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross. He and Frederic Passy, co-founder of the International Parliamentary Movement, received the first Nobel Peace prizes in 1901. Dunant has featured on stamps from Belgium, Sweden, India, Norway and his native Switzerland.

Although the majority of Nobel Prizes are awarded to individuals, on occasion, couples have been nominated for a prize. In 1902, Marie Curie and her husband Pierre were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics ‘in recognition of the extraordinary services they have rendered by their joint researches on the radiation phenomenon discovered by Prof Henri Bequerel’ (Bequerel appears on Swedish stamps). Marie was awarded a second Nobel Prize in 1911, for services to the advancement of Chemistry. She was featured on a Polish stamp which recognised her achievements

in winning the Nobel Prize, and has also appeared on numerous stamps which focus on her achievements rather than the award. Members of the Curie family have received more Nobel Prizes than any other family, with a total of five prizes. Irene Joliot-Curie, the daughter of Marie and Pierre received the chemistry prize in 1935 with her husband Frederic, and the husband of Marie’s second daughter Henry Labouisse was the director of UNICEF when it received the Peace Prize in 1965.

One of the best-known personalities to be awarded the Nobel Prize was Albert Einstein who received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 for ‘his service to theoretical physics and especially for the his discovery of the ‘Law of the Photoelectric Effect’. He was depicted on a 2005 issue from Ireland, which showed a photograph of the scientist overlaid with an image of his famous equation ( $e=mc^2$ ). Einstein shared the prize with Neils Bohr of Denmark; who also appears on a Danish stamp.

President Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He received the recognition in 1906 for his work on several peace treaties, particularly between Russia and Japan. Roosevelt’s portrait appears

on many US stamps, together with a stamp depicting Sagamore Hill, his favourite residence.

Many of the prize-winners have featured on stamps issued by several different countries. Robert Koch, a German scientist has featured on stamps from his native Germany, as well as stamps issued by Turkey, Zaire, Tchad, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland. Another example is Italian-born Guglielmo Macaroni, who was awarded the Nobel Physics Prize in 1909 for the development of wireless telegraphy. He is featured on stamps from Italy, Turkey, San Marino, Great Britain, Sweden and Rwanda.

The Nobel Prize also has an arts element, with the awarding of the Nobel Prize for literature, another topic for a theme within the Nobel Prize category. Ireland’s George Bernard Shaw received the Literature Prize in 1925 and has been honoured on Irish stamps on three occasions, including a 2004 set which also featured W Yeats, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney.

The Nobel Prizes can be awarded to groups as well as individuals, with both the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent having been awarded the prize. A Pakistan cover was produced to celebrate the centenary of the committee.

**Overlooked Nobel Prize candidates**

Collecting stamps relating to candidates who should have been nominated for a Nobel Prize is obviously a subjective process, which will vary from collector to collector. However, there are a number of people whose absence from the prize nominations have caused comment at the time. Mahatma Gandhi was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize at least three times, the final time just a few days



A Nobel Prize collection doesn't need to focus solely on the winners. Great Britain's set of six, issued in October 2001 to mark the centenary of the prize, focussed on the advancements awarded the prize with what was described as being 'the world's most technologically advanced stamp issue'. The 2nd class stamp celebrated 'Carbon 60 Molecule (Chemistry)' with a black background printed in thermochromic ink, which temporarily changed to light grey when exposed to heat, and the centre of the 40p 'Crosses (Physiology of Medicine)' stamp was covered in an eucalyptus scent.

before his assassination in 1948. The prize committee expressed their regret that Gandhi has not been awarded the prize, which can't be awarded posthumously, and it was decided that no other suitable candidates merited the prize that year and so it was not awarded in 1948. When the Dalai Lama was awarded the Peace Prize in 1989, the Nobel Committee Chairman announced that the award was partly a tribute to the work of Gandhi. There are many Gandhi stamps, including four cent and eight cent USA stamps from 1961 which feature Gandhi as a 'champion of liberty'.

Candidates for the literature prize have often been overlooked for political reasons. Writers such as Emile Zola, Marcel Proust, Mark Twain and James Joyce have been featured on stamps, but were not nominated for the Nobel Literature Prize.

Another possible category within this theme is candidates who have been nominated for a prize but subsequently refused it. Jean-Paul Sartre was awarded the Literature prize in 1964, but refused, saying 'A writer must refuse to allow himself to be transformed into an institution, even if it takes place in the most honourable form.' Le Duc Tho,

a Vietnamese politician, was awarded the Peace Prize jointly with Henry Kissinger in 1973, but declined on the grounds that there was no peace in Vietnam at the time. He appears on a Nevis Islands stamp which celebrates the centenary of the Nobel Prize.

Since the first prize-giving ceremony more than 100 years ago, the Nobel Prize has become a renowned award for innovation. With such a glowing reputation it is no surprise that winners of the prize are obvious subjects for philatelic bureaux to use on stamps. Yet the theme offers much more than just the chance to create a philatelic recipient list, with the personalities and their achievements offering many more stamps to pursue and fascinating stories to tell.

One hundred years of 1901

1902 1903 1904  
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65

Economic Sciences  
Nobel Prize 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Chemistry  
Nobel Prize 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Peace  
Nobel Prize 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Physiology or Medicine  
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# Fred and the Loyal Suffolks

This month's cover contained a letter that brought some solace to a wounded soldier in an enemy hospital. Social and philatelic historian Dane Garrod follows the touching story

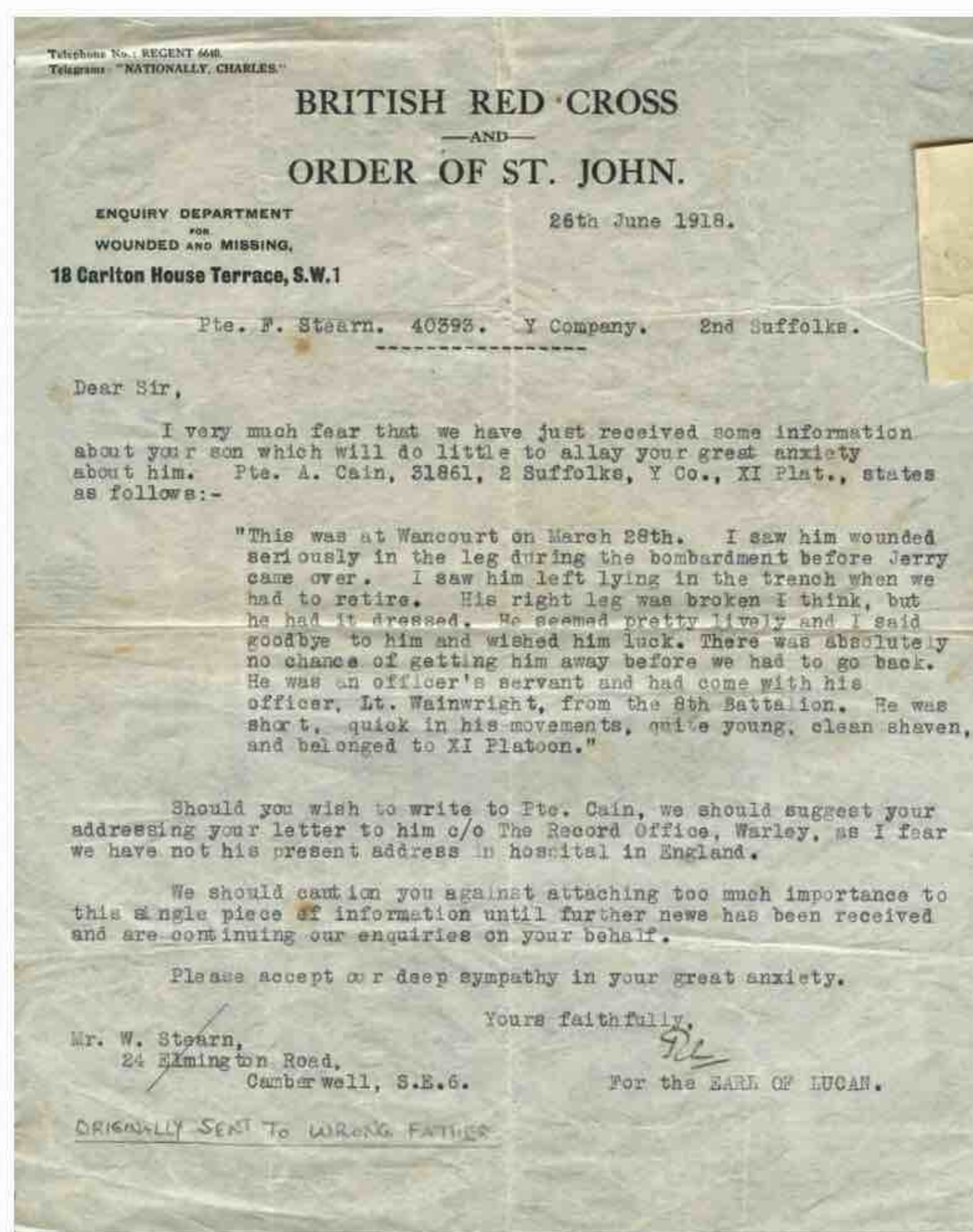
There hadn't been a war like it before and they hoped there would never be another the same.

The call to arms was heard in every town and city, and the poster with Kitchener, British Secretary of State for War, pointing at the viewer and the words 'Your country needs you' is still well known over 100 years later. Many a young man decided that the call was for him to join the many thousands volunteering to join the army or navy.

In the city of Cambridge, a 21-year-old son of a college employee did just that. Frederick Charles Stearn had been working in the city since about 1910, and when the call to arms came, told his employer that he wished to join up. If you did that, he was told, then his job would not be kept open for his return, and it wasn't. Initially placed with the 8th Battalion of The Suffolk Regiment as service number 40393, Fred became an officer's servant, supporting a Lieutenant Cecil Wainwright, transferring with him to the 2nd Battalion. We know this because Fred became a bookbinder after the war, and made for himself a bound book in which he saved many photographs of his colleagues as well as other travel and prison camp documents, one of which is this cover from 1918.

Marked 'Brit Prisoner of War' in the top left hand corner, it received a roller cancellation of 'CAMBERWELL S.E.5 / 11. 15 PM / 23JUN18', and to ensure there were no details that would aid the enemy, the letter was read before transmission. On the reverse is a white label advising 'OPENED BY / CENSOR. / P.W. 150'. So why was it going to the land of the enemy when the end of hostilities was still months away?

The year before this envelope and letter were written, Fred Stearn was on leave for a fortnight from 10 to 24 November 1917, and returned to France for trench warfare via the South Eastern



Red Cross letter with details of capture, and Private Fred Stearn pictured in 1915



and Chatham Railway station at London Victoria and forward berth No.75 on the S.S. *Zeeland*. We know all this because the combined leave and railway ticket, and ship berth card, are both safely within this album, along with much else of his time in France and Germany.

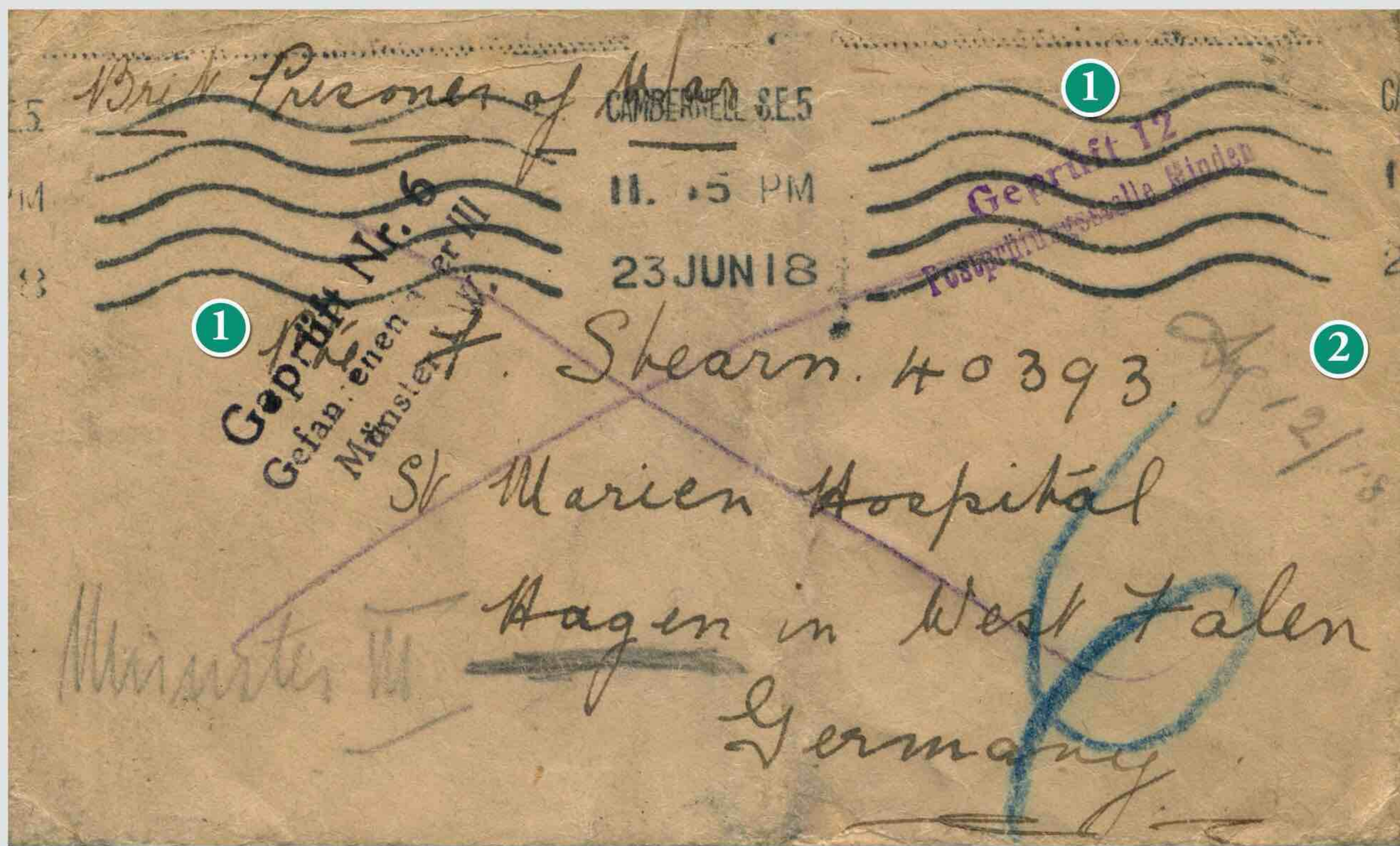
With flak from guns flying around, Fred 'copped it', as they would say, on 8 March 1918 with a serious wound in his right leg, and when the British retired in haste, he had to be left lying in a trench. When captured by the Germans at Wancourt, south-east of Arras, Northern France, he was taken to St. Marien Hospital at Hagen in West Falen, Germany. That's how and where this envelope was addressed to, for him to read the now lost letter while he was recovering from the first operation.

There would be two more operations, a second in Germany and a third in Britain together with a prosthetic leg from just above the knee. Before he was allowed to read it, the Germans read it, and added their censor marks on the front, which

include one at Münster POW Camp III in Westphalia where this wounded soldier was interned in around July 1918. In pencil is written 'Aug 12/18' which suggests the day that Private Fred Stearn finally received the letter. The surviving documents include a trench map of the area he fought in showing all the red trench lines, and a manuscript addition showing where and when he was captured.

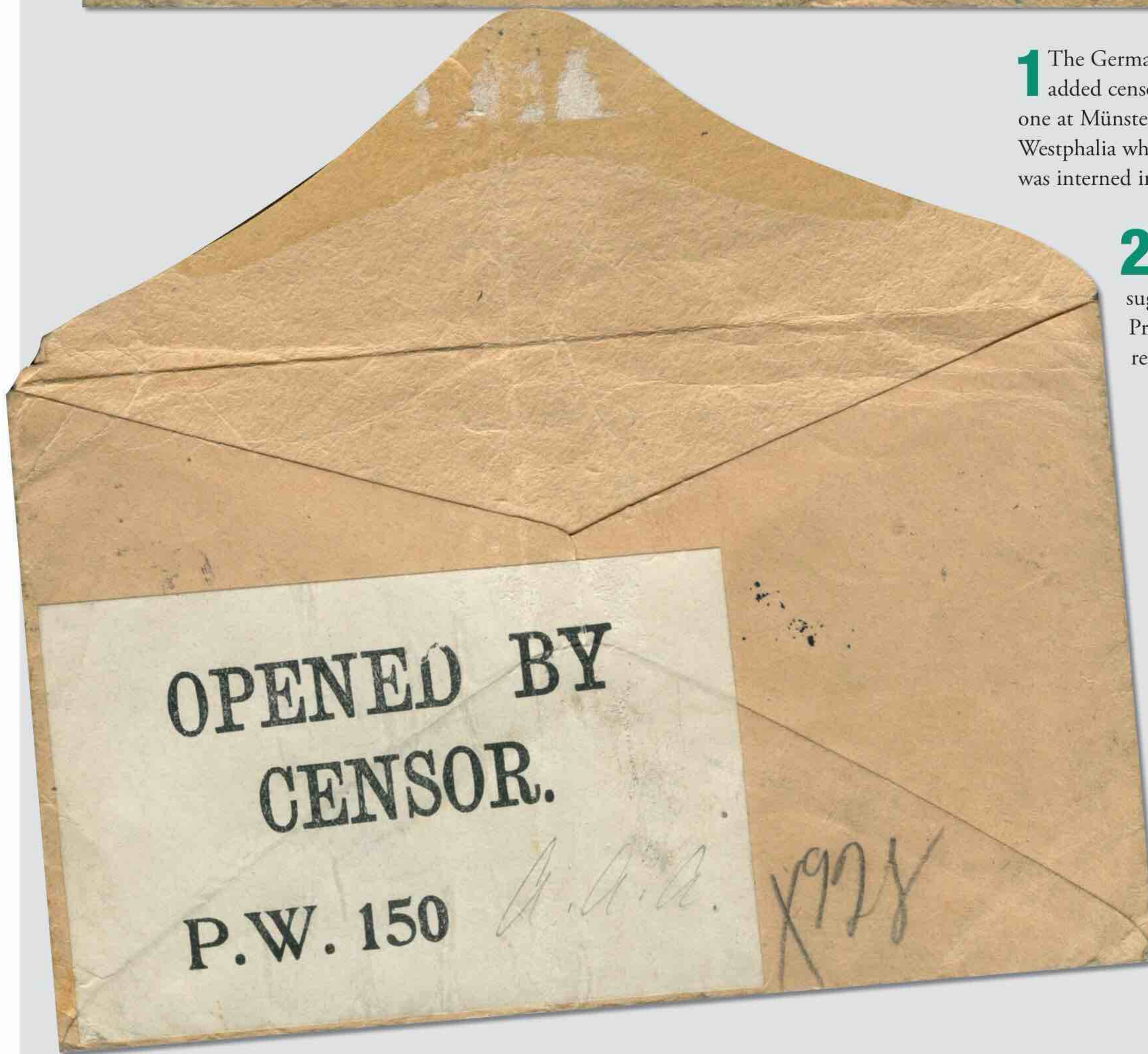
Fortunately an exchange of prisoners took place and he arrived back in 'Blighty' at Boston in Lincolnshire. Written in pencil underneath the envelope addressed to the hospital are the poignant words 'The only letter I received'. Fighting for his country, he was a fortunate man to survive, and never let his injury stop him from a full and happy life, later meeting and marrying a Leicester woman, and having a daughter. A kind man with much humour that a young boy remembers well, he was my grandfather.





**1** The Germans read the letter and added censor marks including one at Münster POW Camp III in Westphalia where the wounded soldier was interned in around July 1918.

**2** In pencil is written 'Aug 12/18' which suggests the day that Private Fred Stearn finally received the letter.



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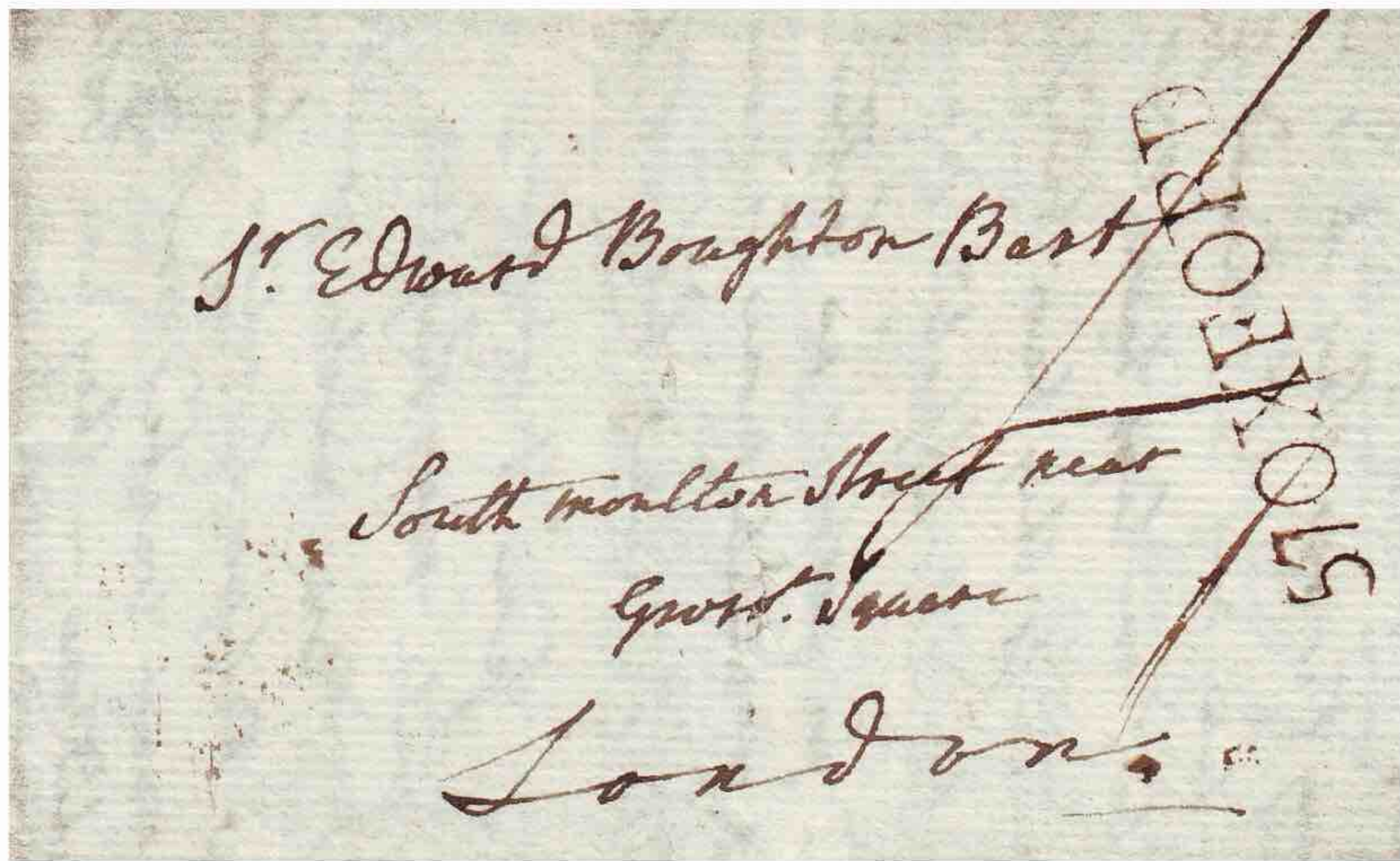
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The 57 Oxford mileage mark used on a letter to London in 1790

**POSTAL HISTORY**

# Oxfordshire

Postal historian John Scott's travels in time and across the country continue in Oxfordshire, a county famous for the university and architecture of the city, but with many other aspects to reflect in the region's postal history and ephemera

**T**he greatest curiosity of this county, besides its University, is the magnificent seat of Blenheim a gift of the British parliament to the great Duke of Marlborough, on account of his signal victory over the French at Blenheim, in Germany'. In these words Pigot's Directory of 1830 introduces the reader to the county of Oxfordshire.

The first postmark recorded from Oxford dates from 1705 but the importance of the city can be judged from the decision of King Charles II to move there from London in 1665 when the plague was raging in London and consequently Oxford was one of the first places to have a cross post, enabling mail to travel from Bristol without passing through London. Sadly the two postmarks inscribed Oxon X used in 1719 and 1720 are



JOHN BAREFOOT.

John Barefoot, Letter Carrier to Oxford University, in a print by John Kay c. 1826



An unused envelope from Hertford College with the imprint 'Spiers & Son, Oxford'

The embossed imprint on the reverse of the envelope (at 500%)

known only in archival sources and so are a challenge to collect. Thereafter there were a multiplicity of straight line marks in a variety of sizes but when mileage marks were introduced first in the late 1780s the distance was placed before the town name instead of below it, which was to become the standard. Two such marks were used in Oxford between 1784 and 1790 but for some reason their use ceased and Oxford reverted to a simple straight line until 1801 when the standard style of mileage mark was introduced which continued until 1829. At that time postmasters were instructed to erase the distance from their stamps on the



grounds of inaccuracy, perhaps resulting from the rapid improvements to the road network by the turnpike trusts.

Oxford itself is renowned for its university and among philatelists for the postal stationery used by some of the Colleges and by the Oxford Union Society. While the universities of Oxford and Cambridge were accorded postal privileges under the reigns of Charles II and Anne, these were not continued by Queen Victoria but a blind eye seems to have been turned to the stamps and stationery used in the 1870s on letter carried by college messengers until their suppression in 1886. The objection was principally to the prepayment element which enabled the public generally to take advantage of this local service but the colleges continued to print their own letter paper and envelopes which are collectible in their own right. The Oxford Union Society was somewhat different in that its members were entitled to free postage and stationery, the control of which was evidenced by overprints and underprints on postage stamps, all of which are highly collectable.

While on the subject of stationery, early envelopes often do their best to hide their secrets from us. Oxford college envelopes for example were sourced from the local stationer, Spiers & Son, whose name can be found blind embossed on the back. The same characteristic is true of many of the first patented envelopes but those with a printed design are much easier to spot. Among the latter group is the 'Oxford Mourning Envelope' which, as the name suggests, has a hatched black bordered design and appears also in blue as 'The Oxford Royal Blue Bordered Envelope' and in carmine. The name can be distinguished only from the embossing on the reverse, along with the diamond design registration mark, but it is questionable whether the design was actually registered or whether the de-vice was intended simply as an imitation to deter rival publishers.

**FURTHER READING**

'The Post Office and the Colleges', Vincent West, London 2004.  
 'The Postal History of the Oxford Union Society to 1920', Vincent West, London 2012.

A lithographed sheet of writing paper depicting Blenheim Palace engraved by W. Willis and published by W. Eccles of Woodstock in 1849



The Oxford Royal Blue Bordered Envelope used from Kidderminster in 1871

The Oxford Carmine Bordered Envelope used from London in 1871



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# The Iron Chancellor?

Otto von Bismarck remains something of a villain in the UK, and yet he has appeared on a number of stamps and is viewed rather differently in Europe. Chris West describes his life and the stamps that recall it

This stamp was issued in 1965, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Otto von Bismarck. In the UK, he remains something of a villain, blamed for the rise of Prussian militarism which led to the First World War. There is some truth in the first part of this, but he had no desire for a pan-European war, which he understood would be disastrous. He opposed the ultra-militarism of 'Kaiser Bill' (Wilhelm II). Shortly before dying, in 1897, he predicted that the Kaiser's policies would lead to war in two decades' time – and that the spark for that war would be 'some damned foolish thing in the Balkans'.

was more concerned with conflicts within the new country. A strict Lutheran, Bismarck moved against the powerful Catholic church in a very modern way – via 'culture wars'. His 'Kulturkampf' was astonishingly intolerant, with Jesuits being banned from Germany and Catholic states being the subject of diplomatic manoeuvring. It is typical of Bismarck, however, that a decade after the launch of this campaign, he started courting conservative Catholics in a struggle against new inner enemies, Liberals and Socialists. As part of this second struggle, he set up the first modern welfare state – more to outflank his new opponents rather than out of deep concern for the welfare of the poor.



*This stamp shows an austere and cold man and contemporary accounts bear this out*

Bismarck was born into a 'Junker' (landowning) family in Eastern Germany. He trained as a lawyer, did a short spell of military service, then went into politics. Initially sceptical about the idea of a united Germany, he came round to the idea. In 1862 he became Prime Minister of Prussia and set about making this happen. Germany was at that time a patchwork of states; many small ones plus the big beasts, Prussia and Austria. Through diplomacy and, when this failed, war, he achieved his end in 1871 – with Austria squeezed out and Prussia in charge.

It was this era that gave Bismarck his war-monger reputation. Having achieved his goal, he then set his face against further conflict. He

This stamp shows an austere and cold man. Contemporary accounts bear this out. He could be charming when required, but was manipulative and a bully. However, with his perpetual diplomatic wheeling and dealing he kept Europe a peaceful place for nearly two decades after 1871. His nickname, 'the Iron Chancellor', is in many ways undeserved. He was above all a pragmatist, regularly changing allegiances to suit tactical needs.

His fall came with the death of the old Emperor, Wilhelm I. Bismarck liked power, but never sought to usurp the role of the monarch. When Wilhelm's ambitious, unbalanced grandson Wilhelm II took over, a new mood of militarism seized

This stamp shows a portrait of Bismarck, reflecting West Germany's growing confidence in the latter half of the 1960s

Germany and the diplomatic, anti-war Bismarck was kicked out of office, dying shortly afterwards.

The old statesman's name lives on. He had a battleship called after him, built by a regime he would never have approved of, which was famously sunk in 1941, giving rise in 1960 to a movie and a hit country song. The capital of the US state of North Dakota bears his name – it was so named, in 1873, in the hope that it would attract German immigrants to the area (gold was discovered in the state two years later, making shortage of immigrants no longer an issue). He is regularly cited in the blogs of former Number 10 adviser Dominic Cummings. And, of course, he has featured on stamps. This 1965 one was a mark of the growing confidence of the West German republic at that time: previous Bundespost issues had steered clear of anyone with such a martial reputation.

Chris West is the author of *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and *Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album*

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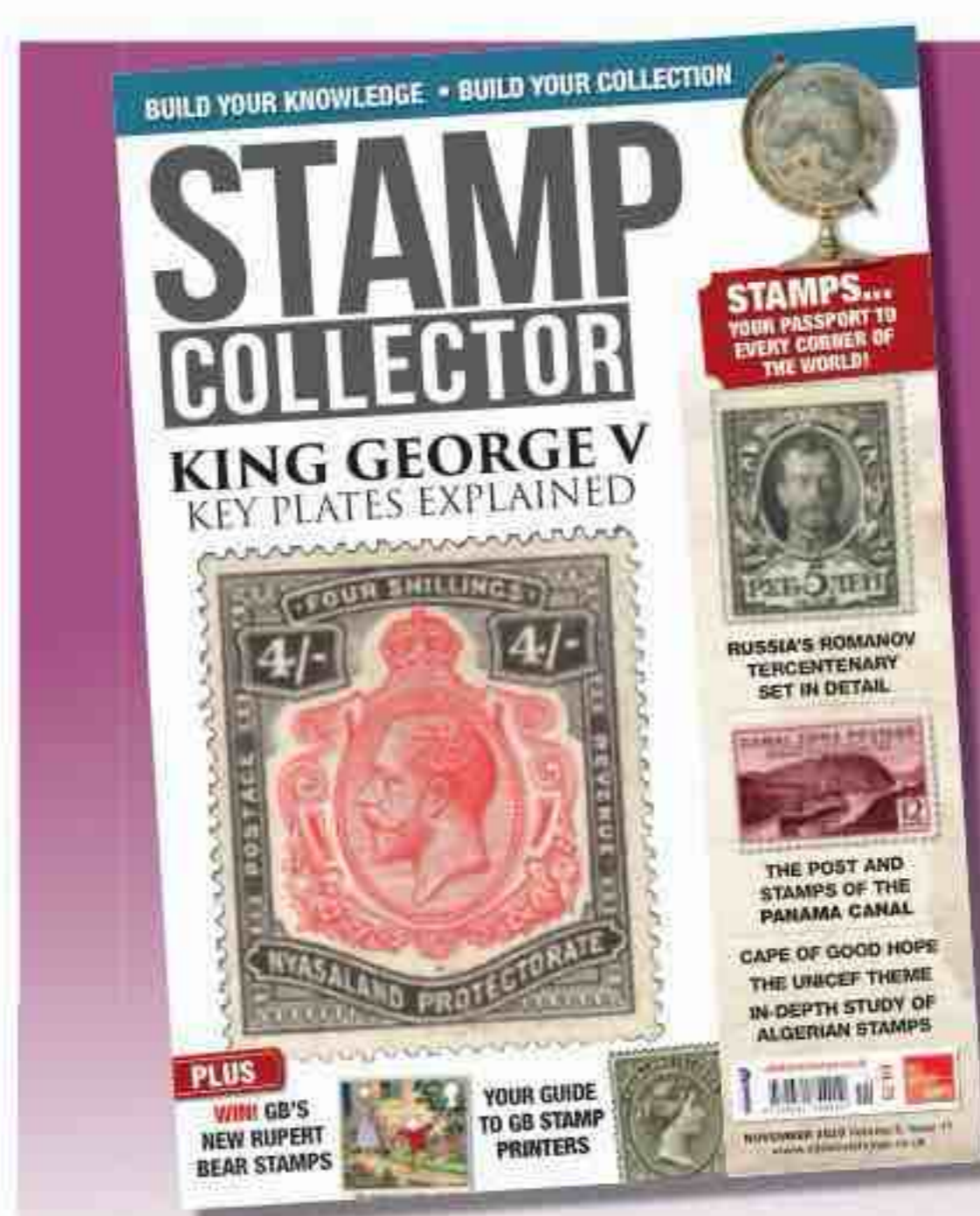
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**PS:** What is a 'B – Blank'? **Answer:** GB SG12a 1d. red-brown error. No letter "A" in right lower corner (Stamp B (A), plate 77) SG Catalogue value £26,000 = Very few exist.

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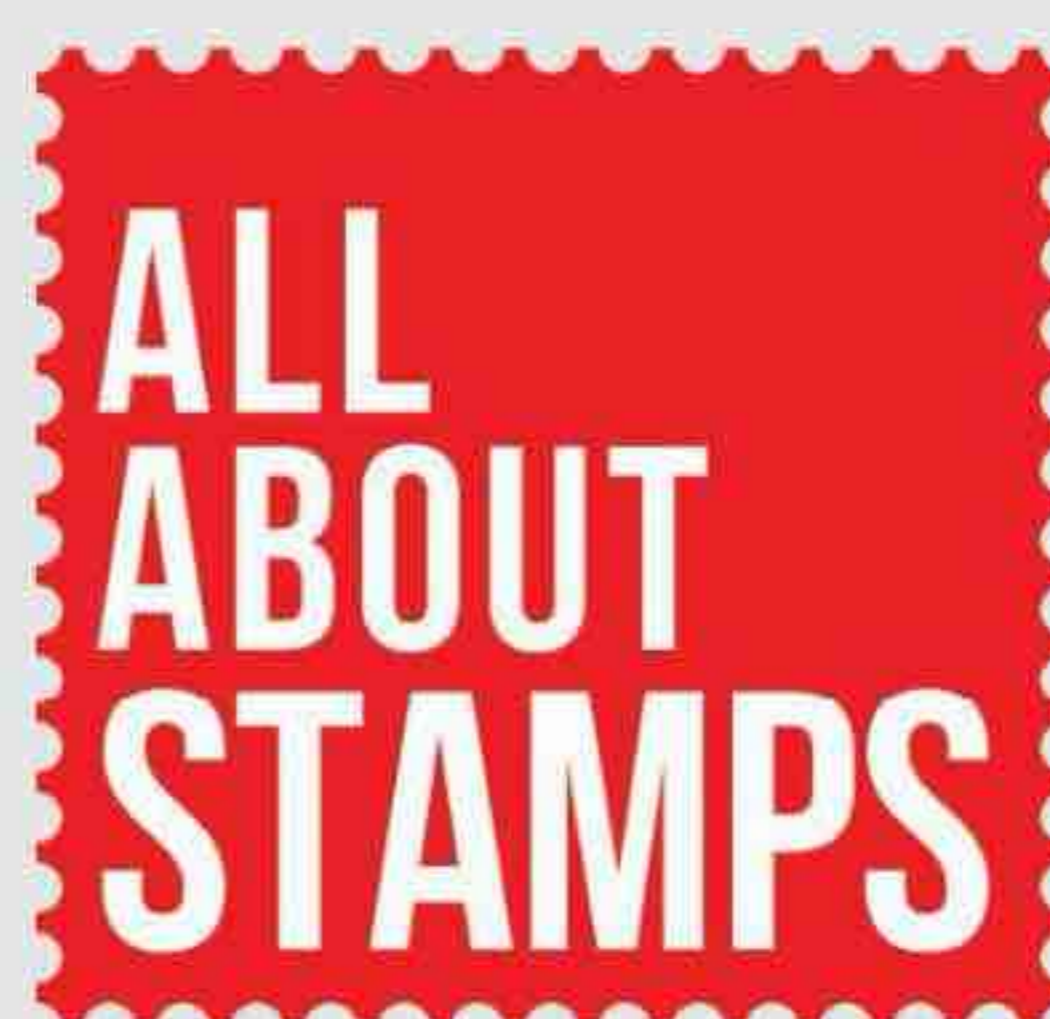
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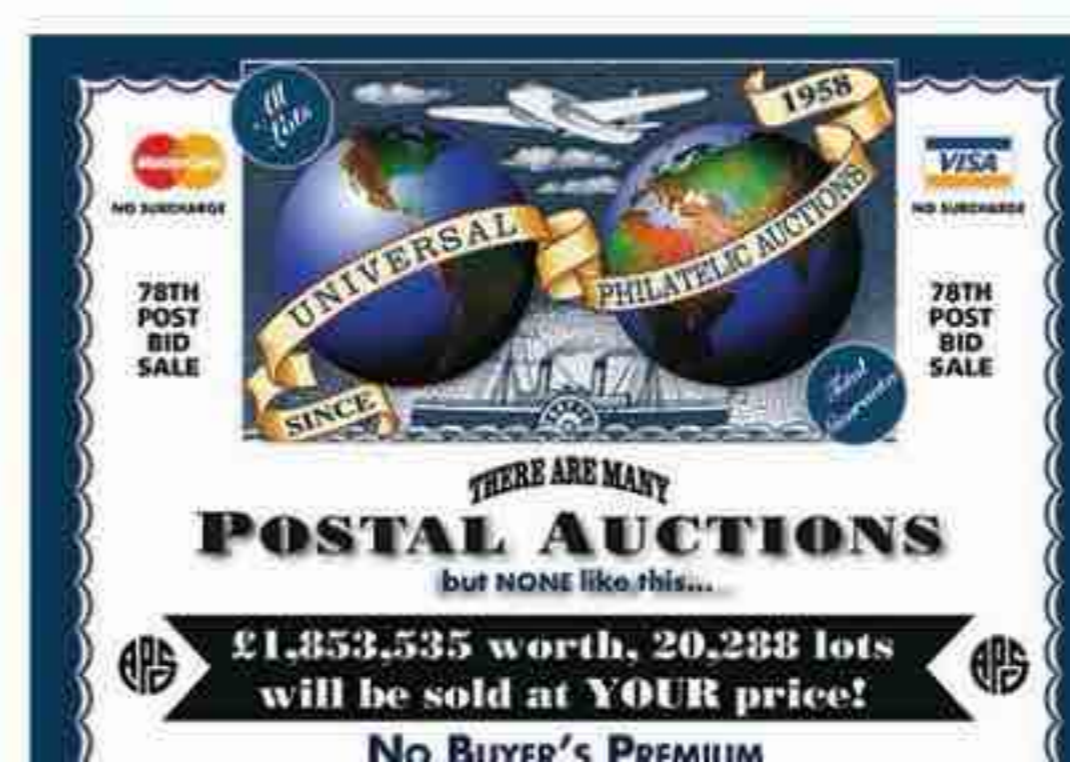
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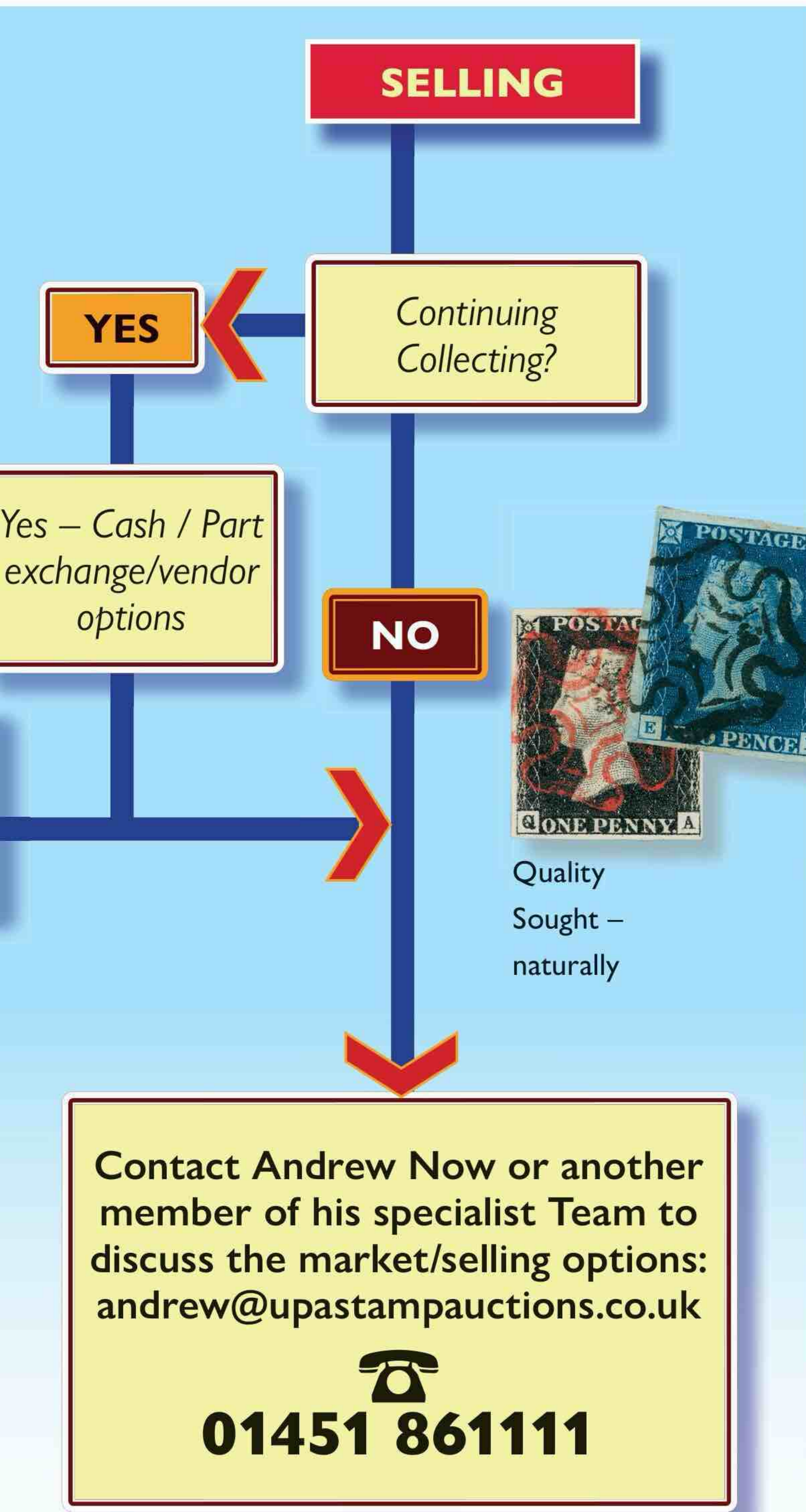
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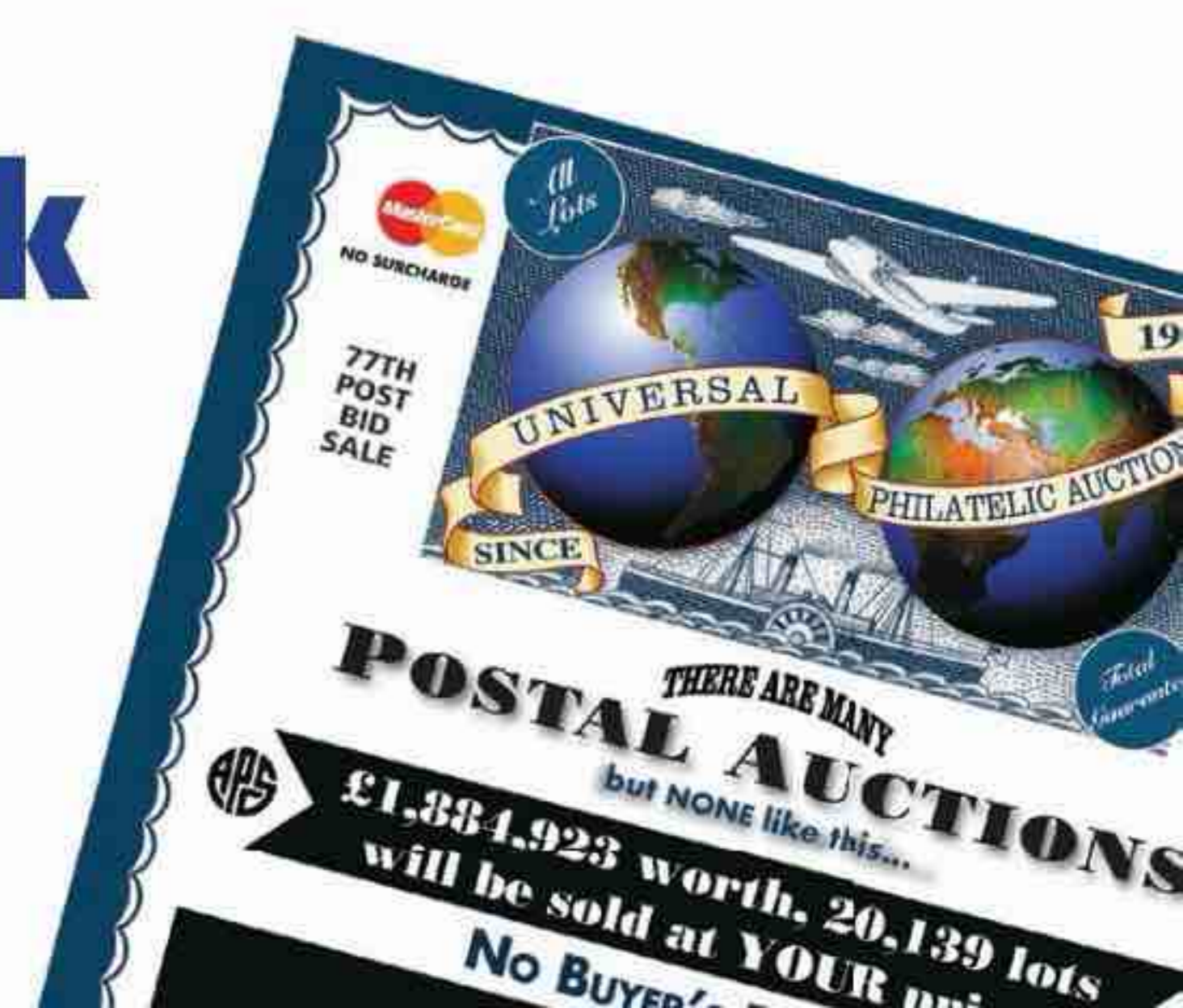
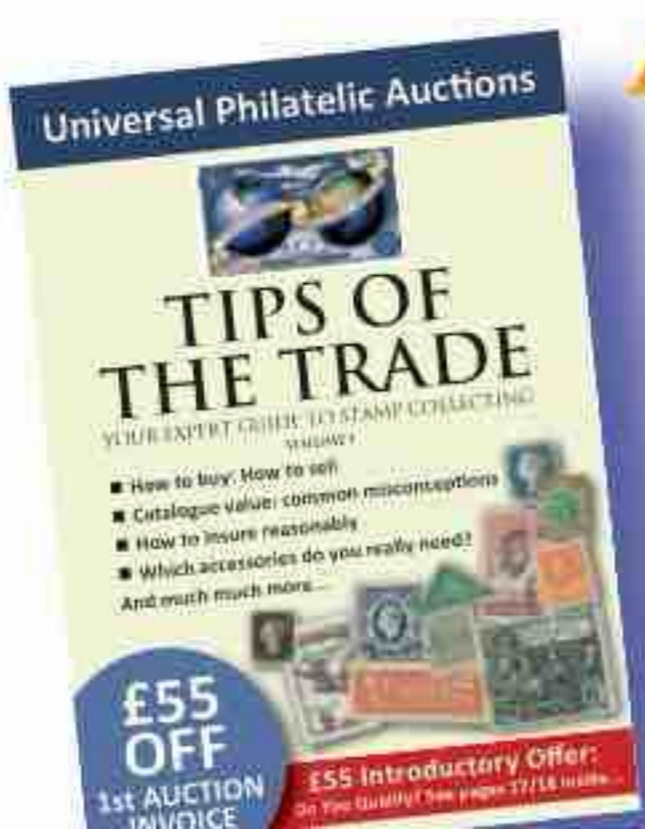
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# COIN COLLECTOR

ISSUE TEN  
SPRING 2021  
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(see page 6)

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# Welcome

How often do you reflect on the history in your coin collection? Each piece not only gives us an account of what happened all those years ago, but is a tangible relic of that time. There are few other hobbies that can offer so much, and many people take this history for granted at times – it's up to we collectors to help preserve our past.

The Royal Mint, for example, has a history stretching back over 1,000 years and we regularly explore this in *Coin Collector*. On page 24 we take a look at the more recent history of the national institution, in an exclusive photo guide courtesy of the Royal Mint Museum. It's fascinating to see the production of coins captured on film, and the images of employees adds a social aspect to this snippet of history.

Our travels back in time take us to many different periods in this issue. Staying in the modern era we examine school attendance tokens (page 51), which provide another glimpse into British social history; these days my kids get a % attendance score sent by email at the end of term, not quite the same as a beautifully made medal to cherish for the rest of their lives, still I'm sure the teachers are a little less strict these days, so they shouldn't complain!

Of course, our hobby lets us go much further back in time too, and we also cover the Commonwealth of England and the Gallic Empire in this issue, two short-lived regimes that gave us more stories and coins to collect and study.

Isn't it good to have a network of experts, curators, and authors to call upon when we have a question about this vast numismatic history or when we need inspiration for our next collection? That's what we aim to bring you with every issue of *Coin Collector* and with the articles and updates at [www.allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk). If you have a particular subject you'd like us to cover just let me know, and we'll continue to time travel together!



**Matt Hill**  
Editor

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

## Writing in this issue



**Jonathan Callaway**

Jonathan Callaway is a retired banker who has researched, studied and collected paper money for over thirty years. He is the co-author of catalogues and histories of the paper money issues of Ireland and Scotland and is a Director of the International Bank Note Society. Jonathan's latest banknotes guide is on page 46.



**Murray Andrews**

Dr Murray Andrews holds a PhD from the Institute of Archaeology, UCL. He specialises in the archaeology of the medieval economy, with a particular focus on the material culture of money. He currently works as a freelance numismatic specialist for archaeological units. Read Murray's latest piece on page 32.



**Mike Roberts**

A lifelong numismatist, solicitor Mike Roberts has developed a specialist will writing and estate administration service for coin collectors. He has lectured on the subject on numerous occasions to Numismatic Societies throughout England and Wales. Mike writes our latest guide to collecting tokens on page 50.

## Coin Collector Editorial Board

**Jonathan Callaway** is a Director of the International Bank Note Society

**Jeff Garrett** US coin dealer and board member of the Smithsonian Museum of American History

**Jonathan Mann** Numismatist and coin expert, British coinage specialist

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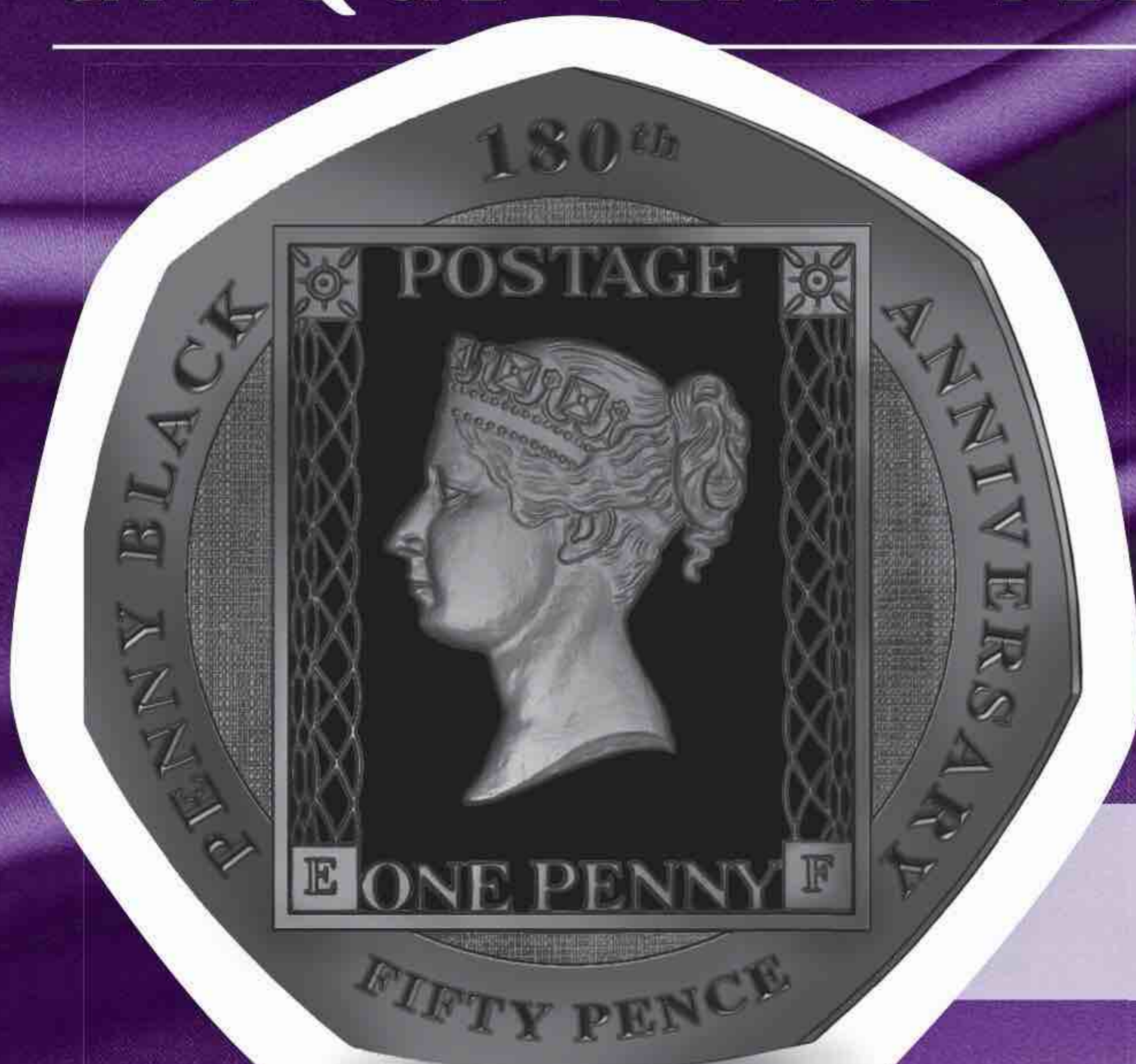
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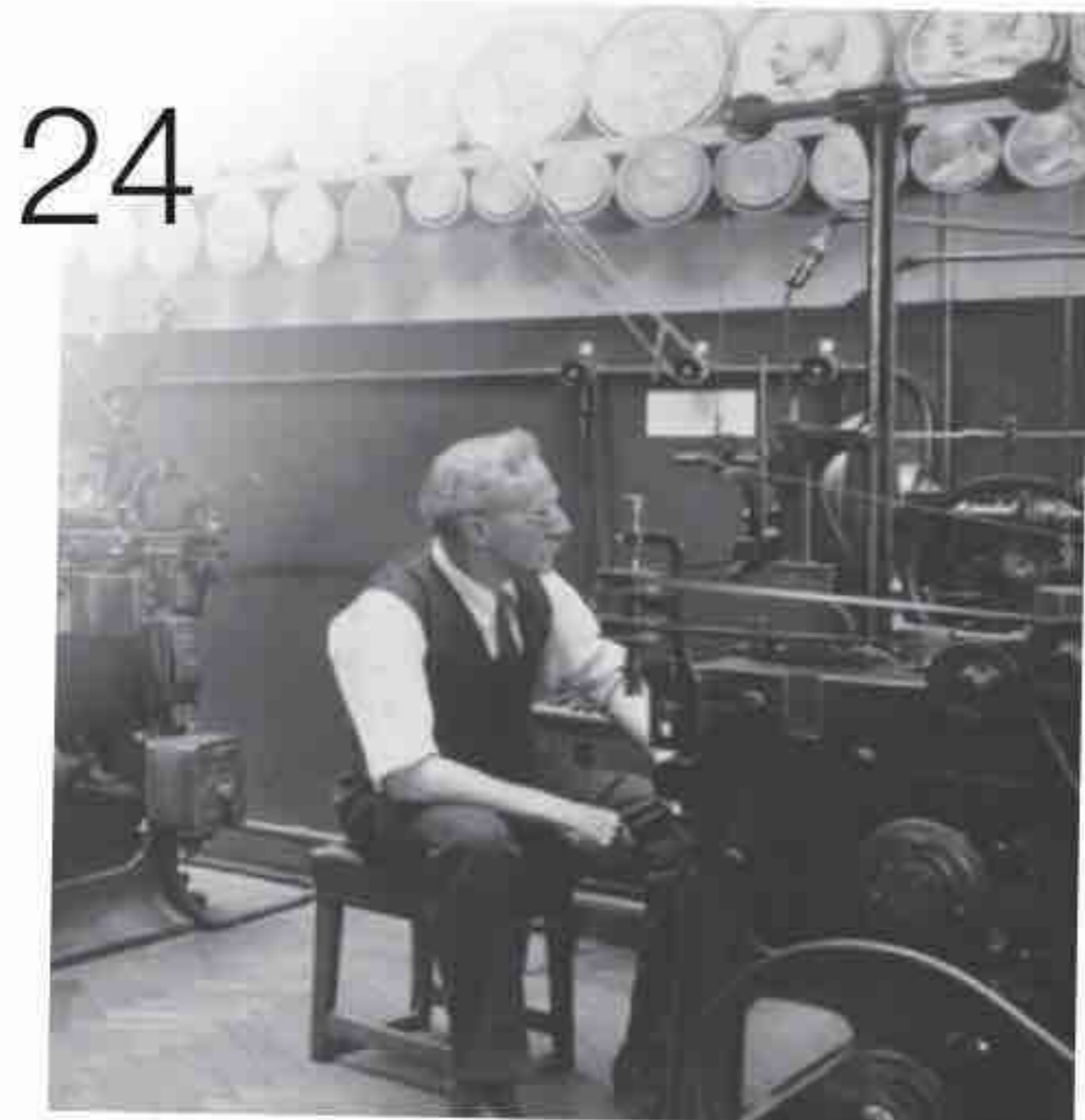
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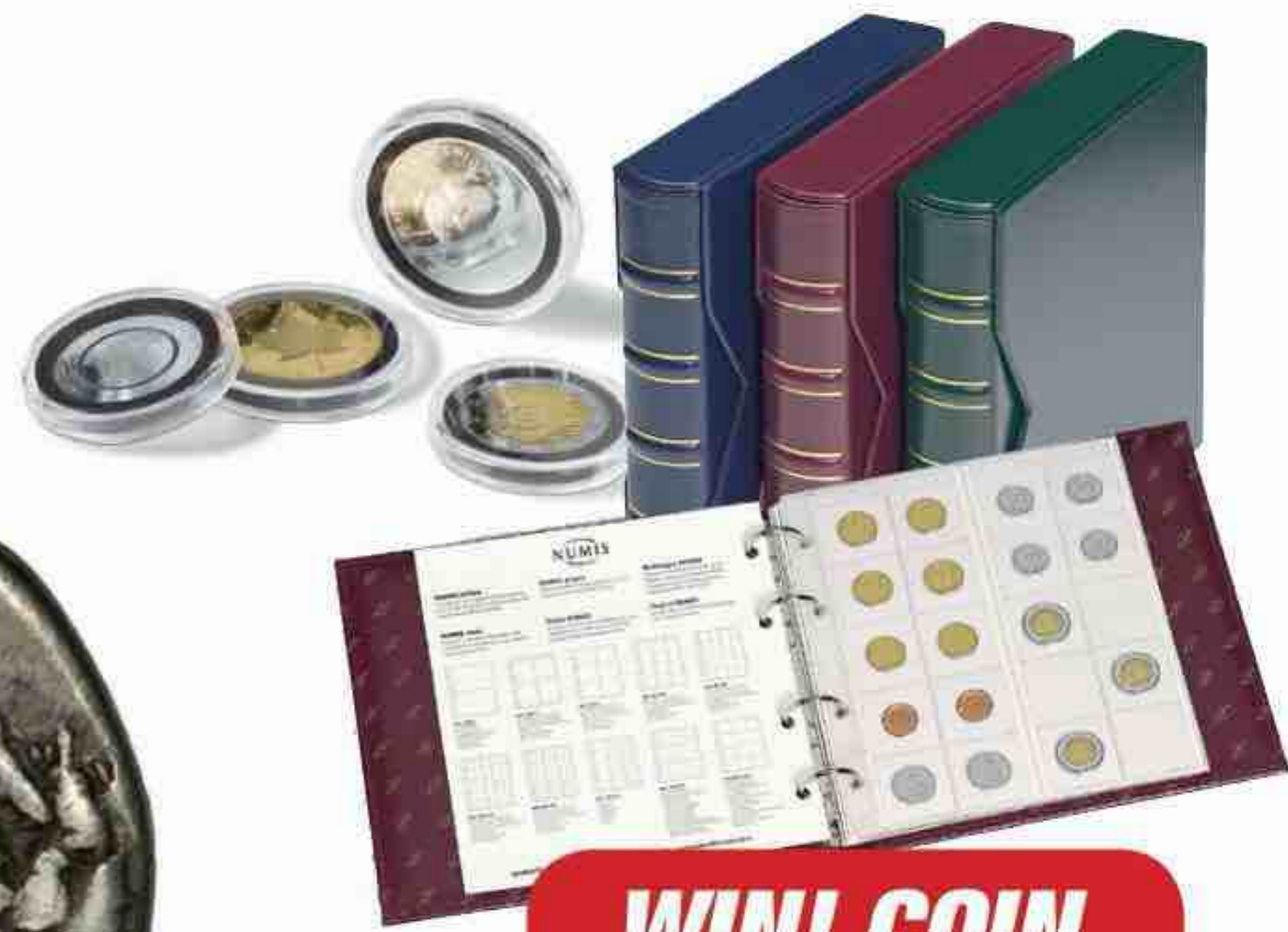


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Worth £40! See page 64 for details

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Mike Roberts continues his guide to collecting tokens with a look at the special tokens given to school pupils with impeccable attendance records

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In Germany they were known as rechenpfennig. The Dutch called them worpghelt. But to most collectors they're just jetons. Paula Hammond takes a look at the intriguing tokens whose history is told in the very name they carry

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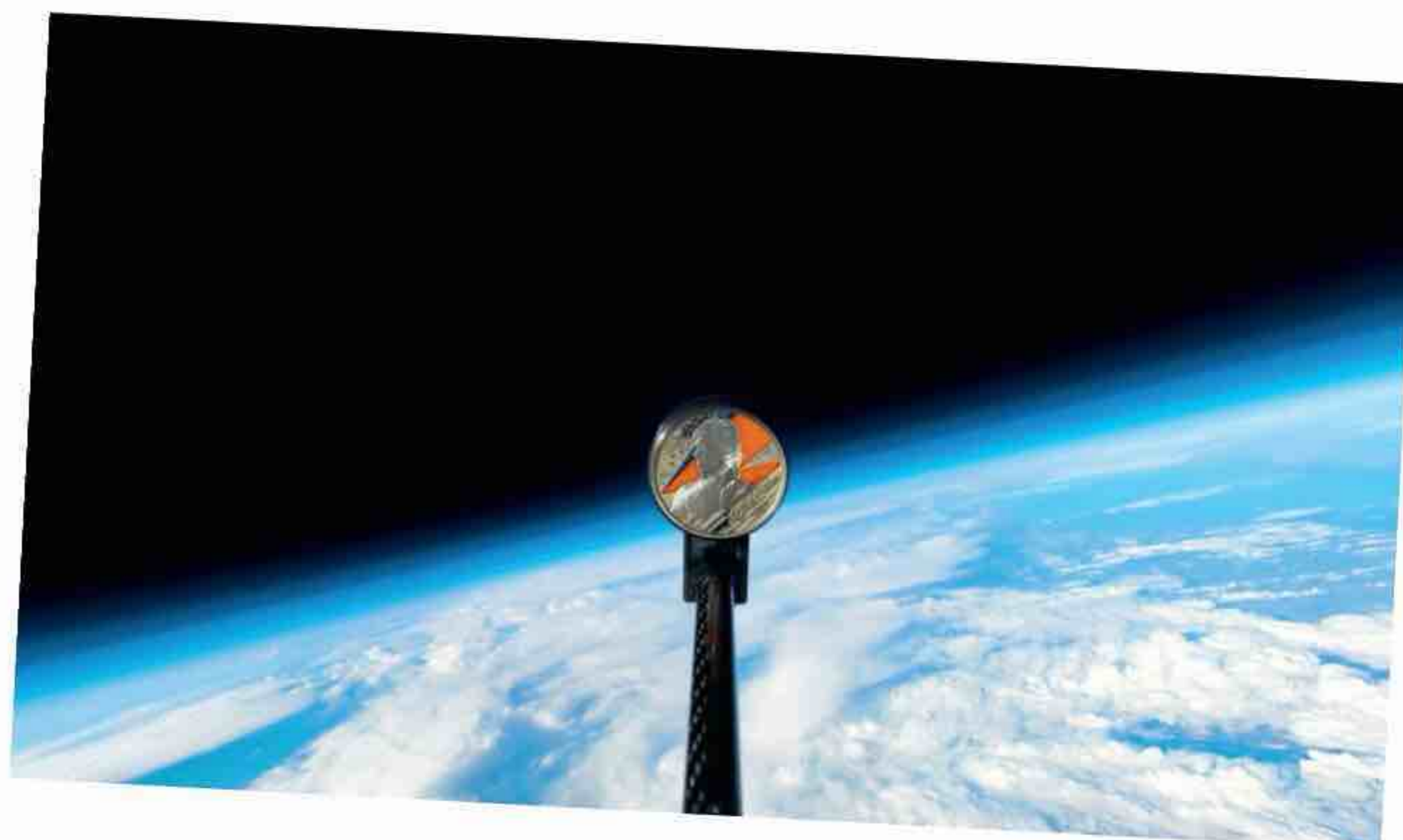
## DAVID BOWIE COIN SENT INTO SPACE

The Royal Mint recently issued a new commemorative £5 coin, celebrating the career of musical icon David Bowie, and sent an example of the new coin into space and back to celebrate the launch.

According to The Royal Mint, it is the first time that a UK coin has been sent into space, and celebrates the intergalactic legacy of David Bowie and his hits including Starman, 'Life on Mars?' and 'Space Oddity'. The coin reached 35,656m and orbited the Earth's atmosphere for 45 minutes before safely descending back to Britain.

The David Bowie commemorative coin is the third in The Royal Mint's 'Music Legends' collection, and follows coins in honour of Queen and Elton John. The latest coin celebrates

rock's definitive 'chameleon' with a design inspired by an image of David Bowie from his time spent living and recording in Berlin. The coin's design includes the iconic lightning bolt motif from the *Aladdin Sane* album, and the coin uses the latest technology and manufacturing techniques. The lightning bolt that



features on a number of the special edition coins appears laced with stardust to create a glitter effect

Clare MacLennan, Divisional Director of Commemorative Coin at The Royal Mint said: 'We are thrilled to unveil the third coin in The Royal Mint's Music Legends series, honouring the intergalactic legacy and career of David Bowie. In recognition of Bowie's first hit single 'Space Oddity', we felt it was fitting to send his coin into space and celebrate the Starman in his own pioneering fashion.'

'David Bowie's music has inspired and influenced generations of musicians and we hope this commemorative coin will be cherished by fans around the world.'

## COIN SOLD FOR 5 CENTS GOES ON TO FETCH \$43,000

A San Francisco collector who sold his large coin collection to a dealer for around 5 cents per coin, has been told that one of the pieces in the collection was worth an estimated \$40,000, with the honest dealer returning the rarity to its owner.

Over the past fifty years, the San Francisco collector accumulated thousands of Lincoln Cents from change, friends and by searching rolls. He never found anything of note, and ended up selling the whole collection for a few hundred dollars, equalling about 5 cents per coin.

The dealer who purchased the coins eventually sorted through the collection and, to his surprise, discovered an uncirculated 1969-S Lincoln Cent which turned out to be the very scarce Doubled Die variety, of which less than 100 coins are known in all grades.

The dealer kindly called the collector who sold him the collection, and arranged to return the coin to him. Although he never told the collector the estimated value, he made him aware that the coin was very valuable, and certainly should not be sold before it could be professionally graded and authenticated.

US auction house GreatCollections recently offered the coin in their December sale. Speaking before the sale Ian Russell, president of GreatCollections said: 'Although there are many reproductions and even genuine coins with inconsequential machine doubling, we knew instantly the coin was the major doubled die and genuine, and arranged for the coin to be graded by PCGS. The elderly owner of the coin really hit the jackpot that after selling the coin for 5 cents, the honest dealer returned it to him without question.'



While the dealer is wishing to remain anonymous at this point in time, I hope one day to be able to disclose his name, since he deserves praise for how he handled the transaction.'

Professional CoinGrading Service (PCGS), graded the coin within a few days, and assigned the grade of PCGS MS-63+ RD, ranking it as the fourth finest graded of the variety.

A Doubled Die variety of a coin refers to a duplication of design elements on the working die used to mint coins. If the striking of the die was slightly misaligned, the end result is the impression of two imprints on the final coin. The most prominent doubled dies can be seen with the naked eye, such as this 1969-S variety.

The encapsulated coin was featured in the December auction by GreatCollections ([www.greatcollections.com](http://www.greatcollections.com)) and realised \$43,444 (approximately £32,000) after 59 bids from fifteen separate bidders.

# Online bidding - A piece of cake

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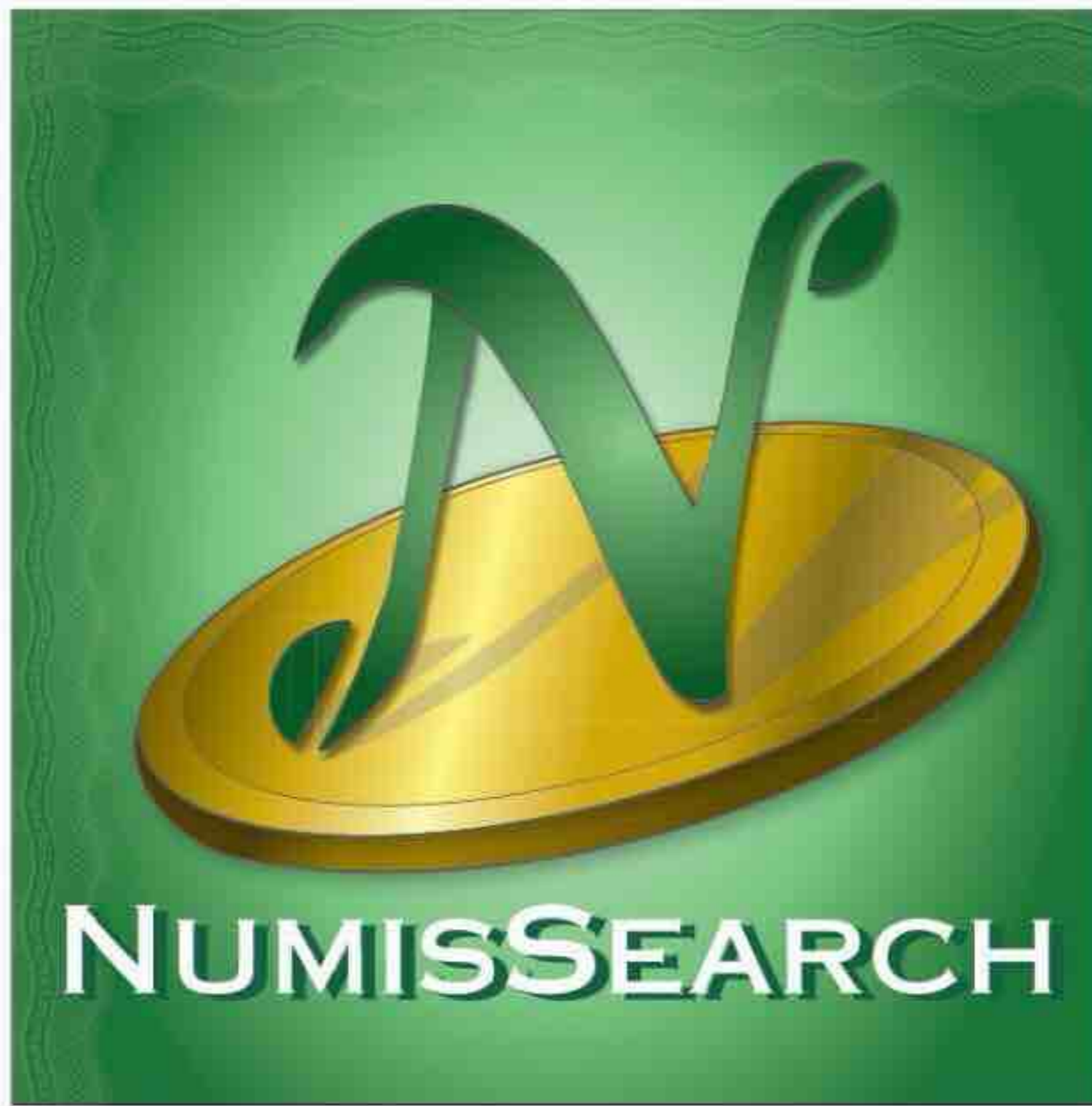


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# NGC CERTIFIES ENORMOUS GOLD COINS CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE RAT

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has certified two more colossal gold coins, both 2020 Year of the Rat issues from China. Together, the coins contain over \$700,000 (approximately £) in gold, but their numismatic value is significantly greater. Each of them has earned NGC's highest grade: NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo.

The NGC Mega Holder® was used to encapsulate the 10kg 100,000 Yuan example, while the NGC Oversize Holder® was used to encapsulate the 2kg 20,000 Yuan example. Each are struck in .999 fine gold, with diameters of 180 mm (7.1 inches) and 110 mm (4.3 inches), respectively. These are the largest (both by denomination and weight) of the seventeen types of 2020 Year of the Rat coins issued by China.

The coins feature China's National Emblem with auspicious patterns on the obverse and striking mouse imagery on the reverse. China's Lunar coins are popular with collectors, with each year's issues showcasing a new animal as the twelve-year zodiac cycle progresses. The Year of the Rat began in January 2020 and concludes in February 2021.

The Year of the Rat coins had maximum mintages of just eighteen for the 10kg and fifty for the 2kg.

These superb modern rarities were submitted by famous Macau numismatist C.S. Wong. Mr. Wong has submitted other 10kg coins to NGC for certification, including a 2019 China Year of the Pig Gold 100,000 Yuan, which is also graded NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo.

As of early December 2020, the price of gold was trading around \$1,850 per troy ounce, meaning the 2kg coin contains about \$120,000 in gold, while the 10kg coin contains about \$600,000 in gold. The numismatic value of these modern rarities adds considerably to their overall value.

The coins were delivered to the office of NGC Hong Kong Ltd., NGC's affiliate based in Hong Kong, China. They were securely transported to NGC's global headquarters in the United States for certification and encapsulation.

'NGC was honoured to have been chosen to grade these enormous gold pieces,' said David J. Camire, NGC Grading Finalizer. 'Collectors



China 2020 Year of the Rat Gold 20,000 Yuan and 100,000 Yuan, both graded NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo

know that NGC has an unparalleled combination of grading expertise, superior holders and advanced logistics that make it possible to accurately and securely certify coins of virtually any size.'

'I am very pleased with NGC's grades as well as its ability to protect these phenomenal pieces in its holders,' said Mr. Wong. 'NGC is the only third-party certification service that I trust with my most valuable coins.'

The NGC Mega Holder allows for the encapsulation of coins and medals up to 180 mm (7.1 inches) in diameter and 28 mm (1.1 inches) in thickness. The NGC Oversize Holder is available in two sizes. The medium NGC Oversize Holder can accommodate most coins up to 101.5 mm in diameter and 25 mm in thickness. The large NGC Oversize Holder can accommodate most coins up to 120 mm in diameter and 15 mm in thickness.

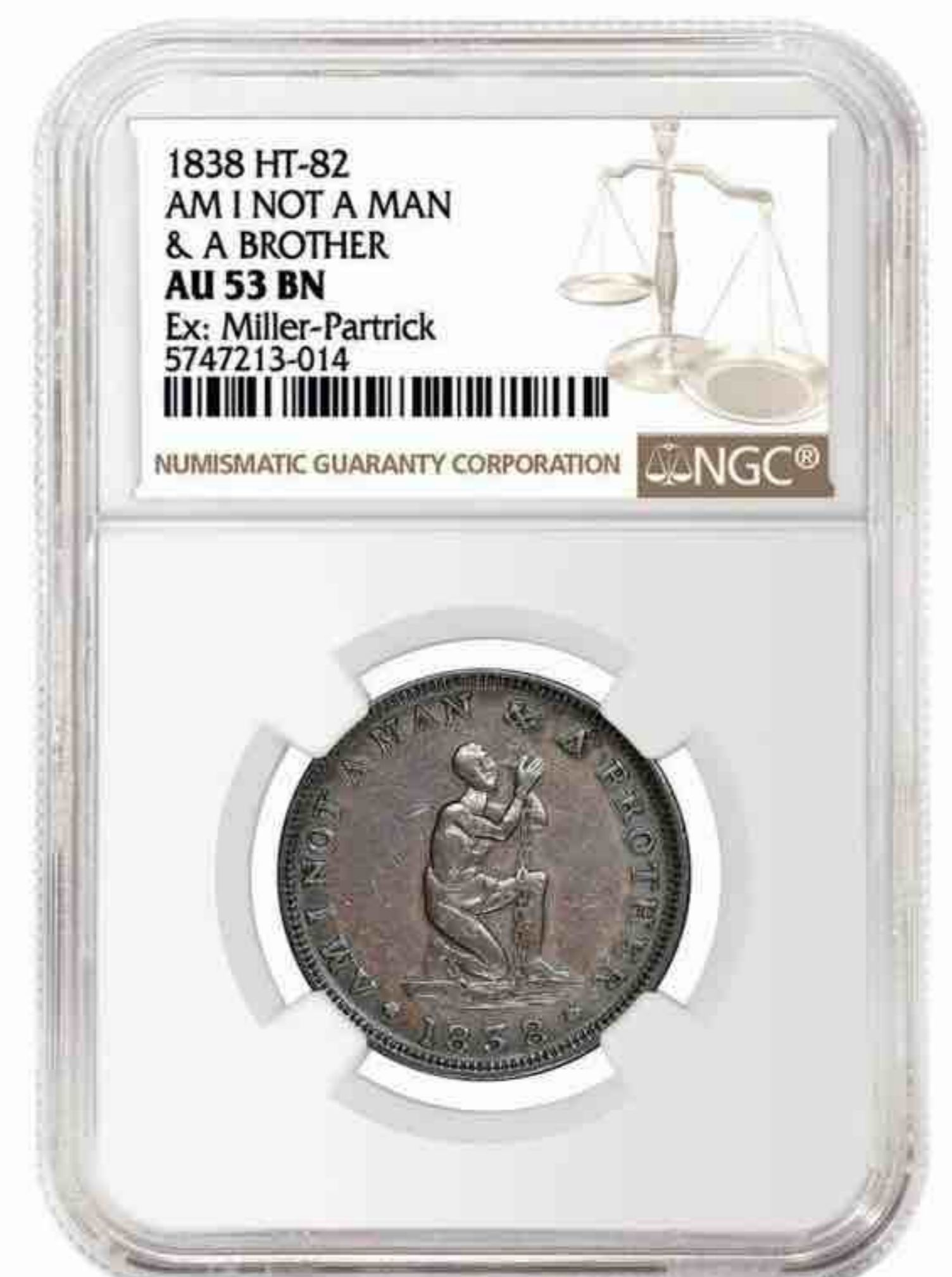
# TOKEN REALISES \$40,800 IN PARTRICK SALE

A rare anti-slavery token certified by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) realised \$40,800 (approximately £30,500) to top a sale of tokens from the Donald G. Partrick Collection. Held in December, the Heritage Auctions sale realised nearly \$1 million from the 811 lots in the sale. Nearly all the lots were certified – including the top seventy individual tokens – and all the certification was done by NGC.

Leading the way was an 1838 Am I Not A Man & A Brother (Low-54A, HT-82) token graded NGC AU 53 BN. The obverse depicts a kneeling man in chains with the words 'AM I NOT A MAN & A BROTHER', while the reverse features a wreath reminiscent of the US Mint-issued cents in circulation at the time.

The sale brings the Partrick Collection to more than \$28 million realised, including nearly \$26 million at Heritage Auctions' January 2015 FUN Show sale and \$1.3 million at a sale of Connecticut Coppers in November 2020. Additional sales are planned in the first half of 2021, including a Platinum Partrick Sale in mid-January that includes two incredibly rare Brasher Doubloons. The full auction schedule is at HA.com/Partrick.

The December 2020 sale featured tokens that were nearly all from the early and middle 19th century, including Hard Times tokens, which were used as an unofficial currency when Americans were hoarding US coins. Some tokens advertised businesses, while others carried a political message.



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## IN BRIEF

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of decimalisation, the Royal Mint Museum recently announced a medal design competition for undergraduate students. Entrants are asked to design a medal inspired by the change to decimal currency. The closing date for the competition was 8 January 2021 and more information can be found at: [royalmintmuseum.org.uk](http://royalmintmuseum.org.uk)

Authentication experts from NGC are assisting the non-profit Anti-Counterfeiting Educational Foundation ([www.ACEFonline.org](http://www.ACEFonline.org)) in the ongoing fight against rare coin and bullion-related fakes in the marketplace. ACEF Executive Director Robert Brueggeman said: 'ACEF considers the alliance with NGC as a natural progression because both organizations are extensively involved in curtailing the amount of counterfeits we see in the market.'

February is set to be #50pFeb on the [www.allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk) with a special focus on collecting 50p coins. The online event will include a range of articles, videos and presentations related to the 50p coin. Editor Matt Hill said: 'After the hugely successful Festival of Coins in September, we're now working on more virtual events to bring coin collectors together from around the world.' Sign up to the [allaboutcoins](http://allaboutcoins) newsletter to receive updates, just visit: [www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/account/register](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/account/register)

The Royal Mint has claimed to be the original supplier of the Tooth fairy's coin supply, offering a new 'My Lost Tooth' set including a 2021 dated, definitive 50p BU coin.

# STACK'S BOWERS ACQUIRE 'COINS IN MOTION' TECHNOLOGY

US auction house Stack's Bowers Galleries has announced the acquisition of the company Coins In Motion LLC, whose technology creates high-resolution animations of coins and banknotes.

According to the auction house, the patent-pending 'Coins in Motion' technology accurately captures the 'in-hand visual appeal of coins and banknotes in a manner unlike any still or video photography available today'. The technology was first used by the company to showcase coins from their December 2020 Showcase Auctions.

Stack's Bowers Galleries president Brian Kendrella said: 'Over the past several years we have seen technology's increasing and dramatic impact on the numismatic hobby. With the vast majority of sales now taking place strictly online from the comfort of our clients' homes or offices, we have worked hard to provide our customers with the information and tools that allow them to conveniently and confidently participate in our auctions. The inclusion of Coins In Motion ultra-high resolution animations supports this goal

and enhances our award-winning static images by providing additional detail and replicating the experience of having the coin in hand.'

The Coins in Motion technology will complement Stack's Bowers Galleries' existing online tools such as still photography, PCGS TrueView and NGC Photo Vision images.

Coins In Motion was created by Larry Stendebach who will be joining the Stack's Bowers Galleries' team. Stendebach is a numismatist and technologist with an extensive background in computer technology. He has collected for over 25 years, specialising in U.S. type and Spanish Colonial 8 Reales from Mexico.



## CHINA ISSUE NEW WINTER OLYMPICS COINS

The People's Bank of China has revealed nine new coins to celebrate the forthcoming event, including three gold coins, five silver coins, and one gold and silver bi-metal coin. All of them are the legal-tendered coins of the People's Republic of China.

The common obverse features the emblem of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games, the Great Wall of China with snowflakes, the title of PRC and the year. The reverse is inscribed with different pictures, denominations and Chinese characters reading 'The 24th Winter Olympics'.

The 150g round gold coin depicts the mascot for the Games; the 30g gold and 12g silver round bi-metal coin depicts the National Stadium and the National Aquatics Centre. The two 5g round gold coins depicts the traditional winter sport of skating,



and a skier in traditional paper-cut style.

The 150g round silver coins depict elements from a Qing dynasty painting *bing xi tu* (Picture of the Ice Skating Game); short track speed skating, with a decorative design of scenes on ice tracks; Figure skating, with a decorative design of scenes in the field; Freestyle skiing; and the Biathlon

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games are set to take place from 4 to 22 February 2022.





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## IN BRIEF

US Mint Director, David J. Ryder, has published an open letter addressing negative feedback on mintage numbers and the Mint's website. Writing about Mint's the World War II 75th Anniversary products, Ryder admitted: 'we clearly underestimated demand' and also mentioned that the 'overwhelming demand for these products outpaced our website capacity in ways that we are still trying to better understand and remedy'. Ryder concludes: 'I and my team are working to change the way the Mint has done business in the past. We endeavour to produce numismatic products that our customers will value. Along the way, we've made mistakes, and are doing our absolute best to learn from those mistakes.'

Latvia have issued a collector coin on the theme of 'Personal Freedom'. The silver €5 coin has a mintage of 3,500 and according to Latvijas Banka is 'dedicated to a particularly topical theme today when the development of technologies allows everyone to freely express themselves on any issue whatsoever... The obverse and reverse of the coin features regular hexagonal pyramids, with their faces covered by frosting of different intensity, black colour print, gold plating or mirror surface. Multi-faceted individuals, each with a unique set of personality traits manifested in their actions, thinking and emotional reactions, constitute the society where each and every one has his/her rights and duties, understanding of the social norms and personal freedom.'



# RECORD-BREAKING PRICE FOR GOLD STATER

A unique gold stater of Caratacus was recently sold by Elizabeth Cottam of Chris Rudd Ltd for £88,000, breaking the record for the highest price ever paid for a Celtic coin.

Liz Cottam said: 'Considering the historic importance of Caratacus, Britain's first famous freedom fighter and first national hero, and considering the uniqueness of the coin – the one and only gold coin of Caratacus ever found – I believe it's the biggest bargain we've ever sold.'

'In my opinion Celtic coins are still widely undervalued. If the Caratacus stater had been a Roman coin of similar rarity and similar importance it would unquestionably have realised well over £1 million, like that aureus of Brutus that recently went for £2.7 million.'

According to the Celtic coin specialists, the winning bid came from a British entrepreneur who has had many successes, not only in business, but also on the race-track, mostly with his dogs (he has over forty) and more recently with his horses.

'I knew the Caratacus stater was a good bet,' he told Chris Rudd. 'As an experienced collector I



immediately recognised its historical significance and its remarkable rarity when I first read about it in *The Times*. And, as a race-horse owner, I knew that a horse called Caratacus had won the Derby in 1862. So I'm doubly delighted that this unique golden oldie has joined my stable of Celtic coins.

'It's a truly beautiful coin and I'm deeply impressed with the Celtic warrior who is riding into battle without a saddle and without any clothes on, apart from his helmet. That must have taken some nerve and a lot of skill. If a great British king can be named after a dog, like Cunobelinus was, I guess a dog can be named after a great British prince. So I'm going to call my next male greyhound Caratacus.'

## NEW SOUTH AFRICAN R5 COIN FEATURES FAVOURITE COINS

South Africa's new R5 coin, set to be entered into circulation on 1 January 2021 to celebrate the centenary of the South African Reserve Bank, features a design showing some of the country's classic coins.

The new coin is being issued to celebrate the centenary of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), which was founded in 1921 to take over the creation of banknotes from private companies.

The new coin features a similar design to a R5 coin issued in 2011 to mark the bank's 90th anniversary, which also showcased older South African coins. The reverse design of the new bi-metal coin, which has a diameter of 26mm and weighs 9.5g, includes:

- A 1923 3 cents coin (issued from 1923 to 1925)
- The R1 coin, introduced in 1961 and featuring a springbok
- 20 cents coin featuring the image of a Royal Protea, South Africa's national flower



- The 1c with two sparrows, inspired by a verse from the Bible
- R5 coin issued in 2008 and featuring a portrait of Nelson Mandela
- A 10c coin featuring a honey bee

A collectors' sterling silver gold-plated coin will also be released with a diameter of 38.725mm and a weight of 33g.

# CHANGE CHECKER AWARD WINNERS REVEALED!

The results of the Change Checker Awards for 2020 have been announced, celebrating the very best people in the world of change collecting, many of whom have incredible coin-related stories to share from what has been a challenging year.

The winners were revealed on the Change Checker website with a special video (head over to [allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://allaboutcoins.co.uk) to watch) presented by Change Checker's experts Rachel Hooper and Alexandra Siddons. The annual awards are proudly supported by *Coin Collector* and the [allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://allaboutcoins.co.uk) website.

Matt Hill, *Coin Collector* editor and a member of the judging panel, said: "Wow, the team at [allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://allaboutcoins.co.uk) were blown away by the entrants for this year's awards, with so many heart-warming stories and inspirational collectors. It's been a heck of a year, and so hearing how coin enthusiasts used their interest in coins to help others was brilliant. Emily Jackson, for example, donated coins to her local care home; Ann Weaver went out of her way to help a collector who was self-isolating; and Michael Clough used lockdown to not only grow his collection but learn much more about the subjects featured on the coins.

'Meanwhile, Ben Osborne's passion for collecting coins has captured the imagination of the local community and he's got a willing group of helpers checking their change! It's nice to hear that Ben's collection is progressing and that he's now looking at non-UK coins too.

'Congratulations to all the winners, and to everyone who entered or simply got some pleasure from our wonderful hobby during 2020. We hope the winners enjoy reading *Coin Collector* magazine and will watch their progress with interest!'

## CHANGE CHECKER OF THE YEAR WINNER: BEN OSBORNE

'Ben the coin collector', as he is known by to his friends and family, is both an avid collector and supporter of the collecting community. He has built up an extensive collection of coins, whilst also encouraging others to take up the hobby too.

Runner-up Ann Weaver went above and beyond in helping others complete their collections this year. She has exchanged money for commemorative coins for those who have been unable to visit the banks themselves.

## JUNIOR CHANGE CHECKER OF THE YEAR WINNER: EMILY JACKSON

Emily has been collecting coins for over two years, and has successfully filled four Change Checker albums with her impressive collections! She even donated some of her coins to a local care home to encourage residents to take up the hobby.

Runner-up Michael Clough has become an avid coin collector, who regularly swaps on the Change Checker Community Group and loves hunting through bags of coins for coins he can add to his collection. He's also made generous donations of coins to others – an attribute that is highly regarded in the collecting community.



## COIN DESIGN OF THE YEAR

It comes as no surprise that the 2020 Coin Design of the Year is awarded to the Team GB 50p! This coin has been the talking point of the year in the collecting community, as we saw its initial release postponed to 2021 as a result of the Olympic Games also being put back a year. However, the coin was available in the Annual Coin Sets, which led collectors to question whether we'd see two versions of this 50p, with different mintage figures.

Later in 2020 it was confirmed that the 2021 issued coin, would have the same design as the 2020 version, but with the new date included – meaning there will definitely be two versions of the Team GB 50p!

## COIN ART OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Natalie Christie, for her amazing guitar coin art, Gemma Louise for her tribute to the wonderful NHS, and Kerry Taylor's heart of 50ps.

## COIN STORY OF THE YEAR

The winner of the 2020 Coin Story of the Year Award goes to George Nixon, of *This Is Money*, for his article on the 2020 Winnie the Pooh 50p series.

Speaking to Change Checker, George said: '[When he] was just a small boy, I like many kids was in love with the Hundred Acre Wood and the stories of Winnie the Pooh. It's fitting and especially lovely then to have won this award for this particular story.'

Alexandra Siddons, of Change Checker, added: 'A big thank you once again to AllAboutCoins for supporting us this year and of course a huge congratulations to all of our winners and all the fantastic entries we had this year. We'd like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support in 2020 and hope that 2021 is a fantastic year of Change Checking for you all!'

*Turn to page 58 to read our regular article on modern coins from Change Checker. Love collecting 50p coins? Be sure to sign up to the allaboutcoins newsletter and you'll receive a FREE 50p PDF e-book. Just visit: [www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/account/register](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/account/register)*



## BARBER DIME FETCHES OVER \$1 MILLION

An example of the 1894-S Barber Dime, graded PF 65 by NGC, has sold for over \$1 million in a Stack's Bowers sale of Larry H. Miller Collection rarities.

The 1894-S Barber Dime is one of the great rarities of US numismatics. Just 24 were struck at the San Francisco Mint, and only nine are known to exist, including two that are heavily circulated. At the time of going to print, the coin had already achieved a sale price of \$1,000,000 with a day of the auction left to run.

Various explanations have been offered as to why so few were minted. Some believe the San Francisco Mint struck the dimes for assay purposes, anticipating an order for a large number of dimes that never was placed, due to an economic downturn. Other theories are that they were either struck for a bullion account that was 40 cents short of an even-dollar number (which could be achieved by striking 24 dimes, or any other number of them ending in 4); or that they were created using a small amount of silver left over from damaged or obsolete US coins that had been melted down.

The most famous lore surrounding the dime is known as the 'ice cream story' which holds that a high-ranking San Francisco Mint official struck them for banker friends and gave three to his daughter, Hallie Daggett, instructing her to set them aside for years. Supposedly, unaware of their numismatic value, the child quickly spent one of them on a dish of ice cream.



## COINS DEDICATED TO HENRY VIII'S WIVES DISCOVERED IN GARDEN



Image: © The Trustees of the British Museum

A hoard of gold and silver coins, deposited in about 1540, were uncovered in a New Forest garden, including four coins from Henry VIII's reign, unusually featuring the initials of his wives Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour.

In total, 63 gold coins and 1 silver coin of Edward IV through to Henry VIII were found in the New Forest area, Hampshire as the finders pulled out weeds in their garden. Ranging across nearly a century, dating from the late 15th to early 16th centuries, the hoard includes four coins from Henry VIII's reign, unusually featuring the initials of his wives Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour.

The total value of the coins far exceeds the average annual wage in the Tudor period, but it is not yet clear whether this was a saving hoard which was regularly deposited into or if the coins were buried all at once.

The discovery is one of many to have taken place during lockdown, according to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Michael Lewis, Head of Scheme and Treasure said: 'The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a boost in finds from back-gardens recorded with the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme, as well as an increase in digital recording, especially during 'full lockdown' (22 March to 13 May) when metal-detecting was prohibited and in the second 'lockdown' (from 5 November), with restrictions on how people exercise.

'During the first lockdown, 6,251 finds were recorded with the PAS and the records of 22,507 finds on the database were updated; so far this year (2020) over 47,000 finds have been recorded.'

Another intriguing discovery was fifty modern South African Krugerrand 1oz solid gold coins found by chance in a back-garden in the Milton Keynes area; they were minted by the Rand Refinery in Germiston in the 1970s during the period of apartheid. How they ended up in Milton Keynes and why they were buried are, for the moment, a mystery.

The Coroner, who will decide whether they are classed as 'Treasure' (under the historic crown right of treasure trove pre-dating the current Treasure Act), will need to determine whether the original owner of the coins (or their heirs) are known. It is hoped that by making the find public, someone with information will come forward to either the Milton Keynes coroner or the British Museum.

The announcement comes as the British Museum launched the Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report for 2019, which details that 81,602 public finds were logged last year, an increase of over 10,000 on 2018's report.

Norfolk yielded the most finds, with 13% of this total, whilst Hampshire and Suffolk account for 7% each. These finds have led to the discovery of exciting archaeological sites, ranging from a high-status Iron Age to Roman dispersed settlement with associated burials in Kent and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Lincolnshire, but also a more general picture of how people lived in the past, and where they settled and worked.

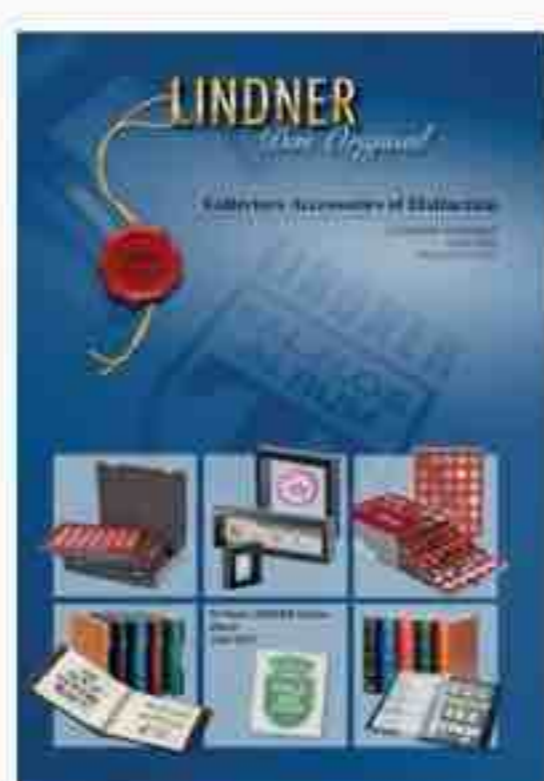
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A gold 'Ides of March' coin was recently sold at auction house Roma Numismatics for a staggering £2,700,000, the world record price paid for a Roman coin. The star lot was only the third known example of a gold EID MAR coin, struck by Marcus Junius Brutus, the most famous of Julius Caesar's assassins, on the eve of the battle of Philippi, commemorating (if not celebrating) the murder of the dictator. The auction catalogue described the coin as being: 'excessively Rare; the third known example: one on long-term loan to the British Museum, the other in the Deutsche Bundesbank collection.' The coin reflects historic death of Caesar. The reverse features the three principal elements of this 'patriotic' act of regicide committed to liberate the Republic from monarchical tyranny. Most striking are the two daggers of differing design, the one symbolising that wielded by Brutus himself, the other that of Cassius his co-conspirator.

**SOLD FOR £2,700,000**



Appearing at auction for only the second time in 113 years, an 1807 Draped Bust quarter, the finest-known example of the type, brought a record-breaking \$630,000 from the Bob R. Simpson Collection at Heritage Auctions' U.S. Coins Auction. After the auction Simpson said: 'I feel very rewarded and humbled to see so many auction records. I remain grateful to Heritage for its effective marketing efforts and to the collecting community for responding with so much demand for these special coins.'



**SOLD FOR £471,480**

Baldwin's of St James' recently sold a complete set of 'Kings and Queens of England' copper medals. The set ranged from William the Conqueror to the Dedication Medal of George II, Queen Caroline, and Death of George II, and included the medal of Cromwell. The medals were contained in a Georgian green leather-bound case with the gilt text 'THE ROYAL SERIES' stamped on the lid.

**SOLD FOR £2,250**



Acquiring coins 'discreetly and off the radar of the collecting community', the late Larry H. Miller assembled a world-class collection of US coins, and the first part of the sale, at Stack's Bowers realised more than \$9 million. Amongst the many highlights was a 'virtually pristine' 1896-S Silver Morgan Dollar, said to be 'far and away the finest known'.

**SOLD FOR £538,800**



The Hardcastle Collection recently went under the hammer at Spink and was described as 'an auctioneer's dream'. The sale offered a collection that had been hidden from the market for at least a century and was made up of a variety of 'pledges' and unredeemed loans made to Yorkshire Pawnbroker Henry Hardcastle from the 1870s until he wound down his business in Lady Peckitt's Yard, York in 1923. The collection was said to offer a glimpse into the social history of York at the turn of the 20th century, and provide also a snapshot of a 'Victorian' collection frozen in time. Highlights of the eclectic offering included a range of gilt-copper proof 1/48-Rix Dollars, from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) 1802, featuring an elephant design, including the illustrated example which fetched £1,300.

**SOLD FOR £1,300**





An 1817 Proof Half Sovereign with milled edge was recently sold at London Auctions. The reverse of the crown features a crowned angular shield, with dot below; with the bust of George III on the obverse. According to the auction house, of the seven examples on the PCGS Population Report, only this coin and one other have achieved the Deep Cameo designation.

**SOLD FOR £14,000**



A probably unique octagonal 17th-century token from Ludlow, Shropshire sold for twenty times its pre-sale estimate at Dix Noonan Webb recently. Expected to fetch £100 to £200, the Jeremiah Bright token eventually fetched over £2,000. Peter Preston-Morley, Head of Coin Department, Dix Noonan Webb, said: 'Tokens were a currency substitute issued by private individuals, merchants and organisations when governments were not, for various reasons, issuing small change. They are mostly copper, although during the Napoleonic wars silver tokens were also made and circulated. Shropshire material is always very keenly sought after, so it was no surprise that this probably unique token sold very well and was bought by UK private collector.' The octagonal halfpenny was believed to be previously unpublished, and featured the unusual message 'square dealing'.

**SOLD FOR £2,108**



The Coin Cabinet in London recently offered a wide range of Sovereigns, including a George III example of 1817. Minted in London the coin featured the laureate head right and the familiar image of St George slaying the dragon.

**SOLD FOR £2,500**



Morton & Eden recently sold a Roman aureus of Caracalla, the elder son of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna. The coin from 201 featured a draped and cuirassed young bust facing right on the obverse, and 'jugate busts' of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna facing right, on the reverse. The auction description explained the significance of the design: 'Septimius Severus wears the radiate crown of Sol, the sun-god, while the crescent moon under Julia Domna's bust depicts her as Luna, the moon-goddess: he as day, she as night, and anticipating the way in which emperors and empresses were to appear on antoniniani following their introduction by Caracalla in late 214.'

**SOLD FOR £39,000**



A 1934 George V AR wreath crown recently reached \$3,500 at Davissons Ltd in the USA. The rarest piece in the series, the coin was in 'Good Extremely Fine' condition; with some uneven toning on the obverse; and a superb reverse, suggested perhaps that the coin had been stored in a tray for some time.

**SOLD FOR £2,600**

# LATEST INTERNET AUCTIONS

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



**SOLD FOR £1,513**

France, French gold Ecu Louis XIII  
Montpellier 1629 XF



**SOLD FOR £440**

Belgium, Millennium Coinage in Brussels gold  
medal 1965 FDC



**SOLD FOR £258**

Belgium, 20 francs Leopold II 1882  
gold coin XF



**SOLD FOR £383**

China Republic, 10 cents 1926 silver coin XF



**SOLD FOR £267**

Switzerland, 20 francs gold coin 1947



**SOLD FOR £274**

USA, 5\$ Crowned Head 1898 gold coin



**SOLD FOR £4,111**

Belgian Congo, 5000f banknote 1950  
SPECIMEN graded PMG



**SOLD FOR £445**

Luxembourg, 10 franc banknote 1923



**SOLD FOR £275**

Italy, 200 EUR Series S Duisenberg UNC



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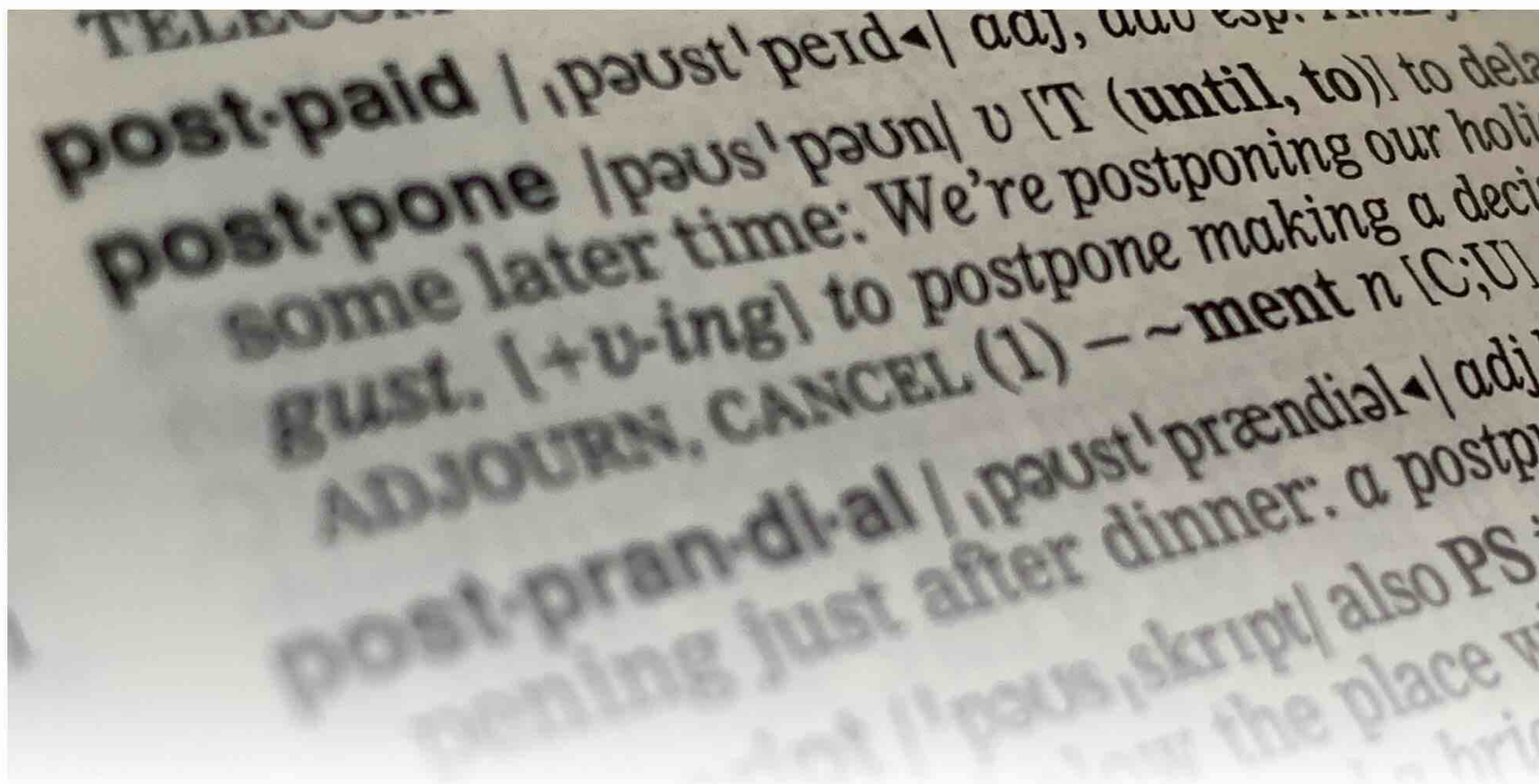


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## THE WORLD'S FAIR OF MONEY ...THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN



Numismatic events around the world have had to be cancelled, postponed, or moved online, but as US coins expert Jeff Garrett explains the coin market is proving to be very resilient, and the future could be brighter than ever

**F**or the last several years I have attended the annual World Money Fair in Belin. The show is unlike any in the United States, and I truly enjoy exploring the diverse bourse with everything from ancient coins to coins being struck that day. The show is about meeting people and establishing relationships that will be fruitful for years to come. The amazing attendance which is displayed by the long lines to get in are the envy of show promoters around the world.

My wife and I also enjoy the many social events surrounding the World Money Fair, the highlight being the show banquet that is hosted by the sponsoring Mint. In 2020 the Japanese Mint staged an elegant dinner with engaging entertainment. Part of the evening event each year is the announcement of next year's sponsoring Mint. The event was held in February, and the unveiling of China (and the absence of their delegation) as sponsoring host of next year's 50th World Money Fair, caused murmurs from those in attendance. It was at that early point that

the reality of the Covid19 crisis first set in for me and many others.

The World Money Fair 2021 has now been postponed and a virtual event is being planned instead.

*Many numismatic pundits, including myself, always worry when a lot of coins enter the market. The rare coin market is bigger than most of us realise, and these coins always find new homes.*

Every year since 1974, I have attended the summer ANA World's Fair of Money in the United States. The show is the cornerstone of my numismatic calendar, and is greatly anticipated by thousands of collectors and dealers around the world. The bourse usually boasts over 700 tables, with dealers offering material from every corner of numismatics. Many years there

are over 10,000 public attendees. My company would normally have six or seven tables with sales of hundreds of thousands of dollars. This year none of that happened!

As everyone knows, the 2020 World's Fair of Money in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was cancelled because of the Covid19 pandemic. It was an agonizing decision for the ANA board, but in the end, safety of the membership ruled the day. Much of the decision was outside of the ANA's control as each city manages with Covid19 restrictions dealing with large gatherings. Right now the

trend of the pandemic seems to be going in the wrong direction, but talk of a number of effective vaccines is encouraging; the future of any coin show is very much up in the air.

Starting in the early part of 2020, Stacks/Bowers and Heritage Auctions began soliciting auction consignments for the 2020 ANA Worlds Fair of Money. The ANA sale is usually one of the premier events of the year, and many collectors send consignments for the prestigious sales. This year was no different and both companies staged impressive auctions that were conducted mostly online.

Over the last few months I have been calling dealers and collectors around the country asking about their view of the ANA sales (rebranded August Sales) conducted by Heritage and Stacks/Bowers. I have also talked to consigners to get their opinion on results.

To start, the auctions were conducted with the tails winds of exploding precious metal prices. At one point, gold reached new highs and silver was up around 40%. The hobby is also enjoying new-found awareness because of so many individuals who now have extra time on their hands. An interest in tangible assets is benefiting numismatics significantly as well. Any company with a strong internet presence is doing brick business. The hobby of numismatics is flourishing, especially when compared to many other segments of the global economy. Many businesses are suffering greatly and any one who

sells rare coins for a living should feel blessed.

The combined auctions featured tens of millions of dollars' worth of United States coins, world coins, ancient coins and paper money. There were some coins that failed to meet reserves, but the vast majority of the coins found new homes. Whenever this many coins enter the market it can be a test of the depth of the demand for rare coins and currency. This is even more of an observed test considering the state of the economy and concerns about the Covid19 crisis.

When speaking to those who attended the auctions or consigned material to the sales, one theme was constant: the market demands quality. Attractive coins with original surfaces sold well. Set registry collecting (including world coins) is also still a significant driver of the market for rare coins. Less appealing coins sold for discounts, which has been a consistent result for the last few years. There also seemed to be some resistance for those coins priced near or above \$100,000. A few of these coins sold for less than they had brought several years ago.

Both sales featured many great and unusual coins that seldom appear on the market. The greatest demand in the sales was for attractive coins under \$10,000. With the lack of coin shows, many coin dealers are seeing their inventories being depleted of these types of coins.

World and Ancient coins performed extremely well and many new auction records were set. Many numismatic pundits, including myself, always worry when a lot of coins enter the market. The rare coin market is bigger than most of us realize, and these coins always find new homes. There is little doubt in my mind that the market for rare coins is now a global affair and the hobby of numismatics will continue to flourish.

*Jeff Garrett is the President of Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries, Inc., you can contact him on email: coinman4u@aol.com*

## USA UPDATE

Dealers who sell bullion gold and silver bullion coins are reporting an increase in new customers who want to own precious metals, and are also seeing some earlier customers who are selling either because of personal economic conditions or simply want to take advantage of significantly higher bullion values since they purchased, according to members of the Accredited Precious Metals Dealer program ([apmddealers.org](http://apmddealers.org)), a division of the non-profit Professional Numismatists Guild ([www.PNGdealers.org](http://www.PNGdealers.org)). PNG and APMD President Richard Weaver said: 'Of course, no one has an accurate crystal ball to precisely know the future, but dealers we've recently heard from say many of their customers are optimistic that gold and silver prices will continue going up, especially silver.'

The American Numismatic Association is now accepting nominations for 2021 awards and Numismatic Hall of Fame 'Modern Era' candidates. All nominations can be submitted in writing and online at [money.org](http://money.org) – 300 words or more for the Numismatic Hall of Fame, and 50-100 words for all other awards. The closing date for nominations is 15 January 2021.

Videos of the 2020 Newman Numismatic Portal Symposium presentations are now available at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/multimediatdetail/539070>. This event was held via Zoom, August 28-30, and includes 41 sessions.

A South Carolina couple recently discovered a collection of antique coins, said to be worth around \$25,000, in the attic of their home, and kindly gave the coins back to the owner. Clarrisa Mumford told news agency SWNS: 'The previous owners were elderly so I think he accidentally hid them from himself. He even admitted that he had completely forgotten about them.' The collection of 64 coins included 46 gold \$5 liberty coins, minted between 1849 and 1907, and eighteen Morgan silver dollars, from between 1878 and 1904.



The next World's Money Fair is set to take place in Chicago in August 2021

# EURO PARTY... POSTPONED



There were few celebrations or reasons to be cheerful in 2020, but numismatists on the Continent will have given a nod to the eighteenth birthday of Europe's single currency, as Sebastian Wieschowski explains



The year 2020 has a special meaning for coin collectors in Europe: this is the year in which the Euro as a coin was about to celebrate its 'coming of age'. Eighteen years ago, the era of the common European currency began in wallets and purses throughout Europe, after the Euro had already been introduced as book money in 1999.

While people all over Europe had to get used to new prices and say goodbye to their beloved currencies, such as the German Mark, the Franc, or the Lira, the introduction of the Euro brought about a renaissance in numismatics. And the eighteenth year of the Euro was to be celebrated in style... until Corona ruined the anniversary year of European numismatics.

The pandemic did not spare numismatics. Countries such as Germany had to withdraw their commemorative coins for planned major events such as the European Soccer Championship: 'If the UEFA Championship takes place in 2021, it will probably be honoured with a new coin,' the Federal Ministry of Finance announced back in April.

The design of the coin was already known, it was designed by Thomas Serres from Hattingen and Erich Ott from Munich and showed a stylized soccer ball with the inscriptions of all the venues of the tournament. The new release date is now 10 June 2021. Part of the edition had already been produced in the Hamburg Mint and had to be melted down again.

Thanks to the cancellation of the football, 2020 was the first year in which only four silver coins with a face value of €20 were issued.

Collectors had to live without an issue from the Hamburg Mint with the mint mark 'J'.

Also, the second issue of the polymer series 'In The Air', which was supposed to be issued in March, was postponed indefinitely, as was the silver coin with a colour application for the 300th birthday of Baron von Münchhausen.

Coin collectors, however, do not have to go without the European Championships in their collection. Spain had already minted its commemorative coins in the spring and put them on sale. Variants in gold with a face value of €100 and silver with a face value of €10 are available. While the gold coin shows the San Mamés stadium in Bilbao, the silver coin shows a duel scene. The coins were also minted in Portugal, and a commemorative coin with a face value of €2.50, and a circulation of 20,000 pieces has been available on the market since the beginning of November.

The issuing programs of many countries were massively cut back

given the Europe-wide restrictions on everyday life and an interim shortage on the gold and silver market. Latvia issued only two commemorative coins in 2020, half as many as in the previous year. Spain presented only six different coin designs for 2020 after a total of sixteen different commemorative coins were put on sale in 2019. While a large part of the Spanish minting program for the year 2020 was cancelled, a coin with the motto 'Gracias' was minted at short notice with a face value of €30 as a thank you to the country's key workers.

Coin collectors in Europe also had to reorient themselves with regard to beloved rituals. Long queues in front

of the issue desk of the Austrian Mint in the heart of Vienna were not compatible with social distancing rules. Coin fairs had to be cancelled and are in the process of reinventing themselves. In autumn, the Sberatel fair in Prague dared to take a cautious step back to normality, but the feedback from dealers and visitors was reserved, a fair with face masks is no fun after all, and a greatly reduced number of visitors threatens the commercial success. It is eagerly awaited what the fiftieth edition of the World Money Fair will look like; the event in Berlin has been cancelled and there will be a virtual alternative.

While the European economy has suffered massively from the lockdowns and the reluctance of the population to consume in 2020, coin dealers in Europe are reporting pleasingly stable business; it seems the forced break in public life has allowed people to devote themselves to hobbies they can enjoy within their own four walls. And because most dealers have long since discovered the internet as a distribution channel, they have been able to provide their loyal customers with rare treasures for their collections even over long distances. As the Euro starts its nineteenth year, perhaps the world of coins isn't quite so bad after all.

*Coin dealers in Europe are reporting pleasingly stable business... the forced break has allowed us to devote ourselves to hobbies we can enjoy at home*



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## WINDOWS ON THE PAST **THE ROYAL MINT IN PICTURES**

The Royal Mint Museum has a collection of over 10,000 photographs and negatives, the earliest of which date back to the 1860s. They capture the Mint at work, documenting processes and equipment, as well as designs for coins and medals. And, as Dr Kevin Clancy, Director The Royal Mint Museum, explains, the images also reveal the Mint as a community, a living record of the people who have made the nation's money over this period of time



The collection could be categorised in many different ways, but two of the chief themes are people and processes. Photographers have always been interested in capturing how coins are made, the types and variety of machines used, the sequence of production. Inevitably the people who worked in the factory have formed a part of this record but the joy of the Museum's photographic collection is that something of their lives is also often revealed beyond the confines of their working environment. Images of coining presses and furnaces, blanking presses and weighing machines offer a rich visual history of how the technology of minting has changed over time. The social

hierarchy, too, at play in some instances can be immediately apparent. Here (figure 1, direction indicator) a clerk wearing a top hat is sitting behind an intimidatingly large beam balance while an operative from the shop-floor lifts the heavy sacks of coins onto the scales. Especially when the Mint was at Tower Hill in London there was clear separation between the factory and the office-based staff and this is nowhere more starkly drawn than in such images.

There are discrete groups of photographs within the overall collection, such as those by the celebrated nineteenth-century photographer Sir Benjamin Stone, whose remarkable work can be seen at the Birmingham Library. He created beautiful compositions,

dramatically doused in natural light, a feature also evident in a series of photographs put together under the Deputy Master Sir John Cawston. They date from the second decade of the twentieth century and are beautifully atmospheric in their treatment of the subject matter (figure 2).

Another grouping is that of postcards. Taken in the early years of the twentieth century, they are amongst the most well-known photographs in the collection, being sold to visitors to the Tower Hill site (figure 3). They show the workings of the different departments and, assembled together, they create a narrative of the whole organisation. The Royal Mint Museum contains a good cross section of these sets which now often turn up in antique markets or indeed on eBay. The one illustrated here (figure 4) is of the Silver Melting Room. It reveals the physicality of the job and also the dangers to which workers were exposed.

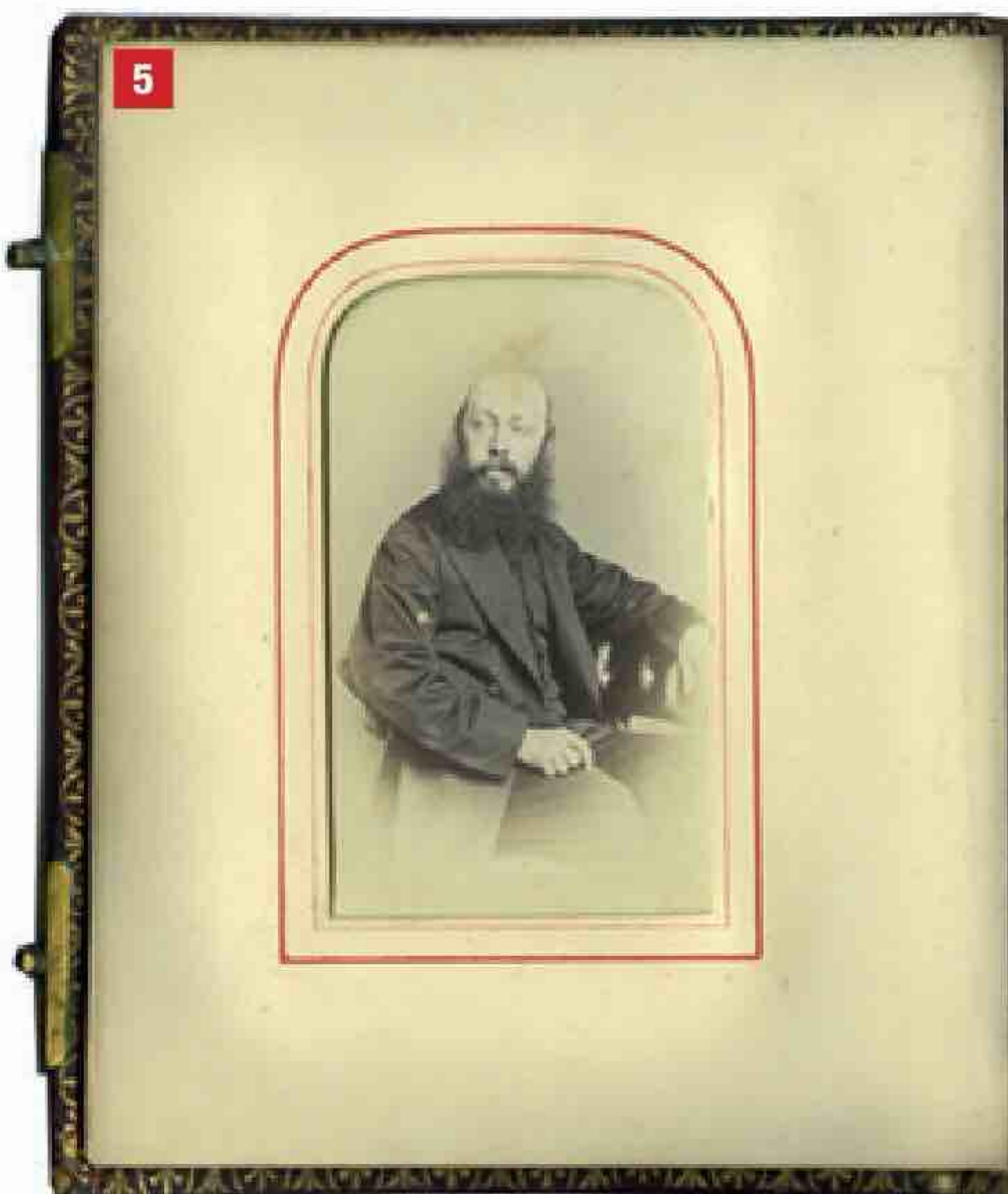
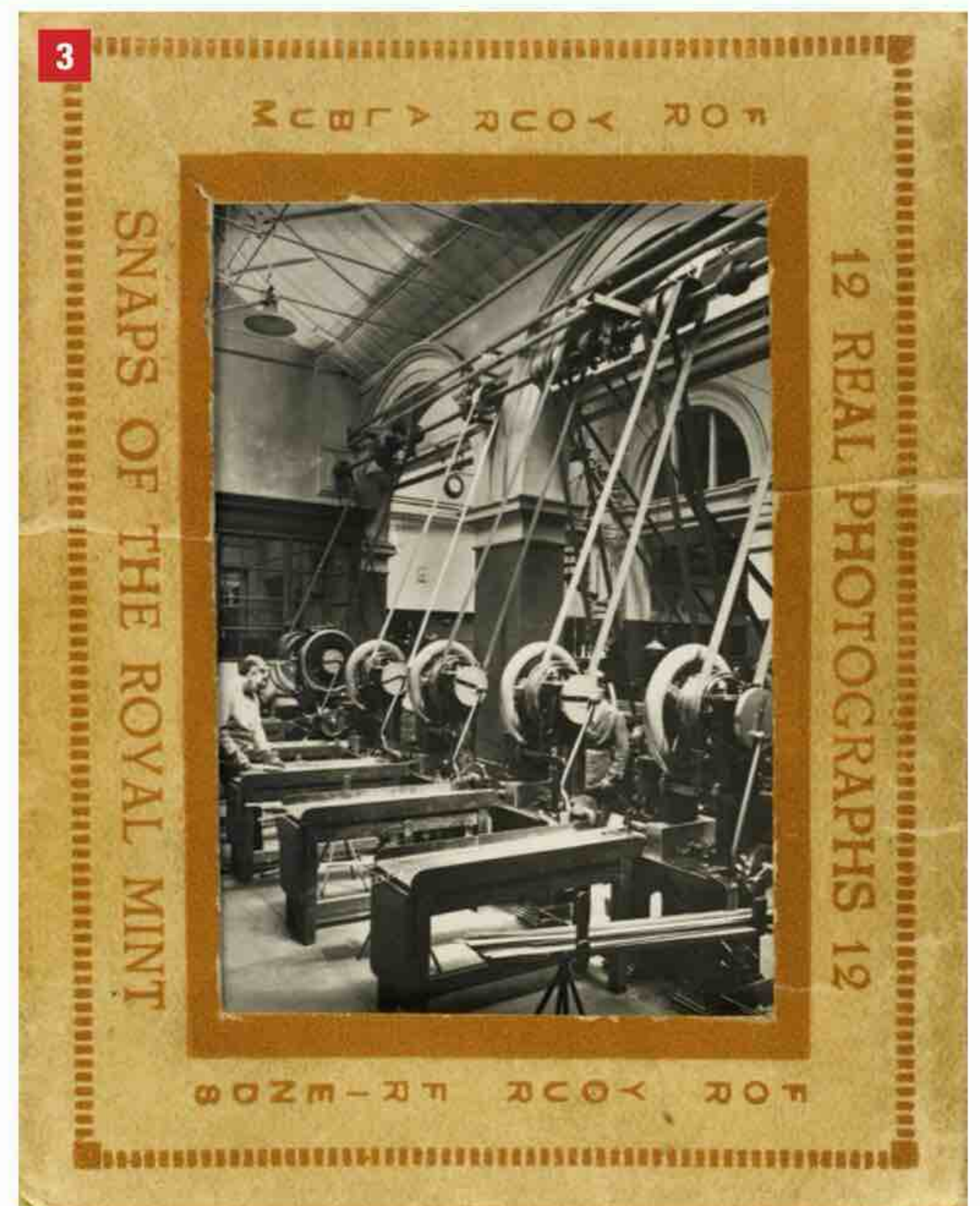
A less well documented group of images was acquired by the Museum from a private dealer in the form of an album of photographs presented to the long-serving Charles Goodwin on his retirement in December 1869 as Clerk of the Die Department (figure 5). Consisting of some thirty photographs, the album contains images of Mr Goodwin's colleagues but what is frustrating for us now is that, with only one exception, none of the photographs have been signed or bear any mark of identification. It

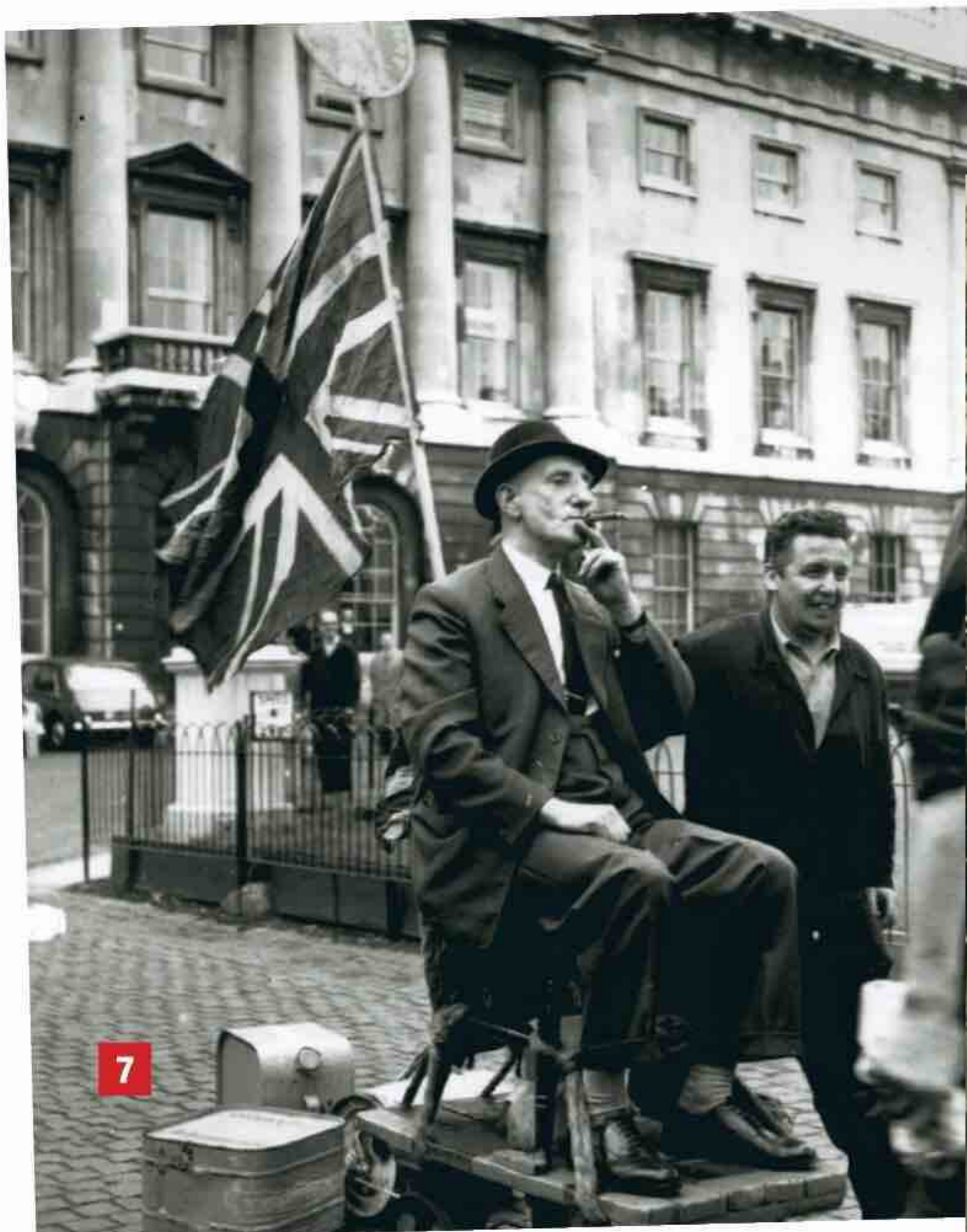


LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—SILVER MELTING HOUSE

is our hope, however, that contact with descendants of Royal Mint officers of the mid-nineteenth century will eventually allow many of the photographs to be identified.

Occasionally someone had the presence of mind to write down those who were in a photograph and when answering questions connected with family history research it can be hugely satisfying to provide a picture of a relative in a work setting. Some years ago we were contacted from American by a descendant of the man on the left of this photograph (figure 6) standing beside a large coin counting machine who we now know to be E. J. Anning. In conducting some family history research the lady knew of the





connection with the Royal Mint and, having bought a copy of Graham Dyer's *The Royal Mint: An Illustrated History*, discovered her relative in this photograph. She subsequently made contact with the Museum, revealing who the man was, and we in turn were able to tell her about Mr Anning's career at the Mint as a packer and teller at the time the picture was taken and later how he moved up to the position of Office Keeper.

Traditional Mint ceremonies, too, have been captured, such as 'Chairing Out', when long-serving employees were honoured with a noisy send-off on a make-shift carriage, tin cans



clattering over the cobbles of Tower Hill's entrance. In this instance (figure 7) the gentleman in the chair is William O'Shea who like many spent his entire working life at the Mint. Starting as a medal hand in 1918 at the age of 16, he retired at 65 having reached one of the more senior technical grades in the Operative Department. In recognition of his many years of service, his retirement was noted in the Royal Mint Annual Report for 1967.

Not content with working together, there is a long tradition of Mint employees arranging trips and days out, which continues to this day. Several from this series

include outings to the seaside resorts of the south-east, such as Brighton, Clacton-on Sea, Eastbourne and Margate. But it appears that an intrepid group ventured all the way to Blackpool on at least one occasion in the 1950s. The photograph shown here (figure 8) is one of the earliest of this sort of excursion. Neither the date nor the intended destination are known but a handful of names have been written on the back. The gentleman seventh from the left is Harry Foulger, a workman first employed at Tower Hill in 1937, and so the photograph must have been taken at some point after that.

Images of the Mint during the Second World War represent a particularly fascinating series. Given the general shortage of men in the wartime economy, women were first employed in the actual processes of coining in the summer of 1941. The overlooking table, known affectionately as a mangle, was an ingenious device which allowed struck coins to be inspected on both sides. As far as this picture is concerned (figure 9), the coins were poured out onto the upper conveyor by the woman in the middle. As the coins were carried towards the rollers at the far end, the woman on the right inspected the top side and removed any faulty pieces. The coins were then flipped over by the rollers and sent back along the lower conveyor, allowing the woman on the left to view the other side. A selection of original black and white







10

photographs from this period have now been colourised, bringing a new perspective to life at the Royal Mint (figure 10).

Visits from dignitaries naturally feature, such as the Queen when she came to the Tower Hill site in 1966 and again when she opened the new Mint in Llantrisant, South Wales, two years later (figure 11). Many other members of the royal family have crossed the threshold, eager to see how coins are produced, and our most recent royal visitor was the Prince of Wales when he came in 2017 to see for himself the Royal



11

Mint Experience (figure 12).

Mint buildings have been the subject of a great many photographs. The imposing front of Tower Hill was one of the images to be found in the sets of postcards. It overlooked the Tower of London and according to the poet Sir John Betjeman, who filmed a documentary about the Mint in the late 1960s, its late Georgian grand façade was one of the most handsome buildings in London. During the Second World War the Tower Hill site suffered direct hits and the main building was not spared. This image

(figure 13) was taken on VE-Day and shows the front of Tower Hill dramatically flood-lit, highlighting the scars from shells that landed close by. When the Mint moved to South Wales its construction was recorded in a reasonably systematic manner. From the green-field site, it is possible to see the vast rectangular concrete-clad structures emerging, in time dominating the surrounding countryside (figure 14).

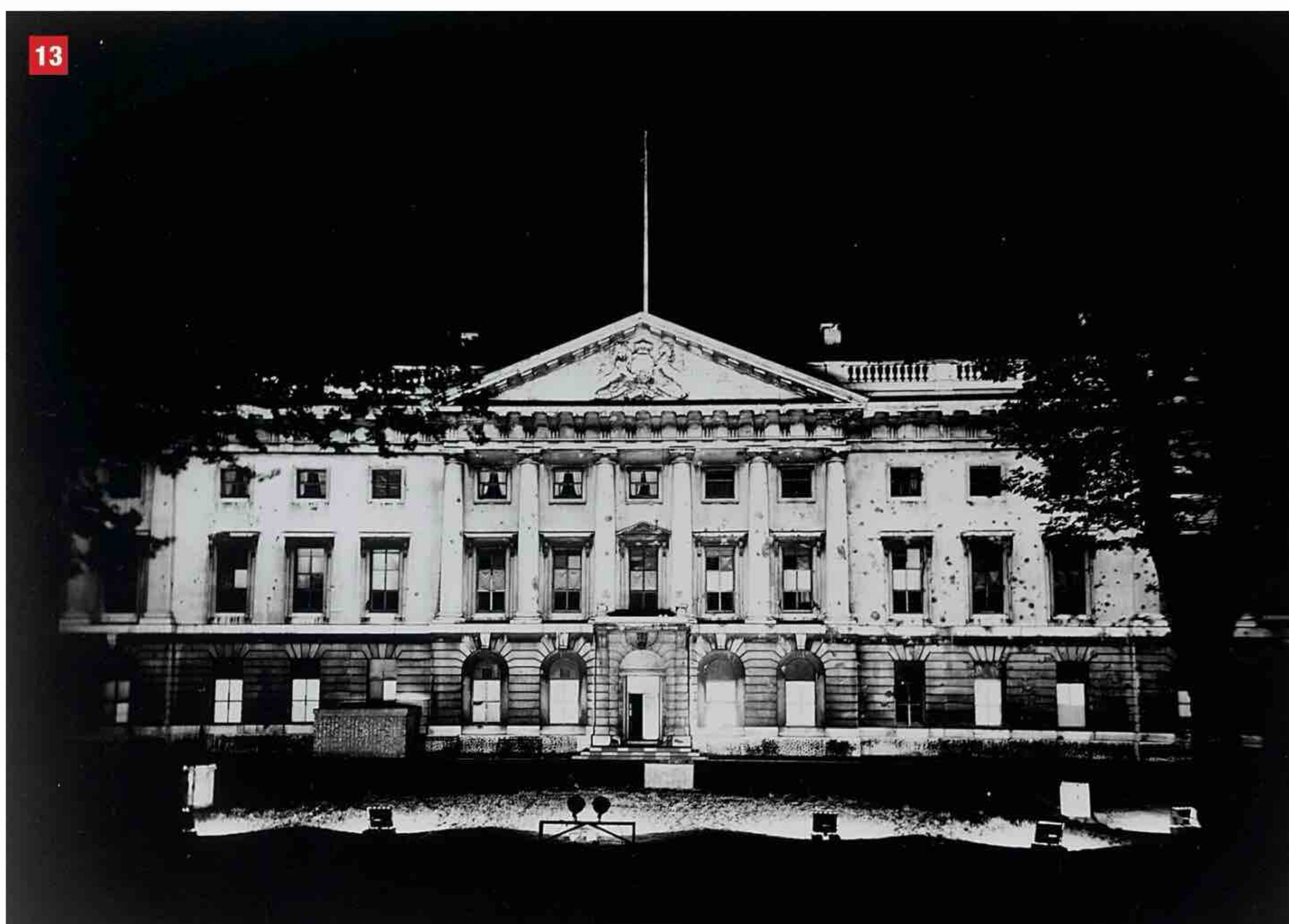
The photograph collection represents a vast array of images, the oldest of which are precious objects in their own right, as opposed to existing as digital files. Some of the negatives for the photographs are retained in their original glass-negative form at a reasonably large size which enables images of exceptional quality to be generated. One of these is a particular favourite of mine (figure 15). It was taken in 1933 and shows Mr Alfred Tims sitting in the Reducing Room at Tower Hill. He is surrounded by a number of lathes, known as reducing machines which, like a pantograph, copied large-scale metal versions of coin designs and, at the same time, cut the designs into small metal tools of coinage size. Everything about the room is orderly and as it should be. Mr Tims is wearing a clean white shirt, a tie and waistcoat. His hair is neatly combed. The floor is swept and the benches tidy. The room is well lit from the sky-light windows, and he sits comfortably



12

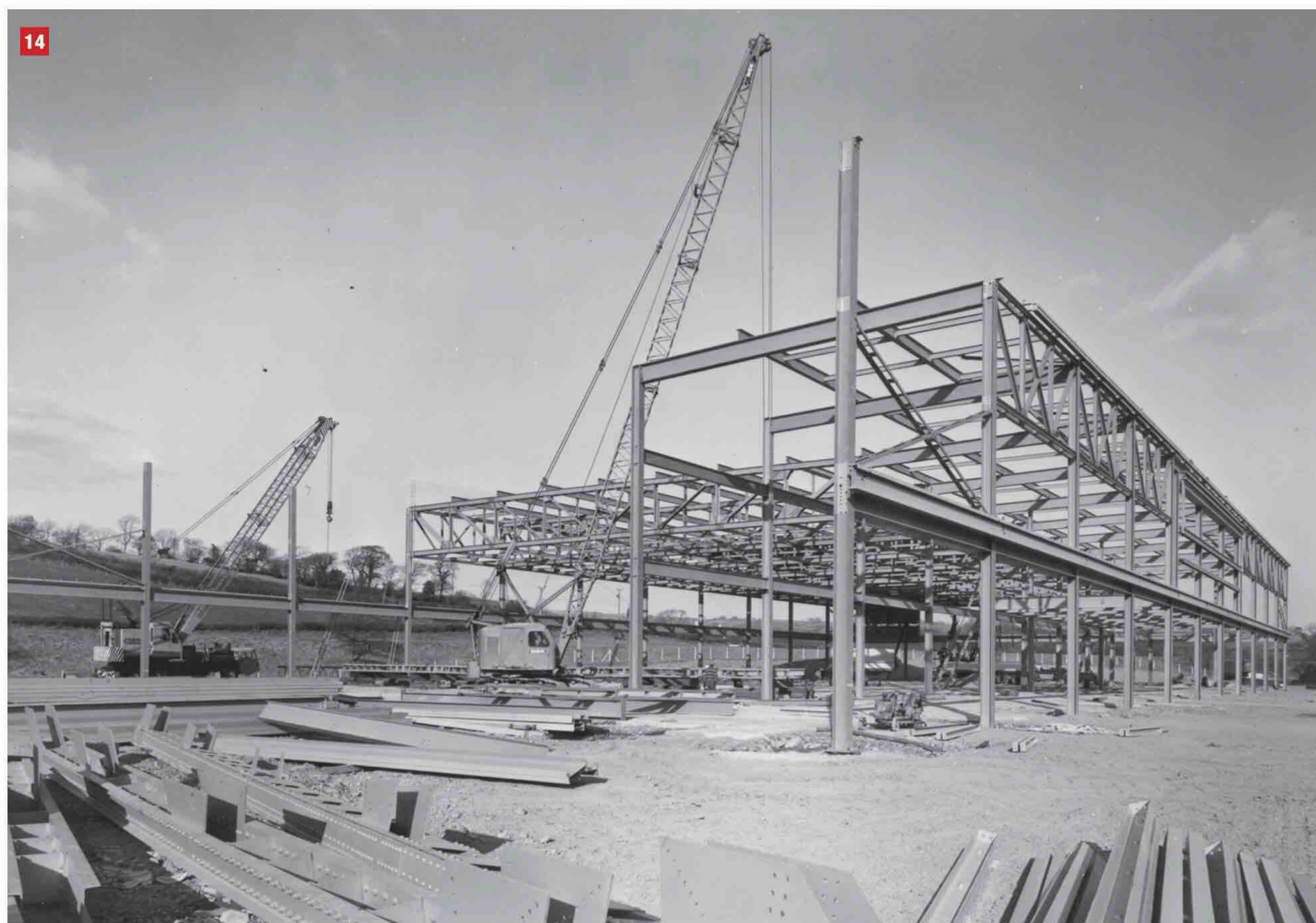
on his stool, as we imagine he must have done a thousand times during his long career, concentrating on the work in hand. One senses that any question asked of him in relation to this his world he would answer with knowledge and authority. As we survey the setting, we see that he has decorated the room with the work of his daily life in the form of the metal electrotypes used on the reducing machines. They form their own record of the time, including coinage and medal work from all over the world that was undertaken by the Mint during the 1920s and 1930s, such as coins for Egypt and the Irish Free State, official Seals and wonderful portraits. The photograph conveys at a single moment a setting of calm precision amidst the noise and heat of other parts of the factory.

But it was not just the factory that was photographed. The Museum itself has a minor presence in the early twentieth-century visual archive. A large room, with a floor area of more than 1300 square feet, was identified and no fewer than 25 show cases were installed



to present the recently classified collection. The exhibition opened to the public in October 1904 and displayed more than 5000 items ranging across Ancient British, Anglo-Gallic, Scottish, Irish and colonial coins, as well as a selection

of medals and tradesman's tokens. It was a gathering together of rare and beautiful items in bewildering profusion. The image of the Museum from 1904 is well known from sets of Royal Mint postcards but this version is taken direct from





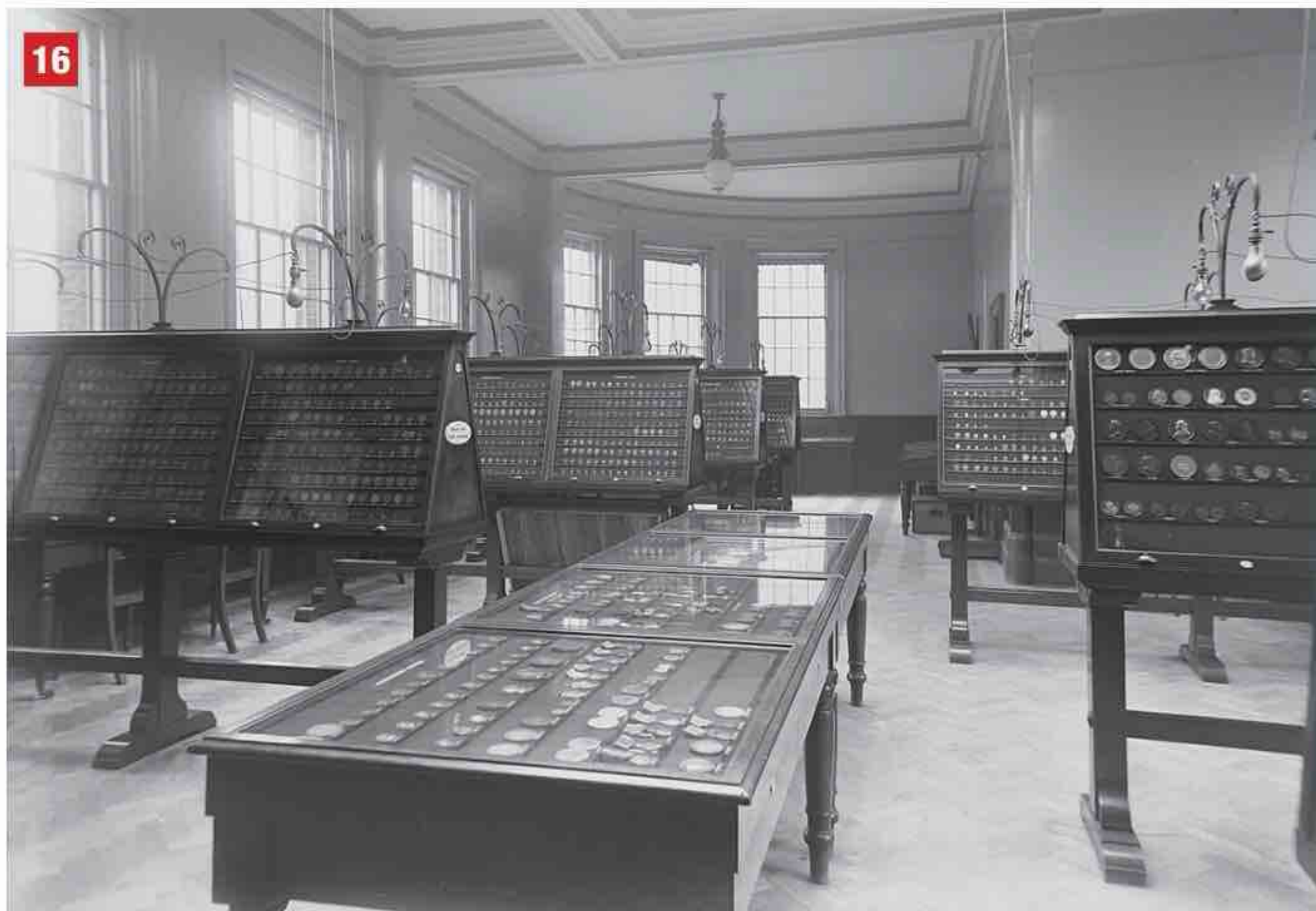
a glass negative in the collection and reveals the Museum's public display in a remarkable level of clarity (figure 16).

The photographic record continues to be maintained and a powerfully emotive instance has been generated in the last year. Covid-19 has impacted upon all our lives, personal and professional, and the Mint is no exception. Part of the production capacity was

given over to supplying over one million visors to the NHS but more regular production of coins and medals has required every part of the factory to adapt. The Museum wanted to make sure the changes were documented for future reference and so commissioned the Mint's own photographer to walk the whole site to capture images of how the pandemic has altered the daily working routines. Even the

coin-covered Gromit in the Royal Mint Experience has had to adapt (figure 17).

*Many of the photographs mentioned in this article are to be found on the Museum's website [royalmintmuseum.org.uk](http://royalmintmuseum.org.uk) alongside a selection of archive films, the earliest of which dates back to 1910. Taken together they represent a wonderful record of life and work at the Royal Mint over the last 150 years.*





## GOLDEN GREATS

In the first of a new series of articles focussing on the gold coins of Europe, coin writer Sebastian Wieschowski, provides an introduction to these desirable and historically intriguing pieces, beginning with a relic from Belgium's dark colonial past

At the beginning of the 19th century, a confusing variety of currencies and denominations prevailed throughout Europe. The German lands, for example, counted on thalers, guldens, and pennies, while francs, lira, drachmas, and various other local means of payment were circulating all across the continent. But most currencies had one thing in common at the time: most circulation coins were minted in gold and silver. This increased the acceptance of coins in other countries.

The preliminary highlight of this early form of a gold standard in the 19th century occurred in 1865 when France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland merged and unified the sizes and weights of their national gold coins. The gold coins of the member states of the 'Latin Monetary Union' are traded close to the gold price nowadays and used by many investors as a substitute for modern investment coinage;

The Belgian gold coins of the time feature a stoic portrait of the monarch, with no hint of the terrible brutality which had been suffered by the people of Congo as the Belgian Empire flexed its imperial muscles



### FURTHER READING

Read the opinion piece 'Understand our coins, understand our past' on the website and discover more about colonial history and the coins of the period: [www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/news-views](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/news-views)

the world of 19th-century gold coins holds many exciting surprises in store for collectors. And when looking at the golden beauties, it becomes clear that many states were not members of the Latin Coinion, but their coins were based on the standard of the LMU.

Not least because of the modern precious metal investment, historical gold coins have recently received broad interest, and while other collection areas such as Euro coins or pre-Euro issues have recently lost value, gold coins from the 19th and early 20th century maintain their worth. Some even achieve record prices at auctions. Even for beginners on a tight budget, there are inexpensive gold pieces which are suitable as first steps in this exciting collecting area.

In this new series we present five gold coins from the 19th and early 20th centuries, which are not only interesting for investors because of their high gold content but are also sought after in the collector

community thanks to their historical background.

### Belgium: A place in the sun at all costs

With his desire for a 'place in the sun' the German Kaiser Wilhelm II was not alone, he was just one of the last European monarchs who could claim any patch of earth for themselves. Many states were far ahead of Germany in their colonization and these global powerhouses often planted their flags in distant lands. To today's observers, it might seem odd that palms, elephants and lions were to be seen on Belgian coins, yet this only reflected the 'scramble' for colonies in the 19th century.

The colonial plans of the Kingdom of Belgium, in particular, was pushed forward by one man: Leopold II was king of the Belgians between 1865 and 1909 and turned out to be instrumental in extending the Belgian territory far beyond the European continent. One

could argue that it was a welcome pastime; at home the king had little to report. Belgium had a modern system of government and thanks to the process of state formation the king, as a constitutional monarch, had only limited powers. The government in Brussels knew that colonies could become a burden on the state budget and so the population in the small country did not appear to have an increased interest in an overseas branch.

Their ruler, however, had other ideas. In search of a suitable patch of soil, Leopold first made a find in Asia, but the project was rejected. At an international conference in 1876, Leopold then selected the African continent as his playground, of course, for 'purely philanthropic' interest. Already at the time of the conquest, however, Leopold's real intentions and morals were revealed. Leopold cheated hundreds of regional tribal chiefs with the help of his ambassador Henry Morton Stanley, born in Wales in 1841, and the man famous for uttering the line 'Dr Livingstone, I presume?' whilst on

expedition in what is now Tanzania. Stanley stated that his boss could steer the sun and, according to historical sources, expertly used a sleight-of-hand trick with a burning glass.

After the magic apparently convinced the provincial chieftains, Belgium was able to officially take possession of the Congo in 1884 as part of the 'Congo Conference' in Berlin. More precisely, the International Congo Society was the new owner and this was in possession of King Leopold, who now de facto became the owner of a whole African state with a territory that was seventy times the size of the motherland. From his private wallet, Leopold financed the development of public institutions and had, for example, arranged for former slaves to be educated in schools.

But it wasn't quite as straightforward, or innocent. This educational initiative served primarily as a showcase project for the sceptical population back in Belgium. In fact, a terror regime was established in the Congo, which ensured that the region's population was shockingly

halved over forty years. Field workers had their hands chopped off if their work was too slow; the term 'Congo cruelty' was born.

The Belgian gold coins of the time depicted nothing of this brutality, simply featuring a portrait of the monarch; Leopold is presented in a dignified pose looking to the right. The first series of gold coins according to the standards of the Latin Monetary Union was minted from 1867 to 1870 in millions. Thereafter, the rough representation of the beard was replaced by a much more detailed variant; the hair was obviously of significance to the king. Depending on the year, between 2.2 and 5.9 million pieces of the second series exist, only the 1882 issue is comparatively rare, with about half a million pieces.

After that, Belgium concentrated on the production of silver coins, because the Latin Monetary standards were not limited to the coinage of gold coins and the Belgian state needed more and more cash to finance the king's colonial plans. Leopold was thus also seen on silver coins until his death in 1909.

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# COINS & CURRENCY UNDER THE

# Commonwealth of England

Dr Murray Andrews of the University of Worcester provides a guide to the coins used during the short-lived Commonwealth of England, when the nation existed without a monarchy following the Second English Civil War and the trial and execution of Charles I



**O**n a cold winter's afternoon on 30 January 1649 King Charles I was beheaded outside the Banqueting House at the Palace of Whitehall. This gruesome spectacle, watched by a packed crowd of onlookers (figure 1), came as a turning point after six harsh years of Civil War, a conflict that saw brother fight brother in defence of King or Parliament. With Charles' execution, Parliament had literally claimed a royalist scalp, and was able to reform the state as it saw fit. And reform it did: by the end of May 1649, the House of Commons had abolished the monarchy and House of Lords, and had declared itself the supreme authority of a new sovereign republic, the Commonwealth of England.

In the eleven years until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, the Commonwealth oversaw some of the most radical political transformations in English history. Piece by piece, key pillars of the old English state were remodelled or dismantled in the name of the parliamentarian 'Good Old Cause'. The coinage was no exception: long a symbol of royal power, it too was transformed under the Commonwealth, and the many thousands of coins kept in museums and private collections offer glimpses into the history of this remarkable 'English revolution'.

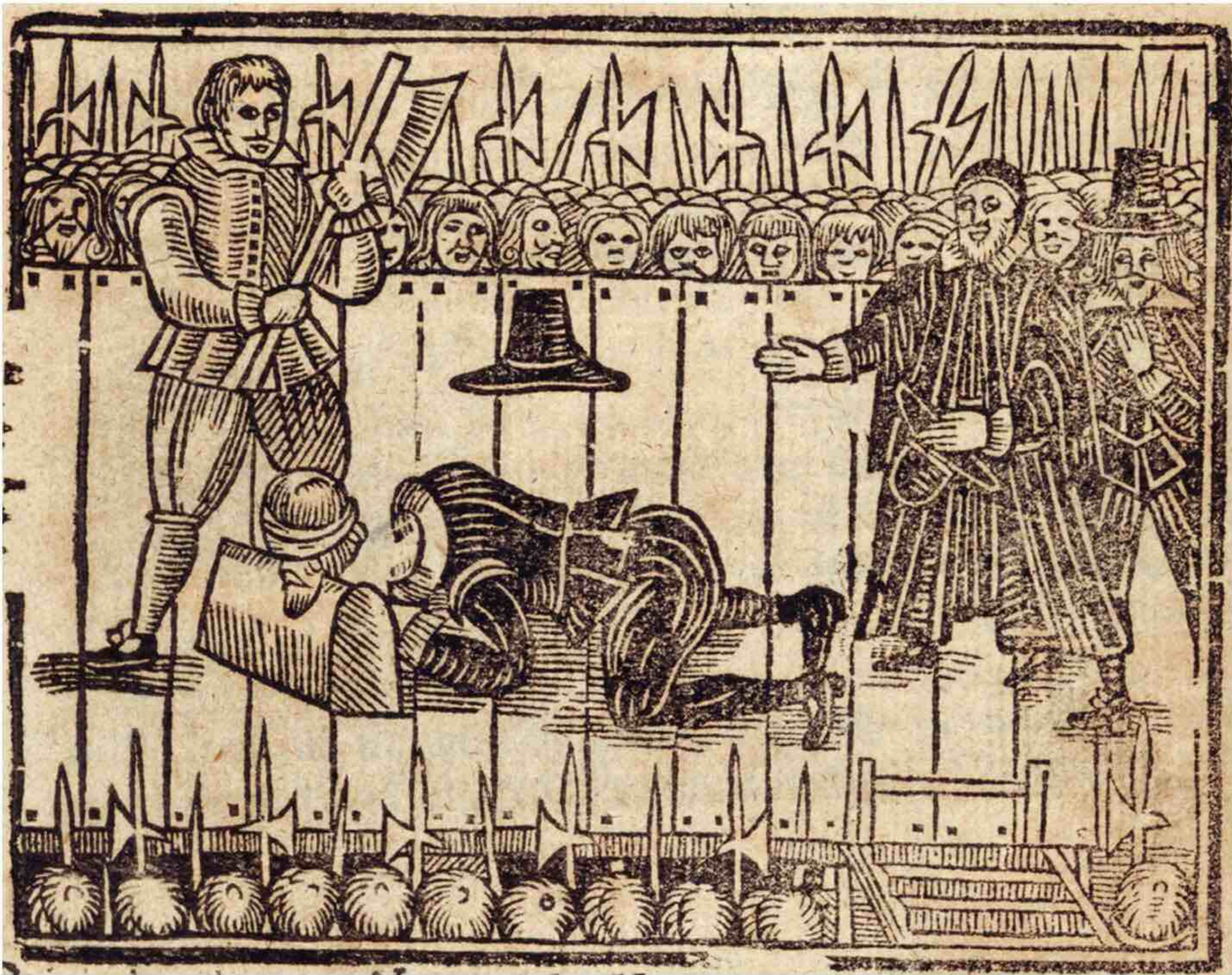
## All change at the Mint

Control of the coinage was a priority of the Commonwealth regime in early 1649. During the Civil War, Parliament held on to the Mint at the Tower of London,

Above left: a 1652 allegory on Oliver Cromwell by Crispijn van de Passe. Cromwell is shown as a tyrant, oppressing the French, Dutch, Irish and Scots. He is mocked for his love of money; he is being crowned by a mythological winged beast (a griffon), which conveniently produces gold coins from its backside (Rijksmuseum, [www.rijksmuseum.nl](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl))

Above right: a portrait of Oliver Cromwell, anonymous, c.1650

but made the unusual decision to continue striking coins bearing traditional royal designs. Shillings struck at the Tower in 1645, for example (figure 2), bore a portrait bust of Charles I, circumscribed by the Latin legend *CAROLVS D G MAG BRI FRA ET HIB REX*, 'Charles, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland'. The reverses, meanwhile, depicted a quartered shield bearing the royal arms, surrounded by the Latin legend *CHRISTO AVSPICE REGNO*, 'I reign with Christ as my protector'. The maintenance of a



royal coinage during this period could be viewed as a pragmatic compromise, a canny decision made before the outcome of the war had been decided. But it also reflected a deliberate political strategy adopted by parliamentarian loyalists. Throughout the 1640s, many presented their cause as a fight 'for King and Parliament', casting the King as the unwilling puppet of 'evil councillors'.

Whatever their basis, by 1649 these arrangements no longer matched political reality: the new republican government demanded a coinage of its own. On 13 February, barely a fortnight after Charles' execution, Parliament established a committee to reassess the Mint's activities. Its tasks were twofold: on

the one hand, it would consider the regulation of the Mint, while on the other it would prepare dies for a new Commonwealth coinage. In this spirit, the committee spent the summer of 1649 examining Mint staff, dispensing of those who held any royalist sentiments. Some 'old hands' found themselves out of a job; among their number were the clerk of the irons, Thomas Swallow, the engraver Edward Wade, and the weigher Hamond Franklin.

Men granted offices at the Mint by patents from Charles I – for example, the comptroller Henry Cogan, and the assay masters Andrew Palmer and Thomas Woodward – were dispossessed in a similar fashion. The vacant posts were filled by new men, many of whom had backed Parliament

during the war. The office of master-worker, for example, went to Aaron Guerdain, a doctor from Jersey who had advocated for Parliament during the 1640s. Other posts went to military men. The new comptroller, Thomas Barnardson, had supplied Parliament's New Model Army with a regiment of foot soldiers during the siege of Colchester in 1648; the new teller and weigher, Henry Dumaresq, had commanded Jersey's parliamentarian militia during the 1640s.

**The coins of the Commonwealth**

In the autumn of 1649 Parliament ordered the Mint to issue new coins in the name of the Commonwealth. The coinage was bimetallic, and comprised a range of denominations in high-value gold (the unite, double-crown, and crown) as well as mid to low-value silver (the crown, halfcrown, shilling, sixpence, halfgroat, penny, and halfpenny). The designs of these coins differed radically from their royal predecessors (figures 3-4). On the obverse, the royal bust was replaced by a shield emblazoned with the Cross of St George, set within a wreath formed of a palm and olive branch. The reverses, meanwhile, depicted paired shields emblazoned with the Cross of St George and the Harp of Ireland. These changes of design were profoundly symbolic: England had rejected a royal coinage in favour of a national coinage, which would circulate in all those areas under English control.

But change was not limited to imagery. Latin legends were replaced by English legends: on the obverse, THE





COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND, and on the reverse GOD WITH VS. This was a calculated move designed to appeal to the Commonwealth's protestant backers. For many English protestants, particularly dissenters like the Levellers, Puritans, and Quakers, the official use of Latin was an unwelcome relic of 'superstitious Popery'. Its replacement by a Godly message in plain English therefore symbolised the rejection of Catholicism, and a commitment to a 'correct'

*Commonwealth coins enjoyed a widespread circulation, a situation that didn't please royalist opponents, who denounced the coins as inferior*

protestant outlook.

Despite embarking on a new coinage in its own name, there is no evidence that the Commonwealth ever attempted to withdraw earlier royal coins from circulation. This had the peculiar effect of producing a currency pool in which Commonwealth coins circulated side-by-side with those of its deposed or deceased royalist predecessors. The complex

monetary situation that arose is illustrated by a hoard of nearly 1,600 silver coins buried near Blackfriars Bridge, London, in c.1660 and rediscovered in the mid-1990s. Less than a quarter of the coins in this hoard were Commonwealth issues, the remainder consisting of earlier royalist coins, chiefly of Charles I.

Complexities aside, archaeological and metal-detector finds suggest that Commonwealth coins enjoyed a widespread circulation in English towns and villages during the mid-17th century. This situation could hardly please the Commonwealth's royalist opponents, who denounced the coins as inferior products of an illegitimate regime. Ridicule was a key weapon in the royalist arsenal. One quick-witted critic, the royalist Lord Lucas, observed that the conjoined shields on the reverse of Commonwealth coins resembled a pair of breeches: 'a fit stamp for the coin of the Rump'. Counterfeiting, however, posed a more serious threat to the coinage than any royalist jibes, and on 17 July 1649 Parliament passed an Act making the counterfeiting and clipping of coins a capital offence. These measures clearly had mixed success, for many examples of counterfeit Commonwealth coins have been uncovered in recent years (figure 5).

### The coinage of the Protectorate

Throughout its existence the Commonwealth was riven by factional disputes, but none were quite as significant as those that arose in the early 1650s between Parliament and the New Model Army. Slow progress on constitutional reforms frustrated Army Grandees, including the decorated Lieutenant-General Oliver Cromwell (figure 6). Tensions between the parties came to a head in April 1653, when Parliament refused Cromwell's demands to form a caretaker government of MPs and army representatives. Cromwell subsequently marched his troops into the House of Commons, and forcibly dissolved Parliament. In July 1653 a new 'Parliament of Saints' was summoned, but this was equally incapable of resolving constitutional problems, and was itself dissolved on 8 December. One week later, the army's Council of Officers unilaterally adopted a new constitution for the Commonwealth. Known as the Instrument of Government, this constitution vested key executive powers in a single head of state: the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell.

Cromwell's rule as Lord Protector transformed the Commonwealth from a dysfunctional parliamentary





republic into a military dictatorship, ruled by a king in all but name. The scale of the political reversal was made clear in November 1656, when the Mint's chief engraver, Thomas Simon, was instructed to prepare dies for gold and silver coins in Cromwell's name. The designs of these coins echoed their royalist predecessors (figure 7), depicting a laureate Cromwell on the obverse and a crowned quartered shield on the reverse. The legends, meanwhile, reverted from English to Latin: they now named OLIVAR D G R P ANG SCO ET HIB &c PRO, 'Oliver, by the grace of God, Protector of the Republic of England, Scotland, Ireland, etc', and proclaimed PAX QVAER-ITVR BELLO, 'Peace through War'. The earliest of these coins, dated 1656, were struck at Drury House in 1657, using an innovative minting machine designed by the French moneyer Pierre Blondeau. Production ceased after Cromwell's death at Whitehall on 3 September 1658, and few if any of the coins seem to have entered circulation. Authentic specimens are now desirable collectors' pieces, and command extraordinary prices at auction.

### The end of the Commonwealth coinage

On 3 September 1658 the title of Lord Protector passed to Oliver Cromwell's eldest son, Richard. The succession was a poisoned chalice. Unlike his father, Richard Cromwell lacked military experience and supporters. Moreover, he inherited a state blighted by financial problems: by the time of his accession, the Commonwealth was in the throes of economic depression, and was saddled by debts worth £2.5m. Richard's attempts to resolve these problems drew the ire of Parliament and Army alike, and by May 1659 he had been effectively ousted from power in a bloodless coup.

Political disputes thundered on in Richard's wake, and in February 1660 a powerful military faction, headed by General George Monck, marched on London demanding



a new political settlement. Monck and his followers believed that stability was only achievable under a restored monarchy, and to these ends worked with a strong royalist contingent in the new 'Convention Parliament' to secure the return of the exiled Charles II. On 4 April 1660 Charles II issued his Declaration of Breda, pledging to pardon all those who accepted his claim to the English throne. Parliament agreed to these terms, and by 29 May the King had returned to London, ready to receive his crown.

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The restoration of Charles II in 1660 signalled the end of the Commonwealth era, and sealed the fate of its coinage. On 7 September 1661, Charles II issued a proclamation withdrawing all Commonwealth coins from circulation, a policy enforced with great rigour: in many cases, holes were punched through the old coins in an act of forcible demonetisation (figure 8). Those specimens that escaped the melting pot are a material legacy of a revolutionary England, a 'world turned upside down'.

# BOB LONG'S BRAVERY

One of the great pleasures of medal collecting is the joy of the unexpected, writes Will Bennett of the Orders & Medals Research Society, as he tells the tale of Bob Long and his life saving medal

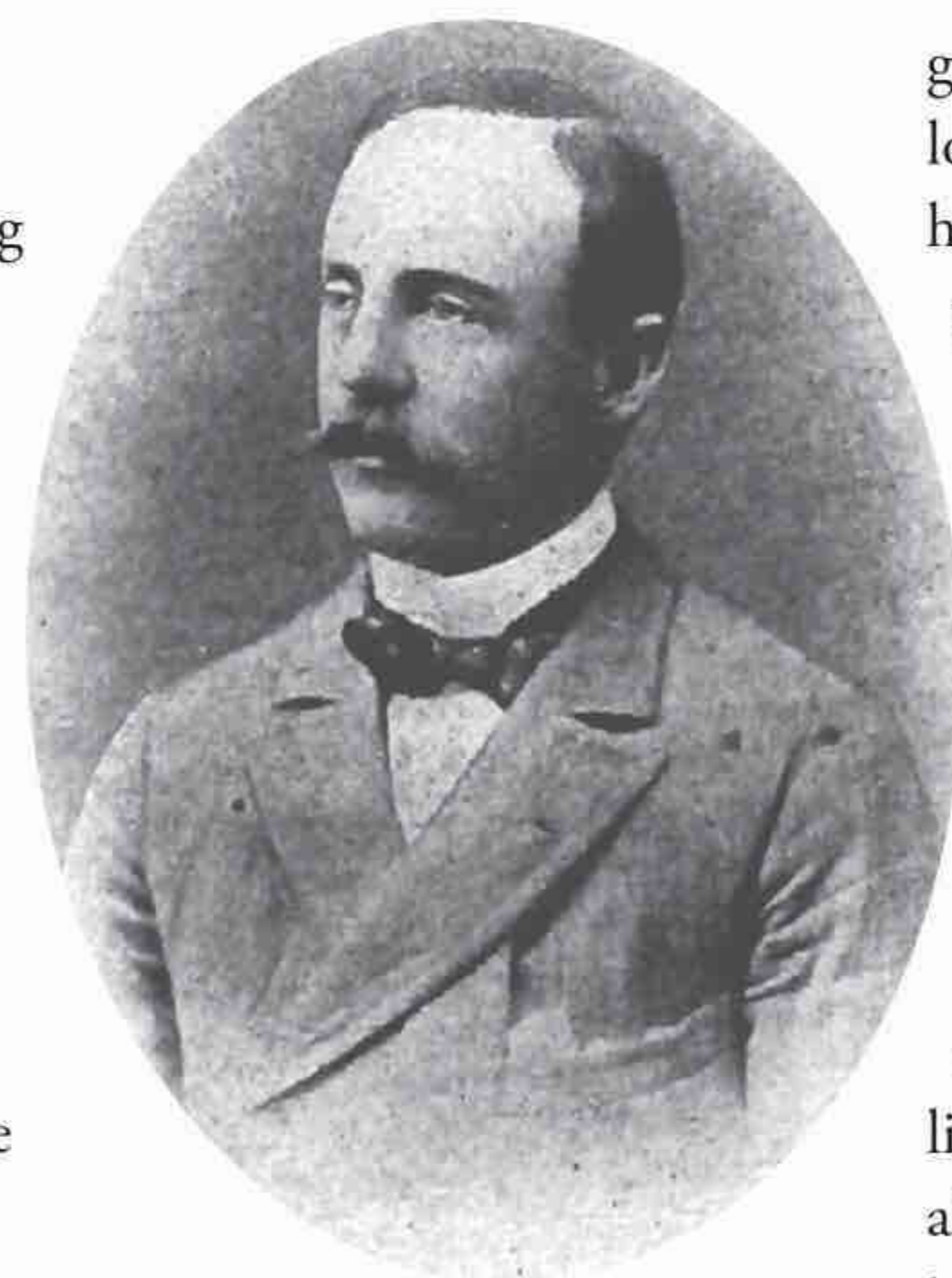


**A**cquiring a type of medal that you never thought you would own and uncovering an interesting story or gaining an insight into the life and character of someone long forgotten can be so rewarding. The tale of Bob Long and his life saving medal ticked all of these boxes and reminded me that you should never assume anything when researching.

The life saving awards issued by governments and other organisations are fascinating medals and some collectors specialise in them entirely. I do not often venture into this area but I could not resist the Life Saving Medal of the Order of St John named to Long when it was offered to me. Information with the medal said that he was serving with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in which I am interested.

Further research revealed that Long won his award for bravery when the yeomanry was preparing for the visit of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) to celebrate the regiment's centenary in Devizes, Wiltshire in 1893. As it returned from drilling, the band struck up as it reached the main road.

The music startled two horses drawing a passing carriage and they veered round throwing the coachman into the road. The animals then bolted towards Devizes with the passenger, a Mrs Wynell Mayow, and a footman still aboard, frightened and helpless. Trooper Bob Long chased the runaway carriage for three-quarters of a mile and finally jumped from his horse to grab the harness and, after being dragged some distance, brought it to a halt.



When the Prince arrived for the celebrations the following day he must have been told about Long's bravery. As he was the Grand Prior of the Order of St John, he would have had great influence over who was awarded its Life Saving Medal. The following year Long was personally presented with the medal by the heir to the throne.

The unusual story behind the medal was now clear but I still knew little about Long. As he was a trooper I thought that he could not possibly be connected with the Long dynasty who were major landowners in Wiltshire and had provided generations of officers for the yeomanry. My assumption proved wrong. Robert Chaloner Critchley Long, to give him his full name, was the younger brother of two successful men, one of whom, Walter, became one of the most powerful politicians in Britain.

While Bob ran up debts, failed to get a commission in the Army and lost the only Parliamentary election he ever fought, Walter spent 41 years as a Conservative MP, sixteen of them as a Cabinet minister.

Walter was also a senior officer in the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and probably told the Prince of Wales about his brother's bravery. Bob's life continued on a disastrous course but warm tributes were paid to him after his death in 1938. He was a much-liked, albeit flawed, man and also a brave one as the incident in Devizes showed.

Find out much more about medal collecting with the help of the Orders & Medals Research Society. The Society exists to promote a general interest in the study of orders, decorations and medals and to actively encourage and publish research into all aspects of civil and military medals, with a particular focus on those issued by Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries. *Visit the website: [omrs.org](http://omrs.org)*

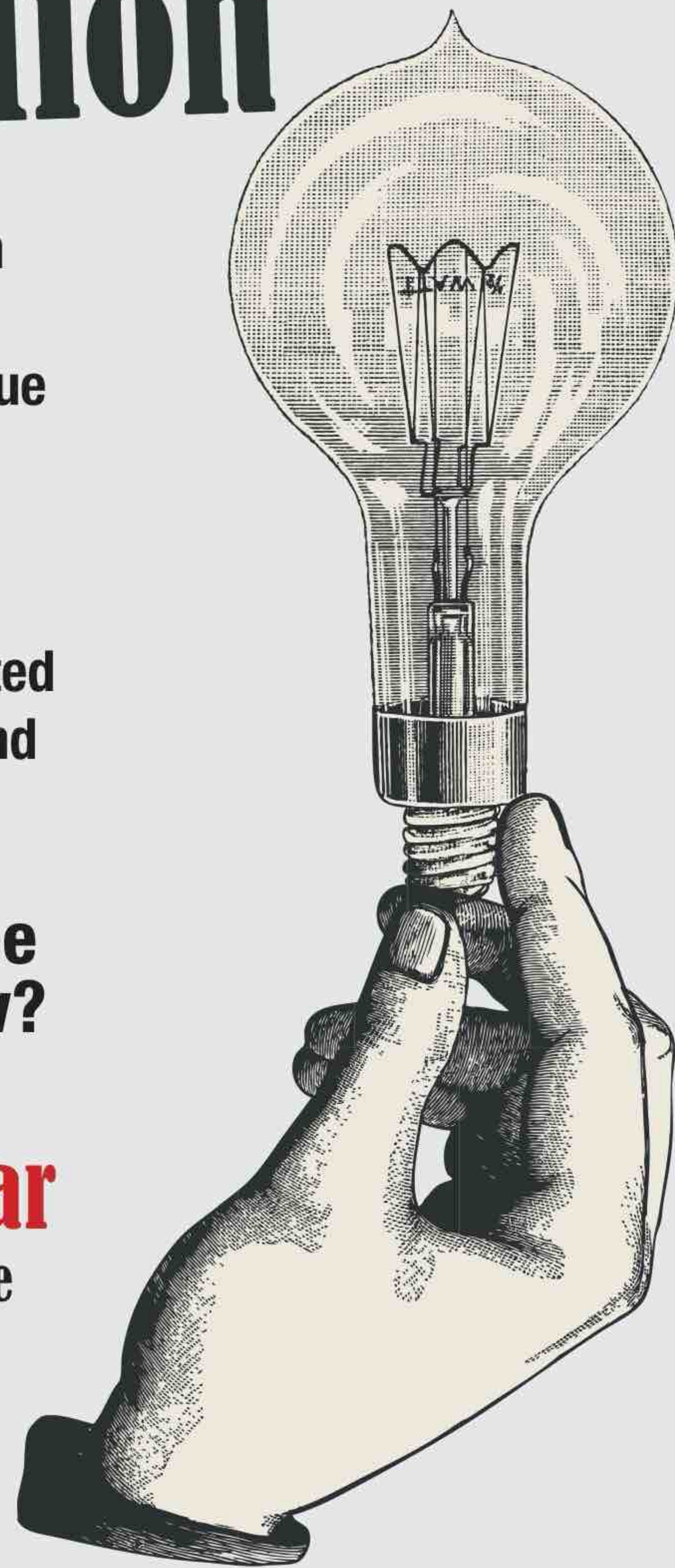
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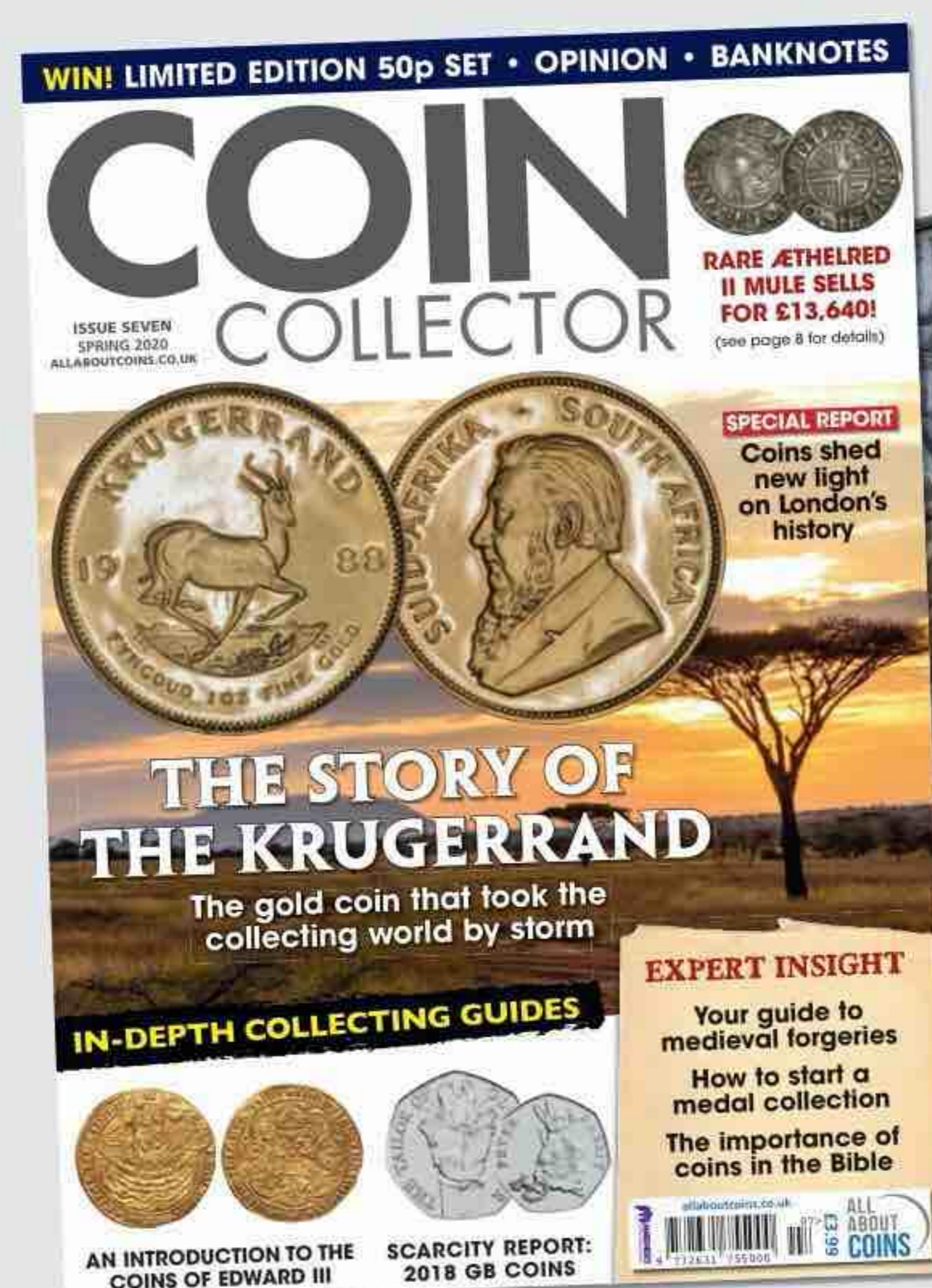
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\*Some believe it was Francis Bacon, and the Latin version is 'scientia potentia est'.

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## SWEDISH PLATE MONEY

Dr Richard Kelleher, of the Department of Coins and Medals at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, looks at an extraordinary example of real coined money which grew to a remarkable size and prompted the printing of Europe's first paper money

**M**ost modern money comes in one of a few familiar physical forms. Circular base metal coins made of alloys of nickel, copper, brass and steel – depending on denomination and desired finish – are one common form. Another are banknotes made of paper or, increasingly over the past decade, polymer. Although metal coinages have been a consistent monetary form over time, they have occasionally veered off in quite unexpected directions.

If you asked what the world's largest coin is, the Guinness Book of World Records would tell you it's the Australian Kangaroo gold coin weighing an astonishing one tonne. This coin, however, is more of a novelty showpiece than functioning money.

Sweden was Europe's foremost copper producer, thanks to the productive mine at Falun where seams of copper have been exploited for a thousand years, and other sites at Gustavsberg, Carlsberg and Ljusnedal. Falun, situated in Svealand (middle Sweden), is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site but in the early modern period was the major source of Sweden's state wealth. The Privy Council of Sweden referred to the mine as the nation's treasury and stronghold, and the profits derived from copper exports helped propel Sweden to become a major imperial power in the Baltic and beyond. As early as the 1620s the shortage of silver coins was recognised as being a serious impediment to trade. One solution, which would have other beneficial effects, was to mint an extensive copper coinage. Not only would this ease



the limited circulating medium, it would also restrict and control the copper supply. Restricting the level of copper exports allowed the crown to monopolise its supply, and thus its price on the international metal exchange in Amsterdam.

After some initial success complications arose. Fluctuations in the exchange rate between copper and silver meant that the copper daler was not equivalent to its silver namesake. Attempts were made to foist the excess copper coins on conquered territories in Prussia and Pomerania. The

negotiations with Stralsund, who the Swede's supported against imperial forces, included a condition that obligated the citizens to accept the copper coins. Another solution, recommended in 1644, was to mint kopperplätmynt, large copper plate money valued in silver dalers. The piece illustrated here is one of the examples in the Fitzwilliam Museum collection. They come in a variety of denominations from ½ daler up to the 10 daler plate measuring 300 x 700mm and weighing almost 20kg! The form of each

is the same regardless of size. The plates are uniface and were struck with dies in the centre and each of the four corners. The central die gives us the value 1 DALER SILF MYNT. The other four stamps tell us the authority and the date of minting, (A·F·R·S = ADOLPHUS FRIDERICUS REX SVECIAE) Adolf Fredrik King of Sweden, and 1753.

Despite their unwieldy size the Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna and industrialist Louis De Geer argued that copper plate money was suitable for international trade because it could be ‘used both as money and as merchandise’. Another larger piece of plate money in the Museum collection was recovered from the wreck of the Nicobar in 1987. The ship went down in a July storm in 1783 off the coast of False Bay (Valsbaai), South Africa, and shows that copper plates were indeed a tradeable commodity.

In practice it was the bank that found a solution to the oversized money. Institutions and the general public could deposit their plates in the bank in exchange for a receipt, which could then be used in transactions with other parties, foregrounding the introduction of paper bank notes by the Stockholm Banco in 1661. In the bank charter, Karl X Gustav emphasised ‘the good convenience our subjects thereby obtain, that in this way they are rid of much subtraction and addition, hauling and dragging and other trouble that the copper coin entails in its handling’. Paper did not entirely replace the plate money, which continued to be struck up until 1776.

# NUMISMATICS IN LOCKDOWN

In this focus provided by the Money & Medals Network, based at The British Museum, we look at some of the challenges faced by numismatists during the pandemic

## MMN UNDER LOCKDOWN



What a year! The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on planned Money and Medals Network activity, just as it has on all our lives, writes **Henry Flynn, British Museum.**

In January 2020 MMN was entering the final six months of the most recent period of Arts Council England (ACE) funding, with multiple museum collections mapping visits planned and six training events in different areas of England at various stages of organisation. In March it quickly became clear that this activity would not be able to go ahead. It was then that the national lockdown came into effect and all planned MMN activity involving face-to-face interactions was put on hold.

I am the Project Curator for MMN, and since my role is externally funded I was not furloughed during the lockdown. This enabled me to keep working on the Network, but in a very different way from normal. Firstly, the nerve centre of the Money and Medals Network moved from the Coins and Medals Department of the British Museum to my north London flat where I have been based permanently up until very recently. Armed with a laptop issued by Q Branch, by which I mean the British Museum Information Services Department, I was then able to keep MMN going in a variety of ways. The Money and

Medals website features a growing repository of information about numismatic holdings in UK museums. This is where all the information gathered during the collections mapping process is uploaded to as each participating museum gets their own page on the collections section of the website. This is fast becoming a very comprehensive database which is accessible to anyone with an interest in numismatics. Having to work from home and not being able to travel for several months afforded me the chance to give the website some TLC and tackle the backlog of questionnaires that had built up during 2019’s busy training schedule.

In total, 17 new pages have been created. This includes information gathered during previous periods of activity such as at Stromness Museum and Orkney Museum, all the most recent assessment visits conducted during late 2019 and early 2020 such as SS Great Britain and the Wilson Art Gallery and Museum, and also some new contacts made during the pandemic. It still isn’t really possible for me to travel far to view collections, so I have been prioritising putting information on the website instead, hope that a physical visit will follow at some point. These new MMN members include Headstone Manor & Museum and Kirklees Museums and Galleries. The website is the most up to date it has ever been, and this information is of course all intended for your benefit, so I would encourage you to visit [www.moneyandmedals.org.uk](http://www.moneyandmedals.org.uk).

# MONEY & MEDALS

Content published in partnership with the Money & Medals Network, and originally published in the Autumn 2020 issue of *Money & Medals* newsletter. The quarterly publication is associated with the Money and Medals Network based at the British Museum and in association with the RNS, BNS and a number of key partners. The Network aims to act as an information exchange

for museum professionals within the UK whose collections include coins, medals and other objects relating to monetary and economic history and numismatics. To contribute information or articles to the Newsletter or to subscribe by email send your name and email address to: [MMN@britishmuseum.org](mailto:MMN@britishmuseum.org) or by post to Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. With thanks to Richard Kelleher and the Money & Medals Network steering group. [www.moneyandmedals.org.uk](http://www.moneyandmedals.org.uk)



moneyandmedals.org.uk and take a look for yourself!

The planned programme of six training events has been paused for now as it seems it isn't going to be possible to hold physical events in 2020. I am hopeful that these training days will go ahead in some socially-distanced form, perhaps early in 2021. meantime, I am looking into running online MMN sessions to increase our engagement with museum professionals and to enhance our training programme. The first of these trial events will be held later this year.

interest of keeping the profile of MMN visible during these dark times I have been maintaining a presence on social media, keeping our followers on Twitter and Instagram informed of developments, and joining in with events such as Professor Dan Hicks' #MuseumsUnlocked and contributing to @NumisChat. To follow MMN on these platforms, you can find us @moneymedalsnet. It has been a challenging year to say the least, but Network activity continues and the project itself is adapting to this new situation. We are still here to help, please check the news page of our website regularly to stay informed!

### The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) during lockdown



On 23 March 2020, when the Prime Minister placed the UK under 'lockdown', metal detecting, and other searching for archaeological finds, was essentially prohibited,

writes **Prof Michael Lewis, Head, Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum**. Throughout this period, all the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers (bar one, who was redeployed to county council Covid-19 support operations), remained on PAS work, though the nature of this transformed somewhat. Instead of undertaking outreach (such as club visits, finds days etc) to bring in finds for recording, the FLOs took to social media (to stay in touch with finders), and also took the opportunity to work on backlog and unfinished 'red-flag' records on the PAS database: <https://finds.org.uk/database>. With period of 'total lockdown' (so until 13 May), the FLOs and volunteers recorded 6,251 finds and updated almost 11,000 records. This work has continued, with 16,542 finds now recorded since 23 March.

## *"It's amazing how the coin community (and everyone else) adapted to the new digital world"*

Currently people are able to go out metal-detecting, fieldwalking and mudlarking, as long as they follow government guidance (produced by the DCMS with PAS support): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidanceon-searching-for-archaeological-finds-in-englandduring-covid-19>. This emphasises the importance of detecting responsibly, not excavating in-situ archaeology and reporting Treasure, as well as (of course) social distancing. Some FLOs have been able to meet with finds, primarily to take in Treasure and other finds for recording, though the situation is variable across the country depending on where they are based and the local restrictions. Therefore, especially for the next six months (until at least Easter), the focus has been on processing Treasure finds (as much as the system allows) and the digital recording of other items. The PAS is blessed with a digital platform for recording finds (which can be done anywhere) and has been essential to enabling the Scheme to function (and to some degree flourish) at this time.

### Numismatics goes digital



The coin world, often unfairly, has a reputation of being old-fashioned, obscure, and behind the times, writes **Dr Megan Gooch, Bodleian Library, Oxford**. Numismatics is seen as an antiquarian pursuit by gentlemen collectors and little-known academic sub-disciplines. But I hope I am preaching to the converted here when I say that whilst numismatics can be niche, it is and always has been highly relevant and forward-looking.

Even the bastion of traditional numismatics – the coin society – went digital thanks to the corona-crisis. This year saw many of us getting to grips with Zoom, Teams and other video conferencing tools, regardless of our age or technical ability.

Both the British and Royal Numismatic Societies, as well as some local societies, paused their lecture programmes and then reinvented them for the digital pandemic age online. Whilst many of us suffered from zoom-fatigue, the novelty of online meetings allowed us to access talks and lectures from the comfort of our own homes – and reached international members who would not normally be able to travel to in-person meetings. It's amazing how the coin community (and everyone else) adapted to the new digital world – but kudos must go to Clare Rowan who organised the 'World in your Hand' conference digitally in April, at the start of our digital journey. She welcomed fifteen speakers and 100 delegates from around the world in this online conference seamlessly transitioning from the planned event in Warwick to Zoom.

April also saw the birth of a new digital



Getting digital with antiquarian coin plates for #NumisChat on a Tuesday (© Megan Gooch)

numismatic community on Twitter. Amelia Dowler from the British Museum founded NumisChat where like-minded coinfans can discuss a numismatic topic every week on Tuesdays from 5-6pm (BST). Recent topics have included forgeries, the future of money, ships and navigation, religion, and trade currencies. It's been lovely to share ideas, see new perspectives and also, just share some really great coins with others – just follow #NumisChat to join in.

Social media has also given us the gift of numismatic content from the Royal Mint Museum (@RoyalMintMuseum) and the Bank of England Museum (@boemuseum). The former's A-Z of coins brought us some jewels from their collection, and more recently they've been sharing a topic dear to my heart – stories from Mint Street at the Tower of London. The Bank of England museum has been bringing us stories from the people and work of the Bank, including intriguing photos from their archives.

Although I always think of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (@findsorguk) as a largely numismatic endeavour, their work records more than just coins. However, the monthly Coin Relief blogs by Sam Moorhead and Andrew Brown have kept us satisfied on the numismatics front. And the weekly #FindsFriday on Twitter is often a lovely or grotty – but always interesting – coin find.

The world of coin collecting too was affected. The traditionally social events of coins fairs, auctions and COINEX were replaced by online auctions and sales. With coin dealers and auction houses adapting, like museums and so many other organisations, to digital platforms.

Has the digital replaced the old ways of 'doing numismatics'? No. I'm sure we all yearn for a chance to meet each other in person again, to see old friends and make new ones in the numismatic community. But there are new digital possibilities – online meetings and sales can be attended by people from a distance, and social media has helped us discover new numismatic stories and discuss our work and interests with others. I'd like to think the best of these initiatives will continue, but I for one, can't wait for a sherry party at a numismatic society and seeing you in person again!



1

## THE GALLIC EMPIRE: PART 1 POSTUMUS AND THE CREATION OF THE GALLIC EMPIRE

In the first part of an in-depth examination of the coins of the Gallic Empire, Dr Adrian Marsden explains how Roman commander Postumus became leader of the short-lived breakaway part of the Roman Empire, and how coins helped his cause

**T**he base silver or bronze antoniniani – also known as radiates – of the so-called Gallic Empire (260-74) were struck in enormous numbers and can be picked up relatively cheaply. Thus, they offer a good introduction to Roman coins for the beginner. Radiates are instantly recognisable on account of the spiky head-dress worn by the emperor, a visual representation of the sunrays bursting from the brows of the sun god Apollo. On Roman coins it had the significance of marking a double denomination; the radiate started life in 215 as a double denarius under the emperor Caracalla. Its silver content then was around the fifty percent mark; by the early 250s that had dropped still further to around thirty to forty percent. In the 260s the purity was to plummet. By the end of the decade most radiates across

the empire contained no more than one or two percent of silver. It is the radiates of Postumus we will discuss in this article; although he issued gold and the last large bronzes to be produced there is not space to look at them here.

There are a many specialist collectors of the coins of the Gallic Empire, particularly on the Continent, and some of the extremely rare varieties can command very large sums of money indeed. Occasionally one of these collections comes under the hammer as was the case with the Michel Thys collection, auctioned by Paul-Francis Jacquier in 2016. Sometimes, large hoards of these radiate coins come on the market as was the case with the Normanby hoard of nearly 48,000 radiates found in 1985. Other large hoards such as the Cunetio or Mildenhall hoard of nearly 55,000 coins have been acquired by museums.



2



3





Compared to the centuries either side of it, we know comparatively little about the third century and, about the Gallic Empire itself, very little. It was a regime that, although it survived for some fifteen years, was ultimately conquered and the statues and histories of its usurper emperors were destroyed. What writings about it that survive are often highly unreliable and much of what we know about the Gallic Empire and the dating of its emperors comes from the coins themselves.

The Gallic Empire came into being in 260, shortly after the senior emperor Valerian had been captured by the Persian king Shapur way out east at Edessa. Valerian's son and co-emperor, Gallienus, had to pick up the pieces as ambitious generals in various parts of the empire took advantage of the disaster to declare themselves emperor. That seems to have been what happened in what was then the province of Gaul. Gallienus had left his young son, Saloninus, probably his only surviving heir, in the city of Cologne on the Rhine where the mint serving the needs of the army based on the frontier provinces was located.

One of Gallienus' generals, Marcus Cassianus Latinius Postumus, was not slow at seizing his opportunity. Saloninus' youth cannot have inspired his troops with confidence and the capture of Valerian and the resulting usurpations across the empire had cast the dynasty into a sea of troubles. Saloninus was quickly bottled up in Cologne by Postumus' forces; the city soon fell and Saloninus was promptly seized and executed. The Gallic Empire had begun.



Postumus was not long in striking coins to advertise his position as ruler of the new Gallic Empire. A number of provinces were to recognise his authority, not only the Gallic provinces but also those of Britain and Spain. Postumus' very first issues, including radiates of a relatively debased but reasonably good-looking silver, intended to put his details out to his new subjects, give the full details of his name M[arcus] CASS[ianus] LAT[inius] POSTIMVS and depict the emperor as a middle-aged man with a medium length beard (figure 1). Interestingly, these very first issues show a different style of portrait to the later ones; the emperor's head is narrower, his beard not so long as it becomes and his nose not so upturned as it is later. This, together with the mis-spelling of Postumus' name as Postimus, might suggest that the mint staff at Cologne were not very aware of exactly what their new emperor looked like or how his name was spelled. Probably, Postumus was not actually in the area when the city fell.

Just as the obverse of this early issue shows

the people of the Gallic Empire their new emperor, so the reverse puts forward a piece of propaganda. A river god representing the Rhine – on the shore of which Cologne stands – reclines by the prow of a ship. The legend of SALVS PROVINCIARVM, referring to the Health of the Provinces comprising the Gallic Empire, proclaims that Postumus will guard well his new provinces, ensuring that the German tribes across the Rhine frontier pose no threat to the security of his dominions.

Another type to feature very early in Postumus' reign was that showing Hercules, specifically Hercules of Deuso who is honoured with the legend HERC[uli] DEVSONIENSI accompanying a figure of Hercules, naked but for club, lionskin and bow (figure 2). Throughout Postumus' reign Hercules remained a popular feature on the coinage; the emperor clearly had a special veneration for the god and frequently made reference to him on the coinage. Sometimes Postumus was





even seen borrowing the deity's lionskin headdress and posing with it, holding Hercules' club over his shoulder (figure 3). A third reasonably early type shows the emperor holding a spear and globe (figure 4) with the legend SAECVLI FELICITAS, an Age of Happiness. The message here is clear; the new emperor's heroic courage will usher in a new order of prosperity.

As the reign progressed Postumus' radiates called up other themes. Most of these were very standard and used across the Roman world in the third century such as PAX AVG[usti], the Peace of the Emperor (figure 5), SALVS AVG[usti], the Health of the Emperor (figure 6), VIRTVS AVG[usti], the Courage of the Emperor (figure 7), VICTORIA AVG[usti], the Victory of the Emperor (figure 8), PROVIDENTIA AVG[usti], the Providence of the Emperor (figure 9), and MONETA AVG[usti], the Money of the Emperor (figure 10). These are generally amongst the commonest of Postumus' coins.

Others, however, were rather more unusual, and carry designs of slightly more complexity or originality. Some show less well-known divinities such as the Eastern god Serapis with a legend reading SERAPI COMITI AVG[usti], To Serapis,

Companion of the Emperor (figure 11) or Aesculapius with a legend SALVS AVG[usti], the Health of the Emperor (figure 12). Both of these types are not rare. One less common radiate shows PIETAS AVG[usti], the Piety of the Emperor, represented by a figure of Piety surrounded by four children (figure 13). Other rarer types show DIANA REDVCI, Diana Returning, with a figure of the goddess leading a deer (figure 14) and REST[itutor] GALLIAR[um], the Restorer of the Gallic Provinces accompanied by Postumus raising up a female representing Gaul (figure 15). Sometimes inanimate objects are shown such as a clutch of four military standards with the legend FIDES EXERCITVS, the Loyalty of the Army (figure 16), or a caduceus, the herald's wand carried by Mercury and a symbol of good fortune with SAECVLO FRVGIFERO, To an Age of Plenty (figure 17).

Coinage in the mid third century was increasingly moving away from coins being closely dated by the inclusion, for example, of how many times the emperor had been consul or how many times he had held the Tribunician power. Given that the Gallic Emperors were effectively usurpers, they could not really claim to be consuls or hold the Tribunician power in any case since

those offices were held at Rome and related to the Senate of that city. Postumus solved the problem by setting up a Senate of the Gallic Empire and some of his coins do bear consular and Tribunician dates. An early example, dated to 260 advertises P[ontifex] M[aximus] TR[ibunicia] P[otestas] II CO[n]S[ul] P[ater] P[atriae] (figure 18) whilst another, dating to 262 gives P[ontifex] M[aximus] TR[ibunicia] P[otestas] III CO[n]S[ul] III P[ater] P[atriae] (figure 19). A late coin dated to Postumus' last year, 269, shows Victory inscribing a shield with the legend P[ontifex] M[aximus] IMP[erator] X CO[n]S[ul] V P[ater] P[atriae] (figure 20).

Examples of this last coin and others





produced in 268 and 269 are usually slightly smaller and significantly less silver-looking than their earlier counterparts. The coinage of Postumus, which had maintained a much better silver content than that of Gallienus for several years now slumped and his latest issues generally look to be made of bronze with no silver content. There are still some rare and unusual types among these later issues such as the PACATOR ORBIS, Pacifier of the World, type showing a head of Sol (figure 21) and some very rare coins that place a C[olonia] A[grippinensis] mintmark in the fields (figure 22) signifying the mint of Cologne.

In late 267 or early 268 Gallienus' general Aureolus, in command of his emperor's cavalry strike force based at Milan, declared for Postumus and, taking over the mint there, began to issue coins in Postumus' name. These radiates are – following on from those of Gallienus produced there – of little more than bronze and struck on small flans. The portraiture is distinctive and – perhaps appropriately – shows a tired-looking, rather down in the mouth emperor. The reverse types almost always allude to Aureolus' army, advertising the

various qualities of the Equites, the cavalry which he led. Emphasis is placed, among other virtues, on their courage, their concord (figure 23), and their fidelity.

Postumus never came to the support of Aureolus. But Gallienus could not easily ignore the fact that his son's killer now had a de facto base in Northern Italy. He laid siege to Aureolus but was himself killed by his own officers shortly afterwards. This did not help Aureolus; the new emperor, Claudius II, lured him out of Milan and had him put to death in his turn.

As we have seen, one noteworthy fact of Postumus' coins is how their silver content was maintained for a large part of the reign and it was only in 268 that a truly significant debasement occurs. It has been speculated that this might have been due to more money being needed to pay out to troops disgruntled that Postumus had not moved on Milan when Aureolus declared for him. If this was the case then it did not save Postumus for long. The following year one of his generals, Laelian, based at Mainz, rebelled. Although Postumus defeated his rival, it is said that he refused his troops permission to plunder the city and paid for this decision with his life.



Many of Postumus' radiates at least have the appearance of being silver coins but, by the end of his reign, these coins were effectively mere bronze. In the next article of this series, we will look at what happened after the death of the founder of the Gallic Empire, the Civil Wars that followed it, and the accession of Victorinus.





WW2 propaganda note issued in 1942

## AN A TO Z OF BANKNOTES OF THE WORLD

# DENMARK

Banknotes expert **Jonathan Callaway** continues his travels around the globe stopping off in Denmark to examine the Nordic country's paper currency and how it has developed over the years

**P**aper money in Denmark made its first appearance in 1713 following a decree issued on 8 April of that year. Under this decree simply designed notes were issued by the Royal Treasury of Frederik IV in both Rigsdaler (roughly a crown-sized silver coin) and Marks. The notes never gained the full trust of the public, however, and by 1728 they had fallen in value against the metal coin equivalent and were withdrawn.

A Rigsdaler was worth 6 Marks or 96 Skillings and in 1713 there were about 4.44 Rigsdaler to £1 Sterling. In 1874 the Krone, equivalent to 8 Marks and divided into 100 Øre, replaced the Rigsdaler and remains Denmark's currency to this day. The introduction of the Krone came as a result of Scandinavian Monetary Union which fixed at par the three

identically-named currencies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden until the agreement ended in 1914.

From 1819 Nationalbanken i Kjøbenhavn, reorganised as Denmark's Nationalbanken in 1936, was the government's monopoly paper money issuer, with notes first in Rigsdaler and then Kroner. In the latter part of this period, despite the monopoly, eleven regional credit banks also issued low denomination notes that circulated locally from 1894 to the early 1920s.

In early 1920 small denomination emergency notes were issued by various towns in German-controlled Schleswig-Holstein, parts of which had once been Danish territory. A longstanding border dispute between Denmark and Germany was finally resolved by a plebiscite which returned most areas with



Above: one of the earliest Danish notes, dated 1713 for 1 Mark, and a regional credit banknote issued in Esbjerg c.1900

Next page, from top: 5Kr note from 1908 • Emergency 1 Mark note issued 1920 in Broager • The 5Kr note of the 1911 series, issued in 1936 • The 1970 10Kr note with a portrait of Hans Christian Andersen • 1988 500Kr note with a portrait of Franziska Genoveva von Qualen

a majority Danish population to Denmark. Surviving notes, mostly denominated in German Marks rather than Kroner, are quite easy to find and are similar to the widely collected German Notgeld issues from the same period. They can form an attractive addition to a collection of Danish notes.

Perhaps the first note designs that collectors will see with any regularity are those designed in 1911 by the Danish artist Gerhard Heilmann. These popular if rather staid notes mostly featured scenes of traditional life and lasted right through until the 1950s. After the Second World War the notes were re-introduced in new colours to ensure that the huge quantities the authorities had been forced to hand over to the German occupiers in 1940 could no longer be used. Anyone holding old notes had to account for what they brought in to exchange for the new ones and anyone with more than 500Kr had their funds held in escrow until the inland revenue had investigated the source of the money. This was intended to root out and penalise wartime black market profiteers.

During the Second World War unofficial propaganda notes appeared alongside the German notes and coins that had been forcibly introduced. These were issued by Danish Nazi sympathisers and are of historic interest. They remain widely available to collectors seeking to add colour and variety to their collection.

In July 1945 a short-lived 'Substitution series' came out, comprising simply designed 5Kr and 10Kr notes. These had been printed in complete secrecy by Danmarks Nationalbank before the end of German occupation and were widely used until notes of the pre-war design became available in their new colours.

In the 1950s it was finally decided to bring in the first new designs for forty years. These had improved security features and the first to be issued were the 5Kr and 10Kr in October 1952. It took another twelve years before the rest of the



old series was replaced, by which time the 5Kr note had been dropped in favour of a coin. The new notes were of a uniform design with large denomination numerals in the centre and two small vignettes to either side, a portrait of a historical figure to the left and a related scene to the right. The reverse of each note featured a delightful full-sized view of a classic Danish landscape.

This series was itself replaced when a new 100Kr note, the first of a new set of very attractive designs, was released in 1974. The portraits on the front of each denomination were based on paintings by the Danish artist Jens Juel, including his self-portrait on the 100Kr note. A 1000Kr note was added in 1975 and a 20Kr note in 1980. The back of each of these distinctive designs featured a finely engraved image of a native bird, fish or other creature. The 20Kr note did not last long and had been withdrawn by 1990. The 10Kr note was also discontinued.

Although this was a well-designed series the decision was taken to replace it with notes incorporating more advanced security features using computer-aided design techniques. This process started in 1997 with a new series of notes whose dimensions varied by length but not by height. During the life of this series further security features were added, such as the use of ultra-violet ink, windowed metal threads and hologram patches. Boldly executed portraits were the main feature of the 1997 series, this time of Danish personalities from the arts and sciences. On the backs of the notes were highly distinctive images of decorative stone carvings in Danish churches. A 200Kr note was added for the first time. The smallest denomination is now the 50Kr note with a portrait of Karen Blixen, the author best known for her book 'Out of Africa'. Unlike earlier issues the portraits are named on this series. The 1000Kr breaks new ground by incorporating the twin portraits of Anna and Michael Ancher.

In 2009 the current series started to appear. The notes were designed by the artist Karen Birgitte Lund following a design competition and

# BANKNOTES



Clockwise from above: the Jens Juel self-portrait from the 1974 series • A delightful Karen Blixen 50Kr note • Stone reliefs on the reverse of the Karen Blixen 50Kr note • Current Bridges series Kr500 note



In February 2018 a new contract was awarded to the French company Oberthur Fiduciaire. The first notes printed by them were due to be issued in late 2020. This was the first time any Danish notes had been printed

board directors. A total of 39 signatures in a huge number of combinations have been recorded since 1935 so collecting by signature is definitely something for only the most dedicated specialist! The numbering system introduced in 1951 was also somewhat idiosyncratic with a seven-digit sequential number coupled with a six-digit alphanumeric reference, of which the first two digits act as a prefix linked to the sequential number, the second two digits indicated the year of issue and the third two referred to the sheet position.

Collecting Danish notes provides a most rewarding insight into Danish life, culture and history. Many of the designs are beautiful and would enhance any collection. Most post-war notes can be found easily enough though some higher values are becoming quite pricey.

## BANKNOTES VIDEO

Jonathan Callaway provides a video presentation on how to start or build a banknote collection, covering topics including collecting by country and theme, and inflation notes. [Watch the video at: www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/coin-guides/videos/](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk/coin-guides/videos/)

were in a somewhat minimalist style in muted colours. The common theme is the major bridges of Denmark. Denominations ranged from 50Kr to 1000Kr. While they remain in circulation demand for paper money has been falling in recent years and the National Bank decided that manufacturing the notes themselves was no longer economically viable and production would be outsourced.

outside the country (the contract to mint their coins had been awarded to the Finnish mint in 2017).

A curiosity of Danish notes is the bewildering variety of signature combinations. For some years the left hand signature was the manager of the state printing works paired with one of twelve senior bank officials. From 1952 it was the Chief Cashier on the right paired with one of three

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# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEDALS EXPLAINED

There are many things we take for granted, writes Mike Roberts as he guides us through another token topic, one is that every day during term time all children will attend school until they are sixteen years old. It was not ever thus



Throughout the second half of the 19th century, legislation, the most important being the Elementary Education Act 1870, put schooling on a formal basis, with education up to the age of twelve becoming compulsory for all. Before 1870 it is estimated that just under half of England's children received no education whatsoever. The remainder attended voluntary or church schools. As the franchise had been extended in 1867 it was felt appropriate that education be provided to the masses so that they would vote 'wisely'. There was some opposition, however, from liberals fearing indoctrination and conservatives worried that

education may lead to revolution. The established church also feared a loss of influence.

Although it is a great simplification to state that Board Schools' funding was dependent on results, there was great incentive to ensure regular or full attendance and it was from this imperative that School Attendance medals derived. Whilst local details varied, attendance cards were issued, often on a weekly basis, and at the end of a fixed period (often annually) a reward was given if a full presence had been achieved. It seems that initially little leeway was given, but schemes were modified over time, particularly allowing for absences caused by infectious diseases not to disqualify otherwise perfect students from being rewarded.



**Research advice**

A pioneering work and comprehensive listing of these medals, *School Attendance Medals of England Scotland and Wales* by Cedric Dry was published by John Whitmore in a limited edition of 200 copies in 1982. This is an essential book and quite remarkable in its scope given the absence of records, now available on the internet, at the time. Obviously in the last four decades there have been new discoveries, but as well as detailed descriptions of the medals, the author provides much background information with extracts from Local Authorities and School Boards' records.

Readers familiar with my collecting interests will not be surprised that most of the medals illustrated relate to schools in Yorkshire. There are several notable omissions, as it seems that Education Committees in towns and cities such as Barnsley, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds and York did not issue medals (although Bradford and Halifax awarded them for

attendance at evening classes). This probably indicates that prizes other than medals, such as books, pens, or certificates were given instead.

Dry's treatment of the medals issued to pupils in Harrogate give a flavour of his book. As well as listing five different types of medal, four of them in silver (figure one shows the 36mm medal engraved 'NOT ABSENT DURING 1901



– 2 – 3') he gives extracts from the Education Committee Minutes from 1904 to 1921. In 1904 a sub-committee was established to obtain estimates (eventually a Mr Brown was engaged to provide large silver medals at a cost of 4/6d each and small ones at 2/-) and 'formulate a scheme' for presenting prizes for attendance. It seems that by 1907 moves were afoot to discontinue the issue of medals and replace them with books, writing desks or work boxes. By early 1914 the awarding of prizes had stopped as the Committee were asked to reconsider their decision. 'Resolved, that the Attendance Sub-Committee consider the possibility of formulating a scheme for the award of prizes which will allow such qualifications as cleanliness, good conduct and progress to rank equal with good attendance in the selection of children to receive awards and report'. Approved 27 January 1915.

**Scarborough recipients**

Scarborough Education Committee were responsible for a series of very impressive medals, 39mm or 45mm in diameter, most of which have the added attraction of being named to the recipients. One year's perfect attendance earned the smaller medal in bronze. It featured the arms of Scarborough on the obverse with the legend 'AWARDED/FOR/PERFECT & PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE/'



AND/GOOD CONDUCT' on the reverse. It is pierced with a ring suspender fastened to a blue ribbon with an ornate top bar and plain bottom bar. The larger medals carried similar wording with space to engrave the recipient's name and number of years attended. These medals were issued in attractive red or blue cases by The Mint, Birmingham, Limited, and were struck in bronze (two years), Gilt (three years) and silver (four years). I am sure B Benton was very proud of his (or her) series of medals. I am certainly very proud to own them now.

It would seem that the practice of issuing regular attendance medals tended to die out during and after the Great War. In Kingston upon Hull, however, the scheme was still running in 1940, which probably

makes it the last to close. It would appear that four years' perfect attendance merited a bronze medal and six years a silver piece. Each was personally engraved and the medals came in an attractive black case.

Dry managed to locate original minute books which make fascinating reading. He tells us about the rivalry between local manufacturers to supply the medals, the numbers issued (year ending July 1907, silver 33, bronze 113, July 1909, silver seventy, bronze 235, July 1916, silver 140, bronze 378) and the difficult decisions that had to be made when letters from parents, making special pleadings on behalf of children with hitherto perfect records being absent through no fault of their own, were received (generally the

Committee was unsympathetic).

Dry does not record any medals from Elland, a small town about three miles south of Halifax. Illustrated, however, is a small silver medal reading 'ELLAND/NATIONAL SCHOOLS/L.C' on the obverse and 'FOR/FULL/ATTENDANCE/1897/TO/1903'. I assume C stands for either Committee or Council but am not sure about L. It is a very pretty item and I'm sure it was treasured by its original owner. Similarly, not in Dry, is a medal, locally manufactured by William Owen, from Isles Lane Board School, Leeds. Isles Lane is in Holbeck and the school was a Wesleyan School before becoming a Board School.

As already mentioned Bradford and Halifax did not issue attendance medals to its school pupils. There are, however, medals associated with night schools. Bradford's 31mm bronze medal, manufactured locally by Fattorini, was 'awarded for perfect attendance' by the city's Education Committee for 'EVENING SCHOOL; SESSIONS 1904-5'. This would seem to have been a 'one off' as I am unaware of any other issues from Bradford. The original Halifax award referred to 'Regular and punctual attendance' at 'Halifax evening Continuation schools' but medals made by Vaughton of Birmingham for 'HALIFAX RECREATIVE EVENING CLASSES' are more frequently met with. These are found in bronze and less often in silver. Dry was





unable to find any information relating to the circumstances in which they were issued [illustration; six bronze medals on a ring, waiting to be awarded!]

**Local collecting**

Over the last forty years paranumismatists with specifically local interests have greatly expanded our knowledge of many areas. For example, Charles Farthing in his *Illustrated Catalogue of the Tokens, Medallions and Banknotes of Cumbria* (Galata, 2013) covers the old counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. Therein are listed attendance medals for Broughton in Furness, Carlisle Voluntary Schools, Kendal Elementary Schools and North Lonsdale Voluntary Schools. Other than the Kendal medals these are very limited issues. In



Cumberland medals were issued by both Cumberland Voluntary Schools and Cumberland County Council Education Committee. Someone involved with the latter organization thought long and hard about an appropriate legend and in a singularly uninspired moment came up with 'WITH HEAD AND HEART AND HAND, WE WORK FOR CUMBERLAND'. Both Cumberland and Westmorland Voluntary Schools went for 'WITH ALL THY GETTING GET UNDERSTANDING'. The medals come with a great variety of clasps and dates and are named (but unfortunately specific schools are not mentioned). Three gilt 44mm Westmorland medals dated 1900, 1901 and 1902 were named to Kate Mandle. The last is augmented by a clasp reading 'THREE YEARS PERFECT ATTENDANCE'.

**Search and you shall find**

Just before finishing writing this piece I typed 'School Attendance Medals' into my favourite search engine. As well as directing me to

numerous dealers' websites, where a collection of the commoner pieces could be formed quickly and for a very modest outlay, it confirmed to me that these awards have been extensively researched by local historians who may not have a numismatic background, but have unearthed a wealth of interesting information. I would also commend such websites as Philip Mernick's relating to the School Board for London and London County Council ([mernick.org.uk/attendance](http://mernick.org.uk/attendance)).

I have not mentioned medals awarded by educational bodies as prizes for academic, sporting or other achievements. These are frequently named and are a rich field for original research. They may well feature in a future article. My online searches also revealed a current thriving market to supply awards and trophies to today's schools, with awards not only for competitive sports and other activities but also for regular attendance. Whether these will be keenly sought out by collectors in 100 years' time is another matter.





## THE BIRTH OF **BRITANNIA**

In the first part of a comprehensive guide to coins featuring Britannia, Lawrence Chard, Director and Expert Numismatist at Chard's, describes the origins of the allegorical figure and how the symbol returned to coins 1,000 years later



**B**ritain was known to the Romans as Britain or Britannia well before the brief visit by Julius Caesar in 55 BC. They regarded it as the “end of the world”. Julius Caesar made a second visit to Britain the next year. Neither of these visits, both of which were restricted to Kent, had any great or lasting effect on the inhabitants.

Caligula had an even briefer visit to Britain in 41 AD, which has been described as a “mock invasion”, and “too ridiculous” to be regarded as an invasion.

In 43 AD, Claudius began a serious attempt to invade, sending his general Aulus Plautius. Once a number of battles had been won, Claudius himself visited for a period of sixteen days, for which he became recognised as the triumphant conqueror of Britain. Several triumphal arches are believed

The 1672 Farthing - The First British Coin to Feature Britannia

to have been erected honouring this achievement, including one on the Palatine hill. He was also honoured by being given the surname Britannicus, which also passed to his sons.

### The First Britannia Coin

The arch mentioned above is portrayed on a number of gold and silver coins of Claudius. It features an equestrian statue atop the arch, undoubtedly representing Claudius, between two trophies, a trophy being a pile of captured shields, spears, armour and other spoils of war.

On the architrave of the arch is inscribed “DE BRITAN”, “DE BRITANN”, “DE BRITANNI”, or “DE BRITANNIS”, depending on the space available.

There is a gold aureus of this type which was issued in 46 to 47 AD, and a similar silver denarius issued in 49 to 50 AD. A silver didrachm (2 drachma piece) issued in 46 to 48 AD shows Claudius in a quadriga (four horse-powered chariot) with the inscription “DE BRITANNIS” below.

### Britannicus

Tiberius Claudius Britannicus was a son of Claudius, and inherited his father's surname, which had been awarded to him as the conqueror of Britain. Apart from his surname,



no coins of Britannicus bear any reference to Britain or Britannia.

### Personification of Britannia

There were no further mentions of Britain on Roman coins until the time of Hadrian, who is of course famous in Britain for his wall, much of which still stands today. It was originally built to keep the aggressive Scots out of England, but its effectiveness diminished with time.

Hadrian visited Britain in 121 AD, greatly increased the Roman influence in Britain, and strengthened Roman garrisons and fortifications here. He failed, as did following Roman emperors, to subdue the Scots. Under Hadrian, a shrine was erected in York, to Britannia as a Goddess.

There were many coin types, also medals, issued under Hadrian which incorporated the mention of Britain. In particular, several coin types introduced a female figure, the personification of Britain, and labelled

A true mint state example of the 1675 farthing with excellent detail and surfaces. This example was sold by London Coins ([www.londoncoins.co.uk](http://www.londoncoins.co.uk)) for £2,200 in June 2020



“BRITANNIA”. She is usually shown seated on a rock, holding a spear, and with a spiked shield propped beside her. Sometimes she is shown holding a standard, and leaning on the shield. On other coins, she is shown seated on a globe above waves, presumably signifying the Roman idea of Britain as being at the edge of the known world.

**Antoninus Pius**

Similar coin types were also issued by Antoninus Pius (138- 61 AD) who carried out some repair work to Hadrian’s wall, and by Commodus (177-192 AD). Geta (209-212) issued coins mentioning victory over Britain featuring Victory as their reverse type, and also Victory and Britannia standing facing each other, Britannia with her hands tied in defeat. Carausius (287-293), issued an antoninianus with the legend GENIO BRITANNI around the figure of Genius.

Although today’s figure of Britannia is undoubtedly female, on some of the Roman coins, a male figure is shown. On other Roman coins, it is uncertain whether the figure is male or female.

**The Romans depart**

The figure of Britannia did not appear on any future Roman coin issues, although Roman coins were produced in Britain from the reign of Carausius. It was in 410 AD that the Emperor Honorius advised the British to arrange for their own defence, and Roman influence in Britain declined. Britannia was not seen again on coins for well over 1,000 years.

**Britannia re-emerges for Charles II in 1672**

On copper halfpennies and farthings of Charles II, Britannia made her re-appearance; she is shown seated on a rock, facing left, with an olive



branch in her right hand, a spear in her left hand, and a shield leaning against the rock. The shield bears a Union flag. The design and attributes of this portrayal of Britannia are almost certainly inspired by the earlier Britannias on Roman coins. They were struck with a plain edge.

There has also been some speculation that the likeness of Britannia on these coins was intended to be Frances Teresa Stewart (or Stuart), a mistress of Charles II and later the Duchess of Richmond, but it may be that Samuel Pepys was mistaken, being either the victim of a convincing rumour or purely through wishful thinking.

**First regal copper coins**

There were some copper farthings issued under Charles I and James I, these were mostly a lightweight “token” coinage made under private licence or patent. There was also a very rare issue of a good quality farthing for Cromwell.

Ignoring these previously mentioned coins, those of Charles II were the first regal copper coins issued in Britain, and were made from blanks produced in Sweden, and struck at the Royal Mint in London. The British did not have the

A 1675 halfpenny with traces of lustre, a small spot on the reverse barely detracts, a superb example, sold by London Coins ([www.londoncoins.co.uk](http://www.londoncoins.co.uk)) for £1,100 in September 2015

metallurgical experience of working with copper from its ingot state for a further century. These Charles II copper coins were milled, struck using machinery, under the guidance of Peter Blondeau, newly appointed engineer to the Mint. The dies were prepared by John Roettier. From August 1672, farthings were issued from an office in Fenchurch Street, London, known as “The Farthing Office”. Halfpennies were not issued until after Christmas of that year, due to a shortage of milling machinery and the difficulty of obtaining the necessary quantity of blanks from Sweden.

This first copper issue lasted only until 1675 for the halfpennies, and until 1679 for the farthings. Production of these low value copper coins was expensive, costing about four pence per pound weight. They were therefore struck at 40 per pound weight which allowed the Crown a profit of fourpence. After the price of copper rose, the coin’s weights were reduced to 44 per pound weight, still giving the Crown a profit of three and a half pence, or 16%. Because it was profitable to coin copper halfpence and farthings, this encouraged forgery which created obvious problems.

**Tin money**

To counteract the forgery, in 1684, the production of farthings was changed from copper to tin with a copper centre plug. This was done to alleviate the critical state of the Cornish tin mining industry, but also to recoup the King’s losses, as Duke of Cornwall, because the price of tin had fallen from one shilling per pound in 1676 to less than eightpence.

The tin coinage gave the Crown an even greater profit margin, of up to



James II (1685-1688), Tin Farthing, 1687 ([www.baldwin.co.uk](http://www.baldwin.co.uk))

## THE SILVER THREEPENCE

about 40%, and as a result there was even more concern about the potential for forgery. In addition to the copper plug as a security feature, the tin coins were produced with a lettered edge, which was applied before striking.

The edge inscription on the tin farthings reads 'NUMMORUM FAMULUS 1684' which translates from Latin as 'The servant of the coinage', meaning that it serves to protect the coinage, presumably from attempted forgery. It is interesting that the date is included in the edge inscription. We believe this was the first British coin to bear the date on the edge.

### Facing the wrong way

The head on all the coins of Charles II faces to the right apart from the base metal coins, which have the portrait facing in the opposite direction, to the left. This is unusual because normally all the coins struck for any monarch have his portrait facing in the same direction. Before anybody asks, we do not know the reason for Charles II facing the wrong way on his base metal coins.

In the reign of James II, his portrait faces left on all coins, except for the base metal issues on which the portrait faces right. On coins of William and Mary, coins of all denominations and metals have portraits facing to the right.

The base metal coins issued for Charles II were, as we have already

William & Mary (1688-94), Tin Farthing of 1691, recently offered on the Baldwins website ([www.baldwin.co.uk](http://www.baldwin.co.uk)) for £1,250



stated, the first regular issues of regal base metal coinage. The direction anomaly occurs because the designers of these coins, for whatever reason, chose to show the king's head facing in the opposite direction from that on the precious metals. We can only guess that it may have been to prevent forgery through silver or gold plating the base metal coins to pass them off as silver or gold. We are aware that electroplating had not been discovered, but it was possible by other methods to plate base metals.

The anomaly persisted into the reign of James II because all coins had their portrait polarity reversed. It was only with the issues of William and Mary that the anomaly was corrected.

It is likely that Cromwell chose to face the same direction as his predecessor as a political statement, we do not know. Jumping briefly ahead about three centuries, it is often stated that Edward VIII chose to retain his portrait facing left as that of his father because he vainly believed his left profile to be his better side. No British coins bearing his head were issued for circulation, but the few rare pattern coins do show him facing left.

George VI's coins also show him facing left, and this retains the tradition of alternating directions, as those of Edward VIII should have shown his portrait facing right.

### James II tin coins

In 1685, production of tin farthings, still with a copper centre plug, continued for James II, with the addition of copper halfpennies. The reverse designs were identical to the previous ones of Charles II. The obverse design of the halfpennies showed a draped bust of James II, that on the farthings had a cuirassed bust, except for the last year, 1687, when a draped version was introduced, similar to the halfpenny.

### William and Mary

Under William and Mary, production of tin farthings continued with the same reverse designs, and both bust types, draped and cuirassed. At first, the halfpennies, as previously, carried the date on their edge only. The farthings now carried the date both on the edge and in the exergue (the space below the ground line of the main design), and from 1691, this was adopted for the halfpennies also.

### Copper re-introduced

After 1692, the production of tin halfpennies and farthings stopped, apparently because of public resentment. Tin coins easily corroded, probably because of impurities, and their low intrinsic value meant that they could be easily counterfeited, and in 1694, copper farthings and halfpennies were once again produced.

With the resumption of copper and the cessation of tin coinage, the edges reverted to plain instead of inscribed, because the probability of forgery was now decreased.

*In the next issue: our examination of Britannia coins continues with a look at the famous Queen Anne farthing, the coins of the first three Georges, and Britannia on private trade tokens.*

A William and Mary Copper Farthing of 169, the first year in which copper was reintroduced following the use of tin. This example was offered by Sovereign Rarities Ltd ([www.sovr.co.uk](http://www.sovr.co.uk))



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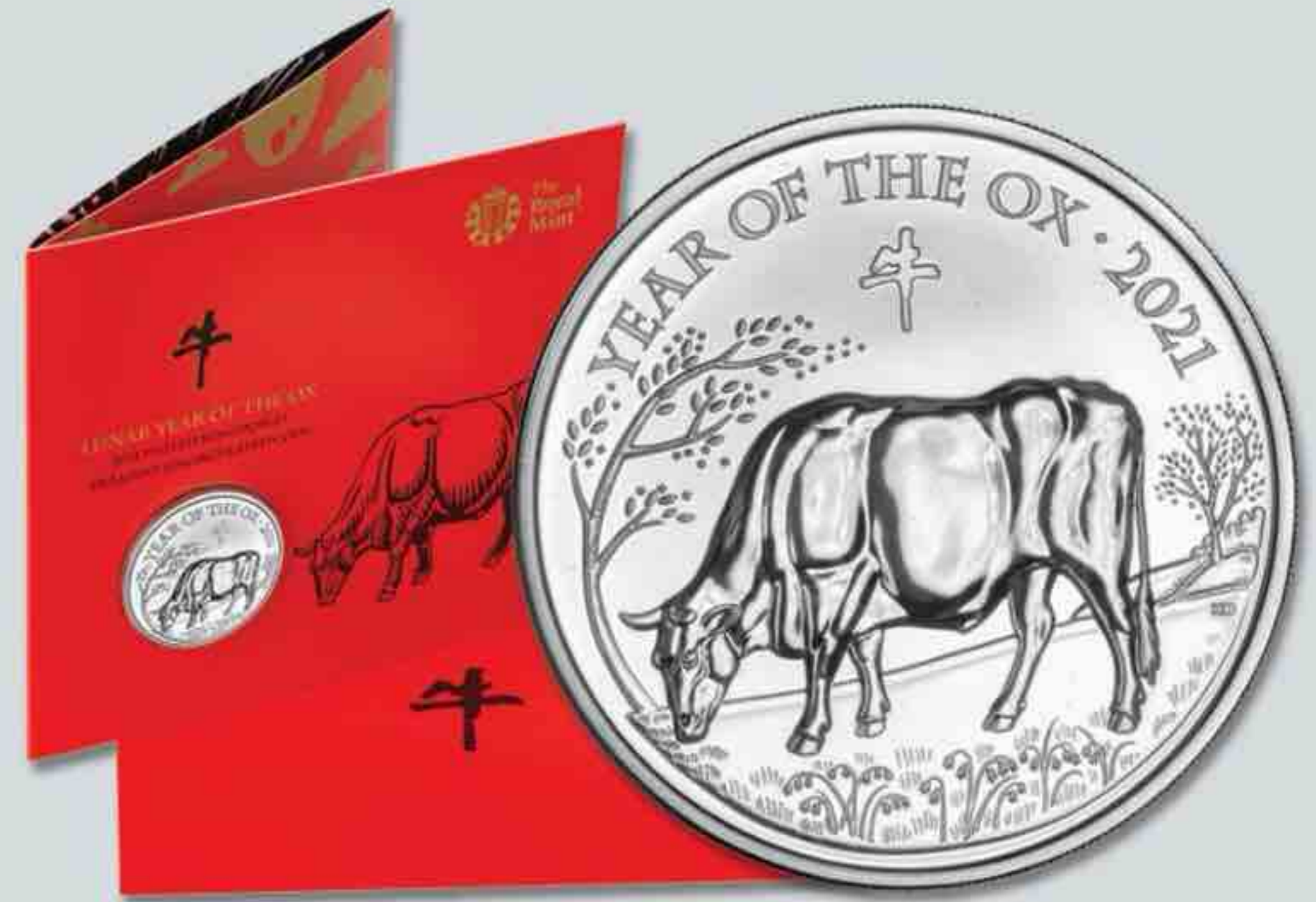


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# A YEAR IN COINS WITH CHANGE CHECKER

The start of a new year marks an exciting time in the numismatic calendar, as we look forward to the new coins to be released. However, it's also the perfect time to reflect back on the incredible coin issues from the year gone by, and what a year 2020 shaped up to be, writes Change Checker's Rachel Hooper

**D**espite lockdowns and a worldwide pandemic, we saw an incredible twelve 50ps released, four £2 coins and fifteen £5 coins to add to our ever growing collections. Of all the wonderful coins released last year, here are some of our highlights and the stories behind them...

## Brexit 50p

On the 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union – over three and half years after the vote. As one of the most historically significant events to happen in modern history, it was only fitting that the occasion should be marked with the release of a brand new United Kingdom coin.

The 2020 UK Brexit 50p was released on Brexit Day and proved to be one of the most popular releases of the year, with the Silver Proof version completely selling out at The Royal Mint. But the best news for collectors is that the Brexit 50p has been released into circulation and is available to collect from your change! So next time you receive a 50p when you're out and about, make sure you check the design, because it could be a 2020 Brexit 50p.



## 2020 Peter Rabbit 50p

The delightful Peter Rabbit first hopped onto a UK coin in 2016, with the release of the first ever series of Beatrix Potter 50ps. Inspiring a whole new generation of collectors to take up the hobby and find these wonderful coins in their change, it's fair to say that the Beatrix Potter coins have established themselves as a favourite among many a collector.

But of all the characters to feature on a UK 50p, Peter Rabbit is the only one to feature more than once. In fact, this mischievous bunny has featured on no less than five UK 50p coins, with the latest release in 2020 marking his last appearance.

But not only is this the last ever UK Peter Rabbit 50p, this coin was released

during the midst of lockdown, despite all odds. So if ever there was a coin to put a smile on our faces last year, it really had to be the 2020 Peter Rabbit 50p.

## Music Legends £5 series

Next up we have not just one, but three £5 coins which have been released throughout the year in a brand new series celebrating some of Britain's most iconic Music Legends.

Starting the series with a £5 which rocked the nation, Queen became the first band to ever feature on a UK coin! Band members Brian May and Roger Taylor officially approved the design which proved a real hit with collectors.

This was followed by a coin celebrating the remarkable musical talent that is Sir Elton John. The coin features the iconic hat, sunglasses and bowtie which are synonymous with the star.

And finally, at the end of 2020 the Starman himself, David Bowie featured on the third Music Legend £5 coin. A dynamic lightning bolt motif from the Aladdin Sane era sits behind a powerful portrait of Bowie himself. Read the news story about the coin going into space and back in this issue.

I'm sure you'll agree these coins are a wonderful tribute to Britain's musical talent and make for a stunning collection.



## Dinosauria 50p collection

An exciting new 50p series shook the coin collecting world in 2020. Excitingly for collectors, these were the UK's very first dinosaur coins and were issued in collaboration with the Natural History Museum. Each coin proved to be a roaring success and features a detailed design from Paleo artist Robert Nicholls to bring these terrifying prehistoric





giants to life. Discover the Megalosaurus, Iguanodon and Hylaeosaurus with this incredible series of 50ps, issued in 2020 to celebrate the discovery of dinosaurs.

**Winnie the Pooh 50p**

Britain's most loveable bear, Winnie the Pooh, was celebrated in 2020 with a brand new and official United Kingdom 50p coin series. This wonderfully nostalgic collection of coins brings to life everyone's favourite 'silly old bear' and his friends, inspired by the classic stories of A.A. Milne and the charming illustrations of E.H. Shepard.

They certainly created a real buzz with collectors, as we saw Winnie the

Pooh, Christopher Robin and Piglet brought to life on UK 50p coins for the first time ever.

Each reverse design has been created by The Walt Disney Company and features an original illustration from the Winnie the Pooh storybooks.

But the best news is that the series doesn't stop there, as a total of nine Winnie the Pooh 50ps will be released over a three year period – meaning we have six more characters to look forward to.

**Diversity 50p**

In all my years as a collector, I've never seen The Royal Mint release a coin on a Saturday, but in October 2020, a surprise Saturday coin release broke tradition as a new 50p coin was issued to celebrate diversity across the whole of Britain and how this has helped to shape our rich history and heritage.

Designed by Dominique Evans, the new 50p features the words 'DIVERSITY BUILT BRITAIN' against a network of interconnected



triangles, symbolizing the importance of connections between communities, and the strength of these connections across the country.

This coin marks the first in a new series set to pay tribute to the contribution people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities have made to the country.

What's more, this coin entered circulation last year, meaning you have the chance to find one in your change! Best of luck hunting down this exciting 2020 coin release for your collection!

Overall I think it's fair to say that 2020 was an incredible year for coins, and during a time when the world has been faced with so many challenges, it's been the small things which have brought us well deserved and unexpected joy.



*If you want to get ahead of the crowd and secure every new UK 50p, £2 and £5 coin issue on the day of release at the initial release price, then you can do so with Change Checker's UK CERTIFIED BU Subscription Service! Find out more: [www.changechecker.org/2020Subscriptions](http://www.changechecker.org/2020Subscriptions)*

# NEW COINS

Your guide to new coins from around the world.  
See the latest coins at [www.allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk)

## AUSTRALIA ([www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au))

### Brave - Australia's Firefighters

Denomination: \$2  
Diameter: 20.5mm  
Weight: 6.60g  
Metal: AlBr  
Mintage: Unlimited



### 60 Years of Supercars 1970

Denomination: 50c  
Diameter: 31.51mm  
Weight: 15.55g  
Metal: AlBr  
Mintage: Unlimited



*Notes: coin collection showcases eight of Australia's most celebrated race cars, including Holden HT Monaro GTS 350 (illustrated)*

## CANADA ([www.mint.ca](http://www.mint.ca))

### Canadian Wildlife Portraits: The Grizzly Bear

Denomination: \$350  
Diameter: 34mm  
Weight: 35g  
Metal: 99.999% gold  
Mintage: 450



### 2020 Proof Silver Dollar 75th Anniversary of V-E Day

Denomination: \$1  
Diameter: 36.07mm  
Weight: 23.17g  
Metal: 99.999% gold  
Mintage: 25,000

*Notes: Obverse features portrait of King George VI. The three silhouettes represent the different branches of the Canadian and British Armed Forces – Navy, Army and Air Force*



## FRANCE ([www.monnaieedeparis.fr](http://www.monnaieedeparis.fr))

### President Jaques Chirac

Denomination: €10  
Diameter: 31mm  
Weight: 17g  
Metal: 90% Silver  
Mintage: 5,000



### Medical Research

Denomination: €2  
Diameter: 25.75mm  
Weight: 8.5g  
Metal: Base Metal  
Mintage: 5,000



## GERMANY ([www.muenze-berlin.de](http://www.muenze-berlin.de))

### Subpolar Zone

Denomination: €5  
Diameter: 27.25mm  
Weight: 9g  
Metal: CuNi25, CuNi19,  
Polymer ring  
Mintage: 3,000,000  
*Notes: fourth release in the series 'Climate Zones of the Earth', design features translucent turquoise polymer ring*



### Warsaw Genuflection Fifty Years

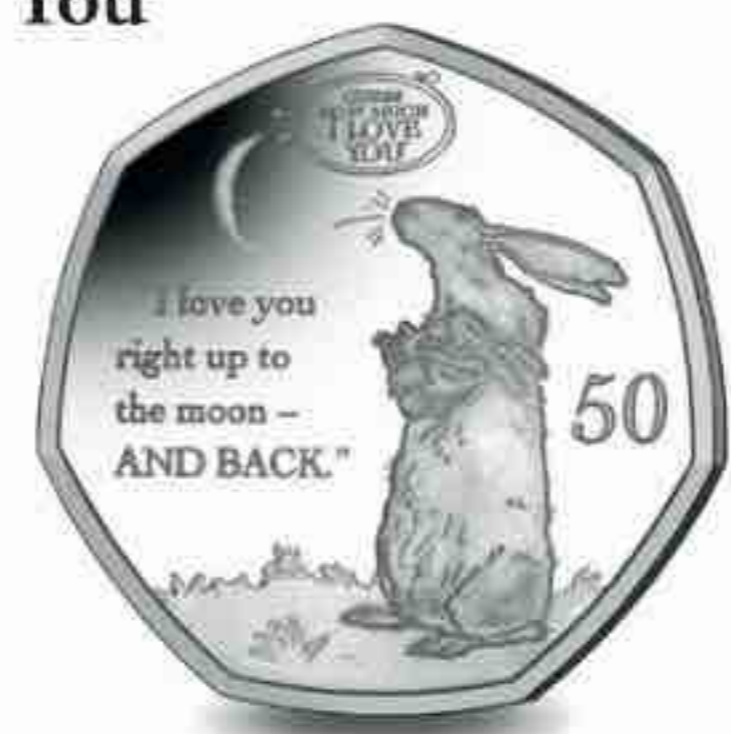
Denomination: €2  
Diameter: 27.25mm  
Weight: 8.5g  
Metal: Base Metal  
Mintage: 1,000,000



## GIBRALTAR ([www.pobjoy.com](http://www.pobjoy.com))

### Guess How Much I Love You

Denomination: 50p  
Diameter: 27.3mm  
Weight: 8g  
Metal: Proof Silver  
Mintage: 2,000



## LUXEMBOURG ([www.royaldutchmint.com](http://www.royaldutchmint.com))

### Prince Henri of Orange-Nassau 200 Years

Denomination: €2  
Diameter: 25.75mm  
Weight: 8.5g  
Metal: 99.9% pure silver  
Mintage: 300,000



## NIUE ([www.nzmint.com](http://www.nzmint.com))

### Star Wars™ – Death Star™

Denomination: \$2  
Diameter: 40mm  
Weight: 31.1g  
Metal: 99.9% pure silver  
Mintage: 5,000



## TUVALU ([www.perthmint.com](http://www.perthmint.com))

### James Bond GoldenEye

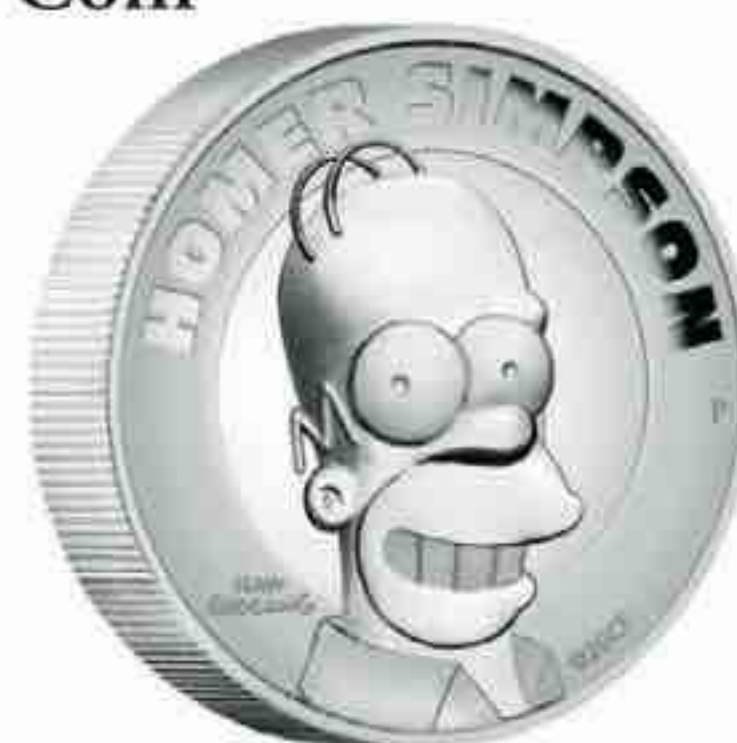
25th Anniversary  
Denomination: \$2  
Diameter: 40.9mm  
Weight: 31.107g  
Metal: Proof quality  
99.99% pure silver  
Mintage: 5,000

*Notes: Marking the 25th anniversary of the James Bond film GoldenEye, the design is inspired by the movie's opening sequence.*



### Homer Simpson 2021 2oz Silver Proof High Relief Coin

Denomination: \$2  
Diameter: 40.9mm  
Weight: 62.213g  
Metal: Proof quality  
99.99% pure silver  
Mintage: 2,000



## UNITED STATES ([www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov))


### Massachusetts American Innovation™ \$1

Denomination: \$1  
Diameter: 26.49mm  
Weight: 8.1g  
Metal: Manganese-Brass  
Mintage: 50,000



*For information on the very latest coins issued by mints around the world don't miss the 'New Coins' section of the [allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://www.allaboutcoins.co.uk) website.*

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# The Official United Kingdom Brexit 50p



Country of Issue: United Kingdom • Year of Issue: 2020 • Denomination: 50p • Metal: Cupro-Nickel  
Weight: 8.00g • Diameter: 27.30mm • Finish: Brilliant Uncirculated

Protectively encapsulated and Certified as superior Brilliant Uncirculated quality



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[www.changechecker.org/The2020Brexit50p](http://www.changechecker.org/The2020Brexit50p)

**0333 0032 777**

**O**n 31st January 2020 the **UK** officially left the European Union after **47** years of membership.

To commemorate this monumental day in British history, a new United Kingdom 50p was issued especially for collectors.

The **2020 Brexit 50p** features the inscription 'Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations' above the historic '**31st January 2020**' date.

This is **British history in the making**; generations to come will study this in school and this departure marks a new era for our great nation.

Today, you can mark this historic event with the **2020 UK Brexit 50p** – the only official UK coin to commemorate this occasion – available to you today for **just £4.50** (+p&p).

What's more, your coin has been specially struck and encapsulated as a **Change Checker CERTIFIED Brilliant Uncirculated** issue. Brilliant Uncirculated coins are **specially struck** and handled to ensure the **pristine quality** that collectors really value.



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## UK 2020 Brexit CERTIFIED BU 50p

**YES** Please send me [ ] (max. 9) **UK 2020 Brexit CERTIFIED BU 50p(s)** for just **£4.50** each (+£2.99 p&p).

<input type="checkbox"/> 2020 Brexit 50p Coin(s) @ £4.50 each	£	<b>Order Ref: MCT/908N/A</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Postage and Packing (max 9)	£2.99	
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## MODERN GB COINS



# SCARCITY INDEX 10P, 50P AND £2 COINS

Each quarter Change Checker publishes a 'Scarcity Index' tracking which circulating 10p, 50p and £2 coins are most scarce and collectable. We're proud to work with Change Checker and publish the unique index in every issue of Coin Collector, revealing the mintage, collecting and swap data to give an up-to-date picture of the scarcity of modern coins

**I**t's all change for the 50ps this quarter, as one coin drops a huge fifteen places! With less cash being used because of the current climate, it's likely this is affecting collecting and it seems this has exposed some new trends on the indexes!

You can use the updated A-Z 10p, 50p and £2 indexes below to discover how sought-after the coins in your collection really are. This information has been compiled using data from the Change Checker Swap Centre and presented in the easy to use indexes below, with arrows to signify how many places up or down a coin has moved since the last Scarcity Index.

### A-Z 10p Scarcity Index

We've seen another big mix up for the latest A-Z 10p Scarcity Index update, with our biggest climber, M for Mackintosh, jumping up a huge twelve places!

In our last Scarcity Index, we saw the Tea 10p take the top spot for the first time and it's retained its title this quarter, closely followed by Y for Yeoman Warder. Other big movers include the H

for Houses of Parliament and F for Fish and Chips, both moving down sixteen places towards the bottom of the index.

Regardless of where they feature on the above index, if you have any of the A-Z 10ps in your collection you should consider yourself lucky, as they are particularly hard to come by in circulation and each design has a relatively low mintage (just 220,000 of each design released in 2018 and 2.1 million overall in 2019).

### 50p Scarcity Index

Previously the Football 50p had held second spot behind the most sought-after 50p in circulation, the Kew Gardens, but we saw it drop last quarter, and this Index, it's a similar story! The Judo, Triathlon and Wrestling 50ps have now all bumped the Football 50p to fifth spot.

This update sees a huge jump for Taekwondo, jumping up eleven places and landing it in our top ten. There are big changes for the Wheelchair Rugby and Athletics 50ps too, dropping fifteen and eleven, respectively.

Since our last Scarcity Index

## A to Z 10p COINS

Coin	Scarcity Index	Change
T - Tea	100	—
Y - Yeoman Warder	89	—
N - NHS	72	↑ 1
W - World Wide Web	72	↓ 1
Z - Zebra Crossing	68	—
J - Jubilee	41	—
R - Robin	31	—
M - Mackintosh	26	↑ 12
U - Union Jack	24	↑ 10
L - Loch Ness Monster	22	↑ 2
G - Greenwich Meantime	21	↓ 1
S - Stonehenge	21	↓ 1
X - X Marks The Spot	19	↑ 8
D - Double Decker Bus	18	↑ 8
K - King Arthur	18	↑ 11
C - Cricket	17	↑ 8
I - Ice Cream	15	↓ 4
Q - Queue	14	—
A - Angel of the North	13	↓ 5
E - English Breakfast	12	↓ 5
P - Postbox	11	↓ 4
B - Bond 007	10	↑ 1
O - Oak	9	↑ 2
H - Houses of Parliament	5	↓ 16
F - Fish and Chips	4	↓ 16
V - Villages	4	↓ 10



update, we've seen the 2018 Peter Rabbit 50p drop three places but the 2018 Flopsy Bunny 50p has jumped up two spots. As the two rarest Beatrix Potter 50ps in circulation, it's interesting to see them shuffle once more. These coins are definitely the ones to watch.

### £2 Scarcity Index

For the first time in recent updates, the Commonwealth Games coins have been disrupted at the top of the index. The Olympic Handover has bumped the Commonwealth Games Wales £2 out of the top four, moving up a place.

As for the rest of the index, there's been a substantial amount of reshuffling. The Shakespeare Tragedies has dropped eleven places, whilst the First World War (Navy) is up three!

Coin	Scarcity Index	Change
Commonwealth Games N. Ireland	100	—
Commonwealth Games England	82	—
Commonwealth Games Scotland	77	—
Olympic Handover	73	↑ 1
Commonwealth Games Wales	69	↓ 1
London 2012 Handover	62	↑ 1
Olympic Centenary	53	↑ 1
Mary Rose	49	↑ 1
King James Bible	48	↓ 3
2015 First World War (Navy)	41	↑ 3
London Underground Roundel	39	↑ 1
Magna Carta	34	—
London Underground Train	32	↓ 2
Great Fire of London	25	—
Robert Burns	22	↑ 1
Shakespeare Comedies	21	↓ 1
DNA	13	↑ 3
Darwin	11	↑ 1
Guinea	11	↓ 2
Trinity House	9	↑ 3
Wireless Transmission	9	↓ 1
Britannia	7	—
Rugby World Cup	5	↑ 1
Steam Locomotive	5	↑ 2
Gunpowder Plot	4	—
2016 First World War (Army)	2	↑ 1
Act of Union	2	↑ 4
Brunel - Paddington Station	2	↑ 4
Shakespeare Tragedies	2	↓ 11
2014 First World War (Kitchener)	1	↓ 2
60th Anniversary of the end of World War Two	1	↓ 1
Abolition of Slavery	1	↓ 2
Brunel - Portrait	1	—
Charles Dickens	1	—
Florence Nightingale	1	—
Shakespeare Histories	1	—
Technology	1	—

After the announcement that there are no plans to issue any £2 coins into circulation for the next ten years, it's likely we'll see a further shuffle to the £2 Index over the next few quarters.

## £2 COINS

## 50p COINS

Coin	Scarcity Index	Change
Kew Gardens	100	—
Judo	83	—
Triathlon	81	↑ 2
Wrestling	81	↓ 1
Football	78	↓ 1
Tennis	69	—
Table Tennis	56	—
Taekwondo	55	↑ 11
Shooting	52	↑ 2
Handball	51	↑ 2
Goalball	46	↓ 1
Rowing	46	↓ 2
Hockey	45	↑ 1
Flopsy Bunny	41	↑ 2
Sailing	41	↑ 2
2018 Peter Rabbit	39	↓ 3
Basketball	35	↑ 6
Gymnastics	35	—
Weightlifting	35	↑ 9
Jemima Puddle-Duck	33	↑ 1
Mrs. Tittlemouse	33	↑ 1
Sir Isaac Newton	33	↓ 2
Pentathlon	30	↓ 8
Wheelchair Rugby	29	↓ 15
Equestrian	26	↑ 9
Volleyball	24	↑ 3
Boxing	23	↓ 2
Suffragettes	23	↓ 1
Badminton	22	↓ 5
Boccia	19	↑ 1
Fencing	19	↓ 1
Aquatics	18	↑ 5
WWF	17	↑ 2
Canoeing	16	↓ 2
Cycling	16	↓ 2
NHS	16	—
Athletics	15	↓ 11
UK entry to EEC	11	—
Archery	10	—
Squirrel Nutkin	7	—
Benjamin Britten	5	—
Battle of Britain	3	—
Battle of Hastings	3	↑ 2
Scouts	3	↑ 8
The Tailor of Gloucester	3	↑ 1
Beatrix Potter	2	↑ 2
Commonwealth Games	2	↓ 3
Girl Guides	2	↑ 2
Ironside	2	↓ 4
Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle	2	↑ 8
Paddington at the Station	2	—
2016 Peter Rabbit	1	↑ 1
2017 Peter Rabbit	1	↑ 1
Benjamin Bunny	1	↑ 1
Britannia	1	↓ 12
Dictionary	1	—
Libraries	1	↓ 8
Mr. Jeremy Fisher	1	↓ 8
Paddington at the Palace	1	—
Roger Bannister	1	—
Royal Arms	1	—
Team GB	1	—
The Representation of the People Act	1	—
Tom Kitten	1	—
Victoria Cross Heroic Acts	1	—
Victoria Cross Medal	1	—

### How your Scarcity Index works

Generally collectors have had to rely upon mintage figures to identify the scarcest coins. But they only tell part of the story. Trying to find a good quality coin from fifteen to twenty years ago, even for a higher mintage issue, is much more challenging than a more recent issue, as coins become damaged over time and are ultimately removed from circulation.

Additionally, some designs are more hoarded than others by people who might not normally collect coins – the poignant First World War £2 Coin series being an example. Finally, it can be up to a couple of years before the Royal Mint eventually confirms the actual mintage for an issue.

That's why we have combined the mintage information with two other key pieces of information.

- How many of each design are listed as 'collected' by Change Checkers, indicating the relative ease of finding a particular coin.
- The number of times a design has been requested as a swap over the previous three months, showing the current level of collector demand.

Importantly, as new coins are released and popularity rises and falls across different designs the Scarcity Index will be updated quarterly allowing Change Checkers to track the relative performance of the UK's circulation coins.

*Find out more at [www.changechecker.org/category/scarcity-index](http://www.changechecker.org/category/scarcity-index)*

## COMPETITION



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### ABOUT THE PRIZE

The Classic-design is a bound leatherette ring binder with four-ring mechanism, a matching slipcase, five 'NUMIS' pages and five white interleaves. Sliding drawer window are made of plasticiser and acid free soft specialty film.

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### HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, just visit the [allaboutcoins.co.uk](http://allaboutcoins.co.uk) website and answer the following question:

*In what year was the 50p piece first introduced as legal tender in the UK?*

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Closing date: 28 February 2021. Winner picked at random from all correct entries. Editor's decision is final. Good luck!

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In Germany they were known as *rechenpfennig*. The Dutch called them *worppghelt*. But to most collectors they're just *jetons*. Paula Hammond takes a look at the tantalising tokens whose history is told in the very name they carry.

## JUST JETONS



**B**ack in the days of the Roman Empire, bone or stone discs and a flat, lined exchequer board were used for bookkeeping. To make calculations, the counters (called *calculi*) were moved from column to column. No one knows exactly when the first metal counting counters appeared, but the earliest known example is dated 1190, and was probably commissioned by an Italian financier. Their popular name comes from the French *jeter* ('to push') and these curious counters were used in exactly the same way as the Roman *calculi*. Italian City States were at the heart of the Medieval commercial world and it's easy to imagine that these hangovers from old Rome gradually spread from there to France, England and the Low Countries.

The earliest known English jetons appeared in 1280. These carry the star and crescent of King Edward I (1272-1307) and were probably made at the Tower of London. Examples from Holland and Belgium date from a similar period. However, a royal writ referring to 'barons of the exchequer' proves that exchequer boards and casting counters were common in England as early as 1118. Other documents suggest that Venetian coins were used at the Royal Exchequer during the reign of King John (1199-1216).

### Curious Counters

Everything changed in 1202 when a book called *Liber Abaci* extolling the virtues of the new Hindu-Arabic numeral system was published. This proved so influential that, in 1299, merchants in Florence were banned from counter casting. Other Italian city-states followed suit, but it was only by the 1400s that it became standard practice across Europe. In the meantime, though, jetons took on a life of their own.

Although they're not coins, most jetons were originally produced by governments or large estates, and made by the same mints that produced genuine currency. Because of this, early jetons look very similar to coins in terms of size (averaging 28-32 mm) and quality, although they're usually copper-based rather than silver.

Jetons were not marked with numerical values, but like coins, many carried a bust portrait on the obverse, along with a Latin motto. Such images usually represented the official who commissioned them. The reverse generally carried the ruler's coat of arms, or the name or badge of the city or counting office. Official jetons also included the date of issue.

To prevent counterfeiters from coating jetons in silver and passing them off as the real deal, English jetons were sometimes pierced in the centre. In Germany, where Nuremberg was the centre of jeton production, tokens were produced not by governments but

individual *rechenpfennigschlager* (reckoning coin manufacturers). Again, to deter counterfeiters, they had to be clearly labelled with the maker's name and the word *rechenpfennig*.

### Propaganda Pieces

Jetons were used as unofficial gambling counters for centuries but it was only when they fell out of official use, that they began to be produced specifically as gaming pieces. Many of these were similar to official jetons, but carried fanciful images and were cruder in appearance. Later, up market jetons, cast in silver and sometimes gold, were issued too, celebrating religious festivals, military victories and important people.

It was, arguably, during the Dutch Revolt (1568-1609) though, that jeton mania took hold. Over 2,000 jetons are known to exist from this era, promoting the views and victories of both combatants.

Other European rulers quickly saw the merit in such propaganda pieces and began commissioning their own jetons. In 1559, Philip II (1554-1598) issued silver and copper jetons to mark the opening of his new counting house. Although they were no longer used for accounting, gifts containing the face of the monarch were sure to remind officials where their loyalty should lie. Gradually these commemorative tokens evolved into larger, more expensive history medals.

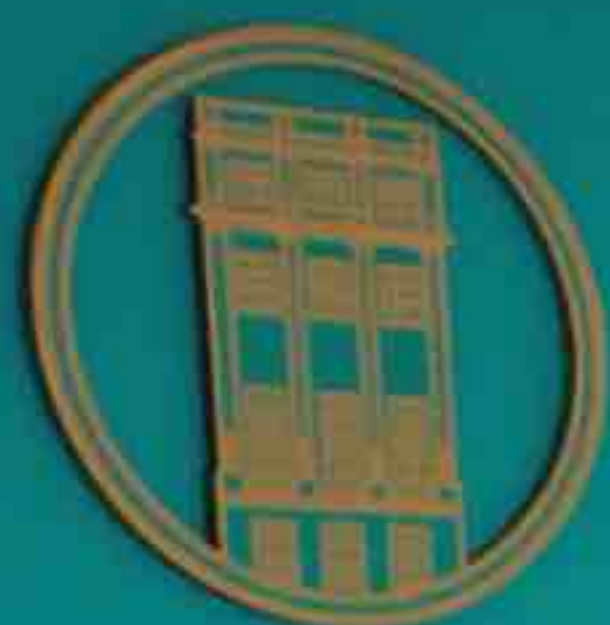
### Collecting Cues

Collectors were quick to see the appeal of jetons and by the 1700s jeton enthusiasts formed a small but keen community. The first book on the topic appeared in 1687, and focussed on jetons as historical pieces. In fact, their use as counting counters seems to have been all but ignored until the work of the English numismatist, FP Barnard in 1920. Since then jeton collecting has undergone a real revival.

For many collectors, jetons simply offer a fascinating contemporary commentary on people, places and events. Like all collectables, price depends on rarity. Before the 1600s, silver jetons were rarely made. After 1600, silver became the default metal for commemorative jetons, making the earlier pieces more valuable. Copper-based gaming/counting jetons were issued in huge numbers, and discarded as they became worn. But, because they were made in thousands of different designs, collectors still have the real thrill of discovering something new, for a fairly small financial outlay.

Inevitably there are plenty of fake and fantasy jetons on the market, so buyer beware. Collecting jetons is generally more challenging than collecting coins, but then, isn't that the fun of the chase?





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