

STAMP COLLECTOR

FALKLAND'S FINEST

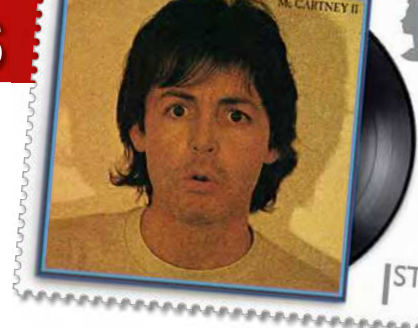
WHAT YOU
SHOULD PAY FOR
THIS CLASSIC SET

OPINION

*Are we doing
enough to
attract young
collectors?*



Your guide to collecting
QEII PRE-DECIMALS



INCREDIBLE STAMP STORIES



THE DESIGNS THAT
FOUGHT MALARIA



STAMPS OF THE
RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR



THE LIFE OF THE
'FATHER OF HAITI'

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

Are You THINKING of SELLING?

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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

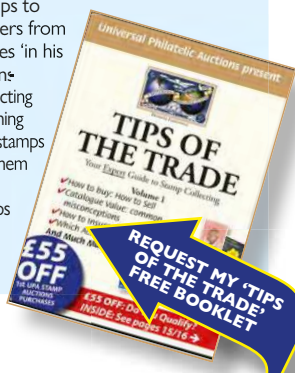
1 ▶ If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the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

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



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation ✓ **Place** ✓ and **Price** ✓

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?

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

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

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

18▶ What Should I Do Next?

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



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

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

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

Andrew

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



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In our regular insight into the collections held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, Nicola Davies describes the archives of Grover & Co Ltd. We explain the story of Lundy and its stamps, using material held in the British Library Philatelic Collections. Plus, the exhibition news from FEPA, and the life of philatelist Arthur Hind

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Mark today to discuss options:

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Welcome

ISN'T IT RIGHT TO CELEBRATE LIVING LEGENDS?



It's fair to say many of the unwritten rules around stamp issues have been relaxed in recent decades. The very idea of philatelically honouring a living person was frowned upon for years, but then in 2005 Royal Mail issued stamps showing the (alive and well) England cricket team celebrating their Ashes victory (actually a few living people had popped up on our stamps before then, albeit a little less obviously).

Since then there has been a swathe of living Britons on our stamps, including the recently issued Paul McCartney designs detailed in this issue. This approach might not sit comfortably with the more traditional collector, but isn't it right to honour people whilst they're still with us rather than having to wait and give them a posthumous tribute?

Following the sad loss of David Bowie, Royal Mail issued a set of 'Music Giants' stamps to celebrate the singer's remarkable career. Meanwhile, many commentators wondered if there was a better way to celebrate notable lives, before it was too late for the subject to be included. Writing in *The Guardian* just days after Bowie's passing, Noah Berlatsky suggested: 'it's worthwhile to take a moment now and then to think about the legends while they're here, rather than waiting for that arbitrary online instant when everybody all at once will be allowed to remember.'

Since the Bowie stamps of 2015 we've had Elton John and now Sir Paul, and after the horrible year and a half we've had, this celebration of living legends somehow feels right. Traditions are one thing, and an important aspect of our hobby, but isn't it great to share our enthusiasm and appreciation of our heroes whilst they're still here to enjoy it with us?

Matt Hill, Editor

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

Writing in this issue...



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



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 article on page 72.

We're always delighted to feature readers in the magazine alongside our regular experts and this month we feature highlights of the recent All About Stamps Competition. With a theme of 'Modern Stamps', the entries covered subjects as diverse as the Olympics to Petroleum, Girlguiding to Fireworks! See highlights on page 62 and find out who won next month!



BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY DISPUTE BRINGS STAMPS INTO QUESTION

Stamps of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) have been brought into question due to an ongoing dispute over the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands.

According to a report in *The Guardian* newspaper, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) council has recommended that BIOT stamps no longer be recognised, following a recent ruling that Mauritius has a right to claim the Chagos Islands. The UPU council of administration recommended that its 192 member countries 'cease the registration, distribution and forwarding of any and all postage stamps issued by the territory formerly known as the "British Indian Ocean Territory".'

The BIOT Post Office and Philatelic Bureau, which is managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the British Government, issued its most recent set of stamps in February featuring images of Sea Slugs, whilst a brief notice on the website added in April states that there is a delay in shipping recent orders which they are 'hoping to rectify shortly'.

According to *The Guardian* report, Prof Philippe Sands QC, counsel for Mauritius, said: 'Mauritius, the African Union and many other countries are taking active steps to give effect to Mauritian sovereignty, ensuring that no international organisation recognises Britain's illegal occupation: from fishing to transport, stamps and coins, even the .io domain name, change is in the air.'

Britain retained possession of the Chagos islands in 1968, paying the newly independent Mauritius more than £4m for the region. The first BIOT stamps were issued in January 1968 featuring a small portrait of the Queen and denominated in rupees. In the 1970s,



A miniature sheet issued in 2014 showing the British Indian Ocean Territory Coat of Arms

around 2,000 islanders were removed from the Diego Garcia island, which was then leased to the US, for use as an airbase. In 1992 the values on the stamps were changed to £ and pence. In January 2021, the United Nation's special international maritime court in Hamburg rejected Britain's claim of sovereignty, prompting the UPU's decision on the stamps.

A UK government statement from June 2020 explained: 'The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which has been under continuous British sovereignty since 1814. Mauritius has never held sovereignty over the Archipelago and we do not recognise its claim. However, we have a long-standing commitment, first made in 1965, to cede sovereignty of the territory to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes. We stand by that commitment... We remain open to dialogue on all shared issues of mutual interest.'

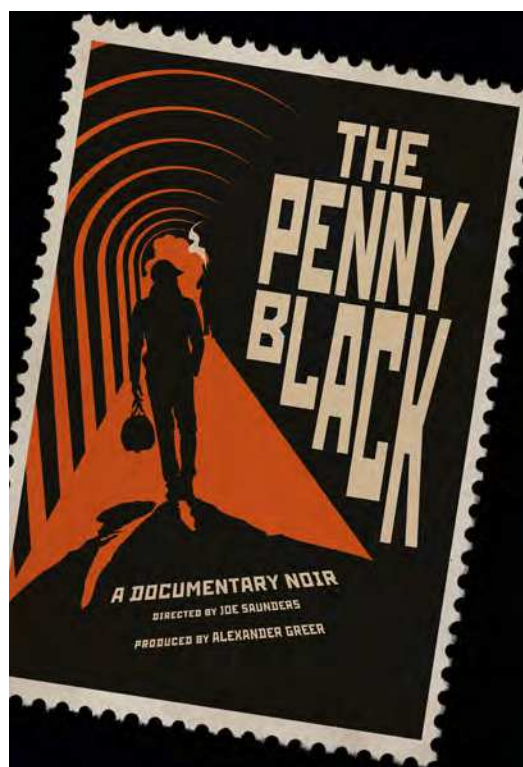
NEW FILM EXPLORES MORALS OF RARE STAMPS

A new 'non-fiction investigative thriller' following the story of a mysterious million-dollar stamp collection has been released in 'virtual cinemas' and on Apple TV.

Entitled *The Penny Black* the feature-length film begins when Will, the estranged son of a conman, agrees to safeguard a rare stamp collection for his Russian neighbour, only for the neighbour to vanish without a trace. Will searches for the collection's true owner, confronting his fear and integrity head-on. But when some of the stamps suddenly disappear, the filmmakers are forced to re-examine Will's capacity for honesty.

Directed by Joe Saunders, the film has been described as 'a story unlike anything you've heard... genuine and captivating' and 'a twisty, head-spinning investigative thriller'.

Watch the film's trailer at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk and find out more about the film at www.thepennyblackmovie.com





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REF T605

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REF T606

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

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£49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE



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£599.50 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 £800+

£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T626

FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST

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

£599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD

REF T627

ALL WORLD WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST

INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF FOREIGN, 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 £400+

£299.50 PLUS £20.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD



REF T607

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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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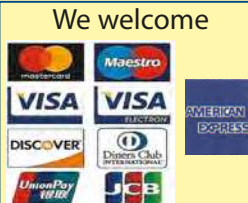
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MINIATURE SHEET ISSUED IN MEMORY OF PRINCE PHILIP

Royal Mail are set to issue four new stamps in memory of HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, this month, following his passing in April.

The black and white images on the four stamps feature Prince Philip through the years. The 2nd class stamp shows Prince Philip taken by the photographer Baron; the 1st class shows the Duke of Edinburgh attending the passing out parade of Prince Andrew at Dartmouth Naval College, Devon; the £1.70 value shows Prince Philip at the Royal Windsor Horse Show; and the final value (£2.55) shows a photograph of Prince Philip taken by the Terry O'Neill.

Simon Thompson, CEO, Royal Mail said: 'Throughout adulthood, The Duke of Edinburgh dedicated himself to the service of this country, the Commonwealth and to the many causes he was involved with. For more than seven decades he was at the centre of our national life. His passing is a key moment in our history which we mark with this set of commemorative stamps.'

Born on June 1921 in Corfu, Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark was the only son and youngest child of Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenburg. Like HM The Queen, he was also a great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria, descended from her second daughter, Princess Alice.

Following the abdication of his uncle, King Constantine I, during a turbulent period in Greece's history, his family fled the country to exile in France when the Prince was eighteen months old.

After education at Cheam Preparatory School and Gordonstoun, in 1939 the eighteen-year-old Prince joined the Royal Navy as a 'Special Entry' Cadet, where he excelled in his training.

In July 1947 the engagement of Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten to Princess Elizabeth was announced, and four months later their wedding at Westminster Abbey was the first great State occasion since the end of the Second World War.

On the death of King George VI in February 1952, Prince Philip gave up his naval career to commit himself fully to establishing his role as consort to the new monarch. In addition to supporting HM The Queen, Prince Philip became patron or president of some 800 organisations during his lifetime, including the Industrial Society, the National Playing Fields Association and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. He was also President of the World Wildlife Fund UK, WWF International President and President Emeritus, Chancellor of Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities, and President of the International Equestrian Federation.

Founding The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 1956, HRH inspired and encouraged millions of young people around the world to learn new skills and develop their full potential.

In his spare time, Prince Philip pursued his interests in sports and adventure, becoming a qualified pilot, a keen sailor who competed regularly at the Cowes Regatta and an avid polo player.



He also took up four-in-hand carriage-driving and represented Britain at several World and European championships.

An artistic individual, The Prince enjoyed painting landscapes and he was a keen collector of art. Prince Philip also played a vital role in helping to modernise the institution of the monarchy. In May 1961, he became the first member of the Royal Family to be interviewed on television. It was his suggestion that The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace should be built on the site of the chapel destroyed in an air raid in 1940 to display items from the Royal Collection to the public.

During more than half a century in the public eye, Prince Philip accompanied The Queen on more than 250 overseas tours and completed well over 20,000 official engagements. He successfully carved a niche that combined ceremonial and family duties, as the father of four children, with his own crowded itinerary.

The four portrait stamps are presented in a miniature sheet, which retails at £6.65, and a range of related products are available at www.royalmail.com/dukeofedinburgh. The stamps will be available on general sale from 24 June 2021.

STAMP DETAILS

In Memoriam HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 1921 - 2021

Issue date: 24 June 2021

Design: Kate Stephens and Royal Group Ltd

Stamp Size: 35mm x 37mm

Printer: International Security Printers, lithography

Perforations: 14.5 x 14

Phosphor: All over, except 2nd class – bars as appropriate

Gum: PVA

1st - photograph of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh attending the passing out parade of Prince Andrew at Dartmouth Naval College, Devon

2nd - photograph of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh taken by the photographer Baron

£1.70 - photograph of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Windsor Horse Show

£2.55 - photograph of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh taken by the photographer Terry O'Neill

SUMMER OF STAMPS ONLINE FESTIVAL SET TO RETURN

The Summer of Stamps online festival, first held in July 2020 to celebrate the hobby around the world, is set to return for a second year in July.

Held at the popular website www.allaboutstamps.co.uk, the festival will offer special philatelic videos, webinars and articles, in addition to the next All About Stamps Competition.

Editor Matt Hill said: 'The Summer of Stamps came about as a result of the lockdown, we really wanted to organise an event that celebrated stamps and brought collectors together from around the world, giving everyone a focus whilst also catering for newcomers to the hobby. We were blown away by the response and we're so excited to be running the event again this year and, hopefully, each summer. We're currently working on the content and can't wait to



bring more details in the coming weeks.'

Find out more in the August issue of *Stamp Collector*, which will include a special guide to the online event, on the www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website, and by receiving the free allaboutstamps newsletter, sign up for free at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/account/register

SIX NEW LUNDY 'STAMPS' ISSUED

The Lundy Field Society has celebrated its 75th anniversary with the release of six new Lundy stamps, in denominations of 175, 90 and 65 'puffins'.

The new stamps do not officially pay for postage but follow a long tradition of stamps being issued on the island in the Bristol Channel, as detailed in our special feature on page 58 of this issue.

The stamps show the former owner of Lundy, MC Harman, and lecturer in zoology Leslie Harvey on the 175 puffin values; diving is depicted on the two 90 puffin values, following the island being designated a Marine Conservation Zone; and the final two stamps show visitors on the island.

You can buy sets of the stamps and first day covers by visiting Lundy, or you can order them by post by writing to: Lundy Postal Service, Lundy, Bristol Channel, Bideford, EX39 2LY.



UPU 'VOICE MAIL' PODCAST LAUNCHED

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has announced that it is joining forces with Ian Kerr, the founder of the Postal Hub Podcast, to produce a monthly podcast called 'Voice Mail'.

According to the makers of the podcast, each episode will offer a unique postal story from around the world. David Dudge, UPU's Programme Manager for Communication and Events, said: 'Voice Mail is a podcast that goes behind this vast infrastructure that spans the world and employs millions of people in every country to find the hidden stories explaining how this network touches all our lives.'

Voice Mail's first episode tells the story behind the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine. Thomas Ellmann, Vice-President, Life Sciences and Healthcare at Deutsche Post DHL Group discusses how the group supports distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, and the sheer magnitude of this global effort.

Co-presenter Ian Kerr said: 'The global postal network has helped us stay connected during the pandemic. And now the delivery sector is at the forefront of distributing vaccines. 'There are so many stories that show how important the postal sector is to communities. Posties and post offices are everywhere, and are part of society's fabric. I'm looking forward to sharing more postal stories in future episodes of Voice Mail.'

Voice Mail is now on Spotify, Podbean and other podcast hosting services. Find a link to the podcast at: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

IN BRIEF

Stampex International, the UK's national stamp exhibition, is set to return to the Business Design Centre in Islington from 29 September to 2 October 2021, following the previous two events being held virtually. Find out more about the plans for the event at: www.stampexinternational.co.uk

The Royal Philatelic Society London is set to reopen its doors at 15 Abchurch Lane, London, on 21 June. A statement from the RPSL President explained: 'Currently, staff are working at 15 Abchurch Lane between the hours of 9am and 4.30pm until Friday 19 June and full working hours will commence on Monday 21 June. With effect from that date UK members may attend between the hours of 9.30am and 5pm if restrictions are lifted. This arrangement does not apply to Overseas Members who must make enquiries of the appropriate authorities (Airlines etc., and Embassies) about travel and quarantine restrictions before making any plans.' Meanwhile, the work of the Society's Expert Committee has now resumed and submissions are welcome.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is resuming physical stamp dedication ceremonies, which are traditionally held in the USA to celebrate the release of new stamps. Meanwhile, the USPS has announced two additions to its 2021 stamp schedule. The new stamps feature the North American river otter and Santa Claus, respectively.

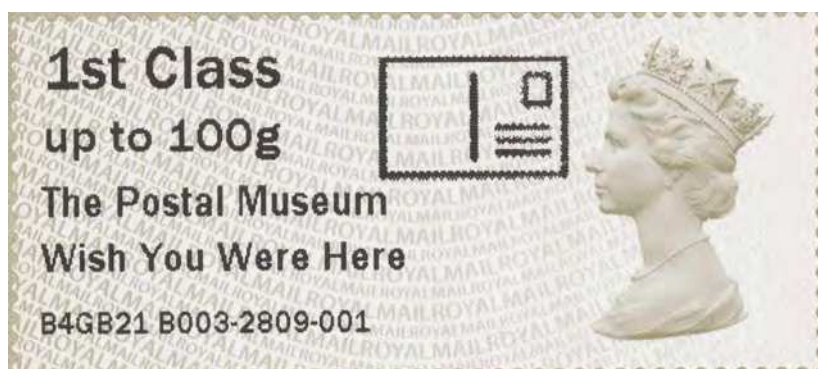
Dale E Smith, past American Topical Association (ATA) president, has been selected to receive the Distinguished Topical Philatelist award, which is presented each year to an individual who has provided outstanding service to philately.

Postal Museum resumes Post & Go

The Postal Museum has resumed the operation of its two Post & Go machines at the Museum, as the London attraction re-opens to the public.

Both kiosks will be in their usual locations The Postal Museum's Welcome Space and Mail Rail entrance; no admission ticket will be required to access the services. Additional safety measures are being introduced such as a hand sanitizer station, a queuing system and information on how to scan the NHS Test and Trace QR code located near the machines.

The machine in the Welcome Space will vend a collector's strip of 1st and 2nd class Machin stamps with an overprint 'Wish You Were Here' and a distinctive postcard symbol celebrating The Postal Museum's new exhibition marking 151 years of the British postcard. In addition to Post & Go stamps, a First Day Cover and a Presentation Pack containing both 1st and 2nd class Machins with 'Wish You Were Here' overprint are now available to purchase from the museum's shop



and online at shop.postalmuseum.org. Both Post & Go machines are available at The Postal Museum from 10.30am and throughout the museum's opening hours (Thursdays to Sundays).

Check the revised opening hours at www.postalmuseum.org/visit-us

DELCAMPE WEBSITE REACHES 100 MILLION COLLECTABLES FOR SALE!



The Delcampe marketplace has reached 100 million collectables for sale for the first time, demonstrating the popularity of the website.

The Belgian website launched twenty years ago and sees more than 10,000 items sold each day, including philatelic material, coins, ephemera, books, comics, vinyl records, and photography. According to the Delcampe team, the most popular categories are

stamps, coins and postcards. Founder Sébastien Delcampe, CEO (pictured), said: 'As a result of the lockdown, many collectors have had the opportunity to take time to focus on their passion. As a result, we have seen an increase in sales as well as in the number of items put up for sale.'

Meanwhile, Delcampe has launched a brand new series of videos related to the world of collecting on YouTube, featuring videos on subjects including stamps with inverted centres and how to find out the value of a stamp.

Find out more about Delcampe at: www.delcampe.net and discover the latest prices paid for stamps and covers on the collectables website in every issue of Stamp Collector – see page 24.

NEW RECORD FOR INDIAN STATES STAMP

The recent 'India + Area' sale at Stanley Gibbons set a new world record for a single Indian States stamp.

Following a tense bidding war, the I.F.S Duttia, a 1896 ½a black on blue green, with control handstamp in blue, achieved a sale price of £69,600, breaking the previous highest price paid for a Duttia of £36,464 in 2006.

The record-breaking stamp was part of the collected works of Geoff Rosamond and Peter Kent. James Coubault of Stanley Gibbons said: 'The collection arrived at our team's HQ largely unsorted and, after careful research and analysis, the Stanley Gibbons describers and valuers discovered some gems that had gone unrecognised by previous evaluators... Before the sale, our experts described this as: "A most attractive example of this key stamp, ranking amongst the finest of the five recorded by us. A wonderful stamp of the highest rarity and importance." As no previous example of this stamp in this condition had ever come to market, we set a modest estimate of £18,000 to £20,000, but knew that if we could attract the right buyers into the room, we could have something quite special on our hands.'

The 'India + Area' auction realised 192% of its estimated value across the lots and was described as being 'an overwhelming response to our first auction to allow in-room bidders since lockdown began'.



The elephant in the auction room; the 1896 ½a black on blue green, with control handstamp in blue, which achieved a sale price of £69,600. *See more auction results and market insight on page 21*



Tony Lester

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JERSEY

Nineties nostalgia

Six new stamps and a mini sheet from Jersey explore aspects of 1990s pop culture. The 1990s was an eclectic decade, perhaps most notably on the music scene, which saw the rise of 'Brit-pop', boy bands, the emergence of Grunge bands such as Nirvana, and the Spice Girls who burst into the charts championing girl power. In fashion, crop tops and combat trousers became wardrobe staples and 'The Rachel' was the must-have haircut, thanks American sitcom *Friends*. In technology, home computers and the internet were gaining momentum, DVDs were replacing VHS and Encarta took the place of the Encyclopaedia Britannica as the 'go to' for tricky homework.

Popular Culture in Jersey, as across the rest of the world, was changing too. Post-war Jersey was famed for its nightlife and in the 1990s, as underground dance music hit the mainstream, this nightlife saw a dramatic shift. The ballroom at the West Park Pavilion, once used for more formal dancing, now held crowds of people for raves, dancing to some of the Island's most talented DJs.

Just as Jersey's music venues had seen a change due to the



technological revolution of the 20th century, so did the high street. Shops selling items that could not have been dreamed of a decade or so before now became commonplace, with video games and mobile phones being sold on the high street.

The stamps each cover a different subject. Language, illustrated by London-based Mark Ward, shows the word 'fresh', an adjective for a person's appearance, has its roots in New York hip-hop culture. Music, illustrated by Irish illustrator Laura Callaghan, reflects the boy band phenomenon; whilst 'Fashion', illustrated by David Downton, showcases the crop top, which saw a huge rise in popularity during the 1990s.

The 'Event' stamp, illustrated by digital art collective eBoy, looks back on the dawn of the internet age; and 'Food', by illustrator Serge Seidlitz, remembers sweets of the era, including necklaces and rings, and sour sweets. Joshua Budich illustration for 'Leisure' shows the yo-yo, a traditional toy that enjoyed a surprise revival during the 1990s.

Finally, our trip down memory lane is seen on the miniature sheet illustration, which recalls the types of shops that would have existed on King Street and Queen Street at the time.

Issue date: 14 July 2021, www.jerseystamps.com

LIECHTENSTEIN

Scratch-off stamps highlight censorship

A block of three stamps from Liechtenstein celebrate the centenary of PEN International, one of the world's best-known association of writers, and an upholder and enforcer of the right to freedom of expression.

Since its inception after the First World War, PEN centres have been established in more than one hundred countries around the world, including Liechtenstein in 1978. The association takes a public stand against repression, censorship, imprisonment and assassination of writers and publicists, and it is this work which is reflected in the innovative stamps.

Philately Liechtenstein chose quotes from Friedrich Schiller (CHF 1.00), Emily Dickinson (CHF 1.50) and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (CHF 3.80) with certain words being blacked out, using 'scratch-off black coating'. In this way, the philatelic bureau explained, the stamps draw attention to the distorting and manipulative effect created by omitting information from texts. This becomes clear as soon as the blacked-out words on the stamp are scratched off, revealing the full quotes.

Issue date: 7 June 2021, www.philatelie.li/en



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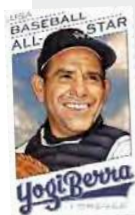
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IN BRIEF



The US Postal Service will honor Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra with a commemorative Forever stamp.

Berra won a record 10 World Series with the New York Yankees and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The single stamp is set to be issued on 24 June. www.usps.com



The careers of Canadian ballet dancers Karen Kain and Fernand Nault have been celebrated on two commemorative stamps issued by Canada Post recently. The stamps were released on International

Dance Day, 29 April 2021, to 'raise awareness of Canada's prominence in the global ballet community'. www.canadapost-postescanada.ca

Serbia Post recently issued a single-stamp mini sheet to mark Earth Day. According to a post office representative: 'Serbia is a country that can still boast areas with preserved nature, unaltered landscapes and a significant degree of biodiversity conservation. However, that obliges us not to repeat other people's mistakes, and to properly evaluate and preserve what we have as a unique part of the planet Earth.'



FAROE ISLANDS

Beautiful birds on the red list

This year's common Europa theme is 'Endangered animal and bird species', and two Faroese stamps depict the Puffin which is, sadly, threatened.

The puffin with its large colourful beak and orange leg is an iconic bird of the Faroe Islands. Those who travel to the Faroe Islands in the summer expect to see the birds in large numbers, but as the philatelic bureau team point out, many will be disappointed, since the stock has declined substantially in recent decades.

In 2017, the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) added the puffin to the Red List of endangered bird species. But you may be surprised to learn that the capture of puffins is not the main reason for their decline. It seems that climate change has a major impact on sand eel, which is the puffin's main food source.

Other Faroese bird species such as the Manx shearwater, the Arctic tern (*Sterna and Paradisaea*) and the kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) are also



completely dependent on the sand eel, demonstrating how man-made changes to the environment indirectly affect many species.

Today, it is estimated that there may be only 200,000 pairs of puffins left in the Faroe Islands, a worrying figure highlighted with these stamps.

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

GUERNSEY

Celebrating Sark's dark skies

Guernsey Post have released stamps to mark the tenth anniversary of Sark being designated the world's first Dark Sky Island by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA).

The IDA works to protect the night skies from light pollution for present and future generations and to date has designated 170 International Dark Sky Places, protecting over 110,000sq km of dark skies around the globe.

Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post said: 'With no public street lighting, paved roads and cars, the beautiful island of Sark does not suffer from the effects of light pollution and its night sky is very dark, with meteors and countless stars on display. Since 2015, star gazers from all around the world have visited the observatory of the Sark Astronomy Society (SAstroS), which is in the heart of the island.

'We are thrilled to be able to mark the 10th anniversary of Sark becoming the world's first Dark



Sky Island with stamps depicting some of the island's stunning night skies.'

The stamps show a view of Saturn, Jupiter and the Milky Way taken near Monk Rock on Sark (50p); a view of the night sky from the east coast of Sark at Point Robert Lighthouse (70p); the Milky Way with Jersey on the horizon (73p); and a view of Saturn, Jupiter and the Milky Way seen from the west coast of Sark looking to the southwest over Mer Tower (£1). The £1.15 value shows comet NEOWISE (C/2020 F3), taken from Little Sark overlooking Brecqhou, Jethou, Herm, with Guernsey on the horizon; and finally the £1.20 stamp shows La Seigneurie (the ancestral home of the Seigneur of Sark) silhouetted against the Milky Way looking west.

Issue date: 10 June 2021, www.guernseystamps.com





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GB STAMPS

A living legend

The latest instalment in Royal Mail's 'Music Giants' series pays homage to one half of perhaps the famous songwriting partnership of all time, with eight stamps and a four-stamp mini sheet celebrating the music of Sir Paul McCartney

Fans of stamps and the Beatles will no doubt fondly remember the set issued in 2007 to celebrate the music of, and mania surrounding, the 'Fab Four'. This latest set has a slightly different feel despite

the common theme. This time the album artwork is presented without the previous peculiar perforations and focuses on Paul McCartney's post-Beatles work as a solo musician. The stamps slot neatly into the 'Music Giants' library, with a format already seen in sets for David Bowie and Elton John.

So we're reminded of eight McCartney albums – including *Venus and Mars*, oddly the only featured LP from McCartney's band Wings rather than a simple solo effort. Meanwhile the mini sheet shows Paul in the studio across four stamps, reflecting his passion for recording.

According to Royal Mail, they collaborated closely with Paul and his team at MPL Communications Ltd on the collection, with Paul having personal involvement in the images used and the wider product range created for the issue. Of course, the eight stamps are simply reproductions of the album covers, with the vinyl LP peaking out on the right hand side, so the collaboration will have focussed on the mini sheet.

or co-written 188 charted records in the UK, of which 91 reached the top 10 and 33 reached No.1. He is the most successful albums act in UK Official Chart history and has been awarded more than sixty gold discs.

In the USA he has composed 32 No.1 singles and is a 21-time Grammy award winner. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the release of *RAM*, and the formation of the band Wings, which achieved huge success as one of the biggest selling acts of the 1970s, with 27 US top 40 hits, and five consecutive No.1 albums. The term 'Music Giant' seems appropriate for this living legend, and surely it is right that we celebrate his work now, rather than waiting for a posthumous release as the rules on stamp issues once demanded.

STAMP DETAILS

Paul McCartney

Design: Baxter & Bailey
Stamp Size: 38mm x 31mm
Printer: International Security Printers, lithography
Perforations: 14 x 14
Gum: PVA
1st - *McCartney*
1st - *RAM*
1st - *Venus and Mars*
1st - *McCartney II*
£1.70 - *Tug of War*
£1.70 - *Flaming Pie*
£1.70 - *Egypt Station*
£1.70 - *McCartney III*

'Paul McCartney in the Studio' miniature sheet

Design: Baxter & Bailey
Stamp Size: 35mm x 35mm
Printer: International Security Printers, lithography
Perforations: 14.5 x 14.5
Gum: PVA
1st - *McCartney* 1970
1st - *RAM*, 1971
£1.70 - *McCartney II*, 1980
£1.70 - *Flaming Pie*, 1997

A living legend

Before we explore the stamps themselves it is worth reminding ourselves of the achievements of this great songwriter. And his incredible popularity isn't just limited to his time with the Beatles. He is recognised by Guinness World Records as 'the most successful songwriter of all time' having written



The eight albums

A clean break from the Beatles and as far from the production extravaganza of their final album *Abbey Road* as you can get, Paul's solo debut *McCartney* was recorded mostly in his living room, with its author playing every instrument.

With a return to more complex studio production, *RAM* nevertheless shared its charming, homespun feel. Credited to Paul and Linda McCartney, the album took in everything from the gentle, ukulele-driven 'Ram On' to the hard-rocking 'Smile Away' and the experimental song suite 'Uncle Albert/Admiral Halsey', the latter an unexpected US No.1.

Venus and Mars's 'Rock Show' is a paean to the kind of huge stadium gigs that McCartney's 1970s band Wings would help pioneer: their ensuing world tour became one of the mid-1970s' most celebrated musical events. And did you know the album includes a cover of the theme from TV soap *Crossroads*? Strange but true.

McCartney II was again recorded at home and featured a variety of experiments, largely driven by synthesisers and drum machines. The same sessions produced 'Wonderful Christmastime', a perennial favourite of the festive season.

Produced by George Martin after the break-up of Wings, the global chart-topper *Tug of War* features hits 'Ebony and Ivory', 'Take It Away' and the Stevie Wonder collaboration 'What's That You're Doing?'.

Inspired by the years spent working on the Beatles' *Anthology* and mostly co-produced by Jeff Lynne – who had also worked on 'new' Beatles songs 'Free as a Bird' and 'Real Love' – and featuring a rare co-writing credit for Ringo Starr, *Flaming Pie* saw McCartney strip back his sound, a move that allowed an extremely strong, occasionally understated set of songs to flourish. Poignantly, *Flaming Pie* is also the last McCartney album to feature the backing vocals of Linda McCartney, who died the following year.

Egypt Station was released in and saw McCartney unexpectedly teamed up with Adele producer Greg Kurstin and pop songwriter Ryan Tedder. Meanwhile, the recently released *McCartney III* sees another return to a more basic approach, inspired by the circumstances of lockdown.



Stamp souvenirs

With such a popular subject, it's no surprise that there are a wide range of related souvenirs being offered. A basic prestige stamp booklet (PSB) and a limited edition version are available, featuring all twelve Paul McCartney stamps perforated as 'panes' within the book plus an extra pane of definitive stamps which is unique to the stamp issue. The more expensive version is limited to just 1,970 in recognition of the release of *McCartney* in 1970 and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

A 'Fan Sheet', individually numbered and limited to a print run of 5,000, features a collage of albums with all eight McCartney album stamps perforated within the design, whilst similar formats are available

featuring the stamps for albums *RAM* and *McCartney III*, respectively. A retail stamp book includes six 1st class stamps including four definitive stamps, plus two Paul McCartney special stamps; and a souvenir folder inspired by the retro feel of a vinyl record cover, contains eight enlargements of each of the Paul McCartney stamps, at album size.

Medal covers are also available, featuring a medal struck by the Royal Mint exclusively for this stamp issue in the shape of a plectrum; and a series of framed products present the stamps as works of art, no doubt these are set to adorn the walls of music fans around the world.

For a full list of products related to the stamp issue, visit www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

WIN THE STAMPS!

We have presentation packs to give away, courtesy of Royal Mail, in our regular competition. For your chance to win just visit the website (at www.allaboutstamps.co.uk) and answer the following multiple choice question:

The song 'Say, Say, Say' from McCartney's album *Pipes of Peace* featuring an appearance from which American singer?

Closing date: 9 July 2021. Winners picked at random from correct entries. Editor's decision is final.

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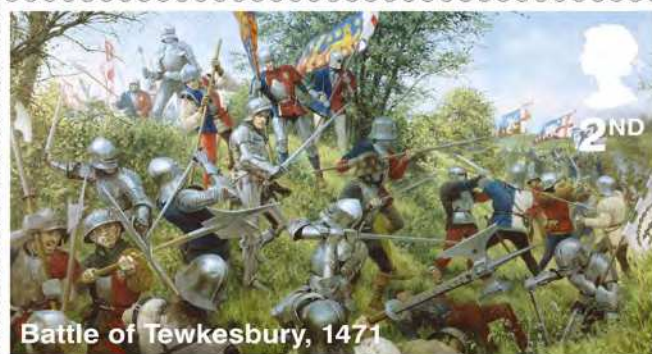
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GB STAMPS

War of the Roses

Royal Mail marked 550th anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury recently with eight stamps featuring oil illustrations re-imagining eight key battles that took place during the War of the Roses

Between 1455 and 1487, England was torn apart by a series of violent struggles for the throne. The period witnessed the deposition of three kings, and the violent death of two of them, in a series of bloody battles known as the Wars of the Roses, fought between the houses of Lancaster and York

It might not seem like the most poignant time to recall this chapter in our history – how many other stamp issues have marked a 550th anniversary? – but there is no denying the significance and drama of the War of the Roses, which are brought to life on these stamps by medieval and military artist Graham Turner. Royal Mail also worked with writer, historian and researcher Dr David Grummitt on the stamp issue.

David Gold, Royal Mail, said of the stamps: 'The Wars of the Roses fascinated both Shakespeare and historians alike. These striking illustrations bring to life a period of British history that was steeped in drama, betrayal and a quest for power that still enthral today.'

Stamp by stamp:

The Battle of Bosworth, 1485, is seen on the first 2nd class stamp, showing King Richard III marshalling his men before his final, heroic charge on 22 August 1485. The other 2nd class stamp recalls the Battle of Tewkesbury, which saw the Yorkist King Edward IV lead his men forward after a failed Lancastrian attack on his flank.

The Battle of Barnet took place on Easter Sunday 1471 and is seen on a 1st class stamp, as Edward IV leads his army into battle, defeating and killing Warwick the Kingmaker. Meanwhile, the Battle of Edgecote Moor, of 1469 is seen on the other 1st class value. The Yorkist knight Sir Richard Herbert is seen showing his prowess on the front line against rebel forces on 26 July 1469.

The Battle of Towton (1461), and the Battle of Wakefield (1460) are remembered on the £1.70 values; and on the pair of £2.55 stamps we see a re-enactment of the Battle of Northampton (1460) and the First Battle of St Albans (1455) respectively.



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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	11.50	1970	Cottages	0.20	1982	Christmas	1.00	1993	Greetings	8.50	2001	Christmas	4.30	2009	Eminent Britons	8.50
1925	Wembley	33.00	1970	Anniversaries	0.30	1982	COMPLETE YEAR	6.50	1993	Clocks	1.20	2001	COMPLETE YEAR	42.50	2009	Olympics	8.50
1929	P.U.C.	12.50	1970	Dickens	0.40	1983	Fishes	0.90	1993	Orchids	1.40	2002	Kipling Stories	8.50	2009	Christmas	6.50
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	140.00	1970	Games	0.30	1983	Commonwealth	0.90	1993	Art	1.20	2002	Golden Jubilee	4.30	2009	COMPLETE YEAR	68.00
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	40.00	1970	Philippa	0.30	1983	Engineering	0.65	1993	Roman	1.20	2002	Occasions	4.25	2010	Album Covers	8.50
1935	Jubilee	3.50	1970	Christmas	0.20	1983	Uniforms	1.10	1993	Canals	1.20	2002	Coastlines	3.00	2010	Royal Society	8.50
1935	Jubilee Inv.	18.00	1970	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1983	Gardens	0.95	1993	Autumn	1.40	2002	Queen Mother	3.30	2010	Dogs and Cats	8.50
1937	Coronation	0.10	1971	Ulster	0.20	1983	Fairs	0.95	1993	Holmes	1.20	2002	Circus	4.25	2010	Stewart	6.00
1940	Centenary	2.70	1971	Literary	0.20	1983	Christmas	1.00	1993	Christmas	1.50	2002	Aircraft	4.25	2010	Mammals	8.50
1946	Victory	0.10	1971	Gen. Anniv.	0.25	1983	COMPLETE YEAR	6.00	1993	COMPLETE YEAR	18.00	2002	C.wealth Games	4.25	2010	LONDON 2010(6v)	9.00
1948	Wedding	12.50	1971	Universities	0.30	1984	Heraldry	0.95	1994	Railway	1.50	2002	Peter Pan	4.25	2010	Britain Alone	6.50
1948	Liberation	0.10	1971	Christmas	0.20	1984	Cattle	1.10	1994	Greetings	8.50	2002	London Bridges	4.25	2010	Stuart	6.00
1948	Olympics	1.50	1971	COMPLETE YEAR	1.00	1984	Urban Renewal	0.95	1994	Paintings	1.50	2002	Pillar Boxes	4.25	2010	Olympics	8.50
1949	U.P.U.	0.30	1972	Explorers	0.30	1984	Europa	0.75	1994	Postcards	1.50	2002	Christmas	4.25	2010	Railways	5.50
1951	Festival	0.10	1972	Gen. Anniv.	0.25	1984	Summit	0.30	1994	Tunnel	1.20	2002	COMPLETE YEAR	50.00	2010	Medical	5.50
1953	Coronation	9.00	1972	Churches	0.40	1984	Meridian	0.95	1994	D-Day	1.25	2003	Birds of Prey	8.50	2010	Pooh	5.50
1957	Scouts	2.00	1972	BBC	0.30	1984	Royal Mail	0.80	1994	Golf	1.50	2003	The Secret of Life	4.30	2010	Christmas	7.00
1957	Parliament	0.20	1972	Christmas	0.20	1984	Council	1.00	1994	Four Seasons	1.50	2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	8.50	2010	COMPLETE YEAR	87.50
1958	Games	0.50	1972	S. Wedding	0.30	1984	Christmas	1.15	1994	Medical	1.30	2003	Endeavours	4.75	2011	Gerry Anderson	6.00
1960	G.L.O.	1.20	1972	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1984	COMPLETE YEAR	7.25	1994	Christmas	1.50	2003	The Coronation	8.50	2011	Musicals	7.50
1960	Europa	1.25	1973	E.E.C.	0.30	1985	Trains	1.30	1995	Cats	1.50	2003	Prince William	3.10	2011	Magical Realms	7.00
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.50	1973	Tree	0.10	1985	Insects	1.30	1995	Springtime	1.50	2003	Scotland	4.70	2011	WWF	8.50
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10	1973	Explorers	0.45	1985	Composers	1.00	1995	Greetings	8.50	2003	Pub Signs	4.00	2011	Shakespeare	6.00
1961	Parliament	0.70	1973	Cricket	0.30	1985	Safety at Sea	1.00	1995	N.Trust	1.50	2003	Transport Toys	4.00	2011	Morris	6.00
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.50	1973	Paintings	0.35	1985	Royal Mail	1.00	1995	Europa/Peace	1.20	2003	British Museum	4.70	2011	Thomas	6.00
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	8.50	1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	1985	Legends	1.00	1995	Science Fiction	1.30	2003	Christmas	5.50	2011	Olympics	8.50
1963	F.F.H. (O)	0.50	1973	Parliament	0.25	1985	Film Stars	1.30	1995	Shakespeare	1.25	2003	COMPLETE YEAR	60.00	2011	Crown Jewels	7.50
1963	F.F.H. (P)	8.50	1973	Wedding	0.25	1985	Christmas	1.00	1995	Communications	1.40	2004	Locomotives	3.80	2011	Hanover	6.00
1963	Paris (O)	0.10	1973	Christmas	0.70	1985	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1995	Rugby League	1.50	2004	Occasions	4.25	2011	UK A-Z Part 1	10.00
1963	Paris (P)	1.50	1973	COMPLETE YEAR	2.80	1986	Industry	1.00	1995	Christmas	1.75	2004	Lord of the Rings	8.50	2011	Christmas	8.00
1963	Nature (O)	0.10	1974	Tree	0.10	1986	Comet	1.00	1995	COMPLETE YEAR	19.50	2004	Northern Ireland	4.70	2011	COMPLETE YEAR	80.00
1963	Nature (P)	0.80	1974	Fire	0.35	1986	Birthday	1.00	1996	Burns	1.40	2004	Entente Cordiale	1.00	2012	Olympics - 4v	8.00
1963	Lifeboat (O)	0.75	1974	UPU	0.30	1986	Nature	1.00	1996	Greetings	8.50	2004	Ocean Liners	4.60	2012	Road Dahl	6.00
1963	Lifeboat (P)	15.00	1974	Britons	0.35	1986	Medieval Life	1.00	1996	Greetings (Phos)	17.00	2004	Horticultural	4.70	2012	Windsor	5.50
1963	Red Cross (O)	1.50	1974	Churchill	0.35	1986	Sports	1.30	1996	Cinema	1.50	2004	Wales	3.40	2012	Britons	8.50
1963	Red Cross (P)	20.00	1974	Christmas	0.30	1986	Royal Wedding	0.30	1996	Football	1.80	2004	Society of Arts	3.50	2012	Comics	8.50
1963	Cable (O)	0.50	1974	COMPLETE YEAR	1.60	1986	Parliament	0.35	1996	Olympics	1.30	2004	Woodland Animals	8.50	2012	UK A-Z Part 2	11.50
1963	Cable (P)	4.00	1975	Charity	0.05	1986	R.A.F.	1.30	1996	Childrens TV	1.50	2004	The Crimean War	4.30	2012	Fashion	8.50
1964	Shakes (O)	1.20	1975	Turner	0.30	1986	Christmas 6v	1.10	1996	Cars	1.80	2004	Christmas	4.30	2012	Diamond Jubilee	10.00
1964	Shakes (P)	3.50	1975	Architecture	0.40	1986	COMPLETE YEAR	8.80	1996	Christmas	2.85	2005	Farm Animals	8.50	2012	Dickens	8.00
1964	Geog (O)	0.90	1975	Sailing	0.35	1987	Flowers	1.00	1996	Women/Europa	1.50	2005	S. West England	3.50	2012	Space Science	7.00
1964	Geog (P)	8.00	1975	Railway	0.35	1987	Newton	1.00	1996	Childrens TV	1.50	2005	Jane Eyre	4.20	2012	Lest - Poppy	1.20
1964	Bot (O)	0.90	1975	Parliament	0.15	1987	Architecture	1.00	1996	Cars	1.80	2005	Magic	3.50	2012	Christmas	9.00
1964	Bot (P)	8.00	1975	Austen	0.40	1987	St. Johns	1.00	1996	Christmas	2.85	2005	World Heritage	5.25	2012	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.10	1975	Christmas	0.40	1987	Heraldry	1.00	1997	Terror Legends	1.40	2005	Trooping The Colour	4.30	2013	London Underground	6.00
1964	F.R.B. (P)	1.75	1975	COMPLETE YEAR	2.20	1987	Victorian Britain	1.00	1997	Architects of the Air	1.90	2005	Motorcycles	3.50	2013	Jane Austen	6.50
1965	Churchill (O)	0.15	1976	Telephone	0.45	1987	Pottery	1.00	1997	Horse	1.50	2005	Tastes in Britain	3.60	2013	Doctor Who	9.00
1965	Churchill (P)	0.60	1976	Reformers	0.45	1987	Christmas	1.20	1997	Post Offices	1.50	2005	Classic ITV	3.60	2013	Great Britons	8.50
1965	Parliament (O)	0.30	1976	USA	0.10	1987	COMPLETE YEAR	7.50	1997	Enid Blyton	1.85	2005	Smilers	7.00	2013	Football Heroes	9.50
1965	Parliament (P)	0.20	1976	Roses	0.45	1988	Lincoln Society	1.10	1997	Christmas	2.85	2005	Battle of Trafalgar	3.90	2013	Coronation Anniversary	8.00
1965	Army (O)	0.25	1976	Culture	0.45	1988	Welsh Bible	1.10	1997	Golden Wedding	1.60	2005	Christmas	4.30	2013	Butterflies	8.50
1965	Army (P)	0.50	1976	Caxton	0.45	1988	Sports	1.10	1997	COMPLETE YEAR	22.50	2005	COMPLETE YEAR	52.00	2013	Auto Legends	8.00
1965	Lister (O)	0.25	1976	Christmas	0.40	1988	Transport	1.10	1998	Endangered	2.20	2006	Animal Tales	5.25	2013	Merchant Navy	7.00
1965	Lister (P)	0.50	1976	COMPLETE YEAR	2.60	1988	Australia	1.00	1998	Diana	1.30	2006	Brunel	3.40	2013	Dinosaurs	9.00
1965	Arts (O)	0.25	1977	Sports	0.45	1988	Armada	0.90	1998	Lighthouses	1.90	2006	Ice Age Animals	3.50	2013	Christmas	8.50
1965	Arts (P)	0.70	1977	Chemistry	0.45	1988	Lear	1.10	1998	Comedians	1.90	2006	Queen's Birthday	5.25	2013	Childrens Christmas (2v)2.50	8.50
1965	B.O.B. (O)	2.75	1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.55	1988	Christmas	1.25	1998	Health	1.50	2006	World Cup Winners	3.60	2013	COMPLETE YEAR	85.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	3.50	1977	Government	0.15	1988	COMPLETE YEAR	8.00	1998	Fantasy	1.90	2006	Architecture	3.60	2014	Childrens TV	12.00
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.10	1977	Wildlife	0.50	1989	Birds	1.10	1998	Carnival	1.50	2006	Portrait Gallery	8.50	2014	Working Horses	7.00
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.10	1977	Christmas	0.50	1989	Greetings	4.00	1998	Speed	1.80	2006	Victoria Cross	4.40	2014	Remarkable Lives	8.50
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.25	1977	COMPLETE YEAR	2.40	1989	Food	1.10	1998	Christmas	1.70	2006	Sounds of Britain	3.60	2014	Buckingham Palace	6.00
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.50	1978	Energy	0.45	1989	Anniversaries	1.10	1998	COMPLETE YEAR	16.00	2006	Smilers	5.50	2014	Great British Film	8.00
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.25	1978	Buildings	0.45	1989	Toys	1.10	1999	Inventors	1.50	2006	Christmas	5.50	2014	Sustainable Fish	9.00
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.40	1978	Coronation	0.45	1989	Ind. Arch.	1.10	1999	Travellers	1.50	2006	COMPLETE YEAR	56.00	2014	Commonwealth Games	9.00
1965	Burns (O)	0.15	1978	Horses	0.45	1989	Microscopes	1.10	1999	Patients	1.50	2007	Beatles	4.50	2014	The Great War	9.00
1966	Burns (P)	0.50	1978	Cycling	0.45	1989	Mayor	1.00	1999	Settlers	1.50	2007	Sea Life	8.50	2014	Seaside Architecture	8.00
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20	1978	Christmas	0.45	1989	Christmas	1.20	1999	Workers	1.50	2007	Sky At Night	4.20	2014	Prime Ministers	9.50
1966	Abbey (P)	0.05	1978	COMPLETE YEAR	2.50	1989	COMPLETE YEAR	12.00	1999	Entertainers	1.50	2007	Inventions	4.40	2014	Christmas	10.00
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.20	1979	Dogs	0.45	1990	150th Anniv.	1.50	1999	Royal Wedding	0.85	2007	Slave Trade	4.20	2014	COMPLETE YEAR	92.00
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.20	1979	Flowers	0.45	1990	RSPCA	1.20	1999	Citizens	1.50	2007	Seaside	4.00	2015	Alice In Wonderland	13.00
1966	W. Cup (O)	0.15	1979	Elections	0.45	1990	Greetings	4.00	1999	Scientists	1.50	2007	Grand Prix	4.40	2015	Smilers	13.50
1966	W.Cup (P)	0.15	1979	Racing	0.45	1990	Europa	1.00	1999	Farmers	1.50	2007	Harry Potter	6.00	2015	Inventive Britain	10.00
1966	Birds (O)	0.15	1979	Year Of Child	0.45	1990	Queens Award	1.00	1999	Soldiers	1.50	2007	Scouts	4.00	2015	Bridges	9.00
1966	Birds (P)	0.15	1979	Rowland Hill	0.45	1990	Gardens	1.20	1999	Christians	1.50	2007	Birds	8.50	2015	Comedy Greats	9.00
1966	Winners	0.05	1979	Police	0.50	1990	Hardy	0.20	1999	Artists	1.50	2007	Uniforms	5.00	2015	Great War	9.00
1966	Technology (O)	0.15	1979	Christmas	0.55	1990	Birthday	1.20	2000	Above and Beyond	1.50	2007	Diamond Wedding	4.50	2015	Magna Carta	8.00
1966	Technology (P)	0.20	1979	COMPLETE YEAR	3.50	1990	Gallantry	1.00	2000	Fire and Light	1.50	2007	Christmas - 8v	7.00	2015	Battle of Waterloo	7.50
1966	Hastings (O)	0.40	1980	Birds	0.45												



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AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



Spink's recent Important Stamps and Covers of the World sale featured a range of New South Wales stamps, including this 2d pale blue from the 1854-63 Diadem Issue, which is only one of two examples recorded imperforate, the other being in the Royal Philatelic Collection. With watermark '1', and mainly good to large margins, the stamp was described as being 'extremely rare' and it was noted that 'the first report of this error was in the *London Philatelist* in May 1892 by M.P. Castle, the famous London collector. His example was bought by King George V in 1929 and is now in the Royal Collection.'

SOLD FOR £4,200

'The railways of the past continue to inspire romance and those dreams have perhaps only been further encouraged by the recent restrictions on movement' wrote the stamp experts at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions after their recent sale. The railway-related lots were part of the collection formed by the late Stuart Phillips and amongst the highlights was this 1890 Railway Letter Postage essay overprint on the Jubilee 3d.



SOLD FOR £4,800



Modern commemorative errors are not currently at their highest levels according to Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, who have a long tradition of offering modern errors, and yet a handful of Machin oddities attracted interest at the recent sale. A 19p colour trial for the 1900 'double head' issue fetched £4,608, whilst the only known example of the type 6C Walsall 4 x 41p decimal Machin booklet with phosphor omitted sold for £8,352, a price that the auctioneers claimed could well prove to be a shrewd investment.

SOLD FOR £8,352



Cherrystone Auctions recently offered this set of high value Rhodesia 1890-1901 Coat of Arms stamps, featuring the £5 yellow green, £10 orange brown, £5 dark blue and £10 blue lilac, described as a 'beautiful group'.

SOLD FOR £1,270



STAMP DETECTIVE

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

Many stamps have intriguing backgrounds, and a back story never harms when it comes to demand and value. In 1945 King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia made a state visit to Egypt where he met with King Farouk on 24 January at the Red Sea port city of Radwa. The Saudi Post Office issued four stamps marking the event.

In 1946 a single ½ guerche postal tax stamp was issued marking the return of the Saudi monarch. The design features a rather primitive map of the Red Sea area with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This postal tax stamp was required on all mail from January to July. The stamp is known perforated 11½ or 11.

The design also includes two banners flying from the left and right borders. The Arabic text on the banners translates as 'God Is One and Only One, Muhammed Is His Emissary.'

Reportedly some Muslim clerics objected to the wording and the stamp was reissued with the text scratched out. It seems that most

orders from worldwide stamp dealers were filled with the scratched out version which exists in the same perforation varieties as the original issue.

The stamp with the inscriptions intact is quite scarce in mint condition and especially so perforated 11½. Most of the original issue with banner inscriptions intact, and an example with the inscriptions scratched out

When a major internet auction site was consulted only one mint copy of the original unscratched version was found. The seller wanted more than £130 for it. Finding a nice mint copy for less than £100 would be a nice buy.





The first major sale of this month was a China 1880 Imperial Customs Dragon cover sent to the USA. With a beautiful three colours franking, it sold on 4 April for \$9,350 (approximately £6,600) at auction, with 49 bids. The starting price was \$1.89. This

incredibly rare item, franked by three Chinese Large Dragons on the reverse to the US will definitely be a showpiece in the collection of the buyer. The seller, Patrizia Cassola said of the cover: '[it] comes from an old collection of China assembled in a lifetime and that was begun from the father of the actual owner. It contains interesting pieces and this lovely cover with three colours candarin franking was part of it. I was in charge of the sale which had as many as 49 offers in my eBay store, where I am reaching 30,000 feedbacks. Really a rare piece in very fine condition.' The_Collectors_Outlet is an Italy-based eBay seller with 100% positive rating.

SOLD FOR £6,600



On 21 April, Gsquared7 sold a revered US 388 Mint OG Guide Line Pair Coil with a 2003 Philatelic Foundation Certificate via a Buy It Now for \$5,000 (£3,532). The US 388 Coil is one of the most highly sought after of the Washington Franklin Coils, with the total count in circulation unknown to collectors. Whenever a new

one goes on the market it doesn't stay available for long. The seller, Gary Goldstein, of Southwest Stamps said: 'I had always wanted to buy one of these iconic pairs but was never able to afford one. Then, in 2017 I was participating in an auction by one of the major auction houses and this pair came up and was at a price level I could afford. So, I jumped in and bought it. I've had it for a few years (not too many collectors can afford an item of this calibre) but it is now in a good collection.'

SOLD FOR £3,532



On 25 April, NyStamps sold one of the most talked about early US classic errors, a US 294a Pan-American Expo 1c Inverted with a 1969 Philatelic Foundation Certificate. It sold at auction with a final hammer price of \$6,301

after 37 bids and a starting price of just 10 cents. The invert in question was the top right stamp of a block of four it had been previously removed from. Realising 50% of the \$12,500 catalogue value, this rarity utilised eBay's global customer base to sell for prices similar to or higher than current auction house realisations of the same issue. Ji Sun sells on eBay under the username NyStamps, has 358,000 feedback and a 99.9% positive rating.

SOLD FOR £4,452



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



Following the China cover, an 1847 VICTORIA 1Sh. EMBOSSSED SG.55 Die II - ORIGINAL GUM VLH sold for \$6,499 (£4,592) via a Buy It Now from seller Philartitaly on 5 April. Signed and with a 1996

Dienna certificate, this early Great Britain embossed 1/- issue is a must have for any Great Britain enthusiast.

SOLD FOR £4,592



Finally, on 30 April, Samwells-Covers sold a GB PENNY BLACK SG1 Official Cover for £1,568 via a Buy It Now. This Penny Black mourning cover featured a description that read: 'a PETITE PERSONAL ENVELOPE of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON clearly hand-addressed by the Duke himself to Major Clayton at the TOWER OF LONDON. Endorsed "On Her Majesty's Service" at top. A great MILITARY usage from the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of all British Forces. Lovely, clean uncreased item posted a WALMER (Kent). Superb UDC on reverse. WALMER CASTLE was the seat of the Duke of Wellington. A RARE PENNY BLACK usage. Very Fine for an item of this type & period. Fine SG.1 four margin 1d Intense Black (IK) well tied by red DOVER Maltese Cross.' Samwells-Covers is located in Bath, England and has been a PTS member since 1999.

SOLD FOR £1,568

COMING UP IN OUR JULY AUCTION

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LATEST INTERNET SALES

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



Belgium, Letter franked 40c Médaillon from St-Josse-Ten-Noode (Brussels) to Paris

SOLD FOR £4,896



France, precancelled 30c orange 'Semeuse' overprint. 'POSTES France 1921' MNG, rare (signed & cert.)

SOLD FOR £2278



Monaco, 5f Olympics Helsinki 1952 (modified value) overprinted 'COLOMBES / 15-5-1960' for the France Football Championship, unissued MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £1682



China, Chrysanthemums series 1960-1961 MNH

SOLD FOR £889



Chinese Imperial Post stationery from Dongguan 1906 to Asslar (Germany) via Guangzhou and Hong Kong

SOLD FOR £537



Denmark, 4s. red-brown 1851-1854 MH

SOLD FOR £420



USA, Confederate States 2c Andrew Jackson green (General issues) 1861-1862 MH

SOLD FOR £400



Great Britain, £1 brown-lilac KV on bluish paper, wmk Maltese Cross, cancelled Manchester 1882

SOLD FOR £364



Germany, Airmail 'Holztaube' 1924 Issue MNH (with cert.)

SOLD FOR £315



Great Britain, Penny Black 1840 plate 2, red Maltese cross cancellation, beautiful margins

SOLD FOR £311



Aden, 10r. Olive-green 1937 MNH

SOLD FOR £294

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German States	Romania
Germany	Russia
German Zones	San Marino
West Germany	Spain
West Berlin	Sweden
DDR Greece	Switzerland
Greenland	Vatican
Hungary	Yugoslavia
Iceland	
Ireland	
Italy	

COMMONWEALTH

Aden	Channel Islands	Labuan	St Kitts-Nevis
Antigua	Christmas Island	Leeward Islands	St Lucia
Ascension	Cocos Islands	Malaya	St Vincent
Australia	Cook Islands	Malta	Samoa
Bahamas	Cyprus	Mauritius	Sarawak
Bahrain	Dominica	Montserrat	Seychelles
Barbados	Falklands/Dependencies	Morocco Agencies	Sierra Leone
Basutoland	Fiji	New Guinea	Singapore
Bechuanaland	Gambia	New Hebrides	Somalia
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REST OF WORLD

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UK eBay user rupert1010 of Aberdeen, offered this 1/2d green and black, described as mounted mint, at just 99p plus £1.25 international shipping



Long-time, respected UK eBay user 1st4stamps1840 of Derby recently sold this 1d red and black, described as with ORIGINAL gum, no faults, for £2.50 Buy It Now, with free standard delivery



1st4stamps1840 of Derby also offered this 1 1/2d black & blue, described as fine used, at £11, with free standard delivery

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

The Falkland Islands 1933 Centenary Of British Occupation set

This 1930s set from the Falkland Islands is a favourite with collectors, thanks to the beautifully engraved artwork and the range of topics covered. So how much would it cost to add these stamps to your album? Ed Fletcher finds out in his latest market guide

Can you recall the nail-biting weeks of April, May and June 1982 when Margaret Thatcher sent a combined military force on an 8,000-mile expedition to recover the Falkland Islands and its captive ex-pat British population from Argentina? Our Army, Navy and Air Force emerged bloodied but victorious. Meanwhile, at home we tucked in to our breakfast tea and toast and read the stories recounted in our morning tabloids beneath sensational headlines such as 'Gotcha!', 'Argy Bargy' and 'Yomp to Port Stanley'.

Now let us look back to a similar, though less well documented incident on the Falkland Islands 150 years earlier, in 1833. The words of a contemporary British newspaper give an account of it in the mode sedate language of that age:

Saint James's Chronicle, April 1833
The Sarandi, an Argentinean schooner of war, arrived at Buenos Aires a few days ago from the Falkland Islands. Aboard she carried the Argentinean garrison of the



Australian eBay seller, sunset_stamp, of Maroubra, NSW, sold this used example of the 2d Centenary stamp for US \$15.99 (£11), with free standard international shipping

London UK eBay user, numis.o recently offered this 2d stamp, described as mint, lightly hinged, for £9 with free three-day postage



A fine used example of the 3d purple and black from the set was recently offered by Australian eBay user sunset_stamp, of Maroubra, NSW for US \$20.99 (£15) with free standard international shipping



£19.75



£13.00

UK eBay northstaffsstamps recently offered this 4d black and orange, describing it as fine mounted mint, for £13, with £1.10 standard delivery

islands, who had been ejected from the Falklands by the British. They brought intelligence that on the 3rd of January His Majesty's ship *Clio* took sovereign possession of the Falklands in the name of His Britannic Majesty. This occurrence has caused a great deal of excitement in Buenos Ayres, where the natives declare it to be a more vile proceeding than that of the American corvette *Lexington*, because they looked upon Great Britain as their sincere friend and protector, rather than as a destroyer.

Let us summarise the background to those events. Spasmodically, from the late 17th century, British whalers and one or two British men-of-war visited the Falklands, where they half-heartedly established settlements. They withdrew to fish more profitably in other waters in 1774, though they did not renounce their claim to the islands. From the late-18th to the early-19th century the Falklands were used by United States whalers and sealers, and by Spanish (later Argentinean) pirates.

Above: UK eBay lerou. uk2014, of Tewkesbury, Glos offered this 3d black and violet, described as unmounted mint with slight gum bend for £19.75 plus £1.05 standard delivery

In 1816 Buenos Aires severed its links to Spain and proclaimed its sovereignty over lands including the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Heavy handed treatment and imprisonment of US sailors, as well as confiscation of US ships, led to the arrival, in 1831, of the US warship *Lexington* off the Falkland coast. A few shots were fired; American prisoners were released; most Spaniards departed for Buenos Aires; the *Lexington* then sailed for home.

For more than a year an uneasy stand-off between parties of troops and mercenaries from Buenos Aires and the USA fishing vessel crews simmered. Then, in 1833, Britain took a decision to re-establish a presence in the Falklands, in part because increasing numbers of British merchant ships by then sailed the Cape Horn route to the Pacific. An arrangement between London and Washington allowed US sealers and whalers access to Falklands waters in return for America's

acknowledgement of Britain's claim to sovereignty. That takes us to the arrival of HMS *Clio*.

In the 1840s substantial deposits of ancient guano (bird droppings) were discovered in the islands, offering prospects for profitable exports. Alas, richer deposits soon afterwards came to light in Peru, severely weakening hopes for a Falklands guano bonanza. Plans for a Falkland Islands penal colony were also seriously discussed until Western Australia requested British convicts for its Swan River venture. In the 1850s exports of Falkland sheep fleeces came to prominence as a money-making venture, only to falter when a massive outbreak of sheep scab killed off many flocks. In the 1860s the second-rate guano proved a perfect fertilizer for grass. Herds of Welsh black cattle soon arrived at Port Stanley. Ships sailing close to the Falklands now had excellent supplies of freshly butchered meat to take aboard. Unfortunately a downturn in the numbers of merchant ships



£14.99

UK eBay steveallen777 from Hampshire, offered this lot, described as 4d black & orange, in very fine used condition, for £14.99, with free three-day postage



£48

This 6d black and slate, fine used, was recently offered BIN for £48 with free three-day postage by UK eBay midphil of Leicestershire

£62



UK eBay user lerou.uk2014 from Tewkesbury, Glos. offered this stamp recently: 6d black and slate, MNH at £61.75 plus £2.50 standard delivery

£50



UK eBay user midphil of Leicestershire, recently offered this 1s black and olive-green, described as fine used, for £50 with free three-day postage

sailing the Cape Horn route reduced demand for beef. At about the same time the market for sperm oil fell away as European and American homes began a switch to gas lighting. The timely invention of refrigerated ships brought the Falklands to prominence once more as a source of frozen beef, mutton and tallow.

By 1900 the Falkland Islands had a permanent population exceeding 2,000 in a land about as extensive as the whole of Scotland north of the Caledonian Canal. Residents were reported to enjoy excellent health, longevity, thriftiness and prosperity, with a steady trickle of emigrants arriving from Britain. Two decades of growth followed, leading in 1933 to the centennial celebrations and a set of twelve postage stamps welcomed by stamp collectors throughout the world. Argentina alone scowled from the sidelines and issued the following statement in response to the stamp issues:

The Argentine Government regards as invalid the stamps issued to commemorate the centenary of the Falkland Islands. The Berne Convention has been advised of that decision. All correspondence arriving in Argentina from the Falkland Islands using those stamps will be surcharged. We regard stamps commemorating the occupation of the Malvinas as an insult.

If you disagree with those opinions, how much will you probably pay to add examples from the set to your collection? A selection of recent sales and prices provides the illustrations for this brief guide to the history behind a beautifully produced set.



In a 2003 Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions sale, this 5s black and yellow-orange variety, described as MNH with two minor bends, sold for £300



£7,200



In a 2008 Grosvenor Philatelic Auction this 2s 6d block of four, described as having two faint stains on the gum, otherwise fine mint, sold for £720

In a 2008 Grosvenor Philatelic Auction sold this £1 block of four, described as having one perforation slightly toned on the reverse, otherwise fine mint, for £7,200

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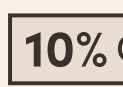
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POSTCARDS

More stamps on postcards

I'm always on the lookout for postcards related to the collecting of stamps, postcards and postal history as they shed light on how our hobbies used to be, writes Richard Stenlake. This Stanley Gibbons postcard featuring their shop at 391 Strand probably dates from the 1950s or early 1960s. The outside of the shop looks like it had barely changed since it opened in 1893 and the interior, with its long counter and bar stools for the customers, has the feel of an old pub. Today's stamp shops and shows are principally the domain of the silver fox and the occasional silver vixen, but Gibbons seems to have had a younger clientele and with more ladies both serving and buying. The female staff are all in uniform and the lady customers are clearly wealthy. Perhaps the stamp shop of old was more welcoming and inclusive?

The illustration below shows the post office at Phillipsville, California painted with replicas of USA postage stamps by the local art association as a celebration of postal week. Originally Phillips Flat, this small town was later renamed Kettintelbe before becoming Phillipsville in 1948.

The last card is the Stamp House at North Bersted, Sussex. In 1882 a customer bet the publican of the Rising Sun pub that he wouldn't be able to cover part of a room with stamps. The wager, after a mere 76,795 stamps, was won easily, then turned into an obsession. By the 1920s the pub was festooned with an estimated two million stamps and had attracted three quarters of a million visitors. It was demolished in 1957. I would like to

imagine the rubble was dumped in a local pond in a record-breaking attempt for the most stamps floated off at the one time, but sadly it's not known what really happened to the stamps.



FIRST DAY COVERS

An extra jubilee issue

On the 11 May 1977 four stamps were issued to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, writes Brian Austin, in a similar style to the 1935 Jubilee set issued for King George V. A month later there was a change in postal rates which led to the Post Office issuing an extra 9p value, so leading to a second batch of first day covers, and in some cases the May covers having the extra 9p added to produce a double-dated / postmarked cover.

So this month's cover has a circular date stamp (CDS) postmark, in other words that is the postmark that would be used in your local area and is usually obtained by visiting the local post office in person. After some research a clever dealer found there was a Post Office in Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Walsall. To be able to get this postmark the cover had to be sent registered and so a single 9p stamp would not cover the cost,



this is why four have been added plus an extra 33p in 11p stamps.

With so many small post offices closing these varieties should become more and more collectable and if this one tempts you, you should also be looking out for similar postmarks from Jubilee Oak (Braintree), Jubilee Crescent (Coventry), Silver Link (Tamworth), Queens Head or Queen Parade (Cleethorpes).

SOCIETY UPDATE

The recent **Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society** meeting saw Adrian Thomas give a display on 'Tuberculosis and Philately' which dealt with the history of the disease and the various methods of treatment, the development of a vaccine and the personalities involved. The breadth of philatelic material in relation to radiology and tuberculosis (TB) is particularly rich, and is well worth exploring. With the advent of Mass Miniature Radiography (MMR) in the 1940s, and the development of effective therapies, particularly in the 1950s, the treatment of TB was revolutionised. Philatelic material was of particular value in educating the public on the dangers of tuberculosis and the need for screening and treatment. Fiscal and non-fiscal (Cinderella) material was used for fundraising, including additional payments for postage, and special material such as Christmas seals. Postal cancellations advertise MMR, and the need to have a regular chest X-ray. The stamps themselves were educational depicting radiographic appearances and techniques of MMR.

The **Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain** held their second Zoom meeting recently, hosted by Mark Wilson in the USA and chaired by Hans van Dooremalen from the Netherlands. Four members gave mini displays, Keith Brandon on the Postal History of Košice, Hans van Dooremalen showed his research into the first Post Office in Brno, Peter Williams gave some background to the Česko-Slovenský Stát overprints of 1918 and Lindy Bosworth displayed examples of the postcards produced for three major non-philatelic Prague exhibitions at the end of the 19th century. The afternoon finished with five members showing items in a 'Show and Tell' section, where members required information on one item from their collection.

The **Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS)** recently held their first physical meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London for over a year. Around sixteen members and guests attended in person with social distancing in place and other Covid safety measures in use. Over fifty members were also able to view the displays live online via Zoom. The President's Display was held in the morning: 'The British Stamp Office - Revenue Stamps from the 17th Century to the 19th Century' was given by the current President, Chris Harman RDP Hon FRPSL. The stunning display showed the use of the stamps to collect taxes and duty on a wide range of goods and services including banknotes and taxes on hats, gloves and even playing cards. An 18th-century receipt to the Duke of Norfolk for over 30 lbs of chocolate attracted particular interest. Chris showed a remarkable selection of material including proofs and essays, with a great depth of knowledge and excellent presentation. The afternoon session was the Immediate Past President's Display: 'A Jubilee Reminiscence - A Philatelic History of the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee', postponed from last year by John Davies FRPSL. This display detailed the celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage including Britain's first commemorative postal stationery and the first decorative handstamps from the Guildhall Exhibition. There was also a section on the Genesis of the Jubilee Envelope and the South Kensington Post Office Exhibition. John's book on this subject was published by the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2020.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 26th June 2021 at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. It will feature The President's Guest: The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain by Steven Harrison FRPSL, followed by their AGM and members' displays.

You can watch a video presentation of John Davies' 'A Jubilee Reminiscence - A Philatelic History of the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee' exhibit over on the [allaboutstamps](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) website, just

The latest **subscriber prize draw** was won by Joseph Cornford-Hutchings of Bexhill-On-Sea who will receive a selection of stamps, covers and presentation packs from around the world. **Congratulations Joseph!** Want to be in with a chance of winning? Just subscribe to *Stamp Collector* and you will be included in the monthly draw (see offer on page 49).



WHY NOT JOIN A PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND TAKE YOUR COLLECTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL?
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The Channel Islands Specialists' Society



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

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

The GBFDC was started over 25 years ago in 1994, to enable GB First Day



Cover Collectors to contact each other, enjoy sharing knowledge and benefit from joint events and activities. Find out more at: www.gbfdc.co.uk

Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS)



The GBPS was founded in 1955 by a small but enthusiastic group of collectors in order to promote, encourage, and contribute to the advancement of the philately of Great Britain. Since then it has grown steadily, and now has more than 800 members in the UK and abroad. The Society deals with all aspects of GB philately, and has contributed much to the field; this is certain to continue as new members with fresh ideas join. You can join the Society by visiting the website at: www.gbps.org.uk/join

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

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

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A brutal reminder...



Front side of lot 70110, showing the Cyrillic registration label with additional Latin "Ouliusoutay" written in manuscript (necessary for mail abroad)



Mongolia and Genghis Khan are intrinsically intertwined. Genghis Khan invokes the memory of the world's largest ever Empire, along with the obvious Mongol invasions and conquerings, which sadly conjures up visions of large-scale massacres of civilian populations throughout Asia and Europe. It's a fact that Genghis Khan's brutality left millions of people dead in his reign of terror which stretched from 1206 to 1227. Even in death his brutality reached out from the grave, because everyone who attended his funeral, or indeed happened to be passing by at the time, were slaughtered to ensure the location of his grave site was kept a secret. You have to admit that arranging the murder of your funeral guests takes brutality to the next level.

But that was all a long time ago and let's be candid, brutality and mass-murder are, sadly, not confined to the 13th century or indeed the Mongolian Empire, because our featured cover, which originates from a Russian Post Office in Mongolia in 1914 and sold for £27,500 in a recent MSF Charity Rarities of the World auction, is one of

only three recorded Registered covers with a Romanov franking, coming out of the Russian Post Office in the Mongolia town of Ulyasutai. The Romanov 7k Brown stamps used on this envelope have the distinctive portrait of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II who was the last Emperor of Russia, his reign spanning November 1894 until his abdication in March 1917.

But the story doesn't end peacefully with him stepping down during the Russian revolution, because Nicholas II, his wife and five children, and four members of his domestic staff were imprisoned by the revolutionary government, exiled to Siberia, and then moved to Yekaterinburg

where they were rather brutally executed and mutilated in July 1918.

Coincidentally, the Romanov family grave site remained unknown until discovered in an old mineshaft by an amateur archaeologist in 1981, and not acknowledged until 1989 after DNA tests confirmed the gruesome remains were those of Nicholas II, his wife and three of his children. It wasn't until 1998 that they were exhumed and re-interred and given a state ceremony in St. Petersburg, exactly eighty years after their execution. Although two of the children, a boy and a girl, were found in a separate smaller grave near

to the main make-shift burial place some time later in 2007, and the two children sadly still remain in a state repository pending further DNA tests.

Whilst the Romanov family still await their ultimate resting place all together, it is assumed Genghis Khan remains at peace buried somewhere near his place of birth in Khentii Aimag, Mongolia, which is ironically a region that borders Russia. Although a mausoleum was constructed many years after his death in this area as a memorial, it is not his burial site, which remains unknown to this day. A fact that would no doubt please the old Emperor of Mongolia.

Of course the Empire's of Genghis Khan and Nicholas II, which are here connected through a rare piece of Mongolian postal history, have much more to them than these barbaric snippets. Both countries are rich in historical culture and mythical intrigue. Mongolia is one of the least populated countries by size in the world, landlocked and sandwiched between the powerhouses of China to the south, and Russia to the North, so it's no wonder postal gems like this emerge so rarely onto the philatelic stage, and thus inevitably attract great interest, often resulting in hard-hitting auction results.

Whilst they could never be described as brutal, it would certainly be useful to know where any more of these covers are buried. If for no other reason than to do them justice, a luxury neither the victims of the Genghis Khan Empire, or the Romanov family can expect to ever gain. The world, as illustrated by our cover, is sometimes very brutal.

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

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POST & GO

Re-prints of presentation packs



Presentation packs are only re-printed on rare occasions, writes Stuart Leigh, but to the eagle-eyed collector, there have been examples when the reprint wasn't simply an exact copy of the original.

On 21 May 2012, Pack Ref. P&G 8 was issued with a single 1st Class Union Flag stamp with the datastring 002012 05-51840-07 it was subsequently re-printed and found in circulation in January 2015. However, closer examination of the font suggests a change was made.

On the first printing '1st Class' is approximately 18mm long, whereas on the later printing it is about 16mm long. On the later printing the 'up to 100g' is not inset and the zeros in the '100' are more rounded. The datastring is virtually the same length but on the original it is slightly taller. It appears the earlier printing came from kiosk C2 – Royal Mail Ser.1 (also known as Hytech V2) and the second printing came for kiosk C002 a Royal Mail Ser II.

'Spring Blooms', the first in the British Flora Series, issued in February 2014 and re-printed in early 2015, had the same changes – again due to the kiosk, printer, and font update.

In the mid-2014, and the arrival of Open Value Post & Go stamps, Pack No P&G15 was issued with the title 'Collectors Pack' having

five single stamps (two 2nd class blue Machins and three 1st class Machins), and the weight limit for the postage rate shown in kilograms (0.100 kg). A later

printing again with a slightly different font shows the weight limit for the postage rate still in kilograms but a lower case 'k' is now upper case (0.100 Kg), which does not meet the SI system of base unit symbols.

None of these packs are available from the Philatelic Bureau but the Union Flag single stamp is still available while stocks last, but not in a presentation pack folder.

Put simply, there are two versions of the Union Flag and Spring Blooms presentation packs and the Open Values re-print appears to be an error; giving we collectors more varieties to look out for.



Adventures of a STAMP NEWBIE

COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS

When she's not adding stamps to her albums, collecting novice Laura McInerney is an expert in education, teaching and schools, so it's no surprise that this month's column concerns how philately is being taught to young people

When I grow up, I want to work with stamps'. In an ideal world, there would be a plethora of young people saying those words to careers advisors. The future of philately hangs on there being enough people who want to collect stamps and enough people knowledgeable and willing to keep the market afloat by finding and trading brilliant items.

Yet, looking across the philatelic landscape, if I managed to get a teenager interested enough in stamps, what options would be available?

The obvious place to look for stamp-related careers is on the Royal Mail website. Unfortunately, none of the careers sections covers stamps, and a keyword search reveals exactly zero jobs mentioning the word 'stamps'. Likewise, the Institute for Apprenticeships, which accredits vocational training in the UK, has zero qualifications for 'stamps' or 'philately'. 'Collector' did yield one result, but only for a debt management course!

Perhaps I could point my youngster towards a suitable course? Last year, when schools in the UK closed due to the pandemic, many eighteen-year-olds found themselves cast

out of education a few months earlier than expected. Several I know signed up to online digital coding courses, and by September were knocking out computer software at good enough rates that they didn't bother to go to university. Instead, they're in well-paid jobs.

Philately lends itself to academic learning because it involves a great deal of 'domain-specific knowledge', or, to put it more plainly, there's a lot of detailed information that it helps to know if you want to collect successfully. Technical words, the history of stamps, types of gums, and the chemistry of colour, all are valuable bits of information.

Obviously, this magazine and the allaboutstamps.co.uk website are a great way to pick up information over time. But deeply embedding information in our brains requires repeated exposure to it and requires a reason to keep resurfacing that material. Hence, any kind of learning course, whether online or in-person, is valuable.

Sadly there's little out there for philately. If I want to learn 'antiques' more generally, there are plenty of options. Even though the topic covers everything from pottery to glassware and coins to clocks, a quick online search shows

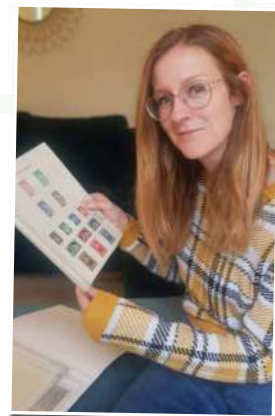
many choices. Yet, almost none cover philately! Why is this?

Even books aren't a great deal of help. Among several volumes of self-published stamp books, I'm yet to find a clear, modern guide for a beginner. Can you recommend anything useful?

Over time I've concluded that the lack of material isn't because philatelists don't care about learning, but because local stamp clubs have been the primary source of learning for so many in the hobby for so long. With many clubs folding over the years due to dwindling membership and the pandemic putting a stop on things, it feels like this model needs rethinking.

Youth is a terrible thing to waste, and we owe the next generation of philatelists a decent education.

What do you think? Share your views and answer some of Laura's questions by emailing matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk



CINDERELLAS

Provincial Airways

There was a time when privately operated airlines offered to speed up the delivery of mail in the UK, writes Christer Brunström. Provincial Airways Ltd., a company based at Croydon Airport, was established in 1933 to carry freight, passengers and mail from the London area to Plymouth with a stop at Southampton.

On 25 November 1933, a 3d airmail label was issued to be used on letters carried by the company in addition to the regular British postage. The stamp was printed in small vertical sheets of four. There were four printings of 2,500 each which very possibly explains the slight variations of the blue and yellow colours.

There were only two flights carrying mail using a De Havilland Fox Moth biplane passenger aircraft. It's likely that most of the mail items were philatelic first flight covers which were extremely popular at the

time. Many are addressed to a well-known UK dealer specialising in airmail covers. Today such covers tend to sell for £40 to 50.

Provincial Airways was never the financial success that the owners had hoped for and the company went out of business towards the end of 1935.

The airmail stamp is quite attractive with views of London and the West Country. A mint copy can easily be secured for about £5. A surprising amount of proof material on cardboard paper has reached the philatelic marketplace; it is likely that much of this material was produced solely to be sold to stamp collectors.



STAMP QUIZ

Test your stamp knowledge!

Colour alterations, issue dates, and Empire designs... if you can answer the following ten questions correctly then you can justifiably call yourself a stamp champion. Good luck!

1 When was The Society For The Suppression Of Speculative Stamps formed?

2 Why was the colour of the GB QEII 2d red-brown of 1955 altered to light red-brown?

3 Which two of the four stamps in the GB 1955 Castles set have a stretch of water in the vignette scene?

4 In which year was the first GB £1 postage stamps issued, and what was its colour?

5 What were the two values and colours of the GB Festival of Britain stamps of 1951 (pictured, right in black and white!)?

6 In which year was Sudan's Arab Postman stamp first issued?

7 Four portraits feature on the St Helena 10s postage stamp of 1934 (right). Who are they?

8 In which two years were the British Empire Exhibition postage stamps issued?

9 The work of which British artist featured on the QEII 1967 1s 6d postage stamp?

10 Which country issued an Art Deco carrier pigeon stamp in the 1930s (pictured, top right)?



How did you do?

You can check your answers right now over on the website: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk

POSTMARKS

US instructional marking

Instructional markings are so called because they give an instruction to a postal service employee, writes David Gwynn. With millions of items of mail being handled everyday it is no surprise that for various reasons some of them cannot be delivered. One of the most common reasons is that the address is either incomplete or not specific enough.

Here in the UK we are used to seeing large boxed instructional marks with 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED' at the top, followed by a list of possible reasons. The appropriate reason is then ticked before the item is sent back to the sorting office that first handled it. The original sender is therefore aware of why the item has been sent back. The instructional marking also tells postal service employees along the way why the item is being returned.

Most countries have their own versions of instructional markings. The illustrated cover shows one from the USA that is a bit unusual. Normally, instructional markings are applied by hand, or in some cases are even hand written. This US one has been applied by machine which suggests that quite a lot of mail has to be returned in Los Angeles. Otherwise, why have a machine dedicated to this usage?

Used in 1980, this is a perfect strike of the instructional mark, despite the town dater die being upside down.



CONVERSATIONS WITH PHILATELISTS

Memel, post in the West, and Buffalo Cinderellas

This past April, Charles and I hosted an incredibly interesting variety of guests on Conversations with Philatelists, ranging from expertizers, collectors, and postal historians, writes Michael Cortese.

The month started off with one of our most exciting episodes to date. Tobias Hulmans, an expertizer for the BPP (Bund Philatelistischer Prufer) who specializes in Memel, gave us a visual look into the world of how expertizers guarantee the authenticity of stamps and postal history. Throughout the hour-long episode, Hulmans provides several fascinating visual examples to display exactly how technology allows him to identify genuine stamps from counterfeits.

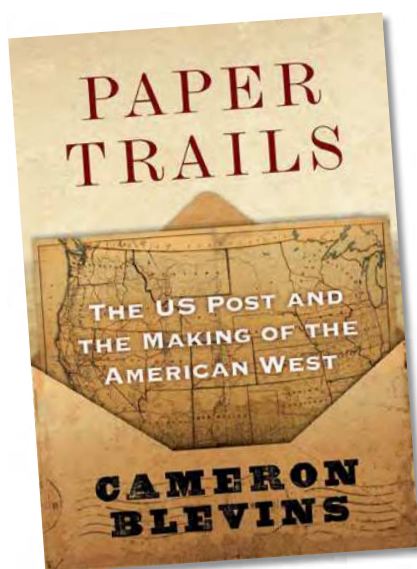
Our second episode of the month was with Carol Bommarito. This episode serves as an excellent talking point for collectors of all ages joining the hobby. Carol discussed how the barrier to entry

for philately is merely just interest in the hobby, and how the philatelic community rallies behind its members to provide support and encouragement.

Our third interview for April, Cameron Blevins, published his book, *Paper Trails: The US Post and the Making of the American West* just a few weeks prior to our interview with him. Cameron discusses his influences for the book, how philatelists helped him in his research for his work, and how local postmasters of the ever expanding West influenced and helped build the country.

Following Cameron's episode was a modern day specialist of the Malaysian State of Sarawak, Simon Martin-Redman. Simon talked to us about what it's like to be a philatelic specialist in modern times, his personal collecting interests, and exhibiting with a purpose.

Our final episode of the month, Rick Barrett, talks about his book *Buffalo Cinderellas: The Gentleman, the Huckster, and the Pan American Exposition*. Rick's episode was a great look into World's Fairs of the past and their connection with philately.

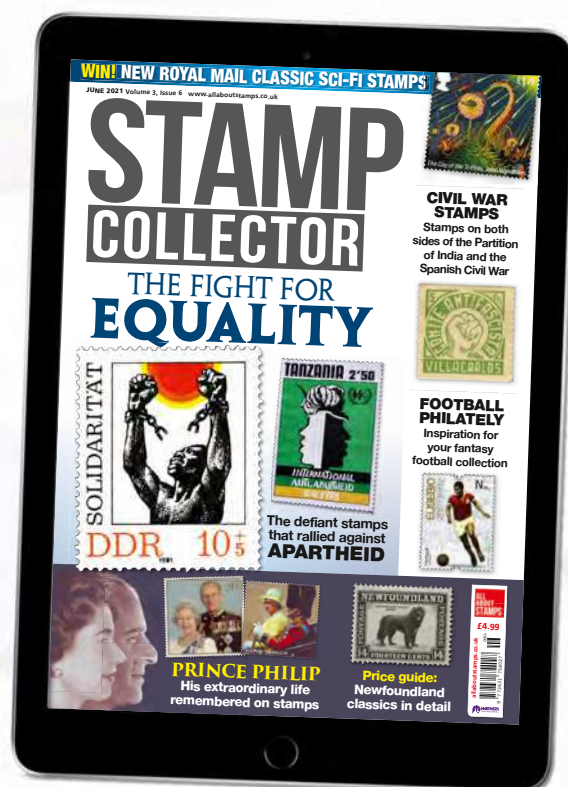


In the popular podcast 'Conversations with philatelists' Michael Cortese of NobleSpirit and Charles Epting of H.R. Harmer interview philatelists around the world. Find out more and watch the episodes at: www.philatelypodcast.com and read updates on the interviews in every issue of Stamp Collector magazine.

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The Caribbean Spartacus

This intriguing 1904 stamp points us to the remarkable story of Toussaint Louverture, who was born into slavery and became a proud defender of his people.

Chris West picks up the tale of the so-called 'Father of Haiti'

Across the top of the Caribbean Sea stretch two large islands: Cuba and Hispaniola. The republic of Haiti makes up just over a third of the latter – the other two thirds are taken up by the popular holiday destination, the Dominican Republic. Haiti is a less popular destination, due to terrible poverty. However, it is a proud nation with a fascinating history – which begins with the man on this stamp.

One could go back further: Columbus' first landing was in Haiti, and for a century and a half, the whole island was under Spanish control. The Spanish mismanaged it, and by the mid 18th century, the island was largely French (and renamed Saint Domingue). As everywhere in the Caribbean, the economy was based on plantations and slavery. It generated enormous wealth for France.

In 1789, the revolution toppled France's ancient régime and saw a new government committed to liberty, equality and fraternity. Saint

African King. A bright boy, he was educated by his godfather and by the manager of the plantation on which he was born. He became part of the management of the estate, and was later able to buy his own freedom and land. However, when the rebellion broke out, he abandoned this comfortable life and joined the rebels, after first ensuring that his own family and that of his former patron were safe.

Unimpressed by the rebel leaders' lack of ability, he formed a small band of fighters and trained them in guerrilla warfare. He allied with the Spanish, as they shared a common enemy, the French. Charismatic, brave and hard-working, he was soon given command of larger forces, and won a number of victories. In 1794, he went over to the French, as they promised to free all slaves and because they offered him power, making him Lieutenant Governor of the western part of the island (the part which approximates to modern Haiti). He was effectively its ruler.

Louverture enforced this rule

Charismatic, brave and hard-working, he was soon given command of larger forces

Domingue's planters wanted none of that. In 1791, the slaves rebelled. For the next decade, various factions fought for control of the island, including the Spanish, who still held territory in the east of the island, and Britain.

This decade saw the rise of the man on this stamp. Toussaint Louverture was born a slave, though legend has it that he was the grandson of an

ruthlessly – but so did all other leaders at that time. He saw himself as head of a multiracial state, freeing all slaves but allowing old planters to continue running their enterprises, keen to keep the economy going.

In 1801, he led an invasion of the eastern part of the island, driving out the remaining Spanish and declaring himself leader of the whole island, its



One of the 1904 stamps issued to mark the centenary of Haiti's independence

Governor General (Saint Domingue was still nominally French).

Napoleon was now in power in Paris, and wanted full control of the former colony. A large invasion force was sent. In 1802, Louverture was tricked into meeting its leader, General Leclerc, and taken prisoner. He was shipped to France and died of pneumonia in a mountain jail. However, a new leader, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, stepped into Louverture's shoes and drove the French out. In 1804, Dessalines declared western Saint Domingue an independent republic and gave it its name, Haiti. It was only the second country in the Americas to achieve this, after the USA, and the first republic in the world with a black leader.

This stamp is part of a series of seven issued in 1904 to celebrate the centenary of this event – oddly, for such a piece of history, the stamps can be bought cheaply.

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Turn to the next page for floorplan, dealer and society list, and more information

10 JULY 2021

DERBY

Nunsfield House Community Centre, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD
01909 563394
9.30am - 3.30pm

16 - 17 JULY 2021

YORK

York Stamp & Coin Fair
The Grandstand
The Racecourse
York, YO23 1EX
Friday 11am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm

See floorplan and in-depth guide in next month's issue of Stamp Collector

17 JULY 2021

HULL

St James Centre,
169 First lane,
Hessle Near Hull, HU13 9EY
01909 563394
9.30am - 3.30pm

18 JULY 2021

SHEFFIELD

Coal Aston Village Hall,
Dronfield, Nr Sheffield, S18 3AY
01909 563394
9.30am - 3.30pm

31 JULY 2021

LEEDS

St. Mary's in the Wood
United Reformed Church Hall,
Commercial Street, Morley,
Leeds, LS27 8HZ
01909 563394
9.30am - 3.30pm

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Please check auction details and Covid19 safety procedures with the event organisers before attending. Safety is the priority, so collect responsibly! All dates and venues are correct at the time of going to press.



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YORK Racecourse

Stamp & Coin Fair

The Grandstand YORK Racecourse

The Racecourse - YORK - YO23 1EX

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16th - 17th July 2021

Friday (10am to 5pm) - Saturday (10am to 4pm)

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Chris Rainey tel: 01793 513431 - Kate Puleston tel: 020 8946 4489

or visit our website www.stampshows.net

See you at Midpex!

Plan your day at the prestigious biennial Midpex event with our event preview...

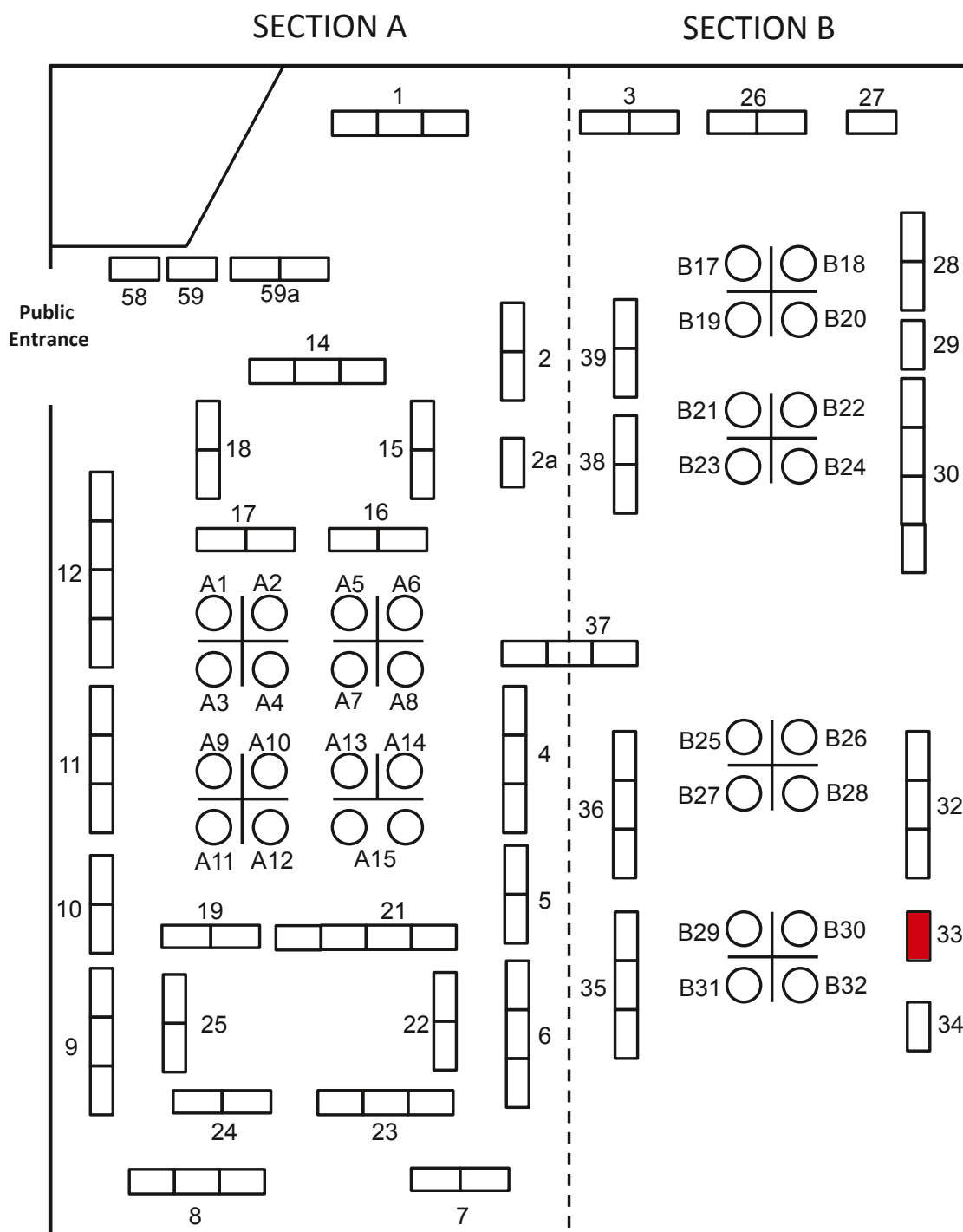
It's on! Midpex, sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, is set to be one of the first stamp events to take place since the lockdowns. Capacity has been limited to seventy dealers and forty Specialist Societies to ensure social distancing, and the organisers have confirmed safety will be a priority. Organiser, Steve Harrison, said: 'Dealers are showing increasing confidence in our plans... all the appropriate procedures will be in

place to make the event as safe as possible. I know many collectors are looking forward to meeting up with their philatelic friends.'

Midpex is the biennial exhibition first held in 1995 and attended by stamp collectors from across the UK. It brings together specialist societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of philately. The venue is the same, although there has been a slight change of name.

The event provides an opportunity for Specialist Societies to show off their sphere of interest to other collectors, to recruit members and identify common ground with members of other Societies. It also provides an opportunity for Societies to promote their publications and research projects and for members to meet informally, particularly those members who find it difficult to get to meetings in London.

Stay safe, collect carefully, and see you there!



Midpex Dealers

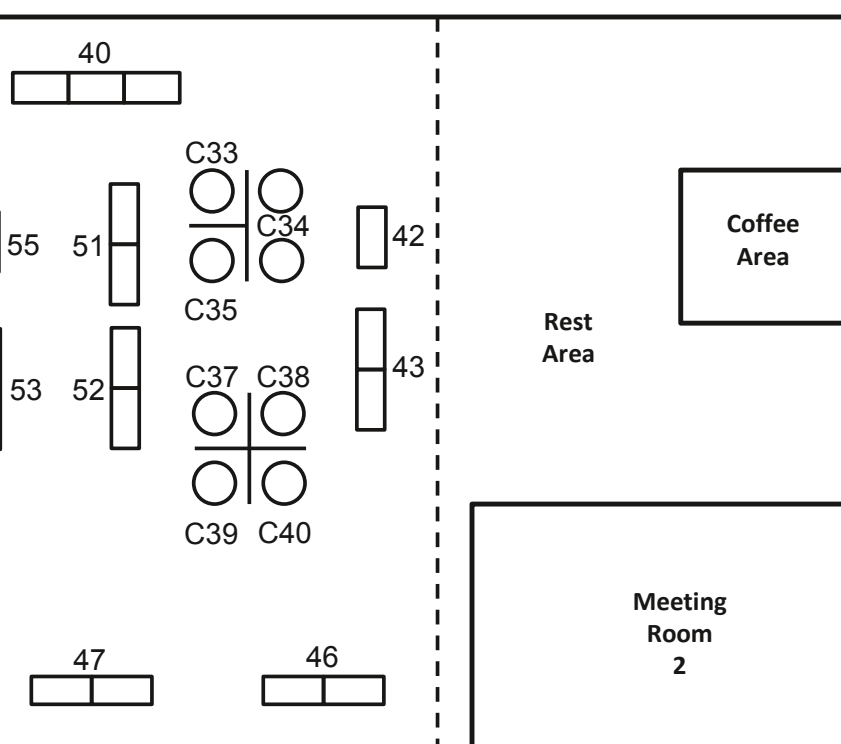
1	Worcester Philatelics	28	Tony Lester Auctions
2	GB and Naval Covers- Chris Hockaday	29	UPA Universal Philatelic Auctions
2a	Grosvenor Auctions	30	Clarendon Stamps
3	Southport Stamp Auctions	32	K & K Halls
4	The Magpie- Bill Pipe	33	<i>Stamp Collector Magazine</i>
5	Malcolm Lacey	34	Love Auctions
6	Rex Eccott	35	Samwells
7	Stephen Taylor	36	MV Stamps
8	West End Stamp Co	37	Andrew G Lajer
9	Andrew Meir Stamps	38	Michael Pugh
10	Robert Danzig	39	Cover Story Ltd
11	Thematix	40	Anthony Baker
12	John Curtin Ltd	42	Bill Barrell
14	Dave Foster (Philatelics)	43	David Morrison & Thames Thematics
15	Richard Lewis		
16	Japan Philatelic	46	Tristan Brittain
17	Micahel Hale	47	Chris Proctor
18	Roger Hudson	48	Cover Love
19	Ian Perry Stamps	49	David Seddon
21	BB Stamps Ltd	50	Chris Rainey
22	Midland Philatelics	51	TBA
23	Robert Uden Philately	52	Cover Collecting
24	Neil Sargent	53	Historystore Limited
25	Brian Lythgoe	55	Edmonds & Turner Ltd
26	Arun Stamps	58	Cavendish Auctions
27	Paul Jones	59	Ramsdens Solicitors
		59a	Stamp Active

Specialist Societies

A1	Royal Philatelic Society London
A2	Channel Islands Specialist Society
A3	Egypt Study Circle
A4	Sudan Study Circle
A5	Association of British Philatelic Societies
A6	GB Overprints Society
A7	Portuguese Philatelic Society
A8	Postal Order Society
A9	British Society for Japanese Philately
A11	Postal Stationery Society
A12	Spanish Study Circle
A13	Great Britain Philatelic Society
A14	Postal History Society
A15	Revenue Society
B17	Scottish Postal History Society
B19	Forces Postal History Society
B20	British Postmark Society
B22	The New Zealand Society of Great Britain
B23	Faroe Islands Study Circle
B24	Polar Postal History Society GB
B25	West Africa Study Circle
B26	Phil Gee - to sell books for charity
B27	Midland (GB) Postal History Society
B29	Netherlands Philatelic Circle
B30	East Africa Study Circle
B31	Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain
B32	Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
C33	Railway Philatelic Group
C34	TPO & Seapost Society
C35	King George VI Collectors Society
C37	Iran Philatelic Study Circle
C38	Letter Box Study Group

SECTION C

SECTION D



MIDPEX 2021

3 JULY 2021
10am to 4:30pm

**Warwickshire Event Centre,
Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN**

**Additional details of the venue with
views of the hall and site location
including parking, can be found at:
www.warwickshireeventcentre.co.uk**

Turn the page for featured societies...

Midpex

Specialist Society Directory

Midpex has become an essential event in the stamp collecting calendar, not least because of the many specialist societies in attendance. Membership can be hugely rewarding, so make sure you find out more about these featured organisations...

Interested in military / wartime / censored mails ?

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Further details contact: **Christopher Stephany-Weddell**
19 Chipstead Lane, LOWER KINGSWOOD,
Surrey KT20 6RD

FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership is £24 per year (£18 for electronic version) for which we publish a quarterly Journal with articles of original research, news items and member's queries, together with a Society Newsletter. Postal auctions are held and we operate a packet scheme and extensive Library. Meetings are held monthly in London at the Union Jack Club (Waterloo).

For more information visit our website:
www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

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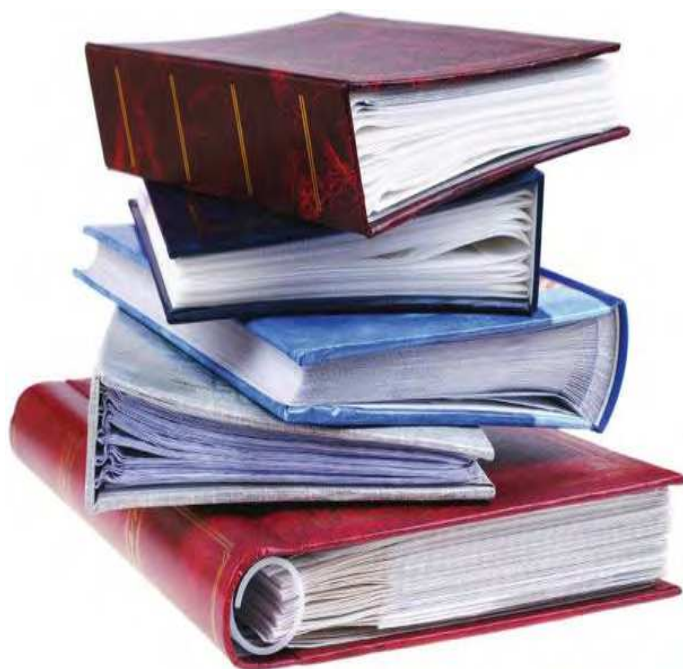


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Despite their larger format, the four-stamp Coronation set of 3 June 1953 had no value higher than the 1s 6d blue (image courtesy of eBayUK miningstamps008)

GB STAMPS

Pre-decimal delights

QEI pre-decimals are becoming increasingly popular with collectors and values above one shilling may become a little harder to find if you delay adding them to your albums. In this quick guide Ed Fletcher looks at values from 1s 3d to £1 and selects examples likely to attract collector interest

My home town boasted a full-time stamp shop in the 1950s. Its owner-dealer competed with two market-day stall holders who sold stamps alongside their military badges and Dinky Toys stocks on Wednesdays. Schoolboys from all over town flocked to their stalls during school lunch breaks, and some hung around up to the 7pm market closure on Wednesday evenings. A wider range of philatelic material on offer at the shop drew adult collectors from even further afield, and I occasionally managed to persuade an older collector cousin to let me join him on a shop visit whenever a birthday, or a generous aunt, enhanced my pocket-money spending power.

One of those special days came around a few weeks after the death of

King George VI in February 1952. Despite a lapse of several months since my previous visit in the summer of 1951, I could not fail to notice that shop visitors gathered most tightly around the Queen Victoria stock books that day. The king's death seemed to have intensified interest in his great-grandmother's stamps. I lacked the pricing knowledge needed to say which of Victoria's plethora of issues attracted most collectors; suffice to say that my cousin spent rather more than he had anticipated to fill a couple of the many gaps across his GB Victoria album pages. I heard him grumbling on the lines of 'Wish I'd bought a little earlier' to a fellow potential buyer also in the jostle to lay hands on the in-demand stocks. I kept my few shillings in my pocket, grumbling under my breath that the shop's prices were noticeably higher than those I felt sure my pals



around the market stalls forked out that day for QV's.

Our second Stamp Queen

Queen Elizabeth II made history as the first British monarch of the modern era to accede to the throne while abroad. Together with her husband Prince Philip she had undertaken

Lots such as this 1954 11d brown-purple block of six, fine used, will surely cost more to add to a collection once the present monarch's reign ends (image courtesy of eBayUK seller a4jrr)

an official African tour which ended abruptly as she hurried homeward to participate at her father's funeral, then at her own coronation. Frantic Post Office activity managed to place her first postage stamp issues – two values (1½d and 2½d) from her Wildings set of definitives – on sale on 5 December 1952. Foresight that her reign would last for in excess of seventy years would surely have spurred more collectors to obtain FDCs; but the date passed into history before many had made decisions to mail envelopes. Despite the further passage of time, other QEII stamps from the early years of her reign offer today's collectors opportunities to obtain what will become, at the very least, desirable additions to a collection before asking prices respond to the inevitable death of our monarch and the appearance of issues for a new reign.

One merit of all Elizabeth II stamps issued between 5 December 1952 and 15 February 1971 lies in their belonging to a relatively small group of QEII pre-decimals. Today the priciest in the first Elizabeth definitives set is the 11d brown-purple issued on 8 February 1954; while the top value in the entire set – 1s 6d – can still be acquired in mint never hinged condition at under £2 for a single.

The attractive four-stamp Coronation set had no value greater than 1s 6d, so collectors, not to mention everyday stamp buyers, had to wait until September 1955 to feast their eyes on any impressively higher values. Known as the 'Castles' set, each of the four stamps (2s 6d, 5s, 10s, £1) included the Wilding portrait flanked by a vignette illustrating a famous castle: Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh and Windsor. Issued from the 1 to 23 September 1955, mint never hinged singles can still be added to a collection at fairly modest prices: around £10 for the 2s 6d value, for example. No official FDCs were available on the issue date, but in Carrickfergus post office counter customers could buy an illustrated commemorative envelope for use with the 2s 6d stamp depicting the town's castle, and have the stamp cancelled with a special CDS. Souvenir covers carrying all four of the higher values attracted sales from non-stamp collectors who saw the covers as relatively inexpensive mementos with even more eye appeal than the lower values of the coronation set.



Above, left: this 1953 1s 6d grey-blue, MNH vertical block of two is still obtainable at under £5 (image courtesy of eBayUK seller tcangler54, he sold the pair for £4.75 and £1.05 postage); above right: the 'Castles' higher values issued in September 1955.



The Carrickfergus Castle 2s 6d from the set was recently offered, MNH, as a margin-al block of four, for £25 plus postage by UK eBay borderphilatelics. From a Bankers' Special Packet, this 1969 parcel tag label carries Castles 5s and £1 values with a pre-decimal 1s and two 1s 6d Scottish regionals, all cancelled with 'PIT-LOCHRY/PERTHSHIRE' cds. The label was recently sold by Bill Barrell Ltd for £60



Above: in 2007 this First Day Cover with a 2s 6d used on an illustrated cover with Carrickfergus c.d.s., sold for £150 at a Grosvenor Philatelic Auction (address has been obscured for illustration)

Right: the 1s 6d brown and blue from the 1960 European Postal and Telecommunications Conference is sure to attract interest from



Among philatelists much interest centred on higher value Castles used on commercial mail. Examples are often found on parcel tags, many already snapped up by collectors who concentrate on examples that used Castles in combination with lower value definitives to make up correct parcel rates. Just how much many advanced philatelists admired the set's top value may be judged by a news item from the Belfast Telegraph dated 20 December 1960 which reported that: A Great Britain £1 sterling stamp, featuring Queen Elizabeth the Second and Windsor Castle, has won the International Philatelic Art Society's gold medal award as the world's best among all postage stamps issued during 1955-1959.

By 1950, two years prior to Elizabeth's accession, total postal correspondence for the year had reached 8,450,000,000, at the time the highest ever. Letter rate postings surpassed those of pre-war days, while parcel postings rose to 243,000,000 for the year. A great increase in registered mail took the figure to 152,000,000 items. Thus, as Elizabeth's reign began the Post Office was handling 20,000,000 letters and over 500,000 parcels every day. Very few of those 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 higher values, however, found their way onto unregistered covers for genuine, everyday postal use. A glance at postal rates at about the time of the Castles set issues shows why:

Daily Mirror, 27 October 1955

Postal rate increases have been announced. The letter post remains at 2½d. for 2oz. but the next 2oz. will cost another 1½d. instead of ½d. Parcel post rate goes up from 1s 1d. for 2 lbs. to 1s 3d.; and then on a graded scale up to 2s. 9d. (instead of 2s. 4d.) for 15 lbs.

As explained above, most Castles paid for heavy envelopes, or for high value packets (HVP) and bankers' special packets (BSP) with contents such as old banknotes. Dealer Bill Barrell Ltd of Grantham, Lincs recently had examples of parcel tags associated with mail carrying banknotes stolen by the infamous Great Train Robbers in 1963.

If the cost of such exotic postal history deters you, fear not; there are plenty of interesting pre-decimal definitives and commemoratives to look out for. The 1952-1954 definitives included a green 1s 3d and grey-blue 1s 6d. The 1955-1958 set had



The two-stamp set (6d and 1s 6d) was a popular FDC among stamp collectors in 1960. Examples such as this, with nicely illustrated envelopes, can be purchased for under £25 (image courtesy of UKebayer flam27); the 1964 Shakespeare Festival set offered a rare opportunity to buy a 2s 6d value featuring Hamlet contemplating Yorick's skull. The deep slate-purple colour makes this an especially attractive stamp



1964 provided yet another 2s 6d value, issued as part of a set to mark the 700th Anniversary of Parliament. This interesting corner pair, with inverted watermark, was recently offered at £45 with free shipping by UKebayer cm.ltd; the 1966 Battle of Hastings 900th Anniversary set proved popular across Britain. It included an elongated 1s 3d stamp. This unmounted mint block of four was sold recently by UKebayer paul4640 for £12



1969 saw the issuing of high value Machin definitives – 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 – in brown, lake, ultramarine and black. Sets of four can still be purchased for under £10. Add a set to your collection while stocks last! As a final pre-decimal flourish, a set of three values – 5d, 9d and 1s 6d – were issued to mark Philympia 1970. The 1s 6d depicted a QV 4d carmine of 1855. A sheet of forty, described as mint never hinged was recently sold by UKebayer scholasticus for £24.99 with free shipping

an indigo 1s 6d, The World Scout Jamboree of 1957 included a 1s 3d green. Definitives issued in 1958-1965 introduced a new watermark (Multiple Crown) seen on the green 1s 3d and indigo 1s 6d values. Two phosphor bands were seen on the same values in the 1960-1967 issues, with an attractive 1s 3d commemorative in 1960 celebrating the Tercentenary of the General Letter Office. Another eye-catching design was seen on the 1s 6d from the Post Office Savings Bank set issued in 1961. Indeed, more than a dozen stamps with values of 1s 3d, 1s 6d and 1s 9d appeared as commemoratives throughout the

1960s. Exceptionally, with slightly higher values, stamp users were offered stamps of 2s 6d value in 1964, 1965 and 1966 (Shakespeare Festival; Simon de Montfort's Parliament; Westminster Abbey Anniversary). As a final pre-decimal flourish 2s 6d, 5s, 10s, and £1 Machin definitives displaying the monarch's portrait were issued on 5 March 1969. All stamps mentioned above should rise in either, or both, collector interest and monetary value from the day our long-reigning monarch passes away. If you seek out pairs, blocks and clean on-cover examples, or FDCs, your collection will be attractively enhanced.

STAMP COLLECTOR VIDEOS



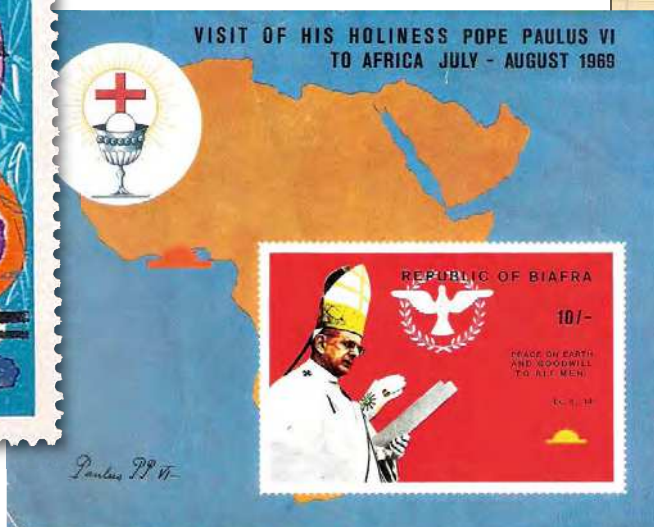
Interview: James Dann, Jersey Post

As part of the recent Collectors' Conference on Modern Stamps we chatted to James Dann at JerseyPost, and found out about the stamps set to be issued during 2021.

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



The 10/- overprint omits the word 'Sovereign'



A high value mini sheet commemorating the Pope's visit to Africa. Only the stamps are listed and priced in Gibbons



Map of the secessionist state of the Republic of Biafra as in May 1967 (Creative Commons Licence: Eric Gaba)

STAMP CIVIL WARS

Biafra and Russia

In our third and final examination of stamps issued during civil wars, and the often remarkable postal history created at the time, David Bailey looks back on conflict in Russia and begins with the unrest in West Africa seen at the close of the 1960s

BIAFRA

6 July 1967 to 15 January 1970

Nigeria was formed in 1914 by amalgamating several smaller states and tribal territories. It made administrative sense at the time, but there were vast cultural differences between the new country's component parts and their peoples.

The Hausa in the North were conservative Moslems. They lived in a rigid hierarchy of Emirs who owed allegiance to a Sultan. The Yoruba in the South West also lived under kings: the Oba, but theirs was a much more fluid system, encouraging upward mobility.

The Igbo, and other peoples of the South East lived in small, autonomous communities organised on democratic lines. Major decisions were made in general assemblies, where both men and women participated. They were an enterprising people and many rich

Igbo sent their sons to be educated at British universities.

Post-independence, Nigeria's party politics served to accentuate regional differences rather than providing an arena to resolve them. Political parties were formed on tribal lines and the Northern Region, because of its higher population, was able to outvote both the Western and Eastern regions in Nigeria's parliament. Even the discovery of oil didn't help matters. The East had never been a very productive area. Now, the Igbo feared that the other two states would conspire against them to syphon off the revenues for themselves.

Alongside this was the widespread dislike and mistrust of the political class as a whole, who were seen as venal and corrupt while much of the country lived in poverty. A general strike was called in 1964, which led to rioting and military intervention.



Biafra overprint on a current stamp of Nigeria

A general election in 1964 failed to resolve things. It was tarnished by reports of fraud and highlighted the dominance of the Northern Peoples Party. There was widespread unrest and many Nigerians fled their homes.

The result was a military coup, led by the young Igbo officers who had been rising through the ranks of Nigeria's army. The coup was overturned by a counter-coup, leading to persecutions of Igbo people working



in other parts of the country. In Autumn 1966, between 8,000 and 30,000 Igbo people were massacred in the Northern region alone. This caused a refugee crisis in the East.

Nigeria was now in the charge of General Gowon, who negotiated a looser Nigerian federation with the Eastern leader Colonel Ojukwu. However, he went back on his word and on 27 May 1967, proclaimed a division of Nigeria into twelve states, which would separate the bulk of the Igbo people from the bulk of the oil.

On 30 May Ojukwu, proclaimed the independence of the Republic of Biafra.

The war and the famine

Nigeria struck first with a two-pronged attack on Biafran territory. Biafra fought back in the mid-West.

Above: Two values from the Independence set of three

Top Right: A stamp from the First Anniversary of Independence set, with an unlisted charity surcharge of 2d for Biafran children

But neither side could land a killer blow and from 1968, the war settled into a stalemate, in which Nigeria's blockade of Biafra caused famine throughout the breakaway state. It was a humanitarian crisis which was reported worldwide, causing outrage and leading to accusations of genocide. Charitable organisations throughout the world began to organise blockade-running missions to bring in food and medical supplies.

Nigeria was receiving help from Britain (ground troops and equipment) and from Russia (MIG fighters), so the Biafrans recruited mercenary soldiers and pilots; colourful figures who carried out bombing raids and mercy flights.

With British help, Nigeria launched a final offensive in December 1969.

Ojukwu fled the country, leading his deputy to negotiated the surrender to General Gowon. This was signed on 15 January 1970.

The stamps

The short-lived state receives a full listing in Gibbons, beginning in February 1968 with three stamps proclaiming independence. A fuller set of definitives appeared from April that year, as stocks of Nigerian stamps were locally overprinted with the country's coat of arms. These have the inevitable errors and varieties, while the full thirteen stamp set (½d to £1) will be difficult to assemble in fine used. Two more anniversary sets followed – printed in Portugal and Italy – plus a set commemorating the Papal visit to Africa.

In August 1969 Pope Paul VI, the much-travelled 'Pilgrim Pope' made a visit to Uganda. This was commemorated philatelically by a number of African countries including Biafra, who issued a set of four stamps. The miniature sheet shown here is mentioned but not listed by Gibbons.

There also exist a number of other overprints and special cancellations, created to show solidarity with the rebels or to raise money for humanitarian relief.

RUSSIA 1917 to 1923

The Russian Civil War was fought between the Red Army – Lenin's Bolsheviks – and the White Armies. But the term covers a wide variety of factions who either feared or resented the Communist takeover. The



A rare postcard from the Italian Forces in Odessa sent to Naples via Valetta. It is franked by four stamps from General Deniken and was carried on board a British warship from Odessa to Malta where it joined the normal postal system. Image courtesy of Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins

resentment was felt by the Liberals, Tsarists, Mensheviks and Socialists who had been denied a parliamentary government, and had then been sold out by the treaty of Brest Litovsk. Meanwhile, foreign powers feared the spread of revolution to their own countries. Thirteen, including Britain, intervened on the White Russian side.

The full story of the war would fill a book but it breaks down into three principal theatres and three clear phases. The theatres were the East, the South and the North West of Russia, plus struggles for independence along its Western borders.

Phase 1 began in 1917, with small scale fighting in a number of locations, including the Crimea, Ukraine and along the Trans-Siberian Railway. Phase 2 lasted from January to November 1919. This was a crucial period in which the White Armies, with international help, gained early victories in all three theatres of the war. But the Red Army was still a newly-formed fighting force. And it was Leon Trotsky whose re-organisation turned it into an effective one. They counter-attacked and inflicted heavy defeats on the White armies, which lost most of their men and equipment.

Phase 3 was confined to the Crimea, which provided a rallying point for White forces from all over the country, thus reinforcing an already strong position. The balance changed when

the Polish-Soviet war ended in Polish Independence. With fresh troops, the Red Army scored a decisive victory in 1920. There was fighting in the East and the Caucasus for a number of years after this, but the main war was over.

Civil war stamps

Previous articles have looked at Russian stamps of this period and also at the newly-formed nations of Poland, Finland and the Baltic States. So here we will feature the stamps from the White Russian side.

North Western Army

The Northwestern Army was formed in 1918 by Monarchist Officers based in Petrograd. It occupied German-controlled land on the Estonian Border and was promised assistance by Germany and also by Britain. After initial setbacks, it advanced on Petrograd but the foreign assistance never arrived and they were repulsed in June 1919 by the numerically superior Red Army. The retreat to Estonia caused a humanitarian disaster in which thousands of people – soldiers and fleeing civilians – died.

The stamps are overprints on Russian stamps printed at Pskov and read 'Sev. Zap. Armia' (Northwest Army) in Cyrillic.

Eastern Region

War came to Eastern Russia in May 1918, with the revolt of the Czech

Legion. They had served in the Imperial Army and been ordered to return home via Vladivostok. But thanks to Bolshevik hostility and shortages of transport, they had become strung out along the trans-Siberian railway and Trotsky had threatened to disarm them. Disaffected Tsarist officers joined the revolt, which made rapid progress along the railway line. It neared Ekaterinberg, where the Royal Family were held – and fearing a rescue attempt, the Bolsheviks murdered them.

The plight of the Czech legion attracted international support and in Autumn 1919, 70,000 Japanese troops and 5,000 Americans landed at Vladivostok, though the Americans were mostly there to monitor the Japanese; they feared encroachments into Eastern Russia and Manchuria.

The Bolsheviks were also nervous of the Japanese presence and founded the Far Eastern Republic as a buffer state between them.

The power vacuum in the East was filled by a number of short-lived republics, including KOMUCH and the Provisional Siberian Government at Omsk and Vladivostok. Together, KOMUCH and the Czechs captured the Tsars gold reserves which had been moved to Kazan for safekeeping. Another combatant was Alexander Kolchak, a Tsarist Admiral who took over Omsk for himself in 1918 and made himself dictator of the region.



Stamps of the Czech Legion were sold at stations along the Trans-Siberian Rail-way



The typeface of the Don Cossack stamps differs from that used in Siberia on the same stamps



Kolchak's forces in Siberia used another distinctive typeface



How to get genuine stamps. Here, a collector or dealer has written to the French Consul in Vladivostok, enclosing a money order and requesting some genuine stamps. The Consul has obliged, with a certificate, the Consular seal and the stamps. Originally, they were sent in a glassine envelope sewn to the certificate (see remaining thread); the recipient has stuck them to the certificate. The stamps are from the Amur Province in Priamur. Image courtesy of Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins

Bolshevik counter-attacks gradually reduced his territory until Omsk fell in Autumn 1919. The Czechs handed him over to the Bolsheviks in return for safe passage to Vladivostok and they finally sailed for home in September 1920.

The last White enclave was at Priamur, between Vladivostok and Khabarovsk; it lasted from May 1921 to October 1922.

Eastern Stamps

- 1919-1920 Czech Legion. Set of three pictorial stamps
- 1919 Arms stamp of Bohemia.
- 1920 Overprint (1920) on Arms stamp. Set of nine overprints.
- 1919 Kolchak Government: Set of six overprints on Russian Arms Types.
- 1920 Transbaikalian Province: Set of four overprints on Russian Arms Types.
- 1920 Amur Province: set of five stamps in a simple, monochrome design.
- 1920 Far Eastern Republic: a philatelically complicated series, featuring overprints on Russian Arms Types and on currency stamps, printed at Vladivostok – plus a set of 10 stamps in one or two colours printed at Chita.
- 1921 Priamur; another complicated series featuring a plethora of overprints, carried out at Vladivostok on whatever stamps were available. In general, these are more elaborate than other White Army stamps.



Meet the Government of General Semyenov at Chita, pictured here with General Chang-Tso-Lin of China and a Japanese General. It was produced by the Japanese, who supported the Far East Republic as a buffer between Communist Russia and Japanese-occupied Manchuria. The card is addressed to Hankow in China. Image courtesy of Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins

South Russia

In 1917, White Russian forces under General Deniken set up a Provisional Government bordering the Black and Caspian Seas. They were known as the Volunteer Army.

In early 1919, Deniken's forces defeated the 11th Soviet Army to occupy the Caucasus and in June, he advanced on Moscow. But after counter-attacks by the Red Army, he fell back to the Crimea, where the Volunteer Army merged with the forces of General Wrangel.

Another protagonist was the Kuban Cossack state under the Rada (Chief), which had been set up in

1917. However, it never commanded the support of all the Cossacks in the region and in October 1919, it was surrounded and then absorbed by Deniken's forces.

Deniken and General Wrangel fought on the same side in the same theatre – but were frequently in disagreement. Wrangel wanted to link up with Kolchak's forces, while Deniken drove straight on to Moscow and the link up never happened. When the White Russian cause became hopeless, he organised a mass evacuation of troops and civilians in 1920.



South Russia Stamps

- 1918 Kuban Cossacks: set of twelve overprints on Russian Arms Types.
- 1919 Set of three overprints on Post Office Savings stamps.
- 1919 Don Cossacks: Overprints of 25k and 50k on Russian Arms Types.
- Overprinted currency stamp
- 1919 Crimea Regional Government. Two stamps, both overprints: on an arms stamp and a currency stamp.
- 1919 General Deniken's Government: set of two overprints on Ukraine stamps

- Set of eleven in both one and two colours, showing St George. Found both imperf and perforated.
- 1929 Wrangel's Government, four stamps – all overprints on the Arms types.

Collecting the Civil War

Philately was firmly established as a hobby by 1917 and people were very much aware that the Russian Civil War was generating stacks of it. There remains the one problem; how much is real and how can you tell? Overprints and locally

This registered cover was sent from Vladivostok to Diego Suarez in Madagascar and has received a backstamp from each post office en route. Image courtesy of Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins

printed stamps are very easy to forge. Fantasy states and values are easy to create and catalogues do not always agree on what issues deserve a listing.

The Czech Legion made it easy for collectors to get hold of their stamps, by selling them at stations along the Trans-Siberian railway. Other dealers and collectors had to be more circumspect, writing to foreign embassies and delegations in the war zones asking for samples of stamps.

So where to start?

The outline lists above are taken from Gibbons *Stamps of the World* catalogue and represent a 'core' collection of all the acknowledged White Russian entities that issued stamps. Then it's up to individual collectors how to specialise. The literature is there to help, as are the clubs.

According to leading specialist Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins, the best one-volume catalogue is by Standard Collector of St Petersburg, which is available online with text in English and Russian. The most comprehensive work is by Ray Ceresa, which covers the whole of the Russian Empire in over twenty volumes; find them in the RPSL Library.

He also recommends joining Rossica in the US and the BSRP in the UK and looking up the back numbers of their journals; useful sources of information which go far beyond just catalogue listings.



St George from General Deniken's South Russia set of 1919



An overprint from General Wrangel's government in South Russia. This value is not listed in *Stamps of the World* catalogue

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Second Class LARGE NVI (lick and stick)	70%	ALL TYPES (96p)
1st Class Signed For Stamps (standard & large)	70% Standard 75% Large	All types (£2.25 and £2.69) poor sellers
Special Delivery Stamps	70% up to 100g 75% up to 500g	(£6.85 > 100g and £7.65 > 500g) poor sellers
Europe up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps & W/W up to 10g (postcard)	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams and W/W up to 10g (£1.70)
Worldwide up to 20g, 40g & 60g NVI Stamps	95p ea	Up to 20g, 40g & 60g grams (£1.70)
Europe 'E' Rate up to 20g Stamps	95p ea	'E' Rate Stamps (£1.70)
Europe & Worldwide NVI Stamps up to 100g	E 95p ea W £1.50 ea	Up to 100g (e £1.70 & w/w £2.55)
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V. Many 100'ss FU from 1849 pair, 1861 40c (2) 1865 to 1Fr, 1893 set, 1905 set, 1915 to 10Fr inc 5 Franken, good mid period inc 1928 Orval, 1931 Soldier, Relief M/S 1932 Memorial pair, 1933 Anti T.B, S. TEB and Borgerhout M/S, 1934 Anti T.B, Charlerois M/S etc with much useful later to 1975. An excellent range Cat £6900 **£725.00**

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100's in Davo from 1854 to 8Sk on 2Sk (3 – one mint 1863 4Sk (10-cancels) 1875 Posthorns to 100 ore inc 50 ore, 100 ore (mint) 1907 set (M) 5 Kr (FU) King Christian to 10 Kr with range to 5Kr (M) 1921 Parcel Post 10KR (M & FU) 1929 Cancer (M & FU) 1930 Birthday set (M) later to 1942 plus Air sets for 1925 and 1934 (both mint) dues etc. A superb range worthy of expansion Cat £6030 **£750.00**

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West Berlin 100's from 1948 O'Prints to 2Mk(black and red) 1949 U.P.U, Buildings, S'Charge set, Goethe, 1950 Orchestra, good range Bells inc Clapper left set on cover 1952 Famous Berliners, 1953 Church etc these all FU, later to 1980 mainly FU, odd mint set, many covers Cat £5400 **£600.00**

Bund Mainly FU range (many 100's) inc 1949 complete 1950 Bach, Posthorns, NABHA, Relief etc, 1952 Relief, 1954 Heuss with range se-tenants, later fairly complete to 1980 Cat £260+ **£300.00**

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POLAND

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TREASURES AT THE ROYAL

Grover & Co

In our regular insight into the collections held at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), Nicola Davies describes the archives of Grover & Co Ltd, whose perforating and embossing machines helped change the history of postage stamps

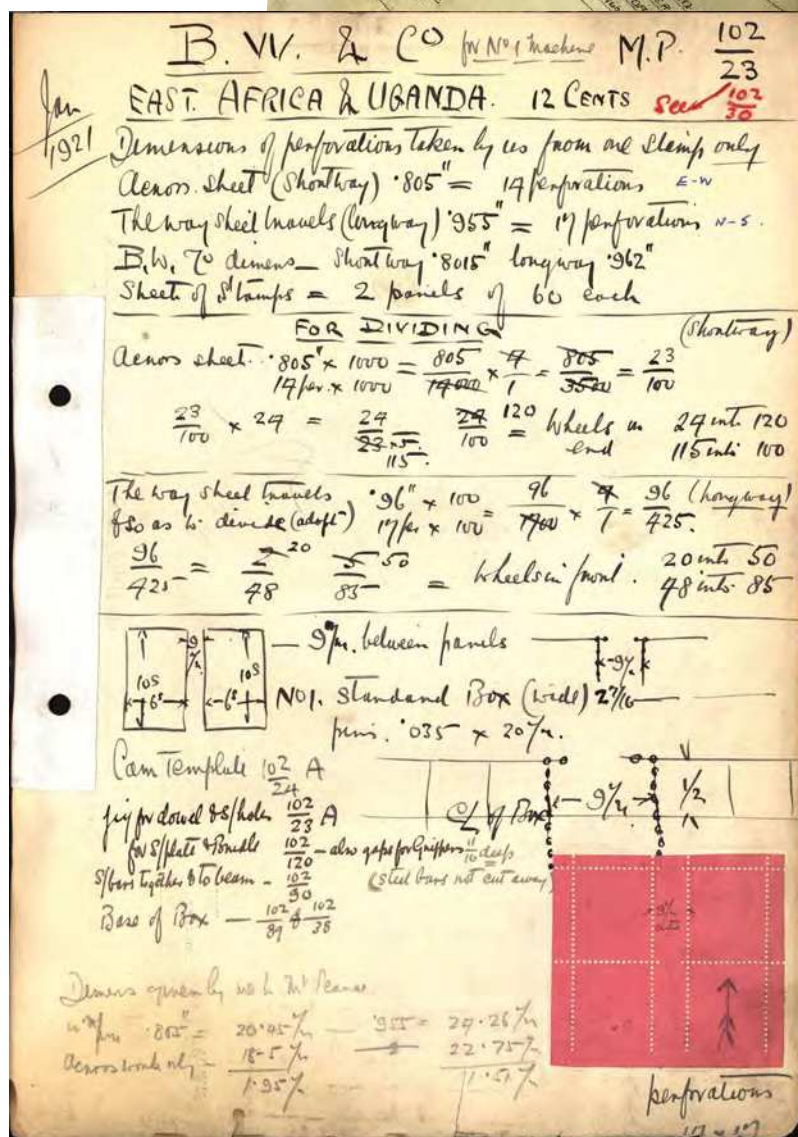
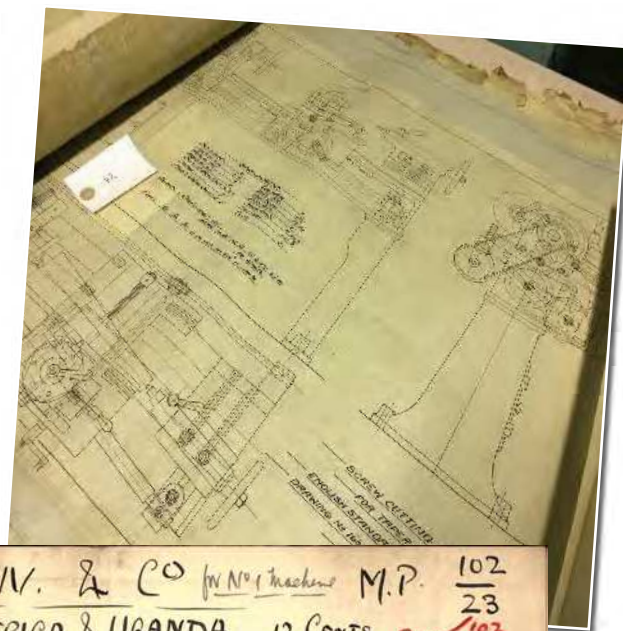
Born in 1836, John William Grover was the only son of the Rector of Hitchen. After attending Marlborough College he trained under the eminent Civil and Railway Engineer, Sir Charles Fox. Grover was most famous for his railway and structural projects including railways in the UK, Mexico and Venezuela, the conservatory at the Royal Horticultural Society, and parts of the South Kensington Museum. He founded Grover & Co. Ltd. in 1875 with the company focussing on railway products including Grover's patented spring washer.

It is not until the 1910s that the work of Grover & Co. Ltd becomes directly relevant to the philatelic world; at this point the company diversified into stamp perforating and embossing machines, which remained their main focus until the firm closed in 2001. It was thanks to the foresight of Chris Harman RDP, Hon. FRPSL (Past President and Chairman of the Expert Committee) and Les Wilkinson that a significant part of the company's archive came to the RPSL, starting with the donation of a perforating box in 2003.

The collection comprises drawing ledgers, pattern books, distribution and instruction leaflets, photographs, Master Plates Lists, repair records and 100s of rolled technical drawings. The ledgers record Grover & Co. Ltd's customers including Bank of England, Bradbury Wilkinson, De La Rue, Inland Revenue, Ireland Free State, Perkins Bacon, Swedish Postal Administration, and H.M.S.O.

The records associated with the 'Master Plates' are probably the most significant from a philatelic perspective as they allow for greater understanding of the perforations and the introduction of different arrangements. Grover passed away in 1892 and is buried in the West Norwood Cemetery, south London; however, interest in the work of his company lives on and the Royal Philatelic Society London considers it a privilege to be the custodian of this important collection.

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



Collecting puffins

The puffin, which is collected by philatelists with the enthusiasm and tenacity of the most eager bird-watcher, has been gracing the privately produced stamps of Lundy for eighty years, as this examination of related material held in the British Library Philatelic Collections reveals

Lundy Island lies in the entrance to the Bristol Channel off the north-west coast of Devon and has been in National Trust inalienable ownership since 1969. The Island is financed, administered and maintained by the Landmark Trust. A small granite outcrop, it is merely 3½ miles long and ½ mile wide, and is particularly noted for its flora, two lighthouses and colourful birdlife.

The human population is a hardy group of about forty who share their domain with numerous puffins, guillemots, razorbills, and kittiwakes. These birds make their pilgrimage to the safe haven each year, to build their nests.

Throughout the world birds of all varieties regularly appear on postage stamps, from the USA's duck stamps to colourful parrots that flutter onto more exotic philatelic offerings. But there can be few feathered friends which, as well as being featured on a stamp, actually become a name for a currency and a vital source of income.

Believe it or not, the poor puffin was once used as a barter system instead of money. Unfortunately, this rather endearing sea bird was much desired for its plumage. It took around twelve birds to make a pound of feathers which the islanders then swapped with mainland retailers for most of the produce they needed. The exact exchange rate between a pound of puffin feather and a pound of sugar, for example, would

have varied over the years.

Thankfully, despite the amount of birds regularly taken and killed by the inhabitants the vibrant population was not depleted. These days they are a protected species, and although the value of their feathers would have come before any thoughts of cruelty back then, the puffin's importance was never forgotten. They became an obvious choice, therefore, for the valuations of stamps and coins issued there.

Island origins

The island's history is documented as far back as 1199 when King Henry II gave his royal permission for a small monastery to be founded there. From then there is no known information until the year 1217, when the island was apparently purchased by Sir William de Marisco and his brother Geoffrey. They used it as a private retreat and built one of the earliest known English castles; the ruins are still there today. Other more dubious parts of its history include a time when pirates used it as a base to plunder ships in the Bristol Channel.

The earliest Lundy postal service was set up some time in the late 19th century when the British postal authorities established a post office on the island. However it is thought that



1940: Red Cross charity issue (Chinchen Collection). 6 puffins plus 6 puffins. Red on mauve. An unused block of four. This is probably the rarest item in the collections. The stamps were issued on July 24, 1940 to raise money for the Red Cross. Each value was overprinted with a surcharge that doubled its value. This format was only available for three months after which the remaining stocks were destroyed

the sub-post offices inception probably occurred at the same time that a marine cable was laid to the island in 1892.

From the commencement of the official mail service, only ordinary valid British postage stamps were used. Under the direction of the British postal officials the mail was delivered to Lundy once a week from Instow in North Devon. Later, in 1918, the island was sold to a Mr Christie who owned a sailing boat. He took over the mail contract and used his boat partly for that purpose.

The first sub-postmaster to take on the rather thankless position was F Allday a Royal Navy pensioner. The terms of his work were not very generous and the accommodation was more than bleak. It consisted of a tiny cable hut, with a corrugated iron roof, resting against one of the walls of Marisco Castle. One of his few allowances was for hiring a donkey to carry the mail up and down from the beach. However it turned out this donkey was no ass. It became so used

to the sound and sight of the mail boat that whenever it appeared it would bolt off and refuse to be drawn back for its allotted task! Thus Mr Allday invariably had to 'lug' the mail sack up to his tin hut by himself. Although the job was less than alluring and certainly lonely, Allday stuck it out until 1927.

Two years earlier in 1925 the island was sold to Martin Coles Harman who also purchased the boat and the mail contract. Harman was less than enthused with his relationship with Royal Mail. Much to their chagrin he at one time stated 'A post office on Lundy is not required.' This was undoubtedly one of the earliest examples of a post office closure. Under some pressure he eventually capitulated and agreed to run the service with his own vessel. However he was no doubt annoyed that this was without any remuneration on his part. To help compensate himself he charged visitors 1/- (5 pence) to land on the island. Harman was a resourceful man and on 1 November 1929 he issued the first printing of the famous local puffin stamps. Again this was to help defer his personal costs. These had been designed and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. who were based in New Malden, Surrey.

Harman issued two values. The first was a red ½ Puffin value, at that time the value was equivalent to the old ½ d, with a 'bust' portrait of a puffin on it. They came in sheets of 120, each

From the General collection, a 1 puffin blue stamp of 1929



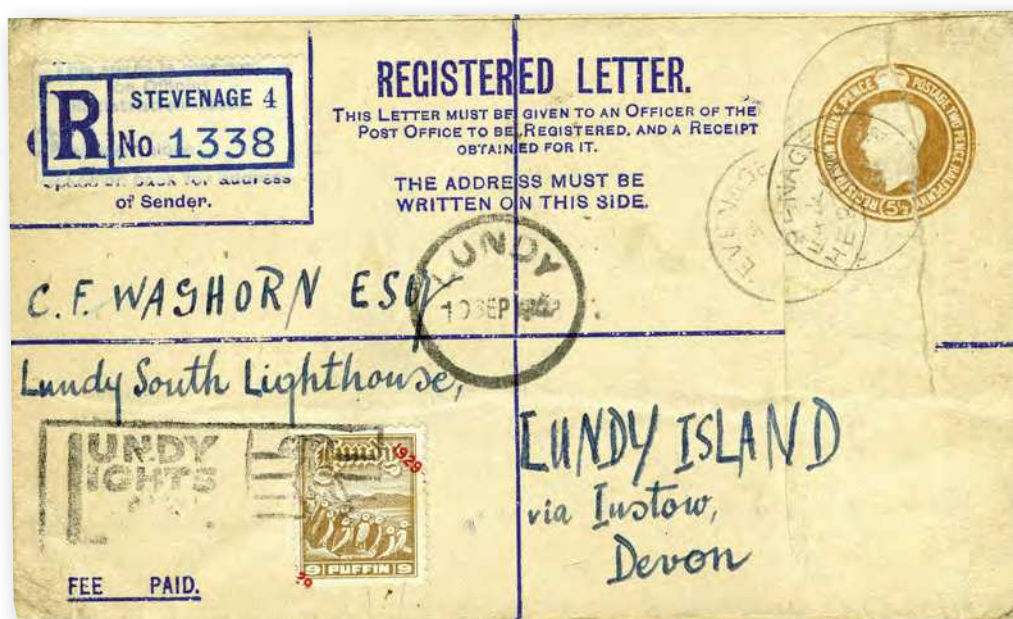
sheet consisting of four panes of thirty stamps. The second value was a blue 1 Puffin, at that time the value was equivalent the old 1d, with a full length portrait of a puffin on it. They were in the same sheet format as the ½ Puffin.

The stamp issue may have seemed unusual to outsiders, but Harman was quite within his rights to have a postal system for the island, even if it was just for transportation from Lundy to and from the nearest mainland post office. One restriction on the stamps was that they had to be placed on the left side of an envelope or alternatively on the back. Today you can put them next to the GB stamp.

Puffin cash

Harman also issued two coins, again with the same values as the stamps. He must have had a rather grandiose opinion of himself as the reverse of

1942: Great Britain registered postal stationery 5 ½ d envelope (Chinchen Collection). Addressed to CF Waghorn, Lundy South Lighthouse. Island stamps are 1939 tenth anniversary of Lundy stamps. 9 puffins brown with misplaced overprint



EXHIBITION NEWS

The NOTOS 2021 Organising Committee has announced that the exhibition will be held at the Zappeion in central Athens. Previously planned at the Peristeri Exhibition Centre, the organisers were obliged to find a new venue when the Greek Government took over the Peristeri to be a vaccination centre. They were delighted to find an alternative venue in the Zappeion, Athens's leading Conference and Exhibition centre which has a long tradition of hosting highly-prestigious events. The next FEPA Congress will also be held at the Zappeion on 23 November. NOTOS 2021 is a European exhibition with FEPA Patronage and FIP Recognition. Further information about the Zappeion and about NOTOS is at: <https://hps.gr/notos2021/index.php/venue>

The Union of Czech Philatelists, in cooperation with the club Evropská vystava známek LIBEREC 2022 z.s., have announced that a specialised European Stamp Exhibition and Polar Salon will be held at the Wellness Hotel Babylon in Liberec, Czech Republic, from 13 to 16 October 2022. Exhibits are invited in the following competitive classes: FIP Grand Prix Class, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Thematic Philately, Open Philately, Picture Postcards, Youth Philately, Philatelic Literature. One-frame exhibits, or two and three-frame exhibits. There will also be an opportunity to see worldwide exhibits with a polar philatelic theme at the Polar Salon. Provisional Patronage has been granted by FEPA to LIBEREC 2022, to be confirmed at the Congress to be held in Athens on 23rd November 2021. The exhibition has also been granted Recognition by the FIP and patronage by the Académie Européenne de Philatelie.

The Slovenian Philatelic Federation wants to encourage as many people as possible to participate in its One-Frame competition, being held as part of the DesetoOkno ("Tenth Window") exhibition in Kranj from 9 to 18 September 2021. So it has decided to run the competition online. The frame is €10 in all classes which makes the exhibition very accessible to all. The deadline for applications is 30 June. Find out more at: <https://fzs.si/>

FEPA is pleased to announce the panel that will support it in selecting the winner of the Francis Kiddle Medal 2021 for the best philatelic website. All panel members have expressed high satisfaction for the initiative that highlights the important role of websites in today's philatelic world, and have confirmed their willingness to assist in the selection. The members of the panel are: Gerald Heschl (Austria), Johann Vanderhoute (Belgium), Henrik Mouritsen (Denmark), Josè Ramon Moreno (FEPA Honorary President), Jari Majander (Finland), Wolfgang Maassen (Germany), Anthony Virvilis (Greece), Istvan Glatz (Hungary), Menachem Lador (Israel), Marco Occhipinti (Italy), Julio Maia (Portugal), Vojtech Jankovic (Slovakia), Peter Suhadolc (Slovenia), Sergio Arruego Polo (Spain), Hans Schwarz (Switzerland), and Frank Walton (UK).

Due to the continuing COVID restrictions, the organisers of NORDIA 2021 have been forced to cancel this prestigious regional exhibition. NORDIA 2021 was due to be held in Kuopio, Finland from 13 to 15 August 2021. In its place the Kuopio Philatelic Society will arrange a national exhibition with international participation. Savofila 2021 will be held on 14 to 15 August 2021.



*Exhibition news
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the coins featured a bust of his good self, but he later found himself in deep water when he tried to use them as currency by paying his resident workers with them. A legal case was brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions and tried at the Petty Sessions Division of Bideford in the County of Devon. It decided that Mr Harman had unlawfully issued coins contrary to the Coinage Act of 1870 and he was ordered to 'stop issuing private coins.' And yet he persisted. An appeal case was heard at the King's Bench Division of High Court in London and finally brought him to order. The official records stated that Mr Harman had 'lost the day,' though it is doubtful that he would have agreed. The coins were then sold as souvenirs until stocks were eventually exhausted. Much later, in 1965, reproduction sets of coins were produced for collectors.

Like everything else in this world inflation caught up with the Lundy stamps so higher values had to be introduced. Notable special issues of the much-loved stamps include a Red Cross charity issue of 1940 ranging in values from ½ Puffin to 12 Puffin, a Victory propaganda issue of 1942, and a Wright Brothers issue, both of which cover the same values. Other commemoratives issues included 1961

1939: Cover from Berlin to Lundy (Chinchen Collection)

A fascinating item which started its journey with five German stamps plus two postal labels. Island stamps are a 1929 ½ puffin pink and of particular interest Lundy Atlantic Coasts Air Lines Ltd. 1938 ½ puffin, black on violet. Note the error 'Attantic' for 'Atlantic'

Europa, 1964 Shakespeare, 1965 Churchill and 1972 Trinity House sets. The Puffin currency became a decimal Puffin in 1971, and the stamps are still available today (see news story on page 9). What better way for birdwatchers and sightseers to send their postcard home than with these simply designed stamps celebrating a long-serving and at times long-suffering resident?

FIND OUT MORE

The British Library Philatelic Collections has two excellent collections of Lundy Island stamps. The Chinchen Collection includes Lundy stamps from 1929 up until 1977. Much of the material is in sheets, while proofs and covers also feature. This comprehensive collection was compiled by Barry Chinchen who donated it to the Library in 1977.

The Landmark Trust Lundy Island Philatelic Archive mainly comprises artwork, essays, proofs and issued stamps of Lundy from 1969 as well as an extensive range of postmarking devices from 1929. The trust donated it to the Library in 1991 and continues to add new issues in proof and issued form.

Eminent Philatelists

Arthur Hind (1856–1933)



If our last eminent philatelist was known for his genial, likeable personality, and his benevolent spirit prompted him to be affectionately known as ‘Uncle Henry’, then our next heavyweight on the philatelic stage; Arthur Hind (1856–1933), a English textile industrialist who immigrated to New York, would probably be best described as ‘a philistine’, writes Devlan Kruck. This is not just because of his apparent bullish, opinionated and cynical persona, but also because of his attitude and approach to philately, as you’re about to discover.

According to account, Hind was a man that wouldn’t accept advice from either business or philatelic associates. He lacked the finesse of the philatelists he rubbed shoulders with at the time and did not possess the diplomacy of those whose collections he absorbed into his own, such as Avery, Duveen and Ferrary.

Whilst there is absolutely no question that Hind formed an outstanding collection of world stamps and especially of the United States, he perhaps didn’t assemble friends and respect in the same manner as he amassed money. In fact, Hind had a reputation for having more money than philatelic sense. He was said to be suspicious of everyone, paranoid of being deceived and thought he could buy anyone and anything. But despite his wealth he seemed incredibly insecure and as a consequence made outlandish purchases.

Hind began collecting in 1891, and like other great collectors of that period, such as Tapling, he poured profits from his business into rare stamps, like the “Bordeaux Cover” franked with Mauritius 1d red and 2d deep blue “Post Office” which he purchased from Lichtenstein in 1922 – this cover in recent times has sold at a David Feldman SA auction for 5,750,000 Swiss francs (equivalent to £4.4 million).

But nothing better demonstrates his flamboyant buying than his ownership of the world’s most expensive stamp, the British Guiana One-cent Magenta, which he purchased in the same year as The Bordeaux Cover, from the third Ferrary sale (lot 295) for over 300,000 French Francs (about £28,000 after tax). And therein lies a tale, perhaps part fable perhaps not, which epitomizes the character of the man.

The story goes that when Hind won this stamp, the under-bidder was Burrus (and that is a story for another day) and the third highest bidder was apparently King George V; it was rumoured at the time that Hind offered the British Guiana to the King as a gift. A bit disingenuous perhaps, because of course he couldn’t accept it. But the plot thickens.

There is also a story that Hind purchased for cash another example of the One-cent Magenta from a gentleman who later signed a letter to this effect and sent it to August Dietz for publication in his philatelic journal. After the purchase Hind immediately sat back in his chair and relaxed with a cigar and with great bravado set fire to the second British Guiana One-cent Magenta, proclaiming ‘Now there’s only one Magenta One-cent Guiana.’

The controversy didn’t end there, because after his death Hind’s will restricted his wife’s inheritance to dwelling, furniture, paintings... but not the stamp collection. As Hind’s stamp collection was estimated at close to a million dollars, she contested this and won her case, which entitled her to one third of the stamp collection revenue. However, whilst all these legal wrangles took place, the One-cent Magenta went missing, prompting a secretive and frantic search for the tiny stamp. Urgent enquiries were made to European dealers as to the location of the British Guiana but the stamp was eventually found in a registered letter that Hind had nonchalantly thrown into a drawer in his safe.

Hind’s wife tried to sell the famous stamp in London in 1935, once she was awarded ownership through the courts, but the stamp only reached a bid of £7,500 from PL Pemberton, a London Stamp dealer and son of the philatelist Edward Loines Pemberton. The lot was withdrawn and over the following years the stamp was offered at private treaty but had no takers until 1940 when it was sold for US\$40,000 to Fred

‘Poss’ Small, an Australian engineer who lived in Florida.

Today Hind’s grandiose acquisition sits in the collection of Stuart Weitzman who paid US\$9.4 million in 2014; that is, until it is sold this month at Sotheby’s, New York. The current value is in stark contrast to the Hind auction sale, and one can’t help wondering if the famous rarity somehow lost its appeal during Hind’s ownership; perhaps some of Hind’s characteristics inevitably reflected on to the stamps he owned.

There are many other graphic tales which pervade around Hind’s collection, including his apparent spoiling of some of the rarest USA covers by taping them crudely onto album pages. This created very poor auction results for the Hind estate, but worse was his lack of sensibility when the custodian of this very fine and rare material.

Hind had enormous wealth, and a brazen philatelic ego, but his care and love of the things philatelic didn’t earn him a place on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. However, if there was a roll of philatelic philistines, that could and did buy everything available to them, then Hind would be on that list, if not at the very head of the Roll.

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



Post... modern

The latest All About Stamps competition challenged you to produce a one-page entry using 'modern stamps', that's postage stamps issued during or after the year 2000. We're delighted to showcase just some of the entries in this issue and you can see all the one-page displays over on the www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website

The third All About Stamps competition focussed on modern stamps, challenging collectors to present a one-page story or article using only stamps issued during or after the year 2000. Once again we have been impressed by the entries which have come from all over the world, and we're pleased to present some of the highlights here. You can view all of the entries over on the website (just visit: www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/virtual-events/stamp-displays) and we'll reveal the winner in the next issue of the magazine.

Regular readers will know the All About Stamps Competition was launched back in July 2020 and thanks to the popularity of the project, we're now running the competition once a quarter, giving you four chance to win each year. Watch this space for details of our next competition which will coincide with the Summer of Stamps online festival and is set to be our biggest competition yet!

If you're new to displaying stamps, then the All About Stamps Competition could be just for you. We're keen for the competition to be fun and relatively simple, giving everyone the opportunity to take part, and so all it takes is a little time, a selection of stamps, and your imagination and expertise! Why not have a go next time and your stamps could be featured in the magazine?

'EUROPA' 60th ANNIVERSARY

In 2016 'PostEurop' reached the 60th anniversary of CEPT / Europa stamp issues. To celebrate this they selected the theme of "THINK GREEN" with common design for all countries. They ran a competition for the design and the prize was awarded to the artist Ms Doxia Sergidou of Cyprus post. However, whilst all countries used the theme only half used the common design as shown below. The top 3 are the common design.



Montenegro



Portugal



Serbia



Norway



Turkey



Eire



Åland



Liechtenstein



Italy



Iceland



Luxembourg



Estonia

KEN MOODY

SECURING MODERN STAMPS

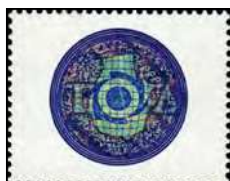
Print technology is accessible and cheap, while postal rates are at their highest. This 'perfect storm' means that counterfeiters increasingly take advantage, with Post Offices needing to embrace ever-more sophisticated security features. This display only covers material first used, or considered, for postage stamps since 2000.

CRYPTO GRAPHICS



France led the way in 2016 with fixed data matrices for mail tracking. Germany followed in 2021, with each stamp having a unique matrix code, also letting new services be implemented.

DOVIDS *



A 2000 Tullis Russell Coaters Kinegram on dummy stamp. Overprinted by intaglio to offer an extra level of security.

*Diffractive Optically Variable Image Device.

EMBOSSING



Micro-embossing was first used by Jersey in 2011. The technique requires precise print and embossing registration to function at its ultimate.

HIDDEN CODES

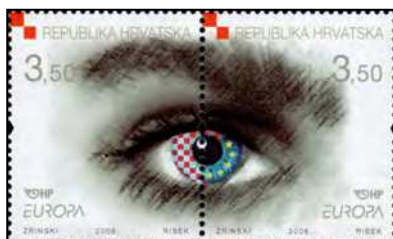


2010 PSA stamp from London 2010 Show PSB. Typical codes: MA10 = 2010 MPIL = Prestige Booklets



First introduced by Royal Mail in 2009, these many hidden codes serve to identify both the product by source and the year of stamp production.

INFRA-RED



InfraredDesign (IRD) was first used by Croatia from 2012. An invisible black and white design is revealed using a specialised piece of laboratory equipment.

INPRINT BACKING



Tullis Russell's In-Print is a PSA paper, with repeat text over the backing produced at paper making stage. First used by Canada in 2013.

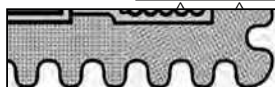


SECURITY PATTERNS

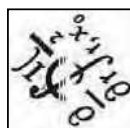
A Geometric Raster Pattern has replaced the more usual half-tone image screening.



Repeating a pattern, but at a differing screen angle, is the Moiré Inducing Effect.



SEE-THROUGH REGISTER



The effect when held to the light.

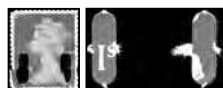


This feature, normally reserved for bank note production, was first used on stamps in 2003 by Enschedé. It only reveals a completed image when it is held to the light. It requires perfect register of both sides of the print - not easy to accomplish.

STAMP SLITS



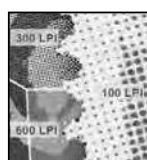
A 2020 Machin stamp with slits.



The effect after trying to remove a 'security slits' stamp.

Incisions in a stamp help to prevent their re-use, as intentional damage will invariably occur when any removal attempt is made.

VARIABLE SCREEN LINES

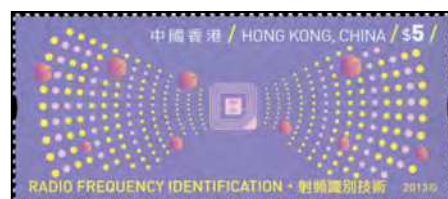
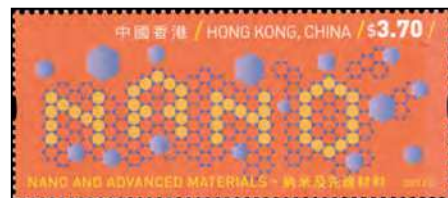


Advances in software has seen variable screen lines on the same stamp.

Here, 100, 300 and 600 lines per inch (lpi) adds to the stamp security.



WHAT OF THE FUTURE?



Nano Print and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) are two likely future stamp security features, but only when the costs and technology advance sufficiently to be a viable proposition.

GLENN MORGAN

Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

Katrin Raynor-Evans

Dame Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell DBE FRS FRSE FRAS FInstP is a renowned astrophysicist. Born in Northern Ireland in 1943 she has been the recipient of many awards throughout her career including the Royal Medal of the Royal Society, the Institute of Physics President's Medal, and the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.



Guernsey Post Office issued a stamp illustrating a quasar in 2009 within a set of six that celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first use of a telescope by Galileo (above).

Controversy surrounded the discovery of pulsars when in 1974 the Nobel Prize for Physics was jointly awarded to her supervisor Anthony Hewish and radio astronomer, Martin Ryle. Sir Fred Hoyle was outraged by Bell Burnell's omission and accused Hewish of stealing the prize.



Jocelyn Bell Burnell's autograph on a first day cover which was produced by the Royal Mail to commemorate the bicentenary of the Royal Astronomical Society in February 2020 (above).

Bell Burnell has had an extensive career working at the University of Southampton, the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh and in 1986 she was the Project Manager for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawai'i.

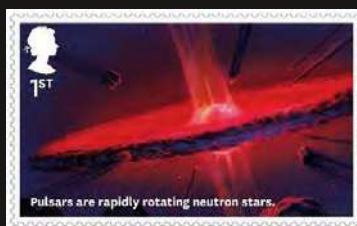


She was the President of the Royal Astronomical Society between 2002-2004 and in 2021 received the Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal which features Sir William Herschel's 40-foot telescope on one side.

Herschel's 40-foot telescope featured on a postmark produced for the Royal Astronomical Society's bicentenary (left).



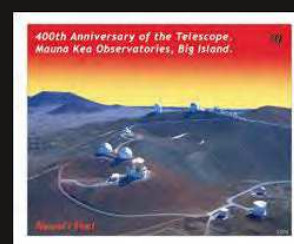
"All science is either physics or stamp collecting."
Ernest Rutherford



In 2018, the Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps celebrating the achievements of British astronomers and astrophysicists including this 1st class stamp illustrating a pulsar (left).



A miniature sheet celebrating Astronomy affixed to a first day cover issued by Benham in 2002 featured Sir Fred Hoyle (above).



The James Clerk Maxwell Telescope featured on a \$6 dollar stamp (left) and a \$9 stamp (above) issued by the Hawai'i Post in 2008. The telescope is the world's largest single-dish submillimetre-wave telescope, with a primary reflector 15 metres across.

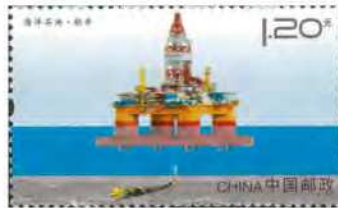


The Petroleum Philatelic Society International

With a worldwide membership, and now approaching our 50th Anniversary, the Society is the place for all philatelists interested in the oil and gas industries. Members collections include all aspects of these industries, some of which are shown here, in a chart illustrating oil and gas production. In addition to postage stamps, our members are interested in revenues, postal history, postcards, banknotes, coins and other memorabilia related to the petroleum industries.



Seismic surveys produced by seismic vessels, are used to locate the best areas for drilling, allowing maps of the new oil or gas field to be produced.



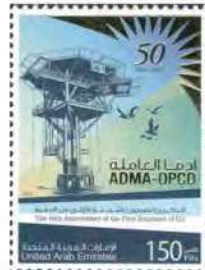
To extract oil a jack-up drill rig can be used offshore, but in deeper water a drill ship is needed.



Traditionally, drilling onshore was carried out from wooden drilling derricks. After any initial production surge subsides, pump jacks are required to extract the remainder of the producible oil.



Offshore, a production vessel can produce and process oil from many wells. It can be linked by swivel to a direct pipeline to shore.



In shallower water a platform can produce and send oil to a refinery for processing.



Production can be stored in tanks before being shipped by tanker or by tank cars to its destination.



OPEC works to stabilize the oil markets to ensure a regular supply of petroleum to consumers and a regular income to the producers. The OPEC Fund was created to support poorer nations.



The PPSI website <https://www.ppsi.org.uk> gives much information, including full details of society membership. We maintain catalogues of petroleum stamps, produce a quarterly journal and have a presence on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). Information on new issues and other topics of interest is given on the social media, immediately it becomes known to us. You are very welcome to contact us at editor@ppsi.org.uk.

STEVE FRASER

A true rainbow collection

The pandemic provided a great opportunity to rekindle my love of philately. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that one day I'd be able to have a collection of stamps that celebrated the LGBT community. This really is a dream come true. Even though being gay is hardly a new invention, it's a wonderful theme for a modern stamp collector.



BRYAN MANLEY-GREEN

'SCENTSATIONAL' STRAWBERRIES!

Advances in modern stamp production techniques in the 21st century mean it is possible to include multi-sensory features, like flavours and scents, usually linked to the design or theme of the stamp. And what could be better than the fragrance or taste of strawberries?



France issued a miniature sheet for Stamp Day 2011, which had images of strawberries printed on both sides. The sheet was infused with the fragrance of strawberries.



In 2017 Ireland issued a set of stamps related to the five senses. The 70c stamp, representing taste, had gum which tasted of strawberries when licked.



Germany issued a self-adhesive booklet of ten stamps in 2010. Each stamp, sold at a premium to raise money for welfare charities, had a strawberry design, with micro-encapsulated essential oils embedded in the stamp paper. The fruity smell was released when the strawberry was rubbed.

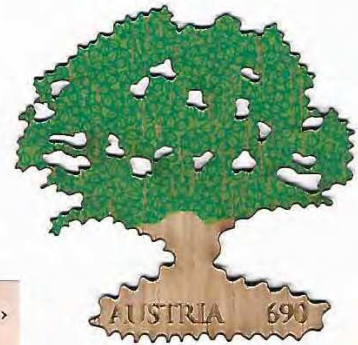


Other stamps in the set were infused with the scents of apples, lemons and blueberries!

A Visit to the Fireworks

[Using modern Austrian stamps made from/with non-standard material]

Before going out to meet his young lady Franz dressed in his Lederhosen [leather with crystal buttons] and put on his traditional hat [woven]. He bought a red rose [petit point] to give to Helena [lace] when they met under the oak tree [wood] in the park from where they watched a firework display.[Swarovski crystals].



A History of Girl Guiding

In 2010 Girlguiding celebrated its Centenary and stamps were issued around the British Isles and the world to commemorate the event.

1909 Guides attend a Scout rally at Crystal Palace and demand a sister organisation for girls.



1910 Robert Baden-Powell officially establishes the Girl Guide movement led by his sister Agnes.

1914 Rosebuds is formed for girls aged 8-10, later the name is changed to Brownies.



1912 By now groups exist in countries around the world e.g. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, USA, Norway, Finland.

Girlguiding UK



1916 Senior Guide groups are formed, these later become known as Rangers

1920 First World Conference is held in England



1928 Delegates from 26 countries meet at the 5th International Conference in Hungary and vote to form the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

1936 The Girl Guides Association is a founding member of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS). It's aim to promote and support youth development work.

1966 Major changes start to be introduced, following the publication of the report 'Tomorrow's Guide', which culminates, in 1968, with new uniforms, new handbooks and new programmes for all sections.



1987 Rainbows is introduced for girls aged 5-7

Today Girl Guide and Girl Scout associations exist in 150 countries and the WAGGGS continues to meet every 3 years. In the UK, more than 240,000 girls meet regularly as Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. Together they learn skills, grow in confidence, make lifelong friendships, help their communities and have lots of fun.



'Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community.'

THE 2020 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

TOKYO, JAPAN

The 2020 Summer Olympic Games - "Tokyo 2020" are officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad. It is an international multi-sport event to be held in Tokyo, Japan and was to take place between the 24th July and the 9th August 2020.



The Olympic Torch.

Unfortunately, it has had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is now rescheduled to take place between the 23rd July and the 8th August 2021. It will keep the name "Tokyo 2020" for marketing and branding purposes, despite being held in 2021.

This marks the first time that the Summer Olympic Games have been postponed, rather than cancelled. As they were in 1916, 1940, and 1944, due to the two World Wars.



The Liberia Tokyo 2020 Olympics miniature sheet, showing the Olympic Flame and Flag, Discus, Weight Lifting and the Olympic Stadium.

Tokyo was selected as the host city at the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) meeting in Argentina on the 7th September 2013. This is the second time that Japan has hosted the Summer Olympics, the first was in 1964, making it the first city in Asia to host the summer Games twice.



Team Belgium - Runners.



Team Korea - Baseball, Tennis and Football.



Team Germany - Skateboarding.



Team New Zealand - Hockey.

These Games will see the introduction of new competitions at the Summer Olympics, including 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX and Madison cycling, as well as further mixed events. Under new I.O.C. policies that allow the host organizing committee to add sports to the Olympic program to augment the permanent core Olympic events, these Games will see karate, sport climbing, surfing, and skateboarding make their Olympic debuts, as well as the return of baseball and softball for the first time since 2008.



Monaco - Tokyo 2020 with the new dates.



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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.

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

response requests for stamp approvals ...

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

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

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A-Z THEMATICS

Unsightly stamps

To paraphrase the Bard, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and that's especially true for postage stamps, writes Paula Hammond. For every collector who condemns a stamp as boring or badly designed, there are others who'll praise it as classy and innovative. Which makes 'ugly' stamps a potentially unique, contentious and personal thematic

Uglies as a specific term, applies to stamps of the Indian feudal states, during the period of the British Raj. There were about 675 of these states and, while not all of them issued stamps, many that did used such poor paper and printing techniques that collectors labelled them 'uglies'. In 1905, the Indian Study Circle Journal published a list of ten of the ugliest stamps in the world which included many from the feudal states. In at number one was a stamp from Bundi (SG 1), which

philatelists have compared to a potato print. Yet the starkness of this issue pales when compared to the true monstrosity that came in at number eight. The 1899-1900 Kishangarh 2-anna has it all: terrible design, poor printing, and a maharajah with goggle-eyes! Despite this, Indian uglies remain collectable, and, just to prove that we collectors are a contrary lot, are admired by many for their minimalist designs.

However, ugly portraiture isn't the preserve of the feudal states. Mauritius and its 'primitives' have long divided the collecting community. Some like

their simplicity. Others, like Fred Melville, are less enamoured. Writing in *Postage Stamps in the Making* he singled out the 1859, two penny blue for particular vitriol, calling it 'the

U IS FOR UGLY

Why collect?

- Generally affordable.
- An unique and personal thematic.
- Issues from around the world.
- Possible to focus specifically on Indian feudal state 'uglies'.

Notable releases

1859, Mauritius, 'monkey head'
1899-1900, Kishangarh, 2-anna
1991, USA, make-up rate stamp
2003, GB, multiple-choice greetings stamps
2010, Canada, Olympic emblems

Expand the theme

Controversial postage stamps make a suitable expansion of this fun theme.

Collecting links

The First Issues of Indian Feudatory States website offers a solid overview of the subject. Visit: <http://feudatory-states-stamps.com>



greatest libel upon Her late Majesty Queen Victoria that has been ever been perpetrated'. In France this ugly is nicknamed 'the monkey head'. Ouch.

Commemorative stamps can be an emotive subject, especially when pop-culture topics are chosen to feature. But are such stamps really ugly or just overly-commercial? In the case of GB's 2003 Multiple Choice Greetings Stamps, perhaps a little of both?

Christmas stamps are generally a high-point of the philatelic year, but here too there have been plenty of miss-steps. Australia's 1977 release, for instance, was damned by collectors who found the whole idea of Saint Nicholas in beach-shorts, riding a surfboard, crass.

Denmark's 1969 Christmas stamp is a fine example of the weird and wonderful world of philatelic-art drawn by children, with a picture of what seems to be a baby-headed, angel-chicken; no doubt the artist's parents were very proud. The Royal Mail began their tradition of releasing Christmas stamps in 1966, and 1999's



First Nativity 64p stamp is especially interesting, featuring a prone-figure, apparently being hit by a laser-beam. In a hobby that celebrates quality and beauty, that employs some of the finest artists in the world, it's a little unfair to mock stamps drawn by children. For me, their naivety is part of their charm. For others, though, the only place for

children's art is on the fridge, at home.

Whether its Turkey's 1977 horrific traffic accident stamp, Canada's 'Pac Man' Olympic games releases, the USA's 1991 make-up stamp, or the boring utilitarianism of Post and Go, an ugly thematic has a wealth of possibilities. What will you put on your wall of shame?

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THEMATICS

The battle against Malaria

In recent months we have been reminded of the delicate nature of our existence and the importance of science. The fight against malaria still goes on, and just as we have seen numerous stamps on the subject of Covid19, there are many stamp designs reflecting this battle. In this special thematics guide, Michael F Birrer describes the breadth and depth of malaria philately

The most obvious stamps related to malaria are likely those issued during the United Nations sponsored malaria eradication campaign of the early 1960s. Many collectors assemble these issues in attractive collections featuring stamps from somewhere in the neighbourhood of 125 countries. A slightly broader collection would include a number of slogan meters, slogan cancels, and slogan hand stamps used during the same campaign period. Going even broader, a collection might boast privately produced stamps and labels. These groups of philatelic material represent the most

common content of a typical malaria collection, but a plethora of additional material is available to those who

would go a bit deeper and broader into pursuing malaria philately.

Sticking with the campaign issues of the 1960s, a collector might care to seek some typical printing varieties – imperforates, deluxe sheets, trial colour proofs, and the like. Digging deeper could reveal proofs, essays, and printing flaws. The United Nations issue, for example, went through two printings, each with numerous consistent plate flaws. Small flaws, often referred to as fly specks, are the result of engraving mishaps and include varieties showing spots of colour other than the shades originally intended.

An even broader approach to collecting the campaign issues could include acquiring each issue on a first day or postal use cover, or seeking slogan meters, cancels, and hand stamps





in their various forms or from the various post offices that used them. A World Health Organisation (WHO) campaign slogan meter exists for each of the eight regional offices around the world. Slogan cancels, on the other hand, often exist for multiple towns and post offices within a country. A serious pursuit might be to acquire an example of the British slogan cancel for each of the 350 UK post offices that used the cancel during August 1962.

Collecting first day covers for the malaria eradication campaign issues of can also be a challenge. A collector can fairly easily acquire a first day cover for each issue. To broaden the effort, however, one may seek out first day covers with the various cancels, cachets, and stamp combinations that have revealed themselves over the years. A significant pursuit, for

example, would be to acquire the different first day covers for the U.S. issue of 1962. Such an endeavour would involve just two basic cancellations but would include more than 150 cachets.

Counting covers with more than one stamp, combination covers that include stamps from different issues or countries, and covers with plate number blocks (four plate numbers x four positions), the total

number of possible covers becomes enormous. To date, more than 560 first day covers have been reported for the issue. Countries such as Italy offer a similar challenge to collectors of 1962 malaria campaign first day covers. That country has nearly 100

first day cancels and over fifty cachets. Collectors have thus far reported 280 different covers. Throw into the mix special event and postally used covers bearing malaria campaign issues and numbers soar.

A malaria topical collection may be further expanded – or created – with philatelic material produced before and after the campaign issues of the Sixties. Several post-campaign stamp issues have been released, such as the 1988 Brunei set and the Congo Republic set of 1981. Many new issues have also been produced since 2010. Perhaps the most notable pre-campaign issue is that of Haiti. These can be found on first day covers and as specimen and proofs. Starting in 1974, India has produced 45 different inland letter cards and fifty different inland letter sheets with malaria messages in up to thirteen languages or dialects.

Beyond the stamps issued before and after the 1960s are a number of malaria-topic slogan cancels and handstamps. Italy used two different malaria-topic cancels in 1928 with up to thirteen different formats or offices. Vietnam used a slogan cancel for at least two post offices during 1931 and a special cancel for the 1938 medical conference in Hanoi. France issued a set of postcards illustrating the ten commandments for avoiding malaria among military personnel during the First World War. These were distributed to soldiers on the Eastern Front. Numerous postcards were also produced by the





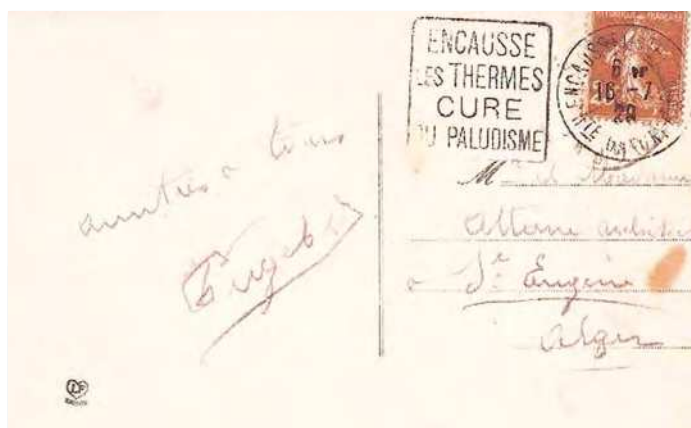
Pasteur Institute in Algeria.

A collector can also assemble a substantial collection dealing with the history of malaria research and treatment starting with Hippocrates' theories on malaria and extending to the 2015 Nobel Prize winner Youyou Tu's work on artemisinin. An area that needs attention is a listing of stamps featuring plants that have been used as malaria treatments in traditional medicine. Cinchona, the plant source of quinine, has been extensively covered; but making philatelic connections with most other plant-based anti-malarials is overdue.

A collection of mosquitoes on stamps is also fun to assemble, although only those featuring Anopheline mosquitoes connect to malaria. A detailed listing of anophelines as shown on philatelic matter is needed.

This writer enjoys the discovery of philatelic material linking malaria and vintage treatments. Containers, labels, and printed advertisements identify the treatments. The challenge is finding stamps or postal matter that connect remedy producers to philately.

From a narrow focus to a broad spectrum, collectors have many choices about how they build a collection with a malaria theme.



FIND OUT MORE

As an aide to making a choice, all of the above categories are covered in the *Handbook of Malaria Philately* produced by Malaria Philatelists International (MPI). The handbook currently contains more than 19,000 images on nearly 6,000 pages. New material is added almost daily, and updates are published each January.

MPI is a group of philatelists devoted to collecting stamps, essays, proofs, errors, slogans, first day covers (FDCs), commercial covers, and other special memorabilia relating to malaria, its treatment, history, control and eradication campaigns. MPI also produces a quarterly journal, *Miasma Philatelist*, that offers a range of information to enhance collecting pursuits. Any interested person can sign up for free membership and free access to club resources by visiting the organization's web site: malariastamps.com



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Chronicles of NOELLA BRY

A philatelic distraction based on real events,
by Eva Mealing

CHAPTER ONE THE CURIOUS CASE OF 'THE LONDON GANG'

PART FOUR – A PERFORMANCE AT THE PRINTERS

Later Noella would whimsically wonder what possessed her to enter the premises of Ponsford & Co. Engravers and Printers at 60 Little New Street, London. She'd reason that if the intelligence provided by the Philatelic Society London's President, Mr Garth, was correct and the forgers had a skilled engraver producing high quality stamp reproductions, then it was no coincidence that the man she had followed from the suspect's stamp shop in Cullum Street was now inside the premises of an engraver and printer. She felt compelled to uncover what his connection was and that meant entering the premises. As to her behaviour once inside, Noella reconciled this on the grounds that such acts of subterfuge were precisely what the *Globe Newspaper* were paying her for.

If truth be known, it all came quite naturally. Noella walked into Ponsford & Co. as if she was an actress stepping onto a stage, and had there been an audience to witness her performance that morning they would have applauded without a doubt or perhaps gasped with anticipation. As it was, her sole spectator, after a slightly bemused start, was captivated and seemingly swept along with her plot.

The pong was what immediately struck Noella upon entering and closing the door behind her. True, outside in the street there was that undeniable foul smell that pervaded much of London, a unique blend of sewage, manure, rotting vegetation, and other unpleasantnesses. But behind the closed door of the engraver there was an acrid burning odour, mixed with tobacco smoke, sweat and what Noella thought was vinegar.

The man she'd followed had now taken off his overcoat and stood in stained brown trousers held up by black braces that were stretched over a cream shirt, that no doubt had once been of a whiter pallor. His collar was frayed and his cuffs rolled up past his elbows. He was puffing on a long pipe, which added a physical presence to the reek of the place. Noella smiled and in the briefest of moments she assessed the man before her, deciding on a direct brazen approach. The man equally looked her up and down, surprised at her presence and blinking several times as if seeing an apparition, he blurted out: 'Miss? What you come in here for?' Noella launched straight into her role. 'Hello Sir. You must be Mr Ponsford? You come highly recommended. I'm delighted to find you in your place of work.' Noella moved towards her spectator and continued, noting that Mr Ponsford had removed his pipe and was staring open mouthed at her.

'I'm Miss Noella Bry, of York City, and my employer, a wealthy and influential gentleman, has sent me to locate the master engraver and highly skilled printer responsible for some exquisite postal effigies currently in his possession, which represent the great and exotic place of New South Wales. I've explicit instructions to enquire if similar productions can be commissioned and procured, and to establish costs and timings. I'll be attending likely businesses here, in the City of London, for the next two days. Are you the gentleman we seek?'

Noella stared fixedly at Ponsford, and after a pause her audience shook an apparent befuddlement, and dusting down his shirt with his hands he cleared his throat. 'Mam. Is that there Mr George Jeffries of Bow who's spoken of those engravings? They were some of my best work those. I told 'im that those were better as good as 'is sketches.' Noella nodded agreeably. 'Now Mr Ponsford, do you have any examples of your work pertaining to

these or others, which you could present for my immediate evaluation? My employer doesn't wish to waste anyone's time, so if you can satisfy that you are the engraver, we can discuss terms.'

At this query Ponsford appeared to be injected with a sudden energy, and moved, with surprising agility for such a stocky man, towards a large cupboard that had wide draws at the base. 'Oh yes Mam. When you see these you'll be assured of my work. I pride myself in accuracy of my detail.' He returned to a table to the side of Noella and placed two files down before flicking through the first. 'Here. These here are my most up-to-date work. Never knew this place existed. How you say it, Ha-wa-ii – strange spelling – but these engravings are exactly as the sketches, 'cept the \$2 and \$5 values. What do you make of these Mam?'

Noella couldn't believe it. There was no mention in Garth's notes of forged Hawaiian stamps, and if Noella's memory was right, the design of these stamps belonged to a 25 cent value. 'These are splendid Mr Ponsford. Do you have any examples of the New South Wales Sydney views to present?' With much huffing and puffing Ponsford rummaged through the other file and handed Noella two more stamps that were a 1d Plate 2 New South Wales and a 6d of the same design. 'What costs are involved in producing these, please Mr Ponsford?'

'Well, all depends on if you need a fresh engraving done. I did those there for £3.15s, and printed 1,000 copies for £1.9s. See it's the time it takes to engrave. The detail is what is tricky with sumfing so small. And the printing is about getting the colours right, so there's wastage needs paying for, but if you employer wants the same, there's no reason why I wouldn't 'onour those prices.' Mr Ponsford pulled a soiled handkerchief from his trouser pocket and wiped his brow which was now spotted with perspiration. Noella pressed further. 'These are magnificent Mr Ponsford. That all sounds splendid. Can I purchase examples of these to send to my employer to gain his instruction? What would you want now to allow for these to be taken as samples today?'

Without any hesitation Mr Ponsford offered 'For the four examples, say 5 shillings?'

'Very reasonable Mr Ponsford for such excellent work. They are without doubt works of art.' Noella, as calmly as she could, retrieved a Crown coin and handed it to Ponsford. 'Very grateful mam. Thank you. Thank you. I'll fix you a receipt and fold these up with it, just a second.' And in a dusty sweaty shuffle the stamps were secured within the paper and handed to Noella. Restraining her excitement she stood up from her chair, grinned and as she opened the door to leave turned; 'And one last query. Benjamin and Sarpy. You deal with them?'

'It's George reallys my man, that is to say Mr Jeffries, who's the customer mam, but he does get me to deliver things to them two at Cullum Street. Jeffries has an arrangement with them to sell for him. Jeffries, as you know, does some of his own engraving and printing, but n'thing like these as they require special equipment.

'Thank you Mr Ponsford. Until our next meeting, good day.'

...to be continued. In the next episode Noella has an unexpected encounter with Theodor Buhl, stamp dealer and editor of the *Stamp News*. Find out what he proposes to Noella before she can confront Benjamin & Sarpy.

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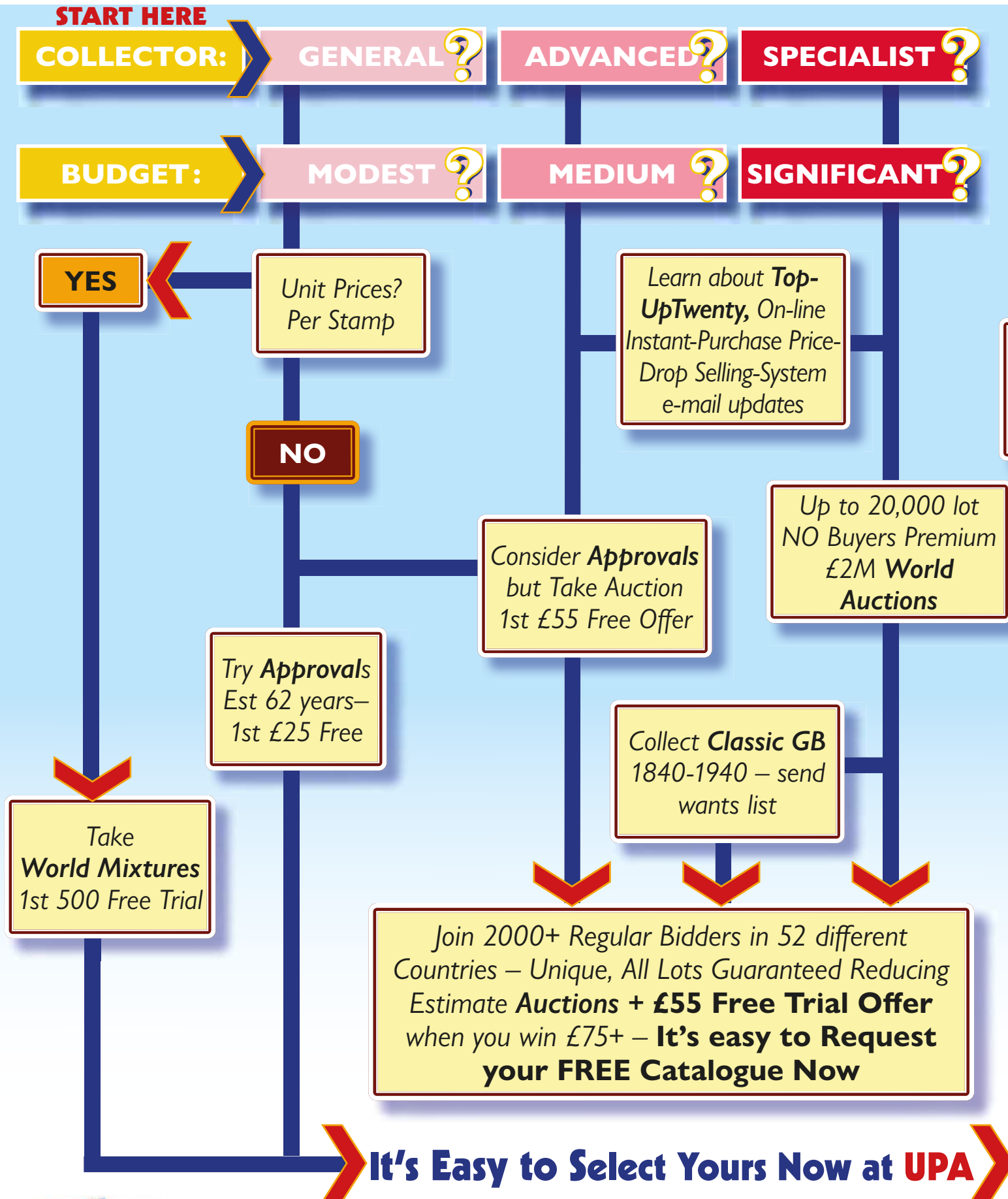
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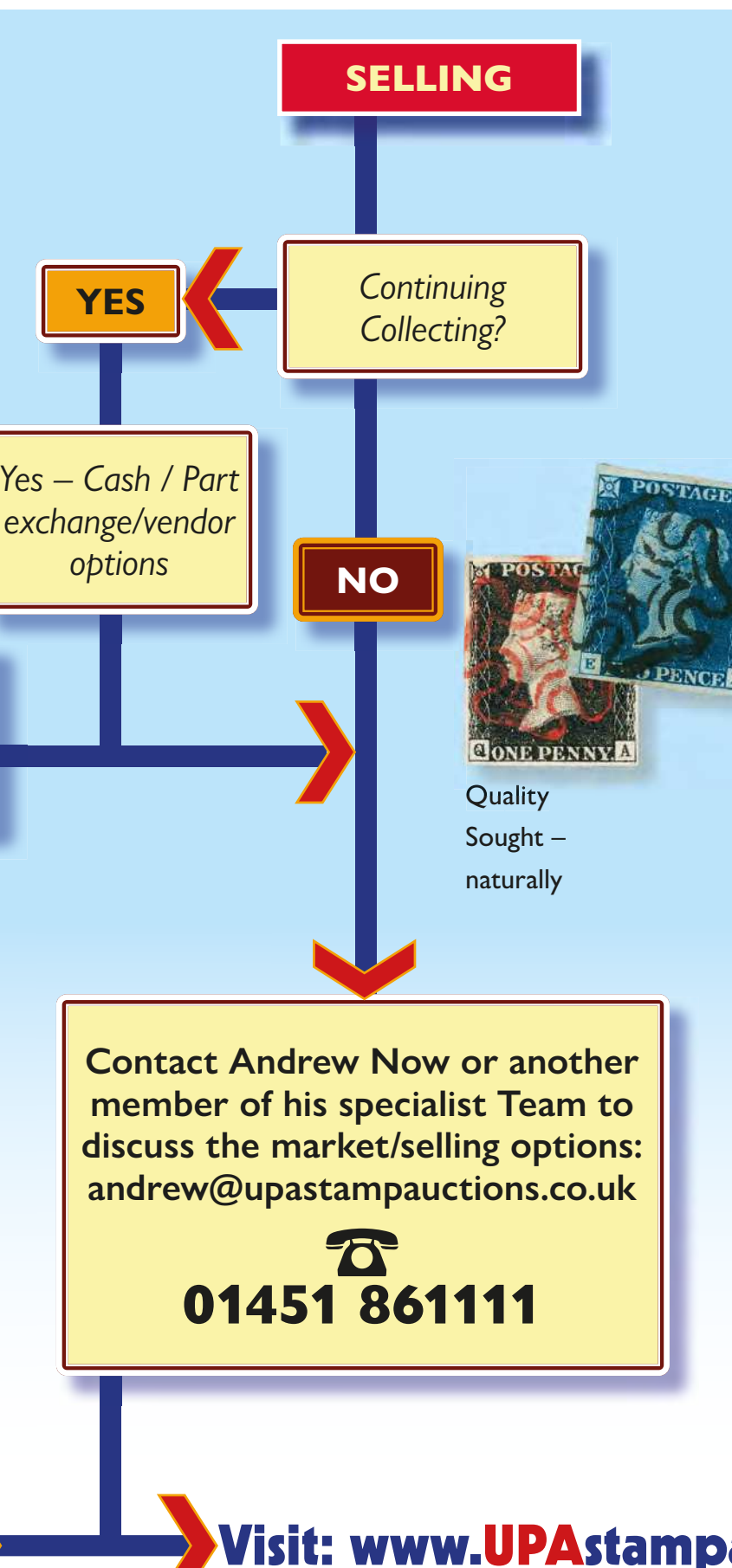
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Andrew McGavin,

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