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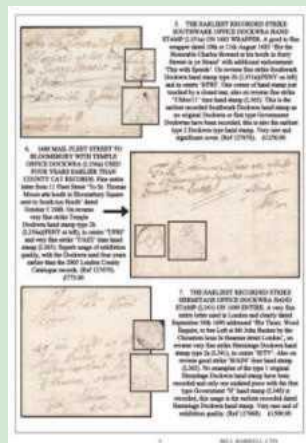
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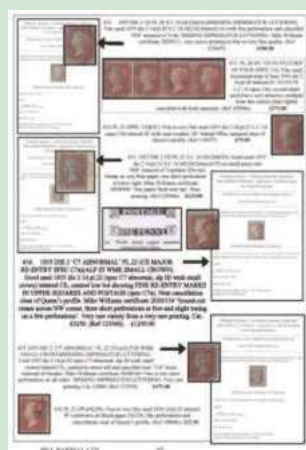
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WELCOME

We could all become co-owners of the the most valuable stamp in the world. That's an enticing prospect, isn't it?

In announcing that it intends to 'democratise' ownership of the iconic British Guiana 1856 1c black on magenta, Stanley Gibbons is proposing a radical approach to the stewardship of philatelic treasures, and making collectors sit up and take notice far more than it did by simply buying the stamp in June.



A cynic might suggest that the company has little choice but to set up a shared-ownership structure, because it can barely afford the investment by itself. Following several difficult years for the world's most venerable stamp dealer, this one purchase amounts to one-third of its market capitalisation.

Another cynic might wonder whether the £5.88m pie will be divided into a million shares priced £6 each or six shares priced £1m each. The details have yet to be announced, but one of these options would be significantly more 'democratic' than the other.

For those who cannot be tempted to invest in a scruffy little scrap of paper whose condition has visibly deteriorated over recent decades, and whose market value has decreased slightly since it last came up for sale, perhaps the more exciting news is that Gibbons intends to put it on display in its famous shop in the Strand.

This will give the British public the opportunity to view an item which has semi-mythical status, having spent most of our lifetimes in America, largely secreted away in a vault. It's a very welcome initiative — provided, of course, that we co-owners are not asked to contribute to the insurance bill!

GUY THOMAS, Editor

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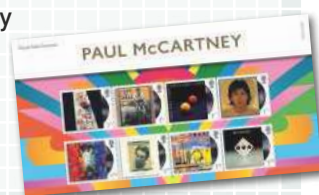
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Stanley Gibbons to 'democratise' ownership of British Guiana 1c

The world's most valuable stamp is coming to reside in Britain, after being purchased by the world's most famous stamp dealer, Stanley Gibbons.

The unique British Guiana 1856 1c black on magenta failed to eclipse its own world record of \$9.48m (including buyer's premiums) when it came up for sale at Sotheby's in New York on June 8, falling short of its estimate of £10m-£15m and selling for \$8.30m (about £5.88m) including premium.

However, the exciting news was the identity of the buyer, and its radical plans for the future.

Firstly, Gibbons intends to make the stamp available for viewing at its shop on the Strand in London. This will give British philatelists a rare extended opportunity to see the iconic item, which has spent most of the past five decades in the USA, and more than half of that time hidden away in a bank vault.

Secondly, the company has announced its plan to sell shares in the stamp, 'making it possible for everybody to enjoy owning a piece of this unique and storied item'.

According to Gibbons, 'It is a stamp that until now has been the preserve of the rich and famous. But this changes soon. In the coming weeks and months we are going to be working hard to democratise its ownership. For the first time ever, you will be able to own your very own piece of the British Guiana 1c magenta.'

Details have yet to be announced, but the firm is hoping to develop a new digital platform to buy and sell collectables, and capitalise on what it calls 'the increasingly popular concepts of fractional ownership and the creation of digital collections'.

The price of the company's shares rose by 10% the morning after the purchase, and its Chairman, Harry Wilson, said it represented 'a highly significant next step in the rebuilding of the world's oldest stamp dealer'.

The *Financial Times* newspaper reported that the firm's owners, the Phoenix Group, had provided a five-year interest-free loan to acquire the stamp, but warned that its price tag amounted to more than a third of Stanley Gibbons' market capitalisation.

BAD LOT?

It could be argued that the performance of the British Guiana 1856 1c was the least impressive of the three lots in Sotheby's Three Treasures sale.

The unique plate block of the United States 1918 Inverted Jenny error, estimated at £5m-£7m, sold for \$4.86m (about £3.43m) including premium, which is thought to be only a little less than its 2014 price when sold by private treaty.

The USA 1933 Double Eagle \$20 gold coin, unique in private hands, exceeded its estimate and realised \$19.51m (£13.80m) including premium.



ABOVE: The British Guiana 1856 1c black on magenta is back in British ownership



ABOVE: Stanley Gibbons plans to display the stamp in its shop in London



ABOVE: Would you like to own a piece of the world's most expensive stamp?

'Accidentally racist' stamps withdrawn three days after issue

Stamps issued by Spain as part of an anti-racism campaign were withdrawn after three days, following criticism for perpetuating racism!

The four Equality Stamps featured blocks of colour inspired by different skin tones, the darkest having a value of 70c and the lightest €1.60.

According to the postal authority, Correos, the price differences were meant to reflect the 'unjust reality' that the value of people might be judged based on their skin colour. It said that customers would need to use more dark stamps than white stamps for any given postage rate, so every item of mail would be a protest against racial inequality.

Although most conceded that the concept was well-intentioned, critics were quick to point out that ascribing lower values to darker tones was 'accidentally racist'.

The stamps were issued on May 25, the first anniversary of the murder of the African-American George Floyd by a police officer in the USA. Following the backlash, sales of the set were ended on May 28.



Euro 2020 set focuses on football stadiums

The Isle of Man celebrated football's European Championships with a set of eight illustrating a selection of the host stadiums, including Wembley in London and Hampden Park in Glasgow.

The other venues depicted were in Baku, Copenhagen, Munich, Rome, Seville and St Petersburg, as the tournament straddled the continent for the first time in its 60-year history, with a total of 11 host venues in all.

Issued on June 11, the day the month-long competition kicked off, the stamps are official licensed products of UEFA Euro 2020, which was postponed for a year as a result of the pandemic.



Vatican City sued over Easter design

Vatican City is being sued by a street artist, after it reproduced one of her artworks on a 2020 Easter stamp

without her consent.

In using her stylized image of Christ, from a print affixed to a bridge in Rome, Alessia Babrow alleges that the postal authority wrongfully used her work for corporate merchandising and violated its original intent.

The work was part of a project which included pinning hearts with graffiti-style messages on a variety of religious figures, also including Buddha and Ganesha, the intended message being that there are no universal truths.



Czeslaw Slania anniversary tributes flow

The first country to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the world-renowned stamp engraver Czeslaw Slania was Monaco, with a €2 stamp issued on June 17.

The €2 portrait design was engraved by Martin Mörck, and recess-printed in three colours.

Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland will mark the centenary on August 12 with a joint issue featuring a different engraving by Mörck.

Sweden, the country for which Slania did the most work, will issue a stamp on October 22, the precise anniversary.

An issue is also expected from Poland, the country of Slania's birth.

Considered the most prolific stamp engraver ever, Slania created more than 1,000 issues for more than 30 countries.



NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ The Universal Postal Union has decided to not register the Azerbaijan stamp issue which was claimed to be offensive to neighbouring Armenia (March issue, page 8), on the grounds that it contravenes its ethics rules.

➤ Jersey Post was due to issue a set of six stamps celebrating the life and achievements of Prince Philip on July 6. It features informal black-and-white photographs of the Prince, who died in April.

➤ A well-illustrated new book, *Australian Airmails Across The Pacific Ocean, 1937-1951*, is available from the author, Laurence Kimpton, priced £20. E-mail: l.j.kimpton@blueyonder.co.uk

➤ Austria's latest cryptocurrency stamp, with a face value of €9.90, is claimed to be the first with an embedded chip which stores information directly on a blockchain.

➤ Ireland has issued two stamps to mark Pride Month, with some of the proceeds from sales going to LGBTQ+ support groups, just 28 years after homosexuality was decriminalised in the country.

➤ Philatelic displays from the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Israel were brought together in June for a virtual exhibition, as part of the Abraham Accords collaboration between the three countries. Visit aaep2021.com

Our Sun as you have never seen it before



A set of 10 stamps issued by the United States showcases dramatic images of the Sun captured by a NASA satellite.

The Sun Science set features digital photographs taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory, which has been in orbit around the Earth since 2010.

The SDO's mission is to study how the Sun's constantly churning magnetic fields, and its emissions of radiation and charged particles, impact life on Earth.

The images were captured in ultra-violet wavelengths, which cannot be observed with the naked eye, but have been colourised to reveal specific features.

Two of the stamps illustrate 'coronal loops', arcs of glowing ionised gas, or 'plasma', which can stretch thousands of miles into space on the curving lines of the Sun's magnetic field. These may endure for

seconds or days, before the field shifts.

Two further designs illustrate 'coronal holes', patches of the Sun's surface which appear darker because they are comparatively cooler, with less dense plasma. The radiation known as 'solar wind' gusts out of these regions at twice the normal speed, because it's easier for particles to escape.

Another two images show 'solar flares', intense bursts of radiation covering the whole electromagnetic spectrum, from radio waves to gamma rays, which are produced by activity in the Sun's magnetic field. Especially powerful examples can disrupt communications and electrical grids on Earth.

Two stamps also feature 'plasma blasts' (also known as 'coronal mass ejections'), which are eruptions of hot gas and plasma closely associated with solar flares.

The plainest looking image shows 'sunspots', areas on the Sun's surface which are temporarily cooler, and therefore appear darker, because the magnetic field is slowing down the convection effect which cycles hot material towards the surface. These 'spots' (which can be as big as our planet) may give rise to coronal loops, solar flares and plasma blasts.

The remaining image illustrates an 'active sun'. Although the Sun is never inactive, its explosive violence goes through 11-year cycles when it alternates between being relatively 'quiet' and relatively 'active'.

The solar cycle is determined by magnetic activity, so it is reflected in phenomena such as sunspots and plasma blasts.

The Forever (55c) stamps were printed by the Banknote Corporation of America using flexography, with foil stamping applied to the illustrations and inscriptions.

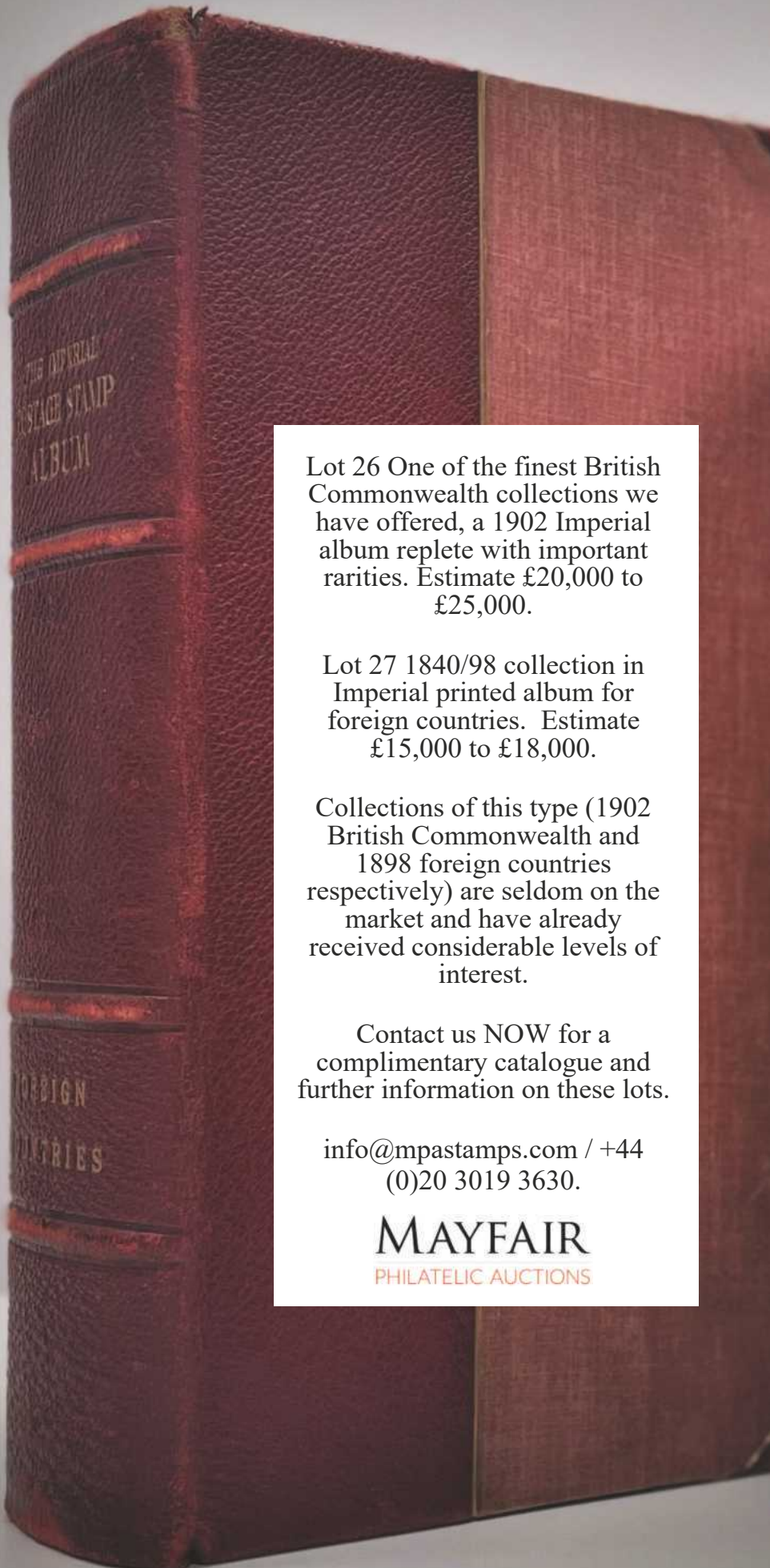


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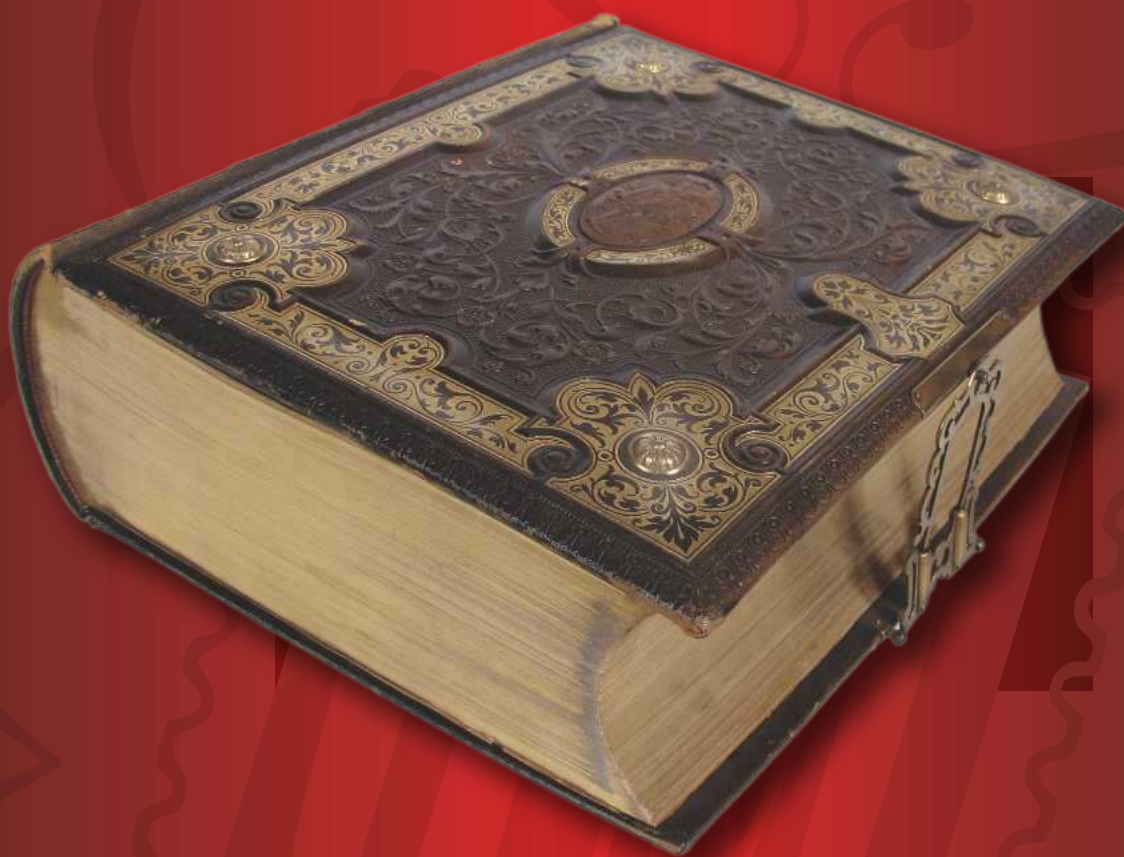
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Contrary to what you might think, or have been told... You really don't have to spend a fortune to enjoy collecting stamps; read on to discover the reasons why ...

In the old days, you go to a stamp fair. Now, You order on-line. You bid in an auction – **almost always**, if you're buying 'identified' stamps, even cheap stamps, they're priced against catalogue value aren't they? Why do 'stampy' things have to be done this way?

One of the biggest problems when I collected stamps all those 48 years ago, (before girls came along), was that the stamps I wanted always seemed to cost more than I could afford! So ... just what is it that made me collect stamps in that way?

Q: What made me collect stamps that way? – A: Catalogue Values!

Yes, catalogue values... That's not to say that there's anything wrong with catalogue values per se. However, there is a simple answer, true even decades later, and even today. It was/ is the philatelic industry norm. **This is how 'philatelic' things are done ... aren't they?**

BUT, I set out to break boring industry norms, creating my enormously popular off-paper world mixtures club more than 34 years ago. Some who were collectors then, have returned and are still 'Avon/Omniphil' Collectors today. Some of those collectors have 'progressed' their collections, so that they now bid in my 'No Hidden Extras' unique reducing estimate (and reserve) Universal Philatelic Auctions – also known as **'The Collectors' Secret Weapon'**

Hindsight is a wonderful thing isn't it?, but...

with the benefit of hindsight, I suppose the problem was that I hadn't set my collecting boundaries to my budget, but it's so easy to say that now. Even so, why does everything you collect have to be related to catalogue value?

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AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

FRENCH POST OFFICES IN CHINA 1876 Rare franking and postmark

David Feldman's auction offered 'the most important item of the French mail in China'. This was the only such cover bearing a *tête-bêche* pair of French stamps, which also features a very rare Chinese postmark.

Originally addressed from Chefoo (Yantai) to Port-Vendres on November 4, 1876, it was later redirected to Perpignan. The Customs/Chefoo circular datestamp on the reverse is known on only four covers from China's pre-stamp period.

From Chefoo, the cover was despatched to the French post office Shanghai, where it was franked with a single 80c stamp and a *tête-bêche* pair of the 10c, all tied by '5104' numeral lozenge cancellations.

There is a Shanghai datestamp on the front and French transit and receiving datestamps on the reverse.

**SOLD BY DAVID
FELDMAN
£120,000**



**SOLD FOR
£120,000**

INDIA 1881-92 Postal stationery proofs

A group of five die proofs for the late-Victorian postal stationery of India were offered at the Cavendish sale.

These included two 1881 proofs in black, for a 4a 6p embossed envelope, both on thin card. One was dated February 5 and handstamped 'before hardening', and the other February 7 with manuscript annotation 'after hardening'.

There were also three 1892 proofs in orange, for a 2a 6p embossing. The first was dated February 10 and endorsed 'early impression' in pencil, another dated March 10 and handstamped 'before hardening', and the last dated July 14 and endorsed '2' in pencil, presumably struck after hardening.

The lot also included a proof impression of the portrait of Queen Victoria alone, on slightly toned paper.

SOLD BY CAVENDISH £9,000



LOMBARDY & VENETIA 1855 15c marginal pair on cover

A highlight of Corinphila's sale was a cover bearing a rare horizontal corner marginal pair of the 15c light-red from the first issue of Lombardy & Venetia, with two 'St Andrew's crosses' in the huge lower sheet margin.

The stamps were tied by two clear strikes of the two-line Agordo datestamp of October 18, and the year of posting is thought to be 1855. The reverse of the cover has a Belluno arrival datestamp of the following day, the towns being about 12 miles apart in the eastern Dolomites.

Dolomites.

The 15c was the middle value in an imperforate series of five, introduced in 1850, which were modelled on the stamps of Austria.

Lombardy & Venetia was part of the Austrian Empire until 1866.

**SOLD BY
CORINPHILA
£58,800**



BRAZIL 1844 Earliest known cover to Europe

The earliest known cover that crossed the Atlantic Ocean bearing South American postage stamps came up in Corinphila's sale.

Examples of Brazil's 1843 'Bull's Eye' 30r black and 90r black were used on an entire from Maceio, in the north of the country, to Porto in Portugal, paying the ship rate of 120r.

Affixed to the reverse of the cover, they are tied by a framed 'Maceio' despatch handstamp in black, while the address side has a 'Correio Geral das Alagoas' circular datestamp of April 26, 1844.

Other postal markings include an oval framed 'C Est de N' handstamp, a Lisbon transit mark of June 12 and an indistinct Porto arrival datestamp.

Only a handful of covers to overseas destinations are recorded from the first issue of Brazil. In Portugal the cover was charged 160r in blue, with a 40r internal charge making 200r due upon receipt.

SOLD BY CORINPHILA £36,000



GB 1929 PUC 2½d with inverted watermark

Spink's auction brought a reminder that the recess-printed £1 high value is not the only stamp in Great Britain's 1929 Postal Union Congress set that can fetch high prices.

The rarest of the issued stamps is actually the letterpress 2½d blue with the watermark inverted, and a marginal block of six realised £9,000.

The multiple was from the top of the sheet, and had been lightly mounted in the margin only.

SOLD BY SPINK £9,000



RHODESIA 1910-13 Unissued £1 with 'gash' flaw

Spink's sale included an exhibition piece of Rhodesia, in the shape of a marginal pair of the 1910-13 £1 scarlet and reddish mauve showing the 'gash in Queen's ear' flaw.

The stamps are from the top left corner of the sheet (showing a small part of the Waterlow imprint), demonstrating that the constant flaw is from position 2 in the top row.

This flaw exists on most values in the 'Double Heads' series, from 2d to £1 except for the 2½d denomination. This is the rarest example, however, as the £1 was unissued in the scarlet and reddish mauve shades. Even without the flaw, a single stamp is catalogued at £10,000.

SOLD BY SPINK £24,000



BARBADOS 1854 Bisected 2d on cover

A sought-after example of the Barbados bisect of 1854 was available at the Grosvenor sale.

This was a right-half vertical bisect of the 2d greyish slate, from the colony's first issue of 1852-55, on a September 11 cover to Hamilton, Bermuda. The stamp was tied by a barred oval '1' cancellation, while the cover was rated '4' in manuscript.

The bisect was authorised for use from August 4 to September 21, when there was a shortage of the 1d value.

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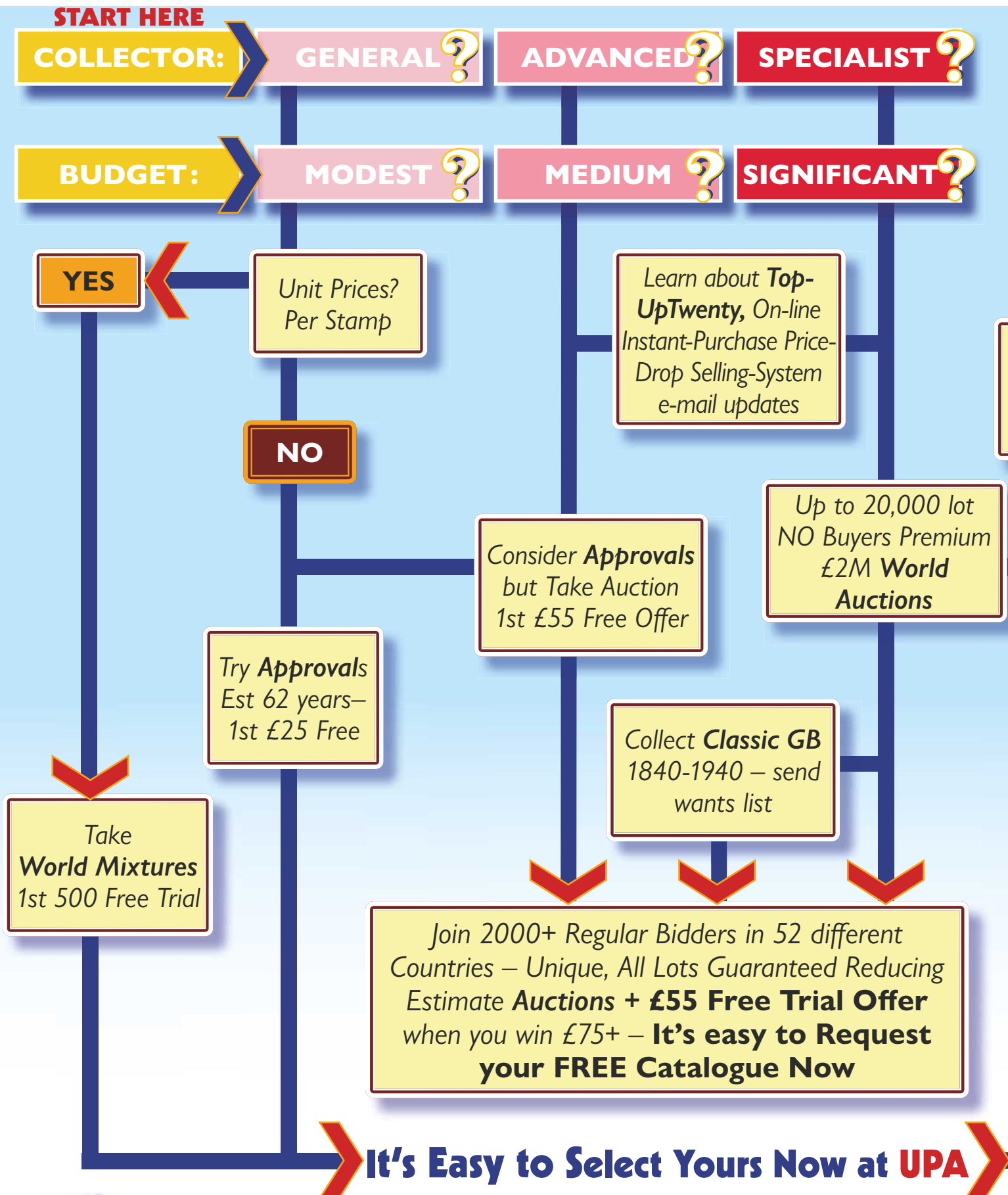
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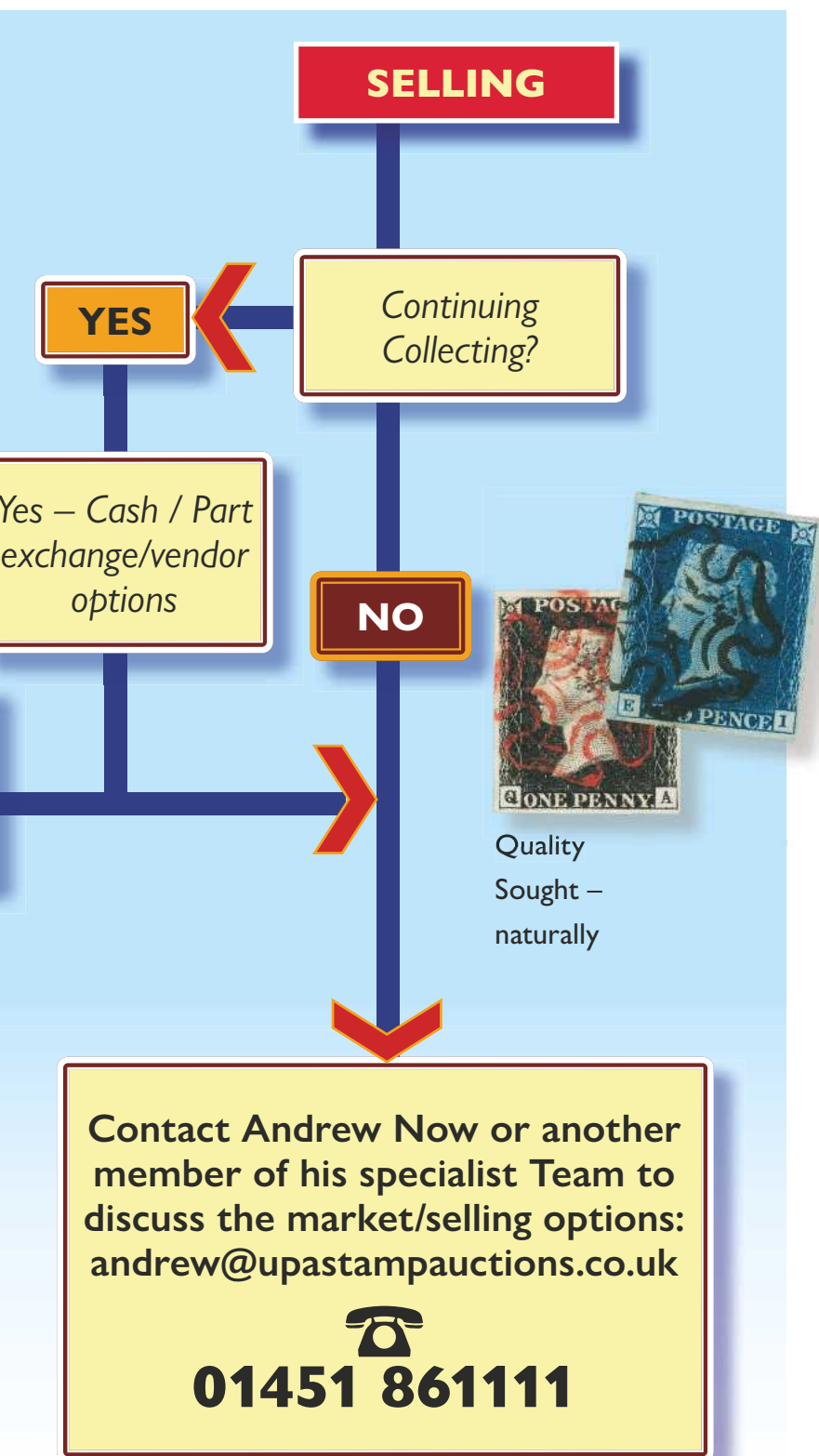
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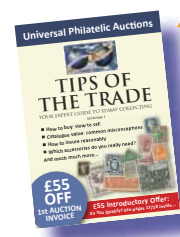
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The 70th birthday of a naughty schoolboy

Released on July 1, the Dennis & Gnasher special stamp issue from Royal Mail celebrates the 70th anniversary of one of Britain's best-loved comic-strip characters.

Tagged as the world's naughtiest boy, Dennis made his debut in DC Thompson's comic *The Beano* in March 1951, as 'Dennis the Menace'; since 2009 the strip has been named 'Dennis & Gnasher'.

With his distinctive red-and-black-striped jersey, knobbly knees, messy hair and devilish grin, Dennis is the archetypal badly behaved schoolboy, who takes pride in breaking rules and causing mayhem.

Over the years he has been drawn by various artists, most notably David Law from 1951-70, David Sutherland from 1970-98, David Parkins from 1998-2006, and Nigel Parkinson from 2002 onwards.

He also starred in an annual publication from 1955-2011, and in animated television adaptations in 1996, 2009 and 2017.

Six counter-sheet stamps, which come in se-tenant strips of three, recall landmarks in the evolution of the character, from early black-and-white comic strips to modern full-colour strips.

A four-stamp self-adhesive miniature sheet, illustrated by Parkinson, is designed to act as a conclusion to a specially commissioned storyline inside the presentation pack, and wishes Dennis a happy birthday.

Designed by The Chase, the issue was printed in litho by International Security Printers.

Dennis has previously appeared on British stamps in the 1990 Greetings set and the 2012 Comics set.

1st class DENNIS'S FIRST COMIC STRIP, 1951

Drawn by David Law, the first ever Dennis the Menace strip had a storyline in which he is told repeatedly by his father to keep off the grass while walking in the park. When he disobeys, the dog's lead is put on him instead.

1st class DENNIS ADOPTS GNASHER, 1968

Drawn by David Law, this strip introduced the Abyssinian wire-haired tripehound, originally a stray adopted by Dennis as a means to gain entry to a dog show, who would become his permanent companion.



1st class DENNIS'S FRONT COVER DEBUT, 1974

Drawn by David Sutherland, this strip coincided with the elevation of Dennis to the status of the regular cover star of *The Beano*, replacing Biffo the Bear. Dennis retains that position to this day.

£1.70 DENNIS ADOPTS RASHER THE PIG, 1979

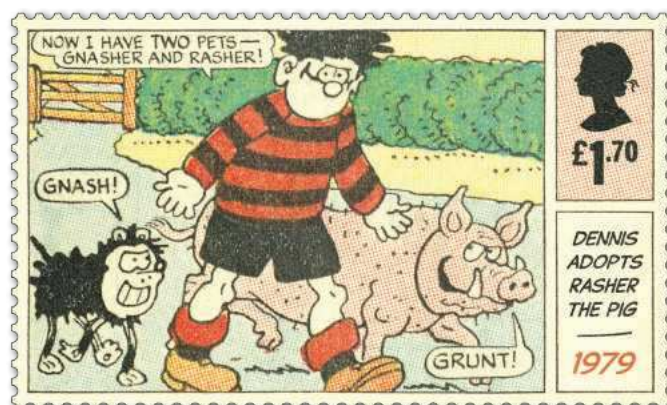
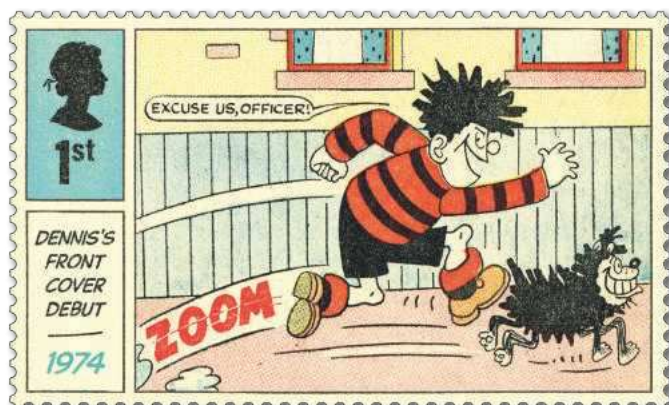
Drawn by David Sutherland, this strip gave Dennis a second pet, one who would go on to have his own comic strip from 1984 onwards.

£1.70 DENNIS MEETS HIS BABY SISTER BEA, 1998

Drawn by David Parkins, this strip gave Dennis a new-born sister. Initially he fears she will ruin his reputation as the toughest menace in Beanotown, but she quickly turns out to be a troublemaker too. Within a few months, she would gain her own spin-off strip.

£1.70 DENNIS REVEALS DAD WAS DENNIS, 2015

Drawn by Nigel Parkinson, some years after a relaunch of the characters which included giving Dennis's father a more youthful look than before, with a less authoritarian streak and spikier hair, this strip reveals that his dad is in fact a grown-up version of the 1980s Dennis.



MINIATURE SHEET

1st class DENNIS

The current incarnation of Dennis, the mischievous schoolboy.

PRICES

Set of 6 stamps	£7.65
Miniature sheet	£5.10
Press sheet	£100.95
Presentation pack	£13.65
Stamp cards	£4.95
First day cover (stamps)	£9.85
First day cover (mini-sheet)	£6.80

1st class GNASHER

The current incarnation of Gnasher, the Abyssinian wire-haired tripehound.

£1.70 MINNIE THE MINX

The current incarnation of Minnie the Minx, occasional accomplice and long-time rival.

£1.70 FAMILY PORTRAIT

Family portrait showing Dennis, Bea and their parents.

OTHER PRODUCTS

The presentation pack contains an exclusive comic strip celebrating Dennis's birthday.

A press sheet of 18 uncut miniature sheets is available, as are stamp cards and first day covers.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

Dennis is a well-loved character, but this feels more like a merchandising exercise than a commemorative issue

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

Reproducing old comic strips offers a blast of nostalgia, although the miniature sheet stamps are little more than sticky labels

WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

This set is for connoisseurs of the comic book genre, and may leave others cold

The 'yarn-bombing' of postboxes becomes a mainstream hobby!

The yarn-bombing of postboxes has become a mainstream hobby to rival philately, judging from recent developments.

Many of us have seen extraordinary examples of knitted or crocheted tops added to our local boxes, or going viral on social media, but appreciation of the craze has risen to new levels.

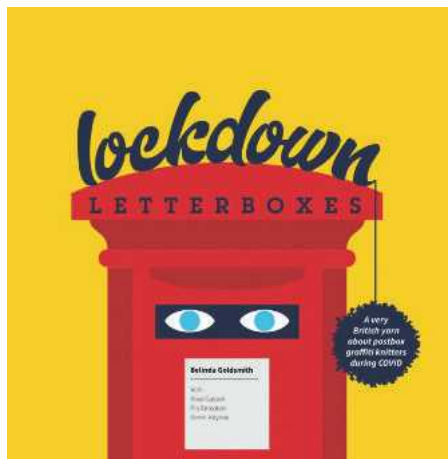
First came a new book, *Lockdown Letterboxes*, written by Belinda Goldsmith and published in May.

Subtitled 'A very British yarn about postbox graffiti knitters during Covid', it tells the stories and analyses the motives of 16 people, aged between 17 and 80, who have joined the growing army of yarn-bombers during the pandemic.

This was followed in June by news of the first public recognition of the hobby, when twins Rachel and Ruth Williamson were given a special award by Rhyl Town Council after creating more than 80 elaborate bonnets for postboxes in their area.

'These knitted cosies make you smile, in what has been such a difficult period for everyone,' says Goldsmith.

Royal Mail has gone on record as saying it admires the passion of the postbox yarn-bombers, and has no problem with the craze, as long as it does not obstruct people from posting mail or postal workers from collecting it.



ABOVE: *Lockdown Letterboxes* book by Belinda Goldsmith



ABOVE: Rachel and Ruth Williamson receiving awards from the Mayor of Rhyl



ABOVE: Poole



ABOVE: Rhyl



ABOVE: Ruislip



ABOVE: Sydenham



ABOVE: Warrington



ABOVE: Whitton

STUART JAMES

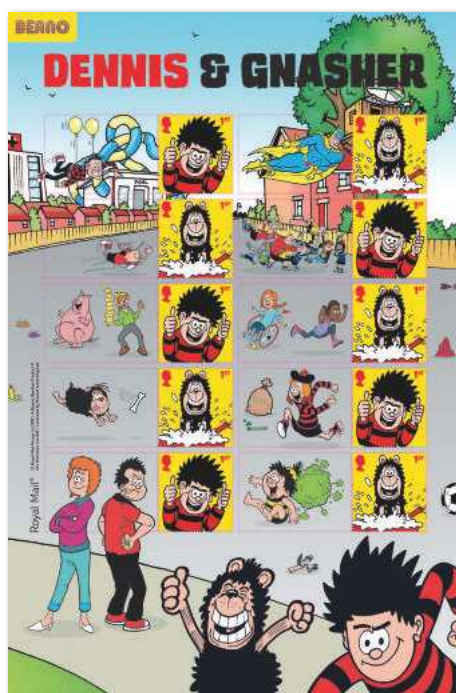
Dennis booklet and collector's sheet

The Dennis & Gnasher special issue was accompanied by a retail stamp book and a collector's sheet.

The booklet contains four 1st class definitives plus the 1st class Dennis and 1st class Gnasher stamps from the miniature sheet.

The collector's sheet includes five each of those same commemoratives, alongside labels illustrating other well-known characters from The Beano, such as Minnie the Minx, Rodger the Dodger and the Bash Street Kids.

All these stamps are self-adhesive.



Natural history focus for new Lundy issue

A new set of Lundy stamps was issued in May, marking the 75th anniversary of the Lundy Field Society, which studies the island's natural history and geology.

Three se-tenant pairs with nominal values of 65-puffins, 90-puffins and 175-puffins, printed by Cartor in France, illustrate some of the founders of the LFS along with scenes of terrestrial and underwater field work.

The featured wildlife includes Soay sheep, wheatear, Atlantic grey seal and spiny lobster.

Lundy carriage labels, which have been popular collectables since the 1920s, can be ordered from Lundy Postal Service, Lundy, Bideford, EX39 2LY. Visit www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland



Edging back to 'normal'

The Great Britain Philatelic Society held its first physical meeting for over a year at the Royal Philatelic Society London on May 22.

More than a dozen members attended in person, with social-distancing measures, while more than 50 joined via Zoom.

GBPS President Chris Harman gave a display on revenue stamps from the 17th century to the 19th century, and Past President John Davies on the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee.



New look for Royal Mail uniforms

Royal Mail postal workers have had their uniforms redesigned for the first time in 10 years.

The latest gear includes walking trousers, shorts, shirts, jackets, gilets and caps, created to reflect the physical demands of the post round, including ever-increasing parcel deliveries.

The national roll-out of the new look follows a three-month trial, and feedback from postal workers.



NEWS IN BRIEF

> The Wild Coasts stamp issue on July 22 is expected to include ten 1st class stamps and a miniature sheet. Details had not been revealed as we went to press.

> The Nordic Philatelics blog reported the postal use of one of the Paul McCartney 1st class stamps on May 26, two days before the official issue date of May 28, and of Dennis & Gnasher 1st class values on June 18, a whopping 13 days early.

> Slogan postmarks seen in recent weeks celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, Loneliness Awareness Week in mid-month, and Father's Day during the week leading up to June 20.

> Royal Mail is planning a launch a three-tier system allowing customers to pay more for specific delivery dates or even timed delivery slots. The concept was mooted in a video message to staff.

> The artist Adrian George, who designed the 1982 British Theatre set and the 1985 Christmas stamps, died in May at the age of 76.

> The Bristol East Central Delivery Office has had its diesel vans replaced by 23 electric vehicles, making this Royal Mail's first all-electric delivery fleet.

> HM Revenue & Customs is looking for suitable long-term museum homes for five traditional 18-die stamp presses, which are being retired after a century in use.

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Letters

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You don't have to buy products just because Royal Mail issues them

As Reginald Keeley-Osgood points out (July issue, page 30), most post offices no longer sell Royal Mail's commemorative stamps. They use those cheap and nasty labels instead.

And as Eleanor Coker complains (July issue, page 32), the coin cover celebrating the Queen's 95th birthday was very expensive at £19.99, being aimed at royal memorabilia collectors.

So don't feel obliged to buy these items! Vote with your feet. If it leaves a gaping hole in your stamp album, so what?

When you go shopping in a supermarket, you can spot all manner of tempting things, sometimes at silly prices. You do not have to buy them. It's perfectly permissible to arrive at the check-out with a basket that isn't as full as it could be.

Royal Mail is not the public service it used to be in days of yore. It is essentially a money collector, with profit being its prime motive. And that isn't going to change any time soon.

Ray Howes, Weymouth

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Does anyone want us to use 2nd class commemoratives for postage?

Royal Mail churns out all these special stamp issues, hoping to appeal to collectors who are becoming ever more disillusioned, but hardly any information about these sets appears to be given to post offices.

On May 4, the first day of issue of the Wars of the Roses set, I asked at my local post office, inside a branch of W H Smith, for a sheet of the 2nd class values to use for postage. The counter clerk was not aware that they existed, and found them only when she checked in the store room.

These were, I note, the first 2nd class stamps to be issued this year. The next one was part of a miniature sheet for Prince Philip, so it cannot be sold separately. I would have thought the Prince's memory deserves better.

Neither Royal Mail nor the Post Office seems to want us to use these stamps for postage. What would Rowland Hill make of that?

Robin Lyons, Westcliff-on-Sea



Souvenir covers signed by Prince Philip

As a postscript to your feature on Prince Philip (June issue, page 36), I produced some covers for the Rotary Club of London which His Royal Highness, who was an honorary member, kindly agreed to sign, to assist with our fund-raising.

I was particularly pleased that the Prince himself was shown on one of the stamps, in

the 2005 Trooping the Colour set.

I made the arrangements through his Private Secretary, who, it turned out, had his own collection of first day covers with Buckingham Palace handstamps. I acquired a few of them when they came up for sale.

Ian Balcombe, Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors



SOAPBOX

To appreciate why the personal side of postal history matters, look no further than the stories of soldiers caught up in the world wars, says Alan Spencer

I very much share the sentiments expressed by Russ Walker in his feature asserting the relevance of the personal side of postal history (July issue, page 50).

Regrettably, this aspect is looked down upon by the philatelic 'elite'. When I raised the question of researching the senders or recipients or mail, during a presentation given by an international judge, I was told it was 'of little importance compared to rates, routes and postmarks'.

I will never enter a national competition as long as that attitude prevails.

PRIVATE LIVES

One of my own interests is the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I. Much of the surviving correspondence is inexpensive to collect, with many common postmarks, but with a bit of research the story behind it sheds light on the lives and loves of the people involved.

Take for example this postcard sent by a prisoner-of-war in Germany to his mother in Britain. With some guidance from the supportive dealer in military mail who sold it to me, I was able to piece together the complex story of the sender, James Wishart.

ENLISTING IN CANADA

James was born on April 26, 1890, to James and Rachel Wishart (née McLaren). They lived at 70 Easter Road, Leith, Edinburgh, with his younger siblings Robert and Janet.

Joining the British Army as a teenager, James served for four years with the 7th Royal Scots. But in 1912 he married Margaret Stark, and in 1913 they emigrated, sailing from Glasgow to Quebec aboard the SS *Letitia* and going to live in Toronto, where James got a job as a cooper.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 he enlisted with the 48th Canadian Highlanders at Valcartier Camp. Even though his wife was pregnant, he made over a portion of his pay to his recently



ABOVE: Postcard dated May 10, 1916, sent by James Wishart from Güstrow POW camp in Germany



ABOVE: Grainy newspaper image of Private James Wishart of the 48th Canadian Highlanders



ABOVE: Newspaper cutting noting that Wishart died while interned in Switzerland

widowed mother. His son, also called James, would be born in 1915.

FIGHTING IN FRANCE

On June 15, 1915, near the town of Givenchy in northern France, the Canadians advanced on the German positions after an artillery barrage and an attempt by engineers to explode a mine near an enemy trench. One German strongpoint was captured, but flanking

units were forced to withdraw.

Following another artillery barrage, the attack was renewed the next day, but, with no supporting fire, many of the Canadians were shot down as they climbed over the parapet. None got more than 25 yards, except a few who were trapped in a crater and could do nothing but lie low.

The total Canadian casualties over the two days numbered 802, including 306 killed. Wishart was wounded in the left thigh and right leg, and taken prisoner.

INTERMENT IN SWITZERLAND

The postmark and purple 'Geprüft' censor's handstamp on the postcard, dated May 10, 1916, show that Wishart was held in Güstrow prisoner-of-war camp, about 30 miles south of Germany's Baltic coast.

Whilst in hospital there, he wrote to his mother that he was being well treated, and given four meals a day.

It appears however that in addition to his wounds he was suffering from gas poisoning, and as a result he soon became part of a prisoner-exchange scheme whereby wounded prisoners could be interned in a neutral country, in this case Switzerland.

He was moved to Chateau d'Oex in June 1916, but died of sepsis on February 18, 1917. He was initially buried at Schosshalde Cemetery, but later re-interred at St Martin's Cemetery in Vevey.

There were thousands of other soldiers, like James Wishart, who made the ultimate sacrifice, and they deserve to be remembered.

Alan Spencer

The wartime cover which took more than two years to travel from Shanghai to Manchester

I have an intriguing cover posted from Shanghai in China to Manchester in the UK, dated December 3, 1941. This was, of course, four days prior to the Japanese attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor which turned World War II into a truly global conflict.

A manuscript marking notes that the letter was intended to travel via Pan-American Airways, a route which would inevitably have been disrupted.

Bearing \$5 and 90c airmail stamps of the Chinese Republic (a franking which is repeated on the reverse), the cover was subsequently postmarked in Manchester on February 5, 1944, which suggests that it took more than two years to reach Britain.

With no further postal markings, it's not clear what route it would have taken during the height of the war. Is anyone able to throw some light on what might have happened to the letter in the interim?

John Molyneux, via e-mail

As one of the Treaty Ports opened up to western merchants in the mid-19th century, Shanghai had an International Settlement with its own municipal administration, dominated by the British. It covered an area of about nine square miles, and its population grew to more than a million people by the 1930s.

The International Settlement remained intact following the Battle of Shanghai in 1937, which resulted in the Japanese occupation of the rest of the city. But it was itself occupied on December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese invasion of the British colony of Hong Kong commenced on the same day, so Britain, like the United States, was immediately at war with Japan.

As for the treatment of letters posted by the international community in Shanghai at this time, we leave that to a collector or dealer with specialist knowledge. -Ed



It's time for societies to connect with other philatelic groups

Despite what many older philatelists suggest, I am of the opinion that there are plenty of younger collectors out there, and that the main problem is that the established clubs are not managing to connect with them.

I see lots of websites and discussion forums and such like, where there is evidence of plenty of interest in the hobby, but no-one in any society is taking the time to talk to these people.

It seems, sometimes, that the blind are leading the blind.

Duff Malkin, Vancouver, Canada

Slow mail to Australia may not be entirely Royal Mail's fault

I think it's wrong to blame Royal Mail for the time mail is currently taking to reach Australia, as some readers have done.

Because of Covid-19, the Australian government has made it very difficult for people to enter the country. Many British flights which would normally carry people and mail are not operating, so Royal Mail has no option but to hand over mail to a European carrier.

That is why you may get labels and transit marks from unexpected places, as reported by Mark Jameson (July issue, page 32).

Long delivery times may be annoying, but surely a cover with postal markings from Estonia and Singapore is an interesting item of postal history?

E Keith Lloyd, Southampton

Decimal issues were a new start in every way

Your feature about the first British commemorative issues of the decimal era (July issue, page 38) was a trip down memory lane. Like many others, I'm sure, I started my Great Britain collection right then.

I remember looking back at the pre-decimal issues and being unimpressed by the lack of cohesion in their designs. But the new issues actually looked like 'sets'.

Gavin Tee, London



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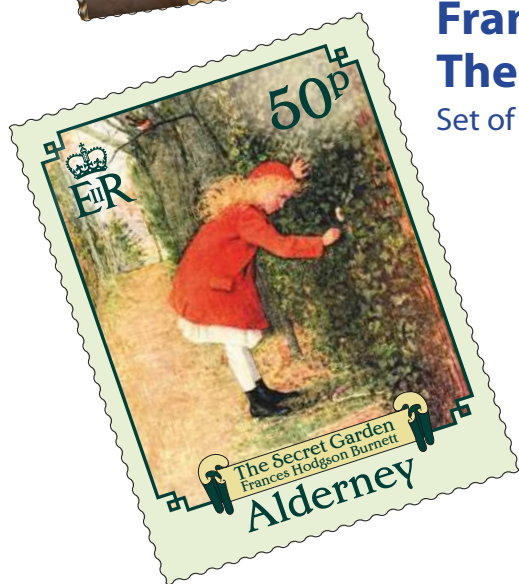
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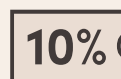
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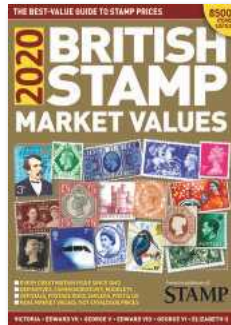
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The closing date is August 12, 2021, and the first correct answer drawn from our postbag will win the book. Good luck!



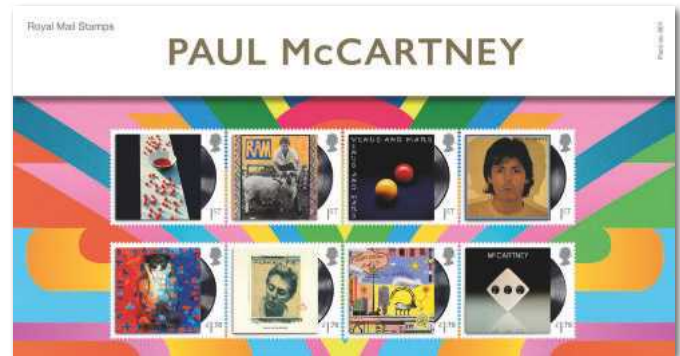
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COMPETITION Royal Mail prizes

WIN

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We have a presentation pack of the Paul McCartney stamp issue to give away to each of 12 lucky winners, courtesy of Royal Mail.

The set of eight stamps feature album covers, while a miniature sheet of four shows McCartney at work in the recording studio.

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QUESTION

In which year did Paul McCartney release his first solo album?

COMPETITION WINNERS

Legend of King Arthur presentation pack

The answer to our competition question in the May issue was Thomas Malory, and the 12 lucky winners whose correct answers were drawn at random were Ailsa McLeod from Tranent, James Duffin from Paddock Wood, Roger Winter from Cambridge, Mark Matthews from Bristol, Keith Brewster from Stanford-Le-Hope, Vervan Williams from Neath, Rupert Summerton from Hastings, Gill Davies from Walsall, Allan Fullarton from Washington, Mark Madeley from Weston-Super-Mare, Julie Claridge from Skegness, and Jon Dodsley from Matlock.

Spot The Stamp

The Spot The Stamp winner from the May issue is Cathy Hart from Conwy, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (right) as a 1st class value from the 2014 Classic Children's TV set, illustrating Postman Pat.



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Olympic symbols

The official logos and mascots devised by host cities of the Olympic Games have been philatelic motifs since the 1960s. Some proved more popular than others

■ Report by Jeff Dugdale

From July 23 to August 8, the summer Olympic Games are due to return to Tokyo, a city which first hosted them in 1964. But the Games of the XXXII Olympiad will be one of the most unusual of all, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although Games have been cancelled due to world wars (in 1916, 1940 and 1944), this is the first to be delayed by a year, and therefore the first to take place in an odd-numbered year. Only a modest number of spectators will be permitted to attend.

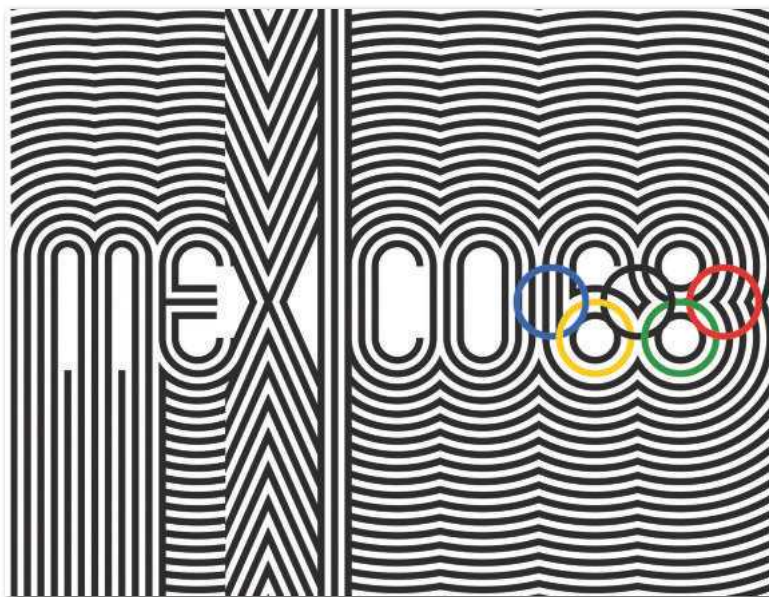
Nevertheless, these Games will be instantly recognisable as the latest in the festivals of sport which began in ancient Greece and were revived as a four-yearly international celebration in 1896.

Olympic options

Collecting on the theme of the Olympic Games is a challenge, due to the number of Games held (both summer and winter) and the range of material issued, which include stamps, covers, postal stationery, cancellations and cinderellas.

But there are many ways to make a collection more manageable, for example by restricting it to specific host cities or sports, or to items

RIGHT: Poster artwork for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, extrapolated from the modernist logo designed by Lance Wyman



issued by host countries or relating to gold medal winners.

An interesting approach is to focus on items which show the official logo, or official mascot, for each individual Olympics.

Global trademark

Of course, the Olympic movement has its own generic symbol, in the instantly recognisable form of the 'Olympic rings': five interlinked rings of different colours which were introduced in 1913.

The International Olympic Committee has exclusive rights to this trademark, and guards them carefully. But each host city can produce its own trademarks, and they have increasingly done so, in the form of a logo and mascots.

Local logos

In the early years, official emblems were non-existent, and promotional efforts were centred on posters. There were formalised logos from Paris in 1924 onwards, but these tended to be elaborate in design and hard to use at a small scale.

Only when graphic designers started being asked to come up

with simple abstract symbols did they start to become suitable for reproduction on stamps.

Coincidentally, the first summer Olympics which had a dedicated logo replicated on postage stamps was Tokyo in 1964. Mascots began to emerge in the following decade, adding a new dimension to the way the Games were promoted.

In the five decades since, there has been plenty of colourful material to collect.

Tokyo 1964

Designed by Yusaku Kamekura, the simple but effective logo for Tokyo 1964 featured a red disc, as seen on the national flag of Japan, above the Olympic rings, with 'Tokyo 1964' inscribed underneath.

It was not used on any of the stamps issued by Japan in 1961-64, but a close approximation of it appeared on a set of eight from Paraguay. Three high values concentrated on the emblem itself, while five low values illustrated a discus-thrower, with the logo inset.

This set is listed in the appendix in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, for being in excess of postal needs



LEFT: Official logo of Tokyo 1964, on a Paraguay 15c value

or unavailable from post offices. Nevertheless, it established a precedent for reproducing the official logo on a stamps.

Mexico City 1968

The first Olympics to have a logo specifically intended to be replicable on all types of media was the 1968 event in Mexico City.

The striking modernist logo was designed by American graphic designer Lance Wyman, and is considered a classic of its era.

Wyman created his own 'triline' typeface, inspired by patterns found in traditional Mexican art, and took advantage of the rounded shapes of the numerals '68' by superimposing the Olympic rings on them.

His logo was used on all manner of promotional material by the host country, including two series of stamps in 1967-68 illustrating specific sports, and more issues in 1968 featuring cultural symbols of the Games, such as the Olympic flame, doves of peace and medals.

Munich 1972

The logo of the Munich Olympics, designed by Otl Aicher, was a spiral symbol, intended to allude to global unity and the sun, although



ABOVE: Official logo of the Mexico 1968 Olympics, used on a \$1.20 stamp of 1967 and an 80c value of 1968

usually reproduced in blue.

Curiously, although West Germany issued seven sets of stamps promoting the Games between 1968-72, none of these incorporated the logo.

One possible reason is that the symbol was adopted by the

Glücksspirale-Lotterie (lucky spiral lottery) which was set up in 1969 to raise funding for the Games; in effect, the logo became more closely associated with gambling than with the Olympics. Indeed and the lottery still exists today, and still uses the spiral logo. ▷

BELOW: The official logo of Munich 1972 was not used on West Germany's stamps, but did appear on issues from Uruguay and Spain



LEFT & ABOVE: Official logo of Montreal 1976 on Canada stamps issued in 1973 and 1976

ABOVE & RIGHT: The logo was used on stamps from around the world, including these examples from Belgium and Bulgaria



ABOVE: Official logo of Moscow 1980 on stamps from the Soviet Union in 1980 and Libya in 1979

ABOVE: Moscow's mascot, Misha the bear, carrying the torch on a USSR stamp and lifting weights on a design from Cuba

Some special cancellations and coins did use the logo, however, as did some foreign stamps. For example, it featured on five different designs from Uruguay, and three from Spain.

For the first time there was an official Olympic mascot, a dachshund named Waldi. He didn't make it onto any stamp, but the marathon course was devised to resemble his shape!

Montreal 1976

Created by graphic designer Georges Huel, the bold but simple logo for Montreal in 1976 sought to turn the Olympic rings into a three-dimensional symbol, suggestive of the letter M.

It was not appreciated by all. Some commented that the device would be more appropriate for a

manufacturer of paper towels, and in other quarters even ruder interpretations were suggested.

One thing it had in its favour was simplicity, which helped to ensure that it was widely used on stamps.

It appeared on most, although not all, of the Canadian issues celebrating the Games, which came in 12 sets in a variety of styles from 1973-76. You can also find it on the stamps of many other countries, for example Belgium and Bulgaria.

Montreal's official mascot was Amik, a beaver, who once again failed to appear on any stamps.

Moscow 1980

The logo for the Moscow Olympics in 1980 was minimalist but inevitably political, redolent of the towering spires of the Kremlin and topped by a red star to hint at the



LEFT & BELOW: United States stamps of 1983-84 did not use the official logo of Los Angeles 1984, but it can be seen on foreign issues, including from the Central African Republic and Egypt



superiority of the Soviet Union.

You can find it on some of the 17 issues released by the USSR in the run-up to the Games in 1977-80, some of which featured competitive disciplines whilst others promoted tourism in and around Moscow.

Of course it also appears in stamps from other countries, such as Hungary and Libya (1979).

In complete contrast was the official mascot, a cuddly bear named Misha who wore a striped belt adorned with the Olympic rings, and became the first mascot to appear on stamps.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tokyo's first successful bid to host the Olympic Games was for 1940, but the Japanese government pulled out in 1938 in the midst of the Sino-Japanese War.

The 1940 Games were awarded to Helsinki instead, but then cancelled following the outbreak of World War II.

RIGHT: Poster promoting the 1940 Tokyo Olympics, which never happened





LEFT: South Korea stamps of 1985 depicting the official logo of Seoul 1988 and its mascot, Hodori

BELOW & RIGHT: Stamps from Iceland and Grenada incorporating the logo



ABOVE: Official logo of Barcelona 1992, on a 1988 Spain stamp and one of the modernist series of 1988-92

LEFT: Barcelona's mascot, Cobi, on a Spain design of 1992, and its logo used on a Libya stamp

He can be seen in the USSR's New Year design, issued at the end of a 1979, and in a miniature sheet released immediately after the end of the Games. He also appeared on a few stamps from other countries, such as Cuba.

Los Angeles 1984

The Los Angeles Olympics' logo had more pizzazz than Moscow's but was just as political, being suggestive of the American flag.

The design, by Robert Miles Runyan & Associates, combined both stars and 'go-faster' stripes, in red, white and blue, in an attempt to reflecting the dynamism of 'the land of the free'.

Although the United States issued five sets of four stamps illustrating different sports in 1983-84, none of these 20 stamps incorporated the official logo. Perhaps the series was designed

before it was available?

However the logo can be found in the design of a number of foreign stamps, including from the Central African Republic and Egypt.

The official mascot was an eagle called Sam, designed by an artist at Walt Disney Productions. He made many appearances in merchandising, but not in philately.

Seoul 1988

The logo for the Seoul Olympics, designed by Kim Hyun, featured bold stripes converging in a spiral pattern, simultaneously suggestive of a running track and a snail shell.

It was the main image on a 1985 stamp from South Korea, and then reappeared as a smaller motif on the remainder of the 12 issues promoting the Games in 1985-88.

It can also be seen on stamps from many other participating countries, from Iceland to Grenada.

'Although the Olympics movement has its own generic symbol, in the form of five interlinked rings, each host city can produce its own trademarks'

Alongside the logo on the host nation's 1985 miniature sheet was a stamp depicting the mascot, a happy little tiger named Hodori.

Besides sporting a five-rings necklace, Hodori wore a *sangmo*, a typical Korean hat, from which flowed a ribbon in the shape of an S for Seoul.

Barcelona 1992

Josep Trias designed a very simple but clever logo for Barcelona 1992, representing an athlete hurdling the Olympic rings.

It was the main image on a stamp of 1988, and then featured as a small motif on the remainder of Spain's 10 issues in the run-up to the Games, which were similarly abstract and quite controversial.

Easy to reproduce, the logo also appeared on the stamps of many other countries, from Libya to North Korea.

One of Spain's 1992 issues introduced the official mascot, a Pyrenean mountain dog named Cobi, designed by Javier Mariscal in a Cubist style. His name was a play on COOB, the acronym of the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee.

Atlanta 1996

For the Atlanta Games, the logo combined a flash of modernity with a sense of tradition. Its brightly coloured flame sitting



ABOVE: Part of the USA 1996 Olympic Games sheetlet of 20, showing how the name of the host city and the logo of its Games appeared only on a label in the top margin



ABOVE: The Atlanta logo did appear on other countries' designs, including these 1996 stamps from Bosnia & Herzegovina and Mongolia



LEFT & BELOW: The official logo of Sydney 2000, seen on stamps from Australia in 1999 and Papua New Guinea in 2000



ABOVE: Official logo of Athens 2004, on stamps issued by Greece in 2000 and Brazil in 2004



ABOVE: Athens' official mascots, Phevos and Athena, from a Greece 2003 miniature sheet

atop '100' alluded to the 100th anniversary of the first Games of the modern era, while subtly suggesting an Ionic column.

An independent company, UPS, won the contract for Olympic mail, which severely hampered the issue of commemorative stamps by the US Postal Service. A sheetlet of 20 designs featured the Olympic rings, but Atlanta was mentioned, and the logo shown, only in a label which served as a heading in the top margin.

In contrast, participating countries which used the logo included Bosnia & Herzegovina, Malta, Mongolia and Oman.

The official mascot Izzy, designed by John Ryan, was neither an animal nor a human figure, but a 'blue blob' featuring the Olympic

'The edgy logo for the London Olympics was supposed to be a jagged rendition of the date, 2012, though this was not obvious to everyone'

rings around its eyes and tail. It attracted some ridicule, including a joke that the blue line painted on the road to mark the route for the marathon was a result of 'Izzy's ass being dragged out of town'!

Unsurprisingly, this mascot won no philatelic recognition.

Sydney 2000

With its abstract splashes of colour suggesting a runner carrying a torch, the logo for the Sydney Games, designed by Michael Bryce, was reminiscent of that of

Barcelona. But there was a clever twist in the way it hinted at the shapes of boomerangs and Sydney Opera House.

The logo was the main component of a 45c stamp issued in 1999, but oddly it was not used on any of the other stamps issued by the home nation, either in advance of the Games or after them; a small gold outline of the country was preferred instead.

For further appearances of the logo, you need to look to stamps from other nations, such as Papua



ABOVE: The official logo of Beijing 2008, reproduced on stamps of China, Croatia and Serbia



ABOVE: Beijing mascots Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying and Nini, in a strip of five issued by China in 2005



LEFT & ABOVE: Official logo of London 2012 on Great Britain's Olympics 1st class definitive and a Gold Medal Winners commemorative

LEFT & ABOVE: Stamps from India and Malta featuring the logo and official mascot Wenlock

New Guinea, Pakistan, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

For the first time, the Games had three mascots, designed by Matthew Hatton: Olly(mpics) the kookaburra, Syd(ney) the platypus and Millie(nnium) the echidna. Again, none made it onto a stamp.

Athens 2004

When the Olympics returned to their spiritual homeland for the Athens Games, the logo was suitably classical. Designed by Wolff Olins, it illustrated the olive

wreath which is traditionally given to Olympic victors, rendered in Greece's national colours.

Greece naturally used the logo on its many and varied Olympic-related issues before the Games began, which added up to a total of 18 sets in 2000-04.

It also appeared on designs in the Greek Medal Winners series, which amounted to 17 stamps, one of which had to be withdrawn when weightlifter Leonidas Sampanis was stripped of his bronze medal after failing a drugs test!

The logo can also be found on the stamps of just a few other competing nations, such as Brazil, Lithuania and Sri Lanka.

The mascots were Phevos (Apollo) and Athena, named after the ancient god of light and goddess of wisdom and rendered in the style of traditional terracotta statues.

They appeared together on two two-stamp miniature sheets in 2003, and in a booklet of 28 designs which showed them participating in sports (although the latter is not included in the Stanley Gibbons simplified catalogue).

Beijing 2008

Graphic designer Guo Chunling managed to pack all sorts of ingenious allusion into the logo for the Beijing Olympics: a traditional seal in red (an auspicious colour and that of the national flag of China), an energetic runner with opening arms welcoming guests, a stylised version of the word 'jing' (capital city), and the hint of an outline of a dragon.

The logo duly appeared as the main motif on a stamp in China's first issue promoting the Games, in 2005, and as a small icon on many of the others which followed in 2006-08.

Where Beijing really stood out, however, was with its mascots. It had the greatest number of any host city yet, and made far more extensive philatelic use of them.

Five good-luck dolls were created by Han Melin: Beibei the fish, Jingjing the panda, Huanhuan the boy, Yingying the antelope and Nini the swallow. Together their names formed the greeting *bei jing huan ying nin*, which translates as 'Welcome to Beijing'.

These mascots appeared on many stamps and se-tenant labels, typically shown taking part in Olympic sports.

The Games logo also appeared on many stamps from participating nations, for example Croatia and Serbia. One stamp from India even showed one of the mascots.

London 2012

Designed by the Wolff Olins agency, the logo for the London Olympics was vivid (to the point of being garish when presented in bright pink and yellow) and angular. Intended to ▷

be edgy and youthful, and consciously not bland, it inevitably proved controversial.

It was supposed to be a jagged rendition of '2012', though this was not obvious to everyone. Some claimed it could be read as 'Zion'!

One commentator said it reflected 'both the energy and chaos inherent to the Olympic Games'. Another called it 'a self-conscious gesture of forced trendiness'. There was even a complaint that an animated version shown on television caused epileptic fits!

The logo was used consistently, as a small motif, across Royal Mail's various stamp issues of 2009-12, including the next-day miniature sheets celebrating gold medal winners during the Games.

It also starred on four self-adhesive definitives (two each for the Olympics and Paralympics) issued early in 2012.

Additionally, you can find it on a number of stamps from other competing nations, such as India, Israel and Malta.

The official mascot, Wenlock, was imagined as having been created out of the steel used in building the Olympic Stadium. He had a single eye and wore the Olympic rings as bracelets.

Wenlock was named after the village of Much Wenlock in Shropshire, whose traditional games are said to have inspired Pierre de Coubertin's concept of the modern Olympics (while the Paralympic mascot was named Mandeville, after the genesis of those Games at Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire).

Many soft-toy versions of Wenlock were sold, and he made it onto a few stamps, for example from Malta.

Rio 2016

A handful of allusions came together in the logo for the Rio Olympics, designed by the Tatil agency. It suggested three people joining hands in a spirit of unity,



ABOVE: The official logo of Rio 2016 as a centrepiece and as a cameo on Brazil stamps of 2015



ABOVE: Official mascot Vinicius on a stamp of Brazil



ABOVE: Games logo on a stamp of Tajikistan

RIGHT: The official logo of Tokyo 2020, and official mascot Miraitowa, on a se-tenant pair from Japan



whilst the colours of the sun, sea and forest were redolent of Brazil; the overall shape was reminiscent of a landmark of the host city, Sugarloaf Mountain.

In the run up to the Games in 2015-16, Brazil issued more than 30 different stamps in a series of miniature sheets, with the logo appearing on most of the designs and on se-tenant labels.

Also appearing on three stamps was the official mascot, Vinicius, a hybrid animal inspired by animated games characters and named after Vinicius de Moraes, the Rio-born musician, poet, playwright and diplomat. A two-stamp miniature sheet featuring Vinicius became the first Olympic issue ever to be inscribed in Braille.

The logo was also widely used by other nations issuing stamps to celebrate the Games, including India, Montenegro and Tajikistan.

Tokyo 2020

Designed by Asao Tokolo, the chequered spiral logo for Tokyo 2020 (as the delayed Games are still being called, even in 2021), is meant to express 'a refined elegance and sophistication that exemplifies Japan'.

The official mascot is Miraitowa, whose blue chequered appearance mirrors the logo and whose name is derived from the Japanese words for 'future' and 'eternity', promoting optimism for the whole planet.

Both have already appeared on Japanese stamps. ■

THANKS

The author would like to thank Paula Burger, Bob Wilcock, Hans Virnich and Peter Hoffman for their guidance in preparing this feature

FIND OUT MORE

You can find further information about collecting on the Olympic theme at the website of the International Association of Olympic Collectors. Visit www.aicolympic.org



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Curiouser and curiouser

New Zealand's attempt to update the portrait of Queen Victoria misfired in 1890-91, producing an image reminiscent of a character from *Alice in Wonderland*

■ Report by John Winchester

RIGHT: New Zealand 1882-1900 2½d blue and 5d olive-black, both with a portrait of Queen Victoria based on the Golden Jubilee crown coin of 1887



On its introduction in 1882, New Zealand's so-called 'Second Side-Face' issue ticked its two key boxes.

Unlike the first series, it combined the functions of postage and revenue in the same stamps. And the reliance upon British printers was ended, as these would be produced by the Government Printing Office in Wellington.

The early printings of 1882-86 comprised seven denominations, of 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d and 1s, with designs successfully adapted from those of 1874, with their profile portrait of Queen Victoria which had originally been engraved by De La Rue in London.

So far, so good. Ahead of its admission to the Universal Postal Union, however, New Zealand

needed to add two further values in 1890-91 to cover postal rates for foreign letters. The outcome would be bizarre and comical.

The designs were determined by a competition, resulting in the selection of submissions by A E Cousins for the 2½d and A W Jones for the 5d.

In the search for a more up-to-date image of the monarch, who was now in her 70s, both were inspired by a coin, the Golden Jubilee crown of 1887 designed by Joseph Boehm.

If realism was the intention, though, the end result was quite the opposite. Both designs looked less like Queen Victoria and more like the Red Queen from Lewis Carroll's 1871 fantasy novel *Through the Looking Glass*, the sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*!

From dies engraved by Cousins, the new stamps were letterpress printed in sheets of 240, on paper with a vertical mesh and the NZ & Star watermark.

The 2½d blue was issued on December 27, 1890, and the 5d olive-black on February 2, 1891.

If the depiction of the monarch raised some eyebrows, so too did the decision of the the Post & Telegraph Department to introduce printed advertisements on the backs of all nine stamps in the series from February 1893.

Advertisements for the likes of Pears soap or Cadbury's chocolate make an interesting collectable, but stamp users at the time were far from impressed, particularly when it came to licking inky gum.

The 'adsons', as they became known, were discontinued before the end of the year.

Like the rest of the series, the 2½d and 5d remained in day-to-day use until 1898, when they were replaced by a recess-printed pictorial series.

A succession of reprints brought varieties of watermark, shade and perforation, so that a representative study of the 2½d stamp alone demands at least six examples. ■

MARKET VALUES

Catalogue values start at £55 mint and £3.50 used for the 2½d, and £70 mint and £15 used for the 5d. Certain varieties can be much higher.



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LIBYA

6015 : 1951 Horserider issues, with Libya ovpts unmounted mint set (less the cheap 10m), French currency (for Fezzan) 192F and 480F u/m, Dues set for Libya mint hinged, and Dues with MAL surcharges set u/m (Michel cat about 1000 Euros in 2002, maybe more now) (26 stamps) ... £185

LIECHTENSTEIN

7663 : 1917-1942 mint (mainly hinged, a few u/m) range in stockbook, includes 1921 Views set (SG 55/62 cat £350), 1924 Views set (SG 67/73 cat £200, top value is u/m), 1925 Birthday, 1928 Flood Relief u/m (SG 80/83 cat £100), 1930 various Views incl 1F20 (SG 108 cat £180), Airs set (SG 110/15 cat £225), 1932 Youth Charity (SG 118/20 cat £90), other 1030s sets, to 1942. Total cat £1900. (85 stamps) £350

LIECHTENSTEIN

7664 : 1945-1950 Little range of immediate post-war unmounted mint sets, includes 1945 5F grey Arms, 1946 10F St Lucius (SG 251 cat £90), Postal Coach min sheet (SG MS251a cat £80), 1950 UPU surcharge (SG 286 cat £65). Total cat £344. (27 stamps) £75

LIECHTENSTEIN

7665 : 1949-1996 mint (nearly all u/m) collection in two Lindner hingeless albums (matching blue multi-ring binders, leaves to 1961 are old-style, later all new style), almost complete, with 1949 Paintings (SG 269/77 cat £100, hinged), 1950 Animals (SG 283/85 cat £110, u/m), 1951 Views (SG 287/98 cat £250, u/m), 1951 Paintings, 1952 Paintings (SG 305/07, u/m), 1953 Scouts, 1954 Football, Marian Year, 1955 Prince & Princess (SG 330/31 cat £340, u/m), and virtually all other sets and min sheets through to 1996. Approx 865 stamps. (Weight 5 kilos) £350

LUXEMBOURG

5732 : 1906 William first printing sheetlet of ten stamps, mint light hinge (1 item) £175

LUXEMBOURG

7654 : 1852-1882 Classics collection on large Yvert plain leaves, mainly used, with 1852 10C Grand Duke (3 margins), 1859 imperf Arms 10c deep blue, 1865 colourless roulette2c, 4c, rouletted in colour 1c to 25c, 1874 and 1880 perforated issues to 30c, 1879 1F on 37½c, and 1882 Allegory to 1F. Total cat c£650. (43 stamps) £75

LUXEMBOURG

7655 : 1891-1939 mainly mint hinged (some earlier used) collection on plain leaves with 1891 Adolf various to 2½F, 1906 William to 2½F used and 5F mint, good run from 1912, all Charity sets (1933 is used), 1935 Intellectuals to 5F (cat £295). No Dues or Officials. Total cat £1200+ (250 stamps) .. £300

LUXEMBOURG

7003 : 1949 Charlotte min sheet unmounted mint (SG 524a cat £180) (1 min sheet) £65

LUXEMBOURG - OFFICIALS

6936 : Officials, 1875 selection of diagonal wide OFFICIEL overprints, with rouletted 25c ovpt up (SG O.84 cat £400), 40c normal and inverted (SG O.86 and /86a cat £775), perforated 4c (SG O.91 cat £140), 5c (SG O.92 cat £110), 25c, and 1F on 37½c, all mint(light hinge), fresh. Cat £1500 (illus) (7 stamps) £285

MALTA

7590 : 1863-1899 mint range on Davo printed leaves, with 1863 etc 2 x ½d wmk Crown CC and 2 x ½d Crown CA, 1885 set to 5s incl two shades of 2½d, 1899 to 2s6d, 1902 "One Penny" surcharges (11) with strip of five, broken "P" variety and error "Pnney" se tenant with normal. Cat c£725 (28 stamps) £150

MALTA

7588 : 1885-1889 mint (hinged) range with 1885 various to 1s (two shades of the 2½d), 1889 4½d, 5d, 2s6d. Cat c£300 (16 stamps) £50

MALTA

7583 : 1903 or 1904 etc Edward mint (hinged) all values to 1s (including the versions with both colours etc). Cat c£280 (17 stamps) £75

MALTA

7592 : 1903-1904 Edward good run of mint (hinged) on Davo printed album page, with 1903 set to 1s (SG 38/44 cat £130) and 1904-11 set to both 1s (no 5s) (SG 45/62 cat £235), fresh and nice condition. Total cat £365. (23 stamps) £100

MALTA

7598 : 1963-1978 QEII mint and used (often both) collection in Davo printed album (black peg binder, new style, titled, boxed), apparently complete for the period, incl 1956 definitive set plus a number of varieties in positional blocks (these written up on separate leaves), also four booklets (weight 2 kilos) £100

MALTA

7587 : 1917 5s large KGV (SG88, top value in the set, cat £100) unmounted mint, very fresh £50

MALTA

7582 : 1966 2d Trade Fair, missing gold, unmounted mint (SG 373 var) £30



MALTA

7589 : 1921 Mult Script CA10s top value (SG 104) with SPECIMEN ovpt, mint light hinge £200

MONACO

7607 : 1885-1939 mint (hinged) collection from 1885 40c (SG7 cat £110), 1922 views set (SG 54/64 cat £100), 1926 etc surcharges, 1933 air ovpt, 1937 views (G 144/48 cat £190), POSTES ovpts on Dues (SG 149/62 cat £110), 1938 min sheet (SG MS163 cat £100), various later 1930s incl Prince Louis set (SG 184/71 cat £90), 1939 Stadium (SG 198 cat £150), National Relief set (SG 199/208 cat £325), also some Dues. Total cat £1600 (160 stamps) £350

MONACO

7640 : 1885-1977 mint (hinged) and used (sometimes both) collection on plain leaves, includes 1891 Charles 10c mint (SG 14 cat £140), 1920s range of definitives and views, 1933 to 3F, 1937 POSTES ovpts set mint (SG 149/62 cat £110), 1938 Louis set mint (SG 149/62 cat £110), Mme Curie pair mint, 1940s and immediate postwar definitives and views plus small range 1950s to 1970s (270 stamps) £100

MONACO

7161 : 1937 Charity Views & Prince, fine used (SG 144/48, cat £190) (5 stamps) £65

MONACO

7392 : 1955-1960 little mint hinged selection on leaves, with commems, and a few better definitives including 1960 Airs 3F and 5F Royal Couple. Total cat £245 (39 stamps) £45

MONACO

7641 : 1939 National Relief set mint light hinge (SG 199/208 cat £325) (10 stamps) £100

POLAND

6806 : 1928 Warsaw Exhibition, strip of two stamps plus gutter label from the centre of the min sheet (SG exMS270, mint light hinge) (2 stamps) ... £50

POLAND

6196 : Romania Visit set of three miniature sheets u/m (SG 332a/c cat £93) (3 min sheets) £35

POLAND

6844 : 1938 Stratosphere Balloon min sheet mint light hinge (SG MS335b cat £120) (1 stamp) ...£30

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Building big

Some of Britain's rarest postal history came from the temporary camps established to construct Scottish hydroelectric and nuclear power plants

■ Report by Norman Watson

Postal historians should always be on the lookout for camp postmarks, but they tend to focus on mail from military establishments such as army camps or prisoner-of-war camps. More elusive are covers from short-lived civilian construction camps.

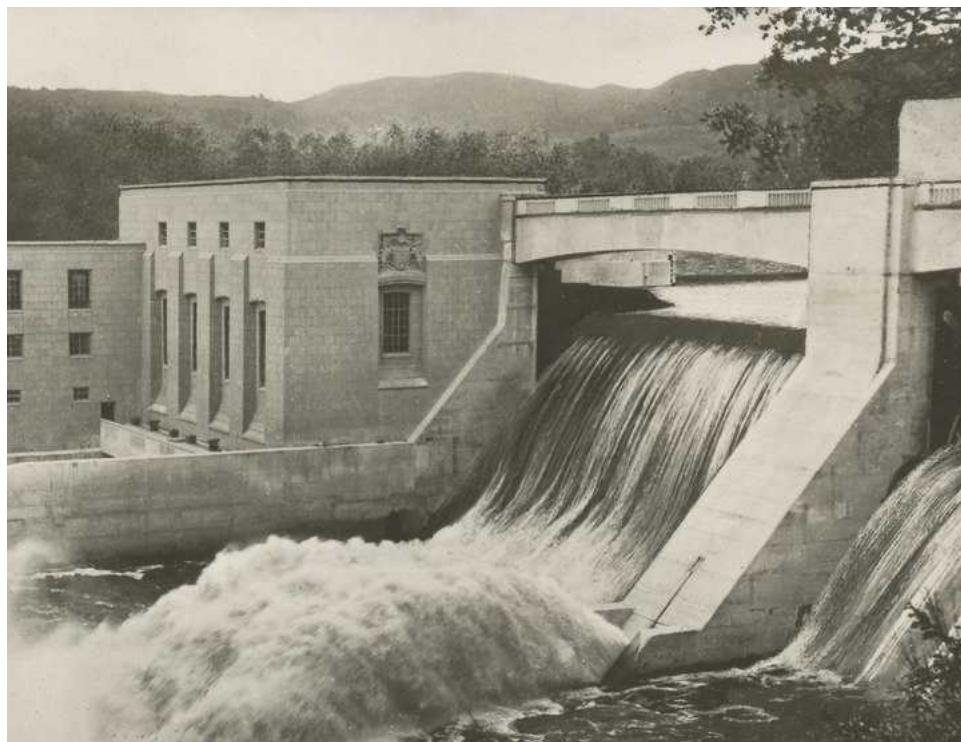
This branch of postal history is something of a Scottish speciality, primarily because of the number of dams which were built in the Highlands to provide hydroelectric power in the mid-20th century.

Temporary construction camps were sizeable communities which could employ thousands of men engaged on huge civil engineering projects, and they had post offices with their own handstamps issued to them. Yet it is a philatelic curiosity that these remain among the rarest of 20th-century British cancellations.

Most survive in very small numbers. Some are known only from proof books, and have never been recorded on cover.

Hydro power

How best to harness renewable sources of energy is not a new question for the 21st century. Three generations ago, a remarkable attempt to turn Scotland's free-flowing rivers and lochs into



ABOVE: The imposing Pitlochry Dam and hydroelectric power station in Perthshire, which was built by workers living in a temporary construction camp between 1947-51

sources of power was underway.

The Hydro-Electric Development (Scotland) Act, passed in 1943, nationalised this development, enabling the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board to begin making wilderness landscapes productive.

From the late 1940s, more than 20 major schemes were launched to harness the flow of water, and by

1965 this would result in the building of 54 hydroelectric power stations.

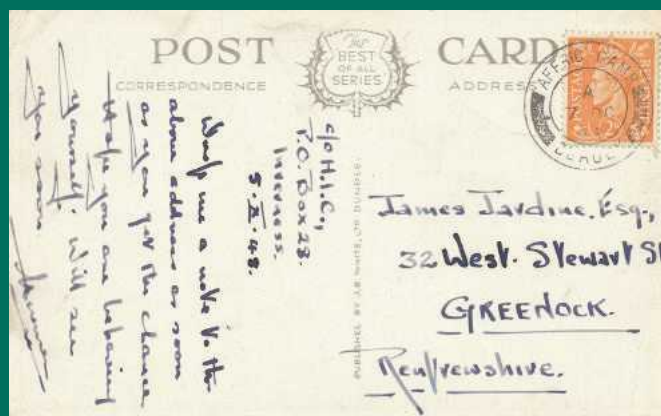
These projects were massive in scale, and heavily labour-intensive. They involved establishing large workers' camps throughout the Highlands, and building hundreds of miles of access roads and tunnels, as well as some of the biggest dams in Britain. ▷

AFFRIC CAMP, 1948

The Eastern slopes of the West Highlands, drained by the tributaries of the River Beauly, were recognised by the Government as early as 1918 as one of the nine great potential sources of water power running to waste in the Highlands. It was not until 1947, however, that a plan to develop these resources was approved.

Workers at Affric Camp had to rebuild the road up Glen Cannich before building work on the hydroelectric dam itself could begin.

The Affric Camp double-ring datestamp is seen here cancelling a King George VI 2d definitive on a postcard to Greenock dated October 7, 1948.



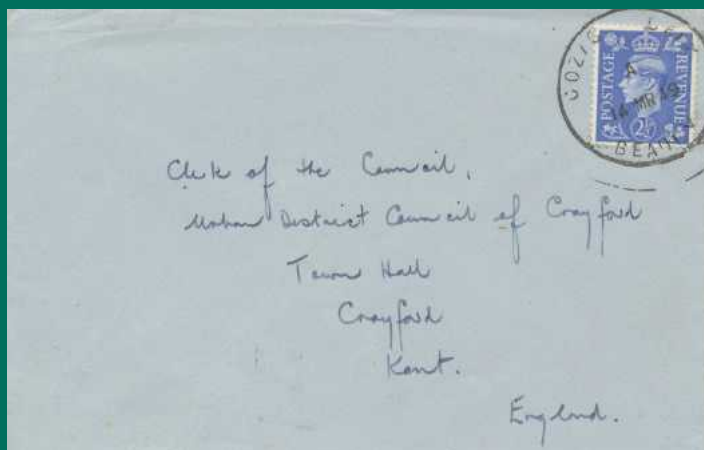
COZAC CAMP, 1949

Cozac Camp, about 15 miles north-west of Loch Ness, was built for the Mullardoch-Fasnakyle-Affric hydroelectric scheme.

Approved in 1947, this ambitious scheme included the Mullardoch Dam, the largest ever built by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, at 727m long and 48m high. Besides the main power station at Fasnakyle, there are smaller underground stations generating power in the tunnels which connect a series of dammed lochs.

The Cozac Camp handstamp is the only known skeleton cancellation from a Scottish hydro camp, and is seen here cancelling a 2½d definitive on a cover to Kent dated March 14, 1949.

Other examples of this postmark show the duty code 'A' located between 'Cozag' and 'Camp'.



PORT-NA-CRAIG CAMP, 1950

The Port-na-Craig camp was responsible for building the power station on the River Tummel near Pitlochry in Perthshire.

The dam created the beautiful Loch Faskally, and is famous for its ingenious 310m salmon ladder, which allows the fish to pass upriver to their spawning grounds.

Its post office opened when work started in November 1947, and closed when the dam was completed four years later.

The Port-na-Craig Camp single-ring handstamp is seen here on a registered cover to Slough on May 16, 1950, with the 2½d postage and 4d registration fee paid by way of 6d and ½d definitives.



CAMP CANCELLATIONS

Some 20 hydroelectric and nuclear construction camps in Scotland had a temporary post office and a 'camp' cancellation. Dates of use are listed here, as far as is known, although in some cases this may mean only two examples are recorded.

- **Achilty Camp, Strathpeffer**
(hydroelectric dam)
no recorded usage
- **Affric Camp, Beaulieu**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1948-52
- **Aultgish Camp, Garve, Ross-shire**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1953-57
- **Chapelcross Camp, Annan, Dumfriesshire**
(nuclear power station)
double-ring and parcel handstamps, 1959
- **Cluanie Camp, Inverness**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1955-56
- **Comrie Camp, Perthshire**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1955-56
- **Cozac A Camp, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire**
(hydroelectric dam)
skeleton handstamp 1948-49, double-ring 1949-51
- **Dalcroy Camp, Pitlochry, Perthshire**
(hydroelectric dam)
no recorded usage
- **Dounreay Camp, Thurso, Caithness**
(nuclear power station)
double-ring handstamp, 1955-58
- **Fannich Camp, Ross-shire**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1947-52
- **Farrar Camp, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp, 1962-63
- **Fersit Camp, Inverness-shire**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1932-34
- **Kenknock Camp, Killin, Perthshire**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp, 1959
- **Kingie Camp, Invergarry**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp, 1952-54
- **Kishorn Camp, Ross-shire**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp, 1977
- **Loch Stack Camp, Lairg, Sutherland**
(hydroelectric dam)
double-ring handstamp, 1937-38
- **Port-na-Craig Camp, Pitlochry, Perthshire**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp, 1947-50
- **Seton Camp, Longniddry, East Lothian**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp, 1959-60
- **Tirarthur Camp, Killin, Perthshire**
(hydroelectric dam)
single-ring handstamp 1954
- **Tummel Falls Camp, Pitlochry, Perthshire**
(hydroelectric dam)
no recorded usage

Nuclear power

Similar motives drove the later push for nuclear power, driven by the establishment of the UK Atomic Energy Authority in 1956.

In the late 1950s, Britain's first fast breeder reactor was built at Dounreay in the north of Scotland, and a magnox reactor at Chapelcross in the south, adding an extra dimension to construction camp mail.

Camp life

Each camp normally held between 1,000 and 3,000 men, and there was always a high turnover as they signed up for limited periods.

The majority were Highlanders, but the workforce also included many Irishmen, Poles and Czechs. The early schemes even employed more than 1,500 German former prisoners of war, until their repatriation in 1948.

Typically, the workers were accommodated in timber or prefabricated steel (Nissen) huts, which were grouped around a central, larger building, where they gathered to eat and for recreation.

Dounreay Camp, for example, had five separate sleeping units, and communal facilities which included a 1,500-seat dining room, games rooms, a hospital, a library, a shop and a social club.

Camps might also have a sports ground, and put on dances, cinema shows and live entertainment. But they were quickly dismantled once the construction job was finished.

Tough conditions

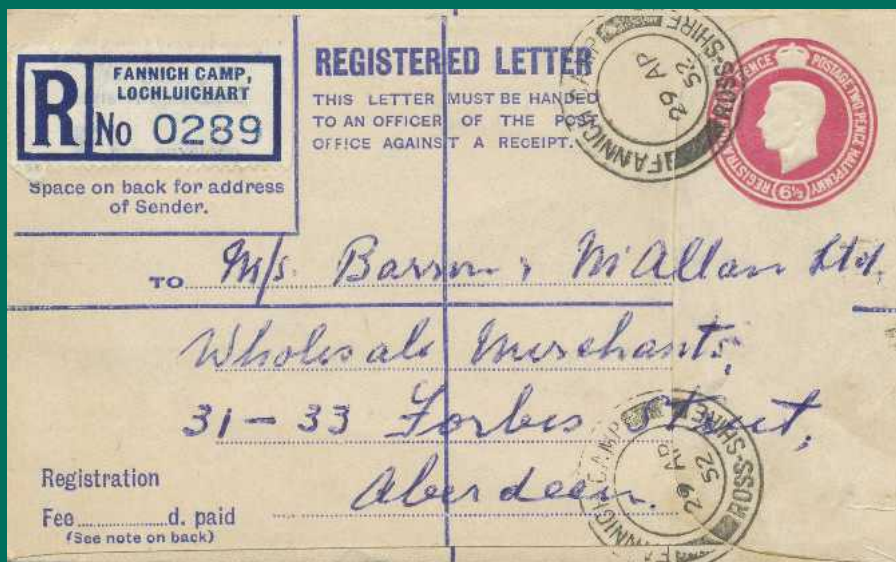
The camps were typically located in wild and inhospitable places,

FANNICH CAMP, 1952

Fannich camp, 15 miles north-west of Strathpeffer in Ross & Cromarty, was part of the Conan hydroelectric power project of 1946-61, which included seven dams and seven power stations, as well as 20 miles of tunnels and 15 miles of aqueducts.

Two strikes of the Fannich Camp double-ring datestamp are seen here on a 6½d registered postal stationery envelope sent to Aberdeen, dated April 29, 1952.

The registration label adds the 'Lochluichart' location of the camp.



'Temporary sub-post offices were established in many construction camps, with handstamps allocated specially to them'

where access roads could take months to build.

Some dams were constructed at nearly 3,000 feet above sea level, and one had an annual rainfall figure of 105 inches, four times the Scottish average.

Handling the gelignite required for tunnelling was a hazardous business, resulting in high accident rates. At Cluanie Camp near

Inverness, for example, there were 22 fatalities in a period of two and a half years.

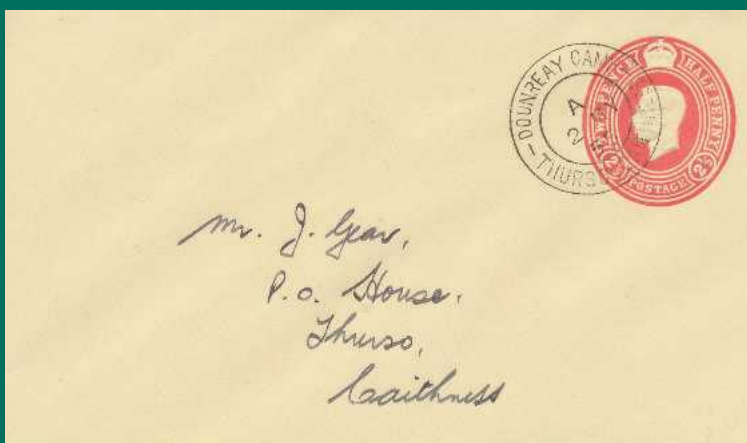
On the other hand, earnings were potentially huge. Dam labourers could easily double the 1950 average weekly wage of £6 8s; joiners could collect £15-£20, and tunnellers (known as 'tunnel tigers') more than £30, with bonuses.

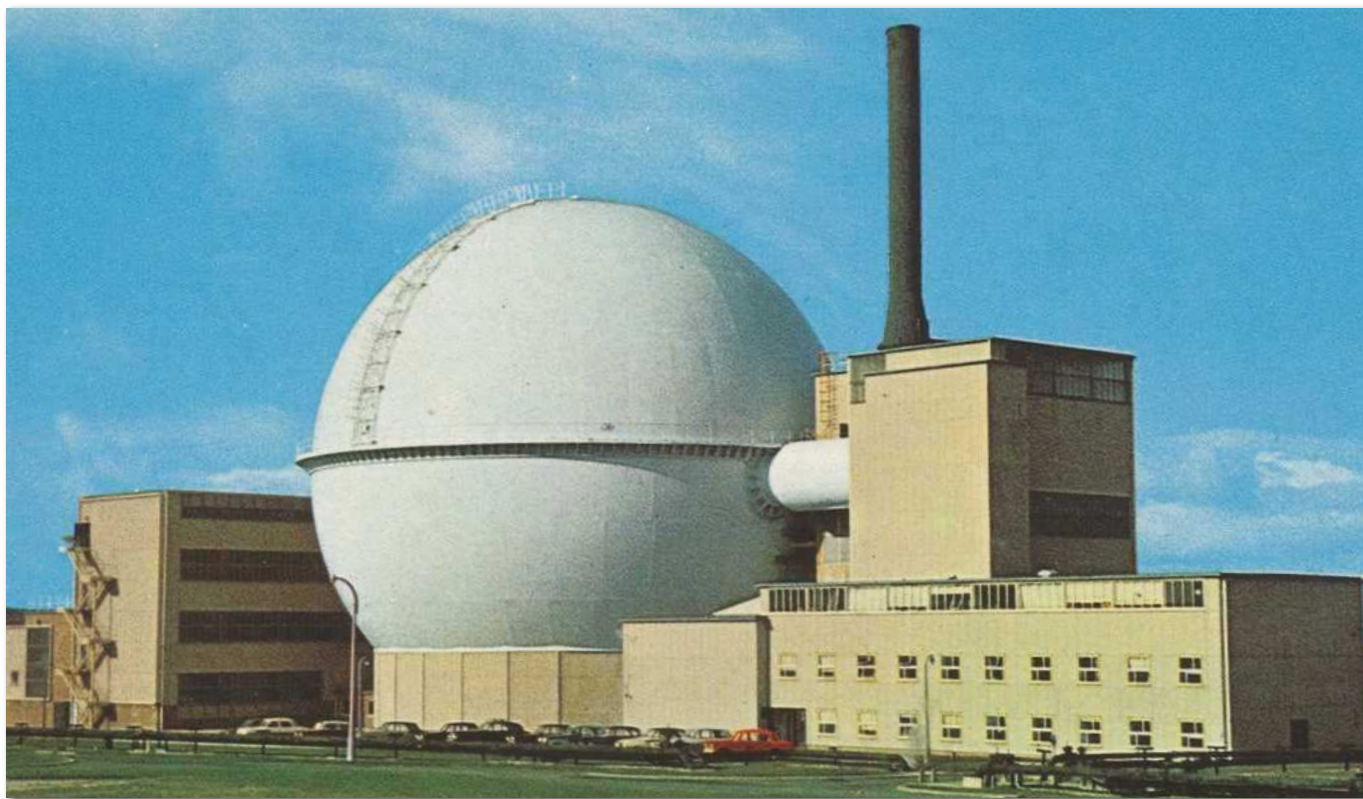
DOUNREAY CAMP, 1955

Dounreay, on the tip of Britain's northern coastline, was chosen as the site of a nuclear power station because it was in a remote, sparsely populated area, at a time when much less was known than today about the safe operation of such plants.

Dounreay Camp was set up in March 1955, and at the height of the building work it was home to 1,800 workers.

Its double-ring datestamp is seen here on a rather rare domestic (and late) use of a King George VI 2½d postal stationery envelope, addressed to Thurso on May 2, 1955.





ABOVE: Dounreay nuclear reactor, whose construction camp was home to as many as 1,800 workers from 1955-58, and had its own sub-post office

Camp handstamps

Temporary sub-post offices were established in many construction camps, with handstamps allocated specially to them.

These cancellations comprised

single and double-ring datestamps, skeleton cancellers and parcel handstamps. They always included the word 'Camp', and usually the name of the nearest town or the county in

which it was located, or both.

The style of the double-ring datestamps reflected the change from the obsolescent thick arcs to the modern thinner arcs during the period. Some of them had duty code letters.

COMRIE CAMP, 1956

During World War II, Cultybraggan Camp at Comrie in Perthshire had been used to detain some of Nazi Germany's elite troops, including members of the Gestapo. In peacetime, 10 years later, some of them found themselves back there as construction workers for a hydroelectric project!

Five examples of the double-ring handstamp of the short-lived Comrie Camp are seen here on a registered envelope to Edinburgh dated March 2, 1956, franked with one 2½d and four 1½d Queen Elizabeth II definitives.



Collectors' challenge

You need to work hard to build up a collection of these scarce postmarks.

Although 20 construction camp cancellations are recorded, they are not listed in Stanley Gibbons' *Collect British Postmarks*, and are often absent from records of Scottish post offices.

The postal historian James Mackay, author of a dozen publications on Scottish postmarks, noted that 'Very little is known about these construction camp postmarks, and virtually nothing is recorded.'

Many experienced dealers have never come across a construction camp cover, and you can wait years between examples appearing at auction or on eBay.

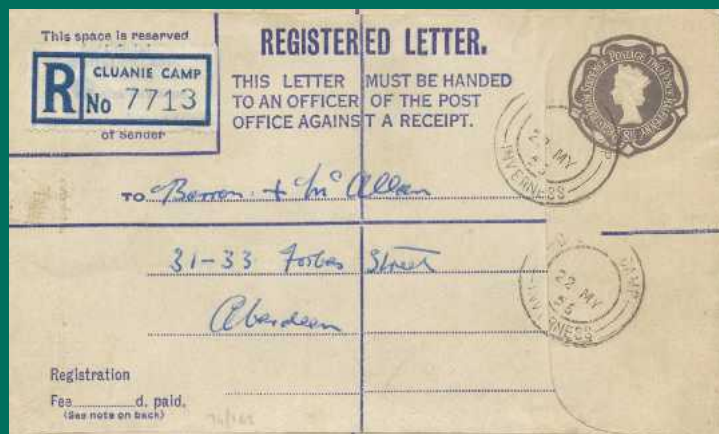
Postmark rarities

No example is known of the cancellation allocated to Tummel Falls Camp post office in Perthshire, which opened in 1947, nor of that used by Dalcroy

CLUANIE CAMP, 1956

Cluanie Camp was created to house workers during construction of the enormous Cluanie Dam in Inverness-shire, part of the Garry-Moriston hydroelectric scheme in the Great Glen. Building the dam raised the water level in Loch Cluanie by some 29m.

Two strikes of the Cluanie Camp double-ring handstamp are seen here on an 8½d registered envelope to Aberdeen, dated May 22, 1956.



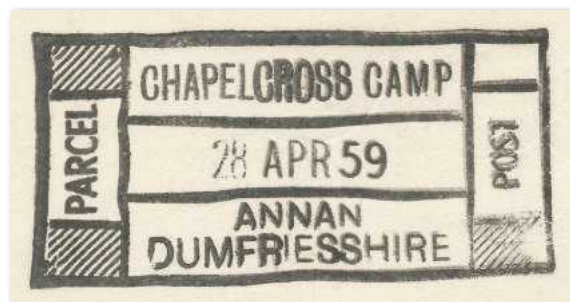
'You will need to work hard to build up a collection of postmarks from these post offices, as many of them are rare'

FARRAR CAMP, 1962

The Farrar Camp sub-post office served the 700-strong workforce engaged on damming the River Farrar as part of the massive Affric-Beauly hydroelectric scheme, north of Loch Ness.

The four strikes of its single-ring handstamp seen on this registered letter sent to Memphis, Tennessee, probably constitute half of all known examples!

Dated August 6, 1962, the 6d air letter was uprated by means of a trio of 6d definitives to make up the 2s registration rate to the USA.



ABOVE: Parcel post handstamp of Chapelcross Camp, which housed 1,500 men building the nuclear power station of that name near Annan

Camp near Pitlochry, which was open for just two weeks in 1949.

Achilty Camp in Ross-shire is known only from a registration label, while only a single handstamp is recorded from each of Tirarthur Camp and Kenknock Camp, which were set up at different times near Killin in Perthshire.

The Comrie Camp cancellation was known only from a proof held in the strongroom at Crieff Post Office, and a strike on a small piece, until a cover turned up in recent times.

Similarly, the postal history dealer David Shaw (a Highlander himself) had not seen an example of the Kingie Camp handstamp on cover in over 30 years, until one appeared in 2019.

Even the Port-Craig Camp cancellation from the construction of Pitlochry Dam (which is famous for its salmon ladder and has a visitor centre for tourists), is known only from two or three strikes.

Post office practice

The paucity of surviving examples is partly because many of the workers had little reason to use the camp post offices.

Most local men went home to their families at weekends, while the letters sent by many non-locals will inevitably have ended up overseas.

Camp sub-offices also opened for limited hours, and some were seasonal.

Moreover, a high percentage of the known cancellations are on registered envelopes, which suggests that the handstamps may not have been used for routine mail, but only for counter work and registered items.

Ordinary mail was probably taken to the nearest post town for sorting and cancellation; this was certainly the procedure at Port-na-Craig Camp in Perthshire, where mail was taken to Pitlochry. ■

THANKS

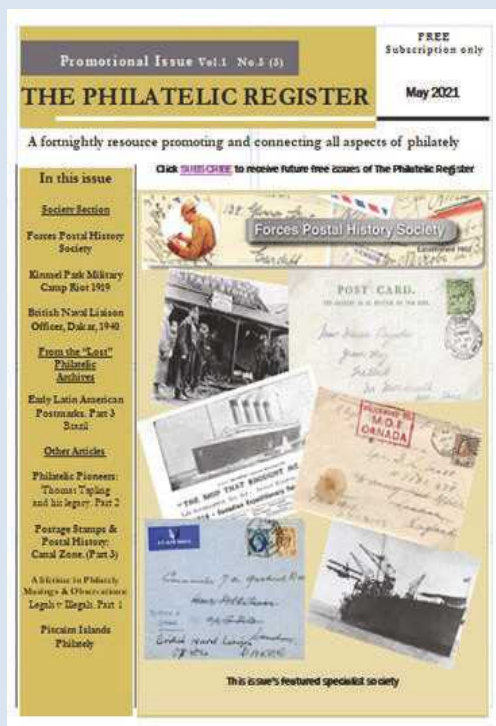
The author would like to thank Dr Brian Dow, Terry Woods and Bruce Walker of the Scottish Postal History Society for their help in researching this feature

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From Columbus to Jenny

Between the 1890s and the 1920s, the versatile Marcus Baldwin engraved some of the best-known images ever to appear on American stamps

■ Report by Adrian Keppel

Some collectors may not have heard of the American artist Marcus Baldwin, but most will recognise his work.

His engravings of the late 19th century and early 20th century are among the most recognisable in philately, and encompass some truly evocative names: Columbus, Washington, Lincoln...and Jenny!

Baldwin was born in Irvington, New Jersey, in 1853, into a printing family; his father worked at the National Bank Note Company.

Young Marcus showed artistic talent, and would regularly be seen holding a pad and pencil to draw whatever grabbed his attention.

At a young age, with the encouragement of his parents, he himself became an apprentice at the NBNC.

He started out in the letter-engraving department, but what he really wanted to do was engrave images. He boldly asked to be transferred and, after impressing the famous banknote and stamp engraver Alfred Jones in an interview, his request was granted.

At Jones' recommendation, Baldwin attended evening classes at the National Academy of Design, quickly mastering important techniques such as light and shade effects.

He had been an apprentice for only two years when his pictorial work began to be used on bonds and certificates.

Baldwin remained with the NBNC when it merged with the American Bank Note Company in 1878, but a few years later he and a partner set up their own company, Baldwin & Gleason.

For over a decade the firm took on all sorts of engraving and printing jobs, and brought on many up-and-coming artists, among them the future stamp engraver Robert Savage.



ABOVE: Marcus Baldwin's first stamp engraving was for El Salvador's Landing Of Columbus issue of 1892

But Baldwin was not naturally a businessman, and that side of things wore him down. Looking for more independence, he set up as a freelance engraver.

By now his reputation was such that he was sought out by big organisations. Among these was the Hamilton Bank Note Company, for whom he engraved his first stamps: El Salvador's Landing Of Columbus set of 1892, and the three

high-value pictorial designs of its 1894 issue, also depicting scenes from the life of Christopher Columbus.

His career in stamp engraving really took off in 1897, when he joined the US Bureau of Engraving & Printing. During a two-decade stint there, Baldwin would be responsible for engraving many of the most familiar



American stamp images.

Initially, he was most heavily involved in the pictorial commemorative issues around the turn of the century.

In 1898, he engraved the vignettes for five values in the Trans-Mississippi Exposition set. His image of Western Cattle in a Storm, for the \$1 stamp, is still considered one of the best in the US catalogue, and he was also responsible for the vignettes of the 2c, 5c, 10c and \$2 values, and the corn and wheat motifs in the ornamental frame which was common to all values.

Three years later, Baldwin engraved all but one of the

vignettes for the attractive bi-coloured Pan-American Exposition issue of 1901.

His portfolio would soon contain plenty more gems, as he engraved many a portrait for US definitive stamps.

For the 1902 series, for example, he created the portraits of Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Benjamin Harrison, Henry Clay and David Farragut.

For the 1908 definitives he portrayed George Washington, and for the 1912 series Benjamin Franklin.

Amongst all these luminaries, however, arguably his best-known

ABOVE: The \$1 value in the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition set, illustrating Western Cattle in a Storm, is still regarded as one of the USA's most beautiful stamps

'Baldwin's portfolio included many portraits for the US definitive series of 1902, 1908 and 1912'

engraving was of 'Jenny'. The BEP's second attempt at bicoloured printing, for the Airmail series of 1918, used Baldwin's rendition of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, which became celebrated as the 'Inverted Jenny' when a single sheet of the 24c value was sold with the vignette upside-down.

For a long time the whole stamp was attributed to another engraver, but Baldwin's diaries reveal that he was responsible for the vignette.

Tensions had arisen between management and staff at the BEP, and Baldwin found himself among those trying to negotiate better deals for the engravers it employed.

He was even sent on fact-finding missions to various other printing firms, but his hard work was to limited avail. Disillusioned with the firm's practices, he left in 1920 and returned to the ABNC in 1921.

There he would see out his career, until his death in 1925. His final stamp engraving was the gorgeous 5f high value of the Belgian Congo's 1924 definitive set, illustrating palm oil production. ■



ABOVE: The vignette for the famous US Airmail design of 1918 is now attributed to Baldwin



ABOVE: Portrait of George Washington on a US definitive issued in 1908



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Treason? Or no reason?

Affixing a Penny Black upside-down might be seen as a snub to the monarchy, with Irish nationalists among the suspects. But it might equally be an innocent mistake

■ Report by Norman Watson

One of philately's enduring myths is that placing a British definitive stamp upside-down on an envelope is an act of treason.

Covers bearing the Queen's (or King's) head inverted have been described as protest mail, and examples from the classic period can command inflated prices.

But is this practice really punishable by hanging, drawing and quartering?

The short answer is no, and not only because the 1998 Crime & Disorder Act abolished the death penalty for treason.

Royal Mail has stated that affixing a stamp upside-down never was treasonous. In 2013, the Law Commission's Statute Law Repeals team, which investigates obsolete laws, put the myth firmly to bed.

'The Treason Felony Act 1848 makes it an offence to do any act with the intention of deposing the monarch,' it said, 'but it seems unlikely that placing a stamp upside down fulfils this criterion. The Act itself certainly does not refer to stamps.'

The cover illustrated here, sent from London (there is a London datestamp in red on the reverse) to Dublin on January 13, 1842, features a late use of a Penny Black.

The stamp has the corner letters G-L, with a dot flaw in the 'L' square which is characteristic of plate 3. But what is most noticeable is that it was affixed upside-down.

This might be innocent and carelessly accidental, but then again it might not.

Philatelic items which seem to reflect a level of protest against the monarchy include covers sent by Irish republicans in the 19th century, when the whole of Ireland was under British rule.

It is difficult to prove the link,



although a cover's sender, address and context may be clues.

In this case, the context was a time of increasing agitation for Irish self-government.

Daniel O'Connell had led the Catholic Association (which had won political rights for Catholics) and was now leading the Repeal Association (campaigning for the repeal of the Act of Union with the United Kingdom).

Alternative groups such as Young Ireland were starting to plot a rebellion, and they would lead a nationalist uprising in 1848.

The addressee was David Pigot, a leading lawyer who was the MP for Clonmel from 1839-46 and had been the Attorney-General for Ireland from 1840-41.

A prominent member of Dublin society, Pigot had a fashionable home in Merrion Square and might

ABOVE & RIGHT: Cover of January 13, 1842, from London to Dublin, featuring a late use of a Penny Black from plate 3, affixed upside-down



be considered part of the establishment. But he had represented O'Connell in the British Government's unsuccessful attempt to prosecute him in 1831, and was viewed by nationalists as being an independent judge, 'beyond the influence of Dublin Castle'.

Was the sender of this letter an Irish nationalist making an anti-British point to a sympathetic member of the judiciary? Or was the upturned Penny Black merely an act of absent-mindedness?

The jury is out. ■

'Covers which suggest a protest against the monarchy include those sent by Irish republicans'

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wcfortiii@aol.com
www.napex.org

NOVEMBER 12-13 UK

Stafford Stamp Show
Venue: Bingley Hall, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road,

Stafford ST18 0BD.
Contact: JRS Fairs
www.jrs-stamp-shows.co.uk/

NOVEMBER 19-21 USA

Chicagopex 2021
Venue: Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Boulevard, Itasca, Illinois 60143, USA.
Contact: Kathy Johnson
kjj5217@gmail.com
www.chicagopex.org

NOVEMBER 19-22 GREECE

Notos 2021 European Philatelic Exhibition
Venue: Zappeion Conference & Exhibition Centre, Leof Vasilissis Olgas, Athens 105 57, Greece.
Contact: Jon Aitchinson, UK Commissioner
britishlocals@aol.com
www.hps.gr/notos2021

DECEMBER 16-18 NETHERLANDS

Hertogpost 2021
Venue: Brabanthallen, Diezekade 2, 's-Hertogenbosch 5222, Netherlands.
Contact: Hertogpost 2020
info@hertogpost-event.nl
www.hertogpost-event.nl

FEBRUARY 19-26 UK

London 2022
Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH.
Contact: London 2022
admin@london2022.co
www.london2022.co

MARCH 25-27 USA

St Louis Stamp Exposition
Venue: Renaissance St Louis Airport, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St Louis, Missouri 63134, USA.
Contact: St Louis Stamp Expo
www.stlouissstampexpo.com

MARCH 31-APRIL 3 HUNGARY

Hunfilex 2022
Venue: Balna Centre, Fovam Ter 11-12, 1093 Budapest, Hungary.
Contact: Bill Hedley, UK Commissioner
ewlhedley@gmail.com
www.hunfilex2022.com

APRIL 22-23 UK

ASPS Scottish Congress
Venue: Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH.
Contact: Association Of Scottish Philatelic Societies Congress
www.scottishphilately.co.uk

MAY 6-10 TAIWAN

Taipei 2022 International Stamp Exhibition
Venue: Hall 1, Taipei World Trade Center, Hsin-Yi Road, Xinyi, Taipei City.
Contact: Richard Tan, FIAP Co-ordinator
www.asiaphilately.com

MAY 18-22 SWITZERLAND

Helvetia 2022
Venue: Padiglione Conza Convention Centre, Lugano.
Contact: Chris King, UK Commissioner
Tel: 020 8346 1366
chris.king@postalhistory.net
www.helvetia2022.ch

WHAT'S ON: FAIRS

JULY 9 LONDON

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: 9am-3pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

JULY 10 DERBY

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

EASTBOURNE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park,

BN22 9PP.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

SUTTON COLDFIELD (stamps, postal history)

Venue: South Parade, B72 1QY.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

JULY 17 HULL

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, HU13 9EY.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

JULY 18 DRONFIELD (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, Coal Aston, S18 3AY.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

JULY 21 EAST GRINSTEAD (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Chequer Mead Arts Centre, De La Warr Road, RH19 3BS.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Malcolm Green
Tel: 01342 327554

JULY 31 MORLEY

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Commercial Street, LS27 8HZ.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

AUGUST 1 WOLVERHAMPTON (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Road, WV3 7ER.
Time: 9.30 am-2.30pm
Contact: John Coaten
Tel: 07808 864297

AUGUST 7 BECKENHAM (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Azelia Halls, Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.
Time: 9am-3pm
Contact: Ray McQuade
Tel: 020 8395 9285

LICHFIELD (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Boley Park Community Hall,

Ryknild Street, WS14 9XU.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

RUISLIP (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, HA4 7BZ.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

AUGUST 8 DERBY

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 562927

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

PHILATELIC QUIZ:

ADVANCED

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

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

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

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

few dealers can afford to cost-

effectively handle stamps which are theoretically worth pence ...

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

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

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 ...

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UK & WORLDWIDE AUCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY 7

WARWICK & WARWICK

Venue: The Court House, Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW.
Contact: Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick, CV34 5DB
Tel: 01926 499031
Fax: 01926 491906
info@warwickandwarwick.com
www.warwickandwarwick.com

JULY 13-15 DUTCH COUNTRY AUCTIONS

Venue: Auction Gallery, 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19803, USA.
Contact: Russell Eggert, Stamp Center Inc
Tel: +1 302 478 8740
Fax: +1 302 478 8779
auctions@dutchcountryauctions.com
www.dutchcountryauctions.com

JULY 14 AJH STAMPS

Venue: The Dunkenhall Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.
Contact: The Laurels, Manchester Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF
Tel: 01254 393740
Fax: 01254 382274
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

JULY 14 EASTERN AUCTIONS

Venue: online only.
Contact: Eastern Auctions, PO Box 250, Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada E2A 3Z2
Tel: +1 506 548 8986
Fax: +1 506 546 6627
yohann.tanguay@easternauctions.com
www.easternauctions.com

JULY 14 SPINK

'Dubois' Collection of Jamaica, part II
Venue: Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW.
Contact: Spink UK
Tel: 020 7563 4005
Fax: 020 7563 4037
auctionteam@spink.com
www.spink.com

JULY 20 NEGEV HOLYLAND STAMPS

Venue: online only
Contact: Button Stamp Company, PO Box 8101, Trenton, New Jersey 08650, USA
Tel: +1 609 298 2891
Fax: +1 609 291 8438
leadstamp@verizon.net

JULY 24 SOUTH WEST

Venue: Harewood House, Ridgeway, Plymouth, Devon PL7 2AS.

Contact: South West Philatelic Auctions, 2nd Floor, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0SZ
Tel: 01752 698089
richardswpa@outlook.com
www.swpa-stamp-auctions.com

JULY 25 MAYFAIR

Venue: online only.
Contact: Mayfair Philatelic Auctions, Vintage House, 37 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TL
Tel: 020 3019 3630
info@mpastamps.com
www.mpastamps.com

JULY 28 CAVENDISH

Venue: Cavendish House, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY.
Contact: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions
Tel: 01332 250970
stamps@cavendish-auctions.com
www.cavendish-auctions.com

JULY 28 VANCE AUCTIONS

Venue: online only.
Contact: Vance Auctions, PO Box 267, Smithville, Ontario,

Canada L0R 2A0
Tel: +1 905 957 3364
Fax: +1 905 957 0100
mail@vanceauctions.com
www.vanceauctions.com

JULY 29-AUGUST 1 SCHUYLER RUMSEY Bernhard Forster collection of French Ballons Montés Covers, Hugh Feldman collection of US Railroads

Venue: Westpex 2021, Burlingame, San Francisco, California, USA.
Contact: Schuyler Rumsey, Suite 500, 47 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California 94108, USA
Tel: +1 415 781 5127
Fax: +1 415 781 5128
srumsley@rumseyauctions.com
www.rumseyauctions.com

AUGUST 4 WARWICK & WARWICK

Venue: The Court House, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW.
Contact: Warwick & Warwick, Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick CV34 5DB
Tel: 01926 499031
Fax: 01926 491906
info@warwickandwarwick.com
www.warwickandwarwick.com

AUGUST 11 AJH STAMPS

Venue: The Dunkenhall Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.
Contact: AJH Stamps, The Laurels, Manchester Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF
Tel: 01254 393740
Fax: 01254 382274
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

AUGUST 11 MARESCH

Venue: online only.
Contact: R Maresch & Son, 6-2 Vata Court, Aurora, Ontario L4G 4B6, Canada
Tel: +1 905 726 2197
Fax: +1 905 726 7721
info@maresch.com
www.maresch.com

AUGUST 14 BIL & CO

Venue: Washingborough Community Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire LN4 1AB.
Contact: Bil Tilbury
Tel: 01400 230769
auctionsbil@btinternet.com
www.bilandco.co.uk

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www.antoniotorres.com

TRAFFORD BOOKS

www.traffordbooks.co.uk

LOT TO BE DESIRED

Schuyler Rumsey's auction at the Westpex exhibition in San Francisco will feature Hugh Feldman's award-winning postal history collection of early United States railway mail.

One fine example is this 1848 cover from Charleston, South Carolina, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with its sharp strike of the red Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad datestamp of March 11.

Bearing a horizontal pair of the 1847 5c red-brown, both cancelled with a manuscript 'X', the cover would have been carried by steamboat and railway to Weldon, North Carolina, before being continuing on its journey via Richmond, Virginia, and Washington DC.

This item, which previously formed part of Bill Gross's collection, is estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000 (about £1,000-£1,400).





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<p>REF T500 FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE A SUPERB MIX INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER INC KGV1 & WILDINGS IDEAL FOR WTM ETC PLUS ALBUM PAGES MOST REIGNS, MINT & USED AND FDCs, ITEMS OF NOTE ARE 1841 1d & 2d IMPERF PLUS QV TO 1/- GREEN, KEVII WITH VALUES TO 1/-, KGV1 WITH VALUES TO 2/6 SEAHORSE, KEVII SET, PLUS KGV1 WITH VALUES TO £1 AND QEII TO £5 MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH MANY BETTER VALUES WITH A CAT PRICE OF £1,000+ FOR JUST £149.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>	<p>REF T501 FREE C. D. G. H. TRIANGULAR CAT £130 WITH EVERY COMMONWEALTH BOX FILE A SUPERB MIX INC 1,000 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER USED, STC £100+ ALSO ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD RANGE TO SORT, WITH COUNTRIES A TO Z, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £20+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST £89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T502 FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE SUPERB MIX OF ON & OFF PAPER EARLY TO MODERN 1,000+ & MIXED ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES & £50+ OF BAGGED & PRICED ALBUM PAGES AND AUCTION LEFT OVERS WITH STAMPS CAT £20+ £89.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>	<p>REF T503 FREE GENUINE 1840 2d BLUE WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE INCLUDING ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER 6 REIGNS, A BAG CONTAINING 500 DIFFERENT GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER AND FDCs, ALSO SINGLE ITEMS 1855 1d & 2d QV TO 1/- 1887 GREEN AND RED KEVII TO 10d, KGV1 TO 5/- SEAHORSE, KGV1 TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1,500+ £179.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD/Registered</p>
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<p>REF T504 GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILES BUY REF T500 & T503 AND RECEIVE BOTH FREE GIFTS, 1840 1d BLACK & 2d BLUE, AND WE WILL REPLACE 500 DIFFERENT WITH 1,000 DIFFERENT TO MAKE THIS PAIR OF BOX FILES A SUPERB SORT & VALUE FOR MONEY CAT AT £3,500+ AT JUST £310.00 PLUS £12.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T603 FOREIGN SHOE BOX CRAMMED WITH ON AND OFF PAPER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ALL WORLD MIXTURE STATED TO BE A MINIMUM OF 1000+ DIFFERENT. ALSO ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £5+ THIS IS A VERY GOOD CHEAP SORT (NO GREAT BRITAIN) OVER 4000 SOLD THE LAST 50 YEARS FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T604 COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX CONTAINING ON AND OFF PAPER, UNCHECKED A TO Z EARLY TO MODERN, LOOSE AND ON LEAVES, A GOOD MAINLY MODERN MIX, BUT SOME EARLY MIXED IN, BETTER SINGLES, CHEAP LOT, 1000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T605 CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS & IOM SHOE BOX CONTAINS STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, DEFINITIVES & COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS ALBUM PAGES, FDCs ETC, ALSO SOME SETS & SINGLES, MINT & USED, A GOOD SORT FOR THESE POPULAR COUNTRIES, FOR JUST £49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE</p>	<p>REF T606 GREAT BRITAIN SHOE BOX, FREE 1841 IMPERF 1d RED & 2d BLUE CAT £130 CONTAINING A GOOD MIX OF ALL 6 REIGNS FROM 1d REDS TO MODERN INC STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, INC SOME EARLY, IDEAL FOR WATERMARKS, ALSO ALBUM PAGES, FDCs, MINT & USED SETS & SINGLES ETC £49.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE</p>
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<p>REF T602 WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX BOX OF ALL WORLD COLLECTIONS COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN (NO GREAT BRITAIN) AND NO STAMPS ON PAPER A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES AND SINGLE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS IN STOCKBOOKS AND ALBUMS AS RECEIVED COULD BE ANYTHING 1,000s OF STAMPS (EVERY BOX DIFFERENT) £299.50 PLUS £15.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.</p>	<p>REF T510 THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS YES, THE ULTIMATE SORT WITH OVER 1,000 OF THESE SOLD IN THE LAST 40 YEARS, A MUST FOR COLLECTOR/DEALER OR ANYONE WHO LIKES A GOOD SORT, INC COLLECTIONS, PACKETS, LOOSE STAMPS ON & OFF PAPER, ALSO MIXED COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS BOXES & STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC A GOOD MIX INC GB, C/W & FOREIGN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ 1,000s OF STAMPS A LOT UNCHECKED ETC WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF £1,300 AND WEIGHING APPROX 30 KILO SUPERB LOT HAVE YOU TRIED ONE YET FOR £999.00 PLUS £28.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>
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<p>REF T623 GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES STOCKCARDS, BOXES OF ON & OFF PAPER & LOOSE STAMPS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC 1840 1d BLACK, 1d REDS AND A GOOD SELECTION OF MINT & USED, ALL REIGNS, PLUS FDCs ETC, A GOOD LOT, VERY HIGH CAT, WITH TOP VALUES AND AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, STATED TO RETAIL £800+ £599.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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<p>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</p>	<p>REF T607 ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/4 BOX INCLUDING LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER PLUS CHILDREN COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC PLUS OTHER BITS, ALBUM PAGES, THE ODD COVER, EVERY BOX IS DIFFERENT (VIRTUALLY NO GB) 1,000s TO SORT £79.50 PLUS £12.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p>REF T622 WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON & OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER £24.50 PLUS £4 POSTAGE</p>
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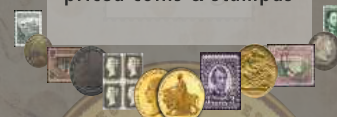
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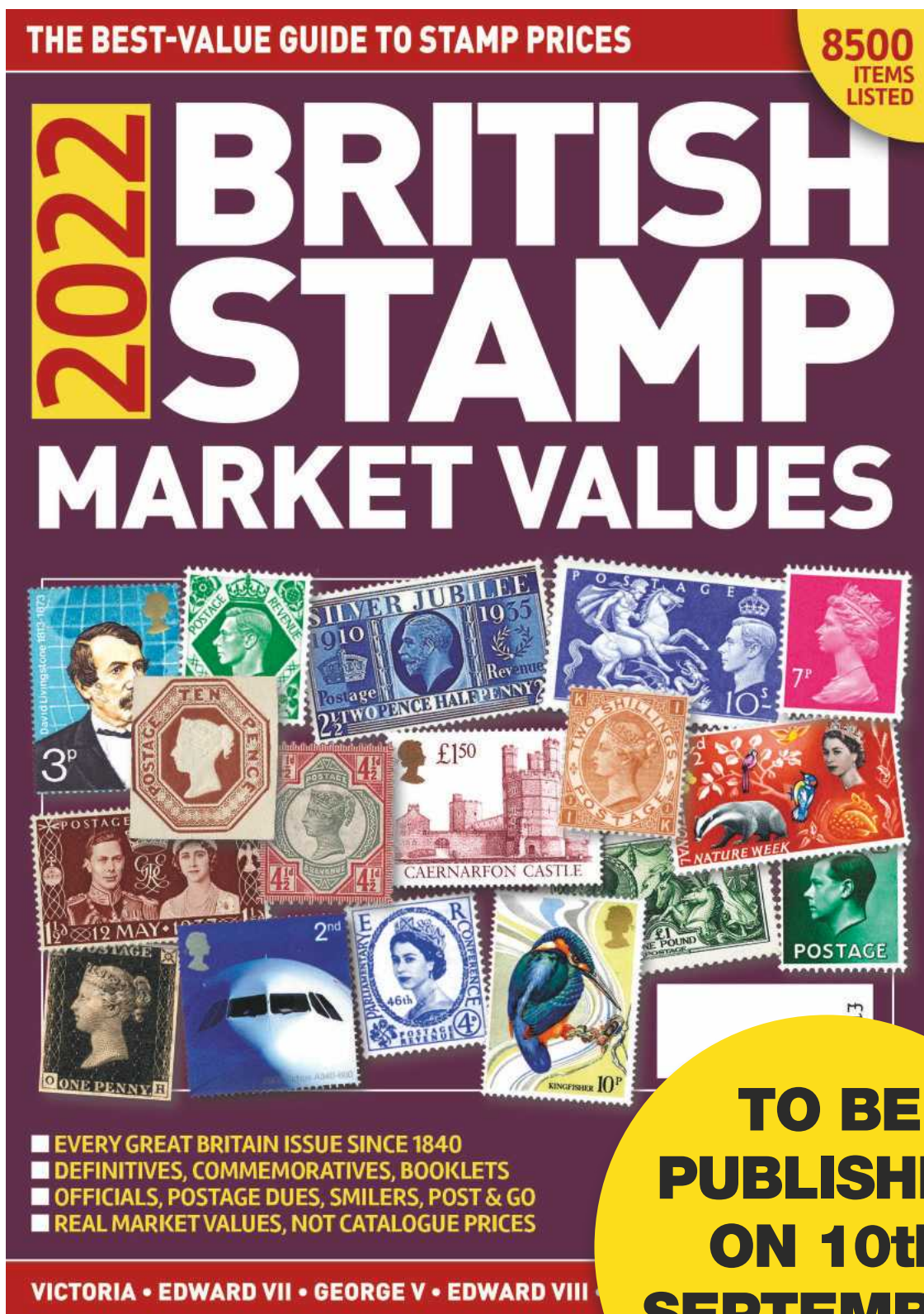
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The butt of the joke

When the stamp trade in occupied Czechoslovakia was obliged to contribute to a Nazi propaganda initiative in 1942, it opted to turn the other cheek

■ Report by John Winchester

Nazi Germany's aggressive dismantling of Czechoslovakia began with the annexation of Sudetenland in 1938 and continued with the occupation of the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia the following year.

But the cruel reign of terror initiated by Reinhard Heydrich, the Reich's Deputy Protector in Prague, came to a violent end with his assassination by Czech patriots in June 1942.

The German authorities needed a propaganda initiative to restore calm and a sense of normality in the Protectorate, so what better than a feel-good Exhibition of Relaxation & Hospitality, to take place in Brunn (Brno) in September 1942?

Various organisations were required to contribute, including the stamp trade. Despite its reluctance (Czech dealers were among the many being rounded up in the Holocaust), it decided to produce a commemorative card, franked with one of the new stamps portraying Adolf Hitler and cancelled with an exhibition postmark.

Which local landmark might be illustrated on the card? A prominent building and a well-known statue of a naked figure were selected, and carefully photographed from an advantageous angle. The result was a generous pair of buttocks looming directly above the head of the Führer. ■



ABOVE: Souvenir card for the 1942 Exhibition of Relaxation & Hospitality in Brno

NEXT MONTH

Glad tidings

How greetings rehabilitated telegrams



PLUS

■ Government House on stamps from around the Commonwealth

■ Fiji's first stamps as a British colony

■ The Netherlands' most prolific stamp engraver

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

IN SHOPS FROM
THURSDAY AUGUST 12

Are **YOU** a Tutter-Nutter



Solving the problem of high philatelic selling prices ...

It is an age-old collectors' conundrum. That stamp or cover you want is just too expensive. Possibly you plucked up courage to ask for it at a cheaper price, only to be snubbed. But nine months later that same philatelic item is 'winking at you' frustratingly sitting there unsold at the same unrealistic selling price ...

It doesn't make sense, does it? – But perhaps understandably when we appreciate the finer aspects of collecting, sometimes these over-ride financial considerations of sound commercial business practice don't they? After all most dealers are collectors at heart, which is why some stamp dealers stubbornly refuse to part with items they cherish at prices that make sense.

Because my pleasure is in the handling and appreciation of rare stamps – this is the reason why I have spent more than twenty years creating successful unique philatelic 'price-drop' selling systems.

Usually, you can find more than 20,000 lots in each unique quarterly Universal Philatelic Auction. ALL lots estimate and reserve **price-drop if unsold**. Just like 1,806 different bidders from 52 different countries in my last auction, you will find that you will only be paying for stamps, with none of those irritating 'hidden' extras/ buyer's premiums, plus **absolutely ALL** lots guaranteed.

More recently I created a new philatelic selling system which I affectionately call **TUT**. Rather than bid, some collectors prefer not to wait ... which is why I invite you to join more than 1,100 different collectors (and some dealers) who enjoy participating in my unique instant-purchase price-drop selling system called **Top-UpTwenty** ... or TUT for short.

With so much on offer, it doesn't matter what you collect. Simply sign-up here for free UPA auction catalogues / on-line auction notifications, and/or my daily new stock/price-drop instant purchase Top-UpTwenty (TUT) e-mails. You will be joining more than 2,500 regular auction bidders, plus 1,100 different '**Tutter-Nutters**', who find TUT's *buy it now or risk missing out* daily E-mails so absorbingly *addictive*. Naturally you can unsubscribe at any time ...

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Collectors 'Crack the Nut' at TUT/UPA

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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

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

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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

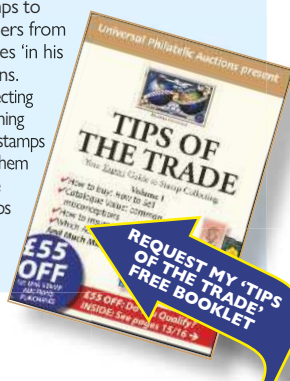
1▶ If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the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

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



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5▶ Why is that? Because, as the world evolved 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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