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YUU I'C BIUUIIIYI	% Successful bidders:	90%
with the	New Bidders: (GBP£55 FREE)	258
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# WELCOME

The recent Stampex event was a great success and it's always a pleasure to be involved, meeting collectors, browsing the material and joining in with the philatelic celebrations. As the show coincided with the half term school holidays, it was great to see lots of young collectors there too, enjoying the Kidstamps stand and finding out more about stamp collecting.

As subscribers will know, we work alongside the PTS to publish the official guide to the Stampex show, given away free with the magazine (the next guide will be given away with our October issue), and I'm delighted to inform you that the 2017-2018 edition of the PTS

Directory will be given away with the May issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*. The Directory includes in-depth details of more than 350 approved stamp and postal history dealers and auction houses, and is an indispensable tool for collectors. So don't miss our next issue!

We'll be continuing the giveaways in the coming months, with subscribers set to receive a free Kidstamps stamp album (to pass on to a youngster); a pack of stamp hinges, courtesy of Prinz; and a pack of limited edition postcards, as part of our popular SCM Subs Club. If you'd like to receive these gifts, and save more than £12 compared to the usual shop price of the magazine, then make sure you join *Stamp & Coin Mart* today. If all that wasn't enough we'll also send you a welcome gift, see page 56 for details.



Germany's 'Humanitarian Relief' stamps provide a huge selection of themes for the collector. See page 58 for our guide Matt Hill, Editor matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

# **STAMP** & COIN MART

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#### MEETTHE EXPERTS...



Professional writer Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written two books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and writes our Stamp Story on page 60.



Chris King is the Chair of ABPS National Exhibitions and International Committee and a member of the *Stamp & Coin Mart* Advisory Board. Chris provides his expert opinion in our popular 'Stamp Showcase' article, on page 62, produced in association with the ABPS.



Author and historian Dane Garrod is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, past Vice President of the National Philatelic Society, and presenter of displays to local societies. He follows the intriguing journey of another postal history item on page 52.

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OF STAMPS

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#### **REF T546** CARTON

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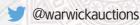




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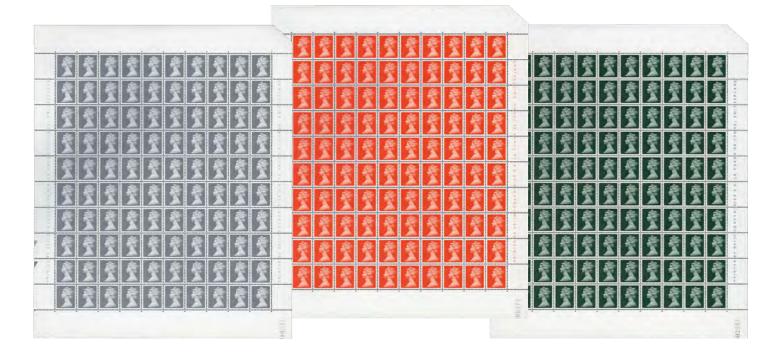


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# Machin trials discovered after twenty years

Sheets of three trials of the Machin head, produced in Switzerland in 1997, have been discovered, coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Arnold Machin's iconic portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

The sheets were discovered in Switzerland, home of the Hélio Courvoisier S.A. printing firm, which was taken over in 2001 after seventy years of printing stamps. Allan Grant of Rushstamps told Stamp & Coin Mart: 'The sheets mysteriously turned up after twenty years and the owner initially took them to a New York auction house [Daniel F Kelleher Auctions]. We have asked collectors if they are interested in obtaining the rare trials and so far around 200 customers have responded.'

The Machin definitives were first printed in lithography in 1980 as Royal Mail expanded its range of suppliers. However, by the mid-1990s it had decided that all the standard definitives should be printed in gravure. At the time The House of Questa, based in south London, did not have gravure capability, so authorisation was given by House of Questa for it to approach Helio Courvoisier SA of Switzerland, with the consent of the Royal Mail, probably with a view to subcontracting the gravure printing.

Courvoisier was founded in 1880 and started printing stamps in 1937. It was noted for the high quality of its photogravure work, but









The stamps are printed in ten rows of ten, with the imprint 'PRINTED BY HELIO COURVOISIER S.A. LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, SWITZERLAND' reading upwards in the side margins. The sheets are perforated on the outer left margin (though the perforations are almost completely guillotined off on the flame sheet), suggesting panes of two. Sheet numbers are in the lower right corner, with the grey sheet showing (0)10531 though it is not known whether the numbering was reset for this trial, so this is no indication of the total numbers produced (thanks to lan Billings for sheet details)

sadly it ran into financial difficulties and ceased trading in 2001.

The undenominated trials were undertaken on 20 October, 1997 in sheets of 100 with the Courvoisier imprint along the vertical margins. They exist in three colours: deep green (as used for the 2p), light grey (as used at the time for the 29p), and flame (as used for 1st Class). Courvoisier was able to utilise its work on the then current Kenya definitives, so these trials are printed on coated paper without phosphor bands, and have perforation 15 x 14, although the stamp image is slightly smaller than that used on Machin definitives. The trials did not lead to a printing contract for Courvoisier and printing firm Questa, having been acquired by MDC Corporation and moved to premises in Byfleet, Surrey, which had gravure facilities, took on the printing.

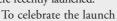
Rushstamps have confirmed that the new discoveries will be included in the next volume of the GB Specialised catalogue, published by Stanley Gibbons. A set of the three sheets was donated to Douglas Muir for The Postal Museum during the recent Stampex event in London.



# Variable value definitives from IOM

Isle of Man Stamps and Coins has revealed their first collection of 'variable value self-adhesive definitive stamps', with the design of the four stamps based on the Manx Three Legs of Man emblem also known as a 'Triskelion'.

The new stamps form part of the Isle of Man's issue programme and will also be vended via retail kiosks, post office counters and via hand-held vending machines at one-off events such as Stampex, where the values were recently launched.



of the stamps, Isle of Man Stamps and Coins are giving customers the chance to win the first set from the kiosk at their headquarters on the Isle of Man. A spokesperson said: 'To be in with a chance of winning all you need to do is purchase something from the Triskelion collection on or before Friday 31 March and you will be automatically entered in the draw.' Winners will be informed no later than Wednesday 5 April. For full terms and conditions visit www.iompost.com/stamps-coins

# Competition winners

Congratulations to the following readers, who won Ancient Britain presentation packs courtesy of Royal Mail: Robert Trees, Berwick on Tweed; Richard Harrison, Barnsley; Dr Brian Latchem, Felixstowe; David Turner, Hessle; Aaron Worth, Havant; Sandra Blickett, Epsom; Clifford Last, Kesgrave; Gavin Counahan, Polegate; Stuart Hargreaves, Barrowford; Susan Mackenzie, Edinburgh.

# Photo competition for Malta stamps

MaltaPost has launched a photographic competition inviting the general public to submit their best images of the Maltese Islands, with the winning entries set to appear on a Maltese stamp issue this summer.

The competition entitled 'Spectacular Views' invites the public to 'capture the essence of the Maltese islands which may include local countryside, village life, nature, architecture or landscapes'. Four images

£ 0.45

£ 1.24

£ 0.77

1214204131

£ 1.86

17046

17046



Malta have showcased the region's beautiful landscape on a variety of their stamps. Could you provide the photo for their 'Spectacular Views' set?

will be shortlisted to be reproduced as one stamp set. The issue will be used both domestically and internationally for either mailing purposes or for stamp collecting.

The competition will run until 30 March and the winners will be announced in April. The top image of the set will also be entered into an international stamp competition organised by the Small European Postal Administration Cooperation (SEPAC). The stamp set featuring the winning photos will be exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum.

For more information visit www.maltapost.com/photographycompetition

# Austrian stamp reflects nation's 'deep rift'

Austria have issued a single stamp with a stark design reflecting the 'deep rift in the land' following the first round of voting in the presidential elections in May 2016.

The stamp, which shows a tear across the stamp and two staples holding the halves together, was issued after a design competition which challenged artists to capture 'Visions of Austria's Future'.



Winning designer Hannes Glantschnig explained that the inspiration for the design came from media headlines following the first round of the 2016 presidential elections. Glantschnig said: 'Even if there is a deep rift running though Austria, we must all do everything we can to heal the breach so that the unity of our land can survive into the future.'

More than seventy designers entered the competition. A spokesperson for Austrian Post said: 'What was particularly noticeable was that many of the submissions addressed current political issues such as the refugee crisis or the presidential elections in Austria. So, for example, there were designs on the topics of diversity, equal rights, ecology or expanding our horizons. Still others attempted to portray the coexistence of various nations through the use of symbols.'

For more information on the stamps, issued on 18 January, visit: onlineshop.post.at







# Rare Machins and so much more at Stampex

The recent Stampex event in London proved to be a huge success with many dealers reporting their best sales for years and a 'Stamps in the Attic' promotion attracting newcomers to the show.

Held between 15 and 18 February at the Business Design Centre in Islington, Stampex was attended by thousands of collectors, with the first day reportedly being the busiest for many years, prompting one dealer to claim 'it's like it was in the 1970s!'

In addition to the host of material being offered by stamp and postal history dealers and auctioneers, visitors were also treated to a large philatelic exhibition organised by the ABPS and featuring very rare Ottoman Empire material, the chance to have their stamps valued by an expert dealer in the new 'Stamps in the Attic' promotion, and a special Court of Honour showcasing the Machin collection of Tony Walker.

The collection included a unique 3d cylinder block of six Machin stamps on uncoated paper, which had been bought in the early 1980s after a 600-mile round trip for about £150 and is now catalogued at £12,000. Tony said: 'It is most gratifying to be given the opportunity to show this collection at Stampex on the fiftieth anniversary of the Machin Head definitives. Collectors looking for pastures new might be surprised at the opportunities this neglected foundation issue to the prolific decimal series offers, both in variety and depth. There are a number of extremely scarce "normal" stamps to be found, arising from the changes to the Head Type, Gum Arabic to PVA gum, phosphor band changes and the more specialised phosphor screens, examples of which can be seen in the display.'

The recently discovered Machin essays produced in Switzerland (see report on page nine) were also on display at the Kelleher Auctions stand (pictured above with Allan Grant of Rushstamps), and a sheet of the rarities was donated to Douglas Muir of The Postal Museum during the first day's events.

Meanwhile, a host of new stamps were



issued during the four-day show, with Royal Mail releasing their Windsor Castle stamps along with a range of related souvenirs. Jersey revealed their new Post & Go stamps with a 'shells' theme, and visitors to the Isle of Man Stamps and Coins stand could purchase the new variable value self-adhesive definitive stamps from hand-held printers.

With the event falling in the half term school holidays the Kidstamps stand, complete with large Mr Men and Little Miss cardboard cut-outs, was busier than ever, with young collectors being encouraged to take part in fun stamp activities, including special stamp art workshops run by

Suzanne of Art Stamped. The Saturday of the show saw the popular Kidstamps auction, with young collectors vying for some collectables using points earned by taking part in activities on the stand.

Stampex is the UK's largest philatelic show, exhibiting stamps from some of the biggest names in philately with over 100 philatelic dealers and specialists from across the globe. It is organised by The Philatelic Traders' Society Limited and the official show guide is published by, and given away free with, *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine.



# In brief

On 30 March, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a new special event three stamp mini-sheet to commemorate the FIAP International Stamp Exhibition in Melbourne, Australia. The stamps in the denominations of US\$ 1.15, CHF 2.00 and €1.70 showcase animals from Australia - the Koala, the Kangaroo and the Emu. The background of the sheet features Ayers Rock in Australia. The sheet was designed by Lindsey Thoeng (United Nations).

Post of Serbia is marking the 100th anniversary of the Toplica Uprising with a single stamp which was released on 21 February. The Toplica Uprising was the only uprising in the territory occupied by the Army of Central Powers in the First World War. For more information visit: www.posta.rs

Iceland Post recently issued seven new stamps across four different series, dedicated to Iceland's first Government; the Reykjavík Craftsmens' Guild 150th anniversary; the first Icelandic Architect; and Icelandic Contemporary design, which is now dedicated to textile design. Find out more at stamps.is

Australia Post's new stamp issue is dedicated to four 'Aussie jetties'; all wooden, the jetties shown on the stamps are those at Busselton, Western Australia; Tumby Bay, South Australia; Shelley Beach near Portsea, Victoria; and Kincumber, New South Wales. Find out more at www. auspostcollectables.com.au

Norway Post have celebrated the nation's monarchy with a set of two stamps marking



the royal couple's eightieth birthdays. The stamps feature Queen Sonja and King Harald V, respectively, with the designs showing the monarchs in official uniform and in more casual surroundings. Designed by Gina Rose and printed by Joh. Enschedé Security Print, the stamps were issued on 21 February. For more information visit: www.posten.no/frimerker

# Mail by Rail Post & Go stamps issued

Royal Mail recently issued the first in a series of Post & Go stamps which will 'explore the transportation of mail in greater detail' throughout 2017, following the release of the Royal Mail Heritage: Transport stamps in February 2016.

The six stamps in the new set each feature an illustration by Andrew Davidson depicting Travelling Post Office: bag exchange; Post Office (London) Railway; a poster for the 1939 Night Mail film; Travelling Post Office: loading; Travelling Post Office: sorting; and Travelling Post Office: on the move.

Related products include the stamp set with carrier card (£3.84), and first day covers (£5.03) featuring either the Tallents House handstamp or an alternative handstamp showing the location of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, chosen because it was the place where the first successful mail-bag exchange





was made in 1838.

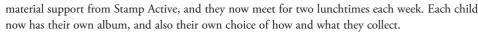
Meanwhile, The Postal Museum have teamed up with international postal packaging brand Blake to create a limited edition first day cover and presentation pack for the new set. Tim Browning, Director of Blake said: 'We were thrilled to be asked once again to work with The Postal Museum in the design and production of products to support the release of the Mail by Rail Post & Go set. Our partnership with The Postal Museum aligns perfectly with our continued belief in the power of direct mail and deep-rooted desire to create products which have the authority to reignite the "pleasure in receiving post".'

### Stamp fun returns to Liverpool school

The stamp club at Runnymede School in Liverpool, which had previously closed down, was recently reinstated and now has 28 members, reports Stamp Active's David Rossall.

Thanks are due to a visit from Erene Grieve, with her Stamps in Schools project, but also to Steve Pye who, although not a collector himself, was so impressed by the interest shown by the children that he agreed to get the club going again.

He says that the children's enthusiasm made starting the club easy, especially with the



A recent visit by the club to the Liverpool Stamp Fair was met with a generous response from the dealers, and the children had a great time. Steve is now running a local in-club competition to give them further incentives - with prizes for all their efforts.

Stamp Active Network are proud to be associated with the developments at Runnymede, and with the backing of our supporters, will continue to help Steve in any way they can. This applies to all the clubs that they are in contact with.



# INTERESTING &

#### **BRITISH COMMONWEALTH**

Few 100's on Yvert leaves to about 1910. all African Colonies with Mauritius from 1858 1d,. 1859 1/=, 1863 to 1/=, Sierra Leone from 1872, Sudan from O'Prints on Egypt, Cape with 'Hope' seated to 5/=, St. Helena from first types Good range Cat £2100

#### **AUSTRIA**

Many 100's on leaves with main value in mid period inc 1908 Jubilee set (FU) 1923-4 Artists (M)1928 Republic, 1930 Anti T.B, 1932 Painters all mint. 1931 Writers, '33 Philex (scarce) both FU, '33 Catholic Congress (M) '34 Architects etc, with similar to 1976. An exceptional lot Cat £6700 £800.00

#### **BAHAMAS**

About 80 from 1859 1d imperfs (lovely 4 M'gin, Pen cancel) over 30 further Chalon types inc 1861 4d, 6d, 1863 1/= perf 12 ½ (M) a scarce stamp, Staircase issues to 3/= (2) K Ed to 1/=, 1920 Peace set, '35 Jubilee etc. Good lot Cat £10500 £1150.00

#### **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

75 pre- 1936, an ex dealers stock all identified from QV pair, K.Ed to 1/=, KG6 1912 types to 1/=, 1921 types to 5/=, 1932 2/= etc . Excellent lot

#### **CYPRUS**

80+ an ex dealers stock all priced for retail on hangers, commencing O'Prints on G.B 1d red, pl 181 FU, PI 218 mint, 2 1/2 d (2) 6d, further QV to 9pi inc scarcer, K.Ed to 9pi, KG5 to 12pi (inc 30 paras broken triangle) 1908 to 9pi etc. Immaculate condition Cat £2400+ £425.00

#### **DANZIG**

Mint range (100's) on Scott leaves from 1920 (June ) set, range surcharges in sets with various burelages fairly complete inflation types, 1924 set and high values, 1930 10th Anniv set, Air Exhib set. Commems fairly complete inc '37 Productivity show M/S etc Cat £2200 £375.00

#### **FRENCH COLONIES**

Africa 100's on Yvert leaves, all colonies represented 1896-1910 including useful Reunion with 1901 surcharge set of 4, Pictorials to 1Fr, Senegal 1892 to 40, strong Alexandria etc. useful lot Cat £1150 £175.00

#### **GERMANY**

Occupations 100's tidily displayed on leaves mainly mint or UNM inc 1914 Occ of Belgium (1st Oct) set, Occ's of Alsace, Lorraine, Luxemburg complete, Bohemia & Moravia, Poland (General Govt) apparently complete. Very fine condition £210.00

Prussia 40 the state virtually complete. missing only 1866 30sgr and 1867 6K,

but including scarcer shades inc 1850 1sgr black on Carmine, 1857 3sgr yellow, 1861 3pf mauve etc. Mainly FU, few mint Cat £3960 £375.00

#### **HONDURAS**

200+ from 1866 pair apparently fairly complete to 1907 then ranges to 1930's and Officials in sets. Interesting lot £40.00

Many 100's on Scott speciality leaves from 1856 useful range imperfs to 8r, further imperfs, 1884 Hidalgo types to 2p. 1886 numerals to 25c lilac (M) 1899 to 5p, 1926 Postal Congress 10 (M) 1930 Pan Am set (ex 30c) '38 Town Planning set + Airs, several '60's Olympics M/S inc 1968 pair, good airs inc 1929 Caranza set, 1945 Theatre set, '46 O.N, 1950 20p (FU) etc all to 1982 Excellent lot Cat £2300

#### **MONTENEGRO**

Few 100's mainly mint from Prince Nicholas types with various perfs to top values, 1893 Printing set, thence virtually complete to 1907 New Currency

#### **NETHERLANDS**

100's in lovely fast bound leather book from imperf, 1872 to 50c, 1891 to 50c (both) 1898 to 5g 1913 Centenary to 25c and 5g, useful mid-period inc 1931 Gouda Church, '33 Seamen, 1950 Cultural, Bombed Churches, several Child M/S etc. Mainly FU Occasionally M & FU Cat £2550

#### **PALESTINE**

120+ from 1918 to 2pi, good O'Print range inc scarcer, 1927 pictorials mint and FU (inc 90m mint) Good lot £100.00

#### PITCAIRN ISLAND

Fe 100's from 1940 set, '49 RS, 1957 set with 1a shades, all the early Commems, 1964 set etc to 1980. Mainly mint Cat £350

#### **SAINT HELENA**

Mainly mint (130+) range from QV surcharges to 5/=, 1903 set, 1912 set, 1922 to 10/=, 1934 Centenary set, 1953 to 10/=, 1968 to £1 etc Excellent lot Cat £1920 £450.00

70+ all mint (some UNM) mid period inc 1929 Exhib airs to 1 pes. 1930 Gova Postage set, King Alfonso set, Columbus to 1 pes, Spanish / U.S Exhib postage set Cat £510 £100.00

#### **YUGOSLAVIA**

Many 100's on leaves from O'Prints on Hungary to w5K, O'Prints on Bosnia set to 10K (M) extensive Chainbreakers. useful early united Commems to about 1970 Cat £600+ £70.00

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# Perth to host Scottish Congress



The 88th Scottish Congress will be held on 21 and 22 April at the Dewars Centre, Perth and will be hosted by Lanarkshire Philatelic Society.

Scottish Congress will give collectors the chance to enter competitions, add Congress souvenirs to their collections and meet colleagues over a two-day event in Perth. The Tom Rielly display will be presented by Professor Ian Stevenson, and the Congress dinner will be held on the Friday evening with guest speaker Major Farquharson of the Cameronians Regiment.

Lanarkshire Philatelic Society President Alan Wishart said: 'A specially produced cover honours The Cameronians – the local regiment – as does the handstamp. The postcard shows various Lanarkshire postmarks. Two books have been produced, one on the Postmarks of Lanarkshire and the other on Lanarkshire Post Offices.'

Find out more at www.scottishphilately.co.uk

# Stamp collecting workshops to be held in Edinburgh

Robert Murray Stamp Shop in Edinburgh is holding a series of stamp workshops in April and May, offering collectors an insight into subjects such as valuation, fakes and forgeries, and investing in stamps.

The workshops will be led by Robert Murray, who has over forty years full-time experience in the stamp business, and is also a collector. Robert Murray said: 'I hope you'll consider signing up for one or more of my workshops. I'm always keen for our customers to be as wellinformed as possible, as well as enjoying their hobby. My business ethos has always been that we have nothing to hide, and have nothing to fear from our customers sharing some of my knowledge. I have to admit to getting annoyed sometimes when I see "pups" our customers have obtained from other sources, and on the other hand can say that one of my pleasures as a stamp dealer is being able to share information and enthusiasm with collectors who can then enjoy stamps even more.'

Workshops are limited to six or ten participants, and booking is essential. The cost of tickets is £9 or £12 each. They take place in the business's smaller shop, just a few doors from their main retail premises. In the past, when some subjects have sold out quickly, it has been possible to add extra dates. Full details of the coverage of these can be seen at www.stamp-shop.com/stamp-workshops

### ABPS strengthens executive team

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) have announced a number of changes to the executive team, following a recent appeal for help as reported in Stamp & Coin Mart.



Rufus Barnes has taken on the role of Vice Chairman of ABPS, pending appointment at the AGM. He will also be responsible for liaison with regional federations. Graham

Winters is Deputy Chairman Elect; and Barry Stagg will take over from Alan Godfrey as Membership Secretary, with Alan becoming Communications Director. Barry will also act as Advertising Manager.

Commenting on the changes, John Baron, Chairman of ABPS, said: 'A new organisation structure is under review for consideration at the AGM. It is important that we have individuals with experience of working in the organisation of the hobby. Rufus, Graham and Barry have worked in many fields of organised philately and bring invaluable knowledge and enthusiasm. They will be well placed to take the ABPS forward in coming years. Everyone involved in ABPS is an unpaid volunteer, so it is great to have people coming forward to help.'

For more information on the ABPS, visit the website www.abps.org. uk or contact: ABPS General Secretary 41 Devonshire Place, London .W1G6JY; e-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk

### 2017-18 PTS Directory FREE with May's Stamp & Coin Mart

The 2017-18 edition of the PTS Directory, the so-called 'yellow pages' of the UK stamp trade featuring details of over 350 dealers, will be given away free with the May issue of Stamp & Coin Mart magazine.

Published by the Stamp & Coin Mart team on behalf of The Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), the comprehensive directory has become an indispensable tool for stamp and postal history collectors, listing every PTS member, along with their specialities, contact details and websites. Editor



Matt Hill said: 'One of the most popular parts of the PTS Directory is the cross reference guides, which allow collectors to find all the organisations dealing in a particular country, theme or speciality. The latest edition will include many new members, along with advice and tips on how to buy and sell stamps with confidence.

The PTS Directory will be the first of a series of free gifts for *Stamp* & Coin Mart subscribers, with a Kidstamps 'My Stamp Album', a set of limited edition postcards, and a pack of stamp hinges set to be given away to subscribers in the coming months as part of the SCM Subs Club. 'We hope readers will pass on the starter stamp album to a young person, to help encourage them to collect,' added Matt Hill, 'while the other gifts are a "thank you" for subscribing to the magazine.' See page 55 for more details of the SCM Subs Club.



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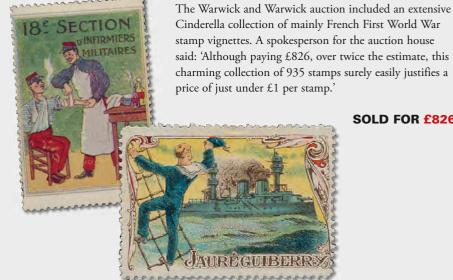


### Latest auction results



A pair of 9d dull violet Australian 'kangaroos' recently went under the hammer in an online auction at Mossgreen. The pair featured a small multi watermark.

**SOLD FOR £133** 



Cinderella collection of mainly French First World War stamp vignettes. A spokesperson for the auction house said: 'Although paying £826, over twice the estimate, this charming collection of 935 stamps surely easily justifies a

SOLD FOR £826



A block of four 1894 \$1 'Bureau issue' recently

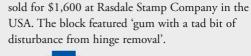
The recent Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions sale in London included an example of the inverted 2c USA carmine and black Pan-American Exposition. Despite being reperforated on all four sides and regummed, the lot was described as 'nevertheless a great rarity'.

SOLD FOR £5,500

A black horizontal pair of the 1895-96 Uganda Rev. Millar typewritten issues (as detailed on page 33) was recently sold at Grosvenor. The pair featured was thought to be produced in May 1895 and the left-hand stamp showed the 'G' impressed twice, the first struck through with a diagonal stroke. The pair was described as 'a fine and very rare multiple'.



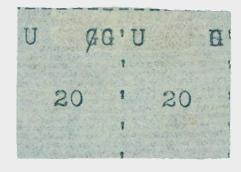
SOLD FOR £1,450



SOLD FOR £1,288







A vertical pair of the 1924 USA 2c carmine, featuring a dramatic rotary printing error was recently sold at Daniel F Kelleher Auctions. The lot was described as a 'tremendous double paper variety with full design on the "flapped" portion the folds onto the bottom stamp, which can easily be refolded out showing how the full design of both stamps passed though the printing press; a most unusual variety on this rotary press printing, suitable for exhibition.'

SOLD FOR £1,450



An 1857 Newfoundland, 2d scarlet vermilion, unused without gum, and described as having 'marvellous, bold colour, small margins to just touching at top and right; very light horizontal crease' recently went under the hammer at Daniel F Kelleher Auctions in the USA. The lot included Sismondo and RPSL certificates.

#### SOLD FOR £2,124

The recent Warwick and Warwick stamp auction included a range of British Commonwealth stamps, which prompted 'strong bidding'. Highlights included a rare Straits Settlement 1904-10 \$100 with marginal plate 1.







An unmounted, mint Falkland Islands 1964 '50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Falkland Islands' 1s black and carmine red, with inverted watermark recently sold at Grosvenor.

#### SOLD FOR £1,500

A 9 schillings dark orangeyellow, Hamburg stamp, described by the auctioneers as a 'luxury piece' was recently sold at Gert Muller GmbH & Co in Germany.

SOLD FOR £1,023





A Queen Victoria Jubilee issue 10d imperforate imprimatur sold for £6,490 in the Great Britain section of the recent Warwick and Warwick sale.

**SOLD FOR £14,160** 

### WORLD VIEW

# Too complex for their own good?



ollectors outside of the USA believe that collecting United States stamps is the most difficult of all national collecting specialities. The reason is that we make too many major catalogue numbers of stamps on which the differences are very hard to distinguish. It starts with the one cent 1851s

of which there are seven major catalogue numbers of a single design and colour, but it really reaches its apotheosis with the 'Bank Note' issue beginning in 1870 (these issues are called the 'Bank Note' issues because the US Post Office changed its printing contract to award it to a printing company that also printed currency).

There are three main issues of 'Bank Notes' along with numerous reissues and special printings and in all comprise nearly sixty major catalogue numbers for eleven different stamp designs. The catalogue does a pretty good job with an overview of the very subtle differences that distinguish these stamps. But take it from someone who has seen literally millions of them, in real life it is often not that easy to tell these stamp varieties apart with complete certainty, especially on the higher values where there are no different printing characteristics, and one must go only by shade. When the stamps are over inked, or when the papers are a mixed hybrid like on some of the Continental printings, determining the correct catalogue number of these stamps can be trying indeed.





The difficulties with the 'Bank Notes', be clear, are not some cosmic problems with which philately is eternally cursed. It is a man-made problem, created by early US collectors who, as I read the literature of the period, seemed to be groping around for ways to make the hobby more scholarly and difficult in a belief that complexity could diffuse the charge that they were continuing a childhood hobby into adulthood. Their decision has had long lasting and deleterious effects on stamp collecting, making US philately unnecessarily obscure and off-putting. We still suffer from a lack of popularity among foreign collectors because of this and even ridicule as a nation that has encouraged a level of specious sophistication in our collecting that we wouldn't tolerate in the philately of others.

John Apfelbaum has spent a lifetime learning about stamp collecting. He runs the venerable firm of stamp professionals Earl PL Apfelbaum, a business that has dealt in only stamps since 1901 and which was founded by his great grandfather. He can be reached at jda2006@aol.com

#### The latest internet sales

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



SOLD FOR £2,001
Ottoman Empire, Letter from Persia to
Galata 1916



Proof of postal stationery 25c, double printing of stamps of India and New-Caledonia



SOLD FOR £1,230
Brazil, Diplomatic mail sent by the Brazilian
Embassy in Montevideo to Buenos Ayres
1877 during the Brazil-Bolivia War



**SOLD FOR £767**France, letter from NIMES January 1871 to Paris by 'Boule de Moulins' (with cert.)



SOLD FOR £630 Switzerland, cantonal stamp Vaud (Geneva) 5c black & red 1849-1850 used (signed Diena & Raybaudi)



SOLD FOR £561
USSR, Airmail 10k 1935 'Flight Moscow-San
Fransisco over North Pole' - variety small 'F'
(Fransisco) MNH



SOLD FOR £468 Spain, 19c brown & pink Isabel II 1865 used



**SOLD FOR £437**Belgium, 20c blue 'Epaulettes' 1849
cancelled '24' Head Post Office Brussels



French & British mixed franking on letter from Sorgues (France) 1855 to London redirected to Ilfracombe

SOLD FOR £426



SOLD FOR £468
Italy former state Romagna, letter franked
4b from Bologna 1859 to Modena



SOLD FOR £226 New South Wales, 1d red 1850 MNG

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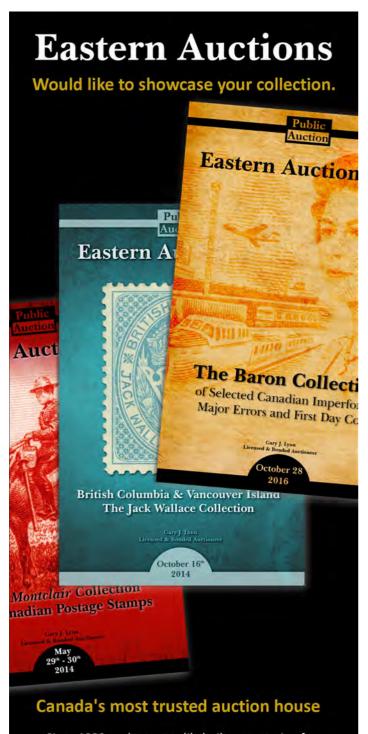
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# Postbag

#### Get in touch

Has the Machin stamp

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LETTER OF THE MONTH

**POSTAL REVOLUTION** 

Dear Stamp & Coin Mart

It seems to me that three topics have occupied your articles and letter pages more than most in recent months; the number of issues of special stamps (and the number of stamps per issue) from Royal Mail, the future (or not) of Machin stamps and the need to introduce more school-age children to stamp collecting. My view is that there may be a way of dealing with all three in one single step.

I think the Machin stamps have had their day, and I would go so far as to suggest that the distinction between definitive and commemorative (special) stamps should be abandoned. The Royal Mail special stamps are not seen on the post that falls through my letter box. If definitives are not used by the sender then we have stampless covers with printed prices of various sorts, but that is another issue!

If one goes into a post office to buy (say) a first class stamp, one receives a Machin definitive. Special stamps have to be asked for specifically. I suppose that is why they are called 'special'. Stamps seen on a day to day basis by schoolchildren who look at the mail on the doormat will most likely be Machins

and each (to the child) can look like every other Machin. Even distinguishing colours can be tricky now as there have been so many shades used. It is the special stamps that look good in an album but the children will rarely see one; except perhaps at Christmas.

My proposal is that Machin definitive stamps should be discontinued and replaced by printings (in greater numbers) of special stamps which are themselves changed every six months or so. With each issue having a range of values (probably in different colours of the same design) to suit postage rates we would get sufficient individual stamps to suit experienced collectors and few enough not to discourage beginners. We could reduce the production costs by reverting to the keyplate type of printing plates. The costs of design and artwork would be no greater than at present.

In the hope of a postal revolution, John Roberts, Flint, North Wales

### POSTAGE STAMPS USED AS MONEY

Dear Stamp & Coin Mart Several S&CM articles have, in the past, mentioned that when adhesive postage stamps came into use in 1840 people began to use them as small change. If, for example, a customer bought 7d-worth of goods in a shop he/she often paid with a sixpence and a penny stamp. One of the largest payments-bypostage-stamp occurred in 1899 when the British Government, owed £6,000 in unpaid revenues by the Crown Colony of St Helena, sent obsolete St Helena postage stamps to the colony, instructing the post-master to sell them for use on local mail at reduced prices until the money owed was raised. Locals on the island, as well as stamp collectors from various parts of the world, soon began to snap up the stamp bargains, paying hard cash that eventually found its way back to Britain.

Arthur Newgate, Surrey

#### LETTER IN BOTTLE

Dear Stamp & Coin Mart As a boy of eight I threw a bottle containing my name and address into the sea while on holiday in Whitby, Yorkshire. A few weeks later I received a postcard from a boy living on the Isle of Texel in the Netherlands. He had found and opened my bottle after finding it on his local beach. That successful nautical communication led to a lifelong interest in the subject. I've sent quite a few messages in bottles, and found one or two while beach-combing in various parts of the world. But other people's bottle messages always seem more adventurous than my own. Recently, while browsing an 1899 issue of the Leeds Mercury, I read a news item about an Icelandic fisherman who found a bottle on an ice-flow. Opening it he found a letter addressed to The Swedish Polar Expedition HQ in Gothenburg. A note on the envelope asked the finder to forward it, so when the fisherman returned to Iceland he sent the letter via a merchant ship which called at Leith (Edinburgh), then Copenhagen, where the letter passed into the Danish postal system and found its way to Gothenburg.

Opened, it was found to contain a message from hot air balloonist and explorer August Andrée, who had been forced to land on an ice-flow with two fellow explorers. His letter, together with diaries and undeveloped film later recovered, confirmed that they had flown to within 400 miles of the North Pole before coming down and surviving for months by shooting polar bears and gulls. Their bodies were found and recovered in the 1930s and returned to Sweden for heroes' burials.

John Crowe, North Yorks

#### WHEN IS A BIRD NOT A BIRD?

Dear *Stamp & Coin Mart*I have recently become interested in topical collecting and chosen Birds as my specialised theme. I've experienced no difficulty in forming a collection of several

hundred with very little expense. They seem a lot less costly than cigarette cards, and, in many cases, of better quality colour printing – to my beginner's eye. Keeping such attractive images within a closed album does not suit my temperament; I'd much rather see them displayed on my walls in picture frames, though I'm sure this will not go down well with philatelists.

My other minor grumble concerns Stanley Gibbons Thematic Catalogue, *Collect Birds On Stamps*. I managed to buy a second-hand copy which, as I have no interest in "values", suits me as a beginner by listing about 7,500 bird stamps I can seek. But I'm disappointed that the cataloguers omit poultry from their classifications. In my opinion hens are birds. Like penguins, they can't fly; yet penguins make it into the catalogue. That's a pity because hens are far more colourful than penguins.

Another anomaly is the omission of what are described as symbolic birds; presumably when used as national symbols. But a glance at the USA entries shows a magnificent bald eagle with widespread wings on a 1938 six-cent airmail stamp. The creature is surely symbolic of flight? I hope thematic collecting is a sufficiently broad church to allow me to show my chickens and bald eagles in the same display case.

A. C. Greenbaum. Leicester

#### WIN! Design book

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We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and cannot reply personally to all correspondence.



#### **OPINION**

# Modern ways to preserve our past

There's no denying that the digital revolution has changed they way we communicate, but while many collectors may rue the arrival of the e-mail, the invention has only made our collections more important argues Matt Hill

Did you know there's a Museum of Email and Digital Communications? The online museum consists of 'some 2,500 reports, conferences, and bulletins, dating back to 1990'. There's even a page dedicated to 'spam' which, the website explains, began way back in 1978

when the first unsolicited commercial email was sent, and it's right there on the site for you to read for yourself, should you really wish to.

It seems strange that the world of electronic communications should require a conservation project such as this, or that anyone would be interested in reading about pioneering email systems, the 'PC LAN Email Explosion' or the impact of government email regulations (just some of the subjects covered at email-museum. com). But the fleeting nature of digital communications

means most of what we send nowadays is almost immediately discarded. When was the last time you revisited an old text message sent years ago? How many e-mails have you

printed out for your files or framed on your wall? We simply send the message and move on, so perhaps it's right that these modern communications should be preserved for future generations.

But these staid websites and museums simply cannot compete with the colourful, intriguing, enlightening postal history and postage stamps that many of us have enthusiastically collected and studied for years.

So while the digital revolution has made

communication more dispensable, it has also enhanced the significance of our collections. We collectors are preserving the past, protecting and exhibiting fascinating stamps and covers that were carried across vast oceans and exotic lands many years ago. In fact the ongoing

technology revolution has made it easier than ever for us to share this postal history in more accessible, engaging and future-proof ways.

The forthcoming Postal Museum, due to be opened later this year, will feature interactive exhibits, including the Mail Rail attraction, bringing hundreds of years of postal history to life. Visitors will hear of 'the horsemen who galloped the 217 miles from London to Plymouth in a week for Elizabeth I, the heavily armed 18th-century mailcoach drivers who fought off knaves and highwaymen,

and the Scottish postwoman crossing swelling Highland rivers using only a rope during the Second World War', stories which, of course, sound a little more interesting than the world's first spam email.

Perhaps future generations will live to regret the fast-paced methods of communication we now take for granted, and become more and more inquisitive about paper records, old maps, documents, and the postal system of old, as these items become scarcer. They may even return to written communication. Until then, we collectors will continue to record the original communication revolution, alongside curators at vital institutions such as The Postal Museum. One day our descendants will thank us.





While the digital revolution has made communication more dispensable, it has also enhanced the significance of our collections



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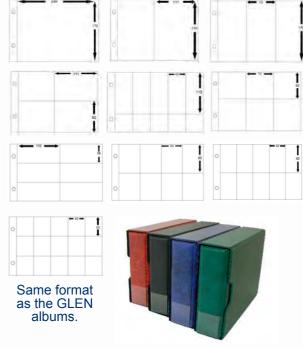
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#### Quick Links

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#### POST & GO

### Non-standard Datastrings

The datastring at the bottom of Post & Go stamps provides a lot of information, that is, if it is not a nonstandard datastring, over the years there have been some very unusual examples, writes Stuart Leigh.

The first part of the datastring normally identifies the issuing post office, where the stamps have been dispensed from a Wincor-Nixdorf kiosk or currently NCR kiosk, and comprises six numbers.

In the early days when the Wincor-Nixdorf machines were being tested at a Post Office / Royal Mail facility at Old Street, London, there were a couple one might expect, namely 123456 and 999999, but also 114777 and 113777. There was a conference in Billingsgate, London on 12 May, 2011, the sixth National Digital Conference, where two kiosks were being demonstrated, these had an identifier of 699010 and 699011.

A more frequently seen identifier is 402511. This is actually a small sub-post office at Rooksbridge

(Bristol Rd. Rooksbridge, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2TE) but it does not have a Post & Go machine. However, when a new NCR machine is being setup a test is carried out and the datastring will read 402511 72-001985-03, this number will appear on whatever roll of stamps are in the printer. It is always the same number and once the test is complete the machine will be programmed with the correct office identification.

As can be seen some are used and go through the mail system as normal. There are, of course, the occasional errors, one of the most well-known was from Upper Holloway Post Office in London back on 19 September, 2012 from a Wincor-Nixdorf kiosk dispensing Birds 3 when the branch code was 000000. The same code was found at Trafalgar Square in July 2012 on Union Flag stamps. There are not many about, but they do turn up in the most unexpected places.

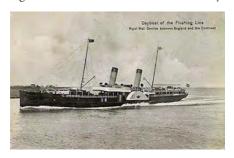


#### **CINDERELLAS**

### The Queenborough Flushing Paddle Steamer Service

If Brexit means what it says, getting across the Channel may once again take us back to those exhilarating adventures experienced when we all carried Britannic Majesty passports and juggled francs, guilders and marks in pockets and purses while standing in Étrangers/Ausländer/ Buitenlanders queues at border checkpoints over there, writes Ed Fletcher. Holidaymakers had hairs on their chests in those days; I shall take my chances aboard a side-paddle steamer churning through choppy waves close to the confluence of the rivers Swale and Medway with a cargo of passengers and mail bound for the Low Countries.

That's how it was during the 18th and 19th centuries when Queenborough Harbour, two miles south of Sheerness, offered safe moorings to vessels at all states of the tide, and attracted a wide range of craft. It had been a popular landing place since Saxon times and remained so for passengers wanting to get ashore and take a fast stage-coach to London. The Dutch came to buy





cheap shellfish and liked the facilities. In the Postal Age seamen from the Port of Vlissingen (the English call it Flushing) 112 miles across the southern North Sea, formed the Stoonvaart Maatschappij Zeeland (The Zeeland Steamship Company), which became widely known as the SMZ. Their early vessels had begun their sailing careers running blockades during the American Civil War. After 1865 they concentrated on coastal and cross-Channel trade with ports around the Thames estuary, eventually settling on Queenbrough as their English port when they won a mail carrying service from the Dutch government. Several new ships were put into service, most built at Scottish yards.

The growth of London, the extension of several railway routes to the Medway and the Swale, and the massive increase in inland, Continental and worldwide postal services, all brought business for



SMZ. Passenger numbers were also boosted by the popularity of day-tripping to the Continent. It was probably that aspect of SMZ business that persuaded their sales promoting team to use poster stamps similar to the two shown here. Passengers bought them at Queenborough and at Flushing to stick on their postcards and letters.

Alas, two world wars, together with the growth of ports such as Dover, Harwich and Hook of Holland resulted in decline in the 1930s. As German stormtroopers swept into Holland in 1939 the remaining vessels of the SMZ fleet made a dash across the Channel to England. Crews and ships served in our Navy throughout the war... and eventually returned to their home port.

Poster stamp images courtesy of Appledoor Cinderellas. Visit their website to view many more poster stamps on sale.





# The Foxley KGV & KGVI Collection of Bermuda Tuesday 14th March 2017







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#### **ERRORS**

# Festival faults

Guyana. Festival of Arts and Culture. Issued 1 February, 1977. The Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture was originally scheduled to be held from 22 November to 20 December, 1975 in Nigeria, but the event was postponed by the Federal Military Government due to lack of facilities, writes Tom Pierron. The event eventually took place between 15 January and 12 February, 1977.

Stamps for the original 1975 event were prepared for issue in Guyana, but were withheld and overprinted before being released 1 February 1977. A small number of stamps and miniature sheets exist missing the obliteration bar and overprint.

Discover more errors on the blog: stamps24seven.com

#### **FIRST DAY COVERS**

#### A 1939 mystery

So what do we know about Anton's Shop in London, the people this nice cover is addressed to, in fact was it even a stamp shop? Well the answer is very little, writes Brian Austin, until King Edward VIII came along. When the first set of three stamps came out on the 1 September, 1936 someone at Anton's realised that the village of King Edward in north-east Scotland would make a



lovely connected postmark, which they also used on the single 1d issue on the 14 September and also with all four values on the 10 December when the abdication was announced. So this could be the end of the story, but not quite.

We have just had this cover come in to Buckingham Covers postmarked 3 November, 1936, which we are told was the state opening of parliament, maybe one of the few official duties he took part in during his reign. In addition we have another full set cover, not by Anton's, but postmarked 4 March, 1939. So this leads me to throw out three questions to you, do you know what happened on his mysterious day in 1939? Are there any other dates on Anton's covers which we should be looking out for? And what else did they sell at Anton's Shop? I have always thought that with just four stamps this would be quite a nice small issue to collect, but perhaps there's more to the issue than I first thought.

#### **POSTMARKS**

# The mother-in-law of Europe

The Princess Amalie of Baden is the subject of a pictorial postmark used at Bruchsal in 1982 to mark the Sudwest '82 Exhibition and the 150th anniversary of her death, writes David Gwynn. The daughter of the Landgrave of Hess-Darmstadt she saw many changes to the map and social order of Europe during the Napoleonic period.

She married the Hereditary Prince of Baden and had six daughters and two sons. One son died in infancy and the other became Grand Duke of Baden. However, her nickname of the Mother-in-Law of Europe came from marrying five daughters to a variety of crowned heads. Karoline became Queen of Bavaria; Louise became Empress of Russia; Frederica Queen of Sweden; Marie Duchess of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel and Wilhelmine Grand Duchess of Hesse. Son Karl married Stephanie de Beauharnais, step-daughter of Napoleon Bonaparte.

She retired to her country estate in 1806 but continued to have considerable influence



over European politics. She tried to influence a peace between Sweden and Napoleon, but could not prevent her son-in-law being deposed as King of Sweden and being replaced by the Bernadotte dynasty. She did, however, manage to keep Baden territorially whole and a Grand Duchy at the Congress of Vienna. She died at Bruchsal in 1832.



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# delcampe

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# Philatelic curiosities

# #13 The Uganda Missionary stamps

While stamp production in developed countries was making new advances, the printing of stamps in other realms was much more simplistic, as David Bailey reveals

t was a Mr G Wilson, an official with the British East Africa Company, who first proposed a mail service for the new Uganda Protectorate. The only problem was the lack of a printing press to produce the stamps.

So the first stamps of Uganda were hammered out on a manual typewriter, the only one in the territory.

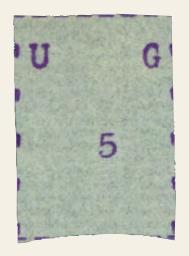
The typewriter belonged to the Revd Ernest Millar of the Church Missionary Society (CMS). He was an honorary missionary, working unpaid, and he was happy to help with the project. He created the first trial sheets on 14 March, 1895. He began production on 16 March and the postal service commenced on 20 March.

Public use was confined to the former native kingdom of Buganda, while missionaries used the stamps in other provinces. Letters were carried by native porters, in cleft sticks

The typewritten stamps are denominated in Cowries, the shells of a sea-snail which were highly valued for decoration and also used as currency. 200 Cowries were worth 1 Rupee, which, at the time was worth 1/4d (about 6p today). All values were imperforate and supplied without gum; this came from a locally grown tree.

The designs are as simple as it gets. The letters UG stood for Uganda Government. Dashes and apostrophes mark out the borders of each stamp and the figure of value is centred low. The design was updated in the following year, with the letters VR, the year 96 and Uganda spelt out.

Each sheet contained stamps of different values, comprising whatever was wanted at the time and there are the variations you'd expect in the shape An unused example of the 5c violet of November 1895; fine and very rare; the 1r value form the typeset series of 1986, pen cancelled 'Lubwa's/1897/F. Rowling' (images courtesy of Grosvenor Auctions)



and weight of the letters, but very few actual mistakes. The first stamps are in sheets of 117. (thirteen rows of nine) With narrower spacing this was increased to 143 (thirteen rows of eleven). And in a continuing spirit of 'waste not, want not', the sheets were turned upside down during production, so that stamps could be typed at the very bottom of the page. Many sheets also have a line of type summarising the values it contains, handy for accounting purposes.

This variety of sheet make-up means the Missionaries are found as singles, pairs and blocks as normal, but also in strips and blocks containing different values and as tete beche pairs.

All of the stamps are typed onto 'Sermon Paper' a thin, laid foolscap sheet, which is easily damaged, so fine used copies command a premium.

From May 1895, the stamps have narrower letters. The Revd was given a new typewriter. And from November, the stamps appear in violet instead of black, thanks to a new ribbon.

Each stamp was cancelled manually; there were no cancellation devices in Uganda until 1898. One set was also surcharged by hand at the remote mission at Ngogwe; these are the rarest of all.

In 1896, the Protectorate switched to the more bankable currency of Annas and Rupees, which called for a new set of stamps. By now, the CMS had a printing press and the stamps were typeset by the Revd Frank Rowling who



had restored the printing press after it was nearly lost in Lake Victoria.

These stamps also have a primitive charm, and with a two-year lifespan, the quantities produced make them somewhat affordable.

The 'Missionaries' were used almost entirely in the Protectorate and news of their existence took until 1900 to reach London. By this time, there were no unsold stocks left for the dealers of the day to snap up, so they remain rare.

The first definitive account of the stamps was written by Charles Phillips in 1904. Fortunately, the Revd Millar was able to help with his own reminiscences as well as entries from his diaries, so the key dates are accurate. In an attempt to stop forgeries of these stamps appearing, Phillips declined to mention the make of typewriter (it must have leaked out since; can any readers help?) He also knew that his was very much a preliminary survey. However, since then, the stamps have been extensively researched, resulting in the sequence of typefaces, widths and colours that make up numbers 1 to 53 in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

They're not the most attractive stamps in the catalogue. But when it comes to summing up the 'can do' frontier spirit of the African pioneers, no other stamps come close.

Next Month: Zemstvo Stamps; the local posts of Russia.

#### 1924-2016 COMMEMORATIVE SET DATE U/M SET U/M 1924 Wemblev 11.00 1970 Cottages 0.20 1982 Christmas 0.90 1993 Greetings 6.50 2001 Christmas 3.00 2009 Olympics 6.50 1925 mble 35.00 1970 0.30 PLETE YEA 1993 Clocks 1.20 COMPLETE YEA 6.00 2009 P.U.C 1970 1970 Dickens 0.35 0.25 1993 1993 1.40 1.20 6.50 Kipling Storie MPLETE YEA PUC WMK. SIDE Album Cove 1929 150.00 1983 mmony Art 2002 Golden Jubilee 3.00 2.75 2010 2010 7.00 PUC WMK. INV. Roman 1929 40.00 1970 Philympia 0.20 1983 Engineering 0.60 1993 1.20 2002 Occasions Royal Society 1970 Christmas 0 15 1983 Uniform 1 10 1993 Canals 1.20 2002 Coastlines 3 00 2010 Dogs and Cats 6.50 2.40 3.00 1993 Autumn 2010 5.00 Holmes 193 Ulste 0.25 Coronation 0.10 1971 2002 Circus 2010 Mammals 6.50 Christmas 1940 Centenary 2.70 1971 Literary 0.25 1983 1.00 1993 Christmas 1.50 2002 Aircraft 3.00 Victory ONDON 2010(6v) Gen. 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(P) 1985 1985 1.30 1.15 2003 2011 7.00 Christmas MPLETE YEAI Olympics Shakespeare 196 Wedding 1973 0.30 Christmas 2011 Crown Jewels 7.00 1963 Paris (O) 0.10 1973 Christma 0.75 IPLETE YE 1995 Communications 1.40 2004 Locomotives 4.00 Paris (P) Nature (O) 1.00 Rugby League Christmas 196 I FTF V 1995 1.50 2011 UK A-Z Part 1 8.50 1986 1986 1.00 1.00 1.00 Comet Birthday 1995 1.75 2011 Christmas 7.00 Nature (P) 1963 1.10 1974 Fire UPU 0.40 IPLETE YE 2004 Northern Ireland 3.50 MPLETE YEA 1963 Lifeboat (Ó) 1.00 1974 1986 Nature 1.00 1996 Burns 1.40 2004 Entente Cordiale 1.00 2012 2012 I ifeboat (P 17.50 1.75 22.00 1974 Britons 0.40 1986 edieval I ife 1.00 1.30 1996 Greetings 6.50 ld Dahl 1996 1996 eetings (Phos) Wildfowl Churchill 1986 20.00 Red Cross (O) 2012 Windsor 5.00 Red Cross (P) 1974 0.30 1986 Royal Wedding 2004 1963 Christmas 0.30 Wales 3.00 2012 7.00 0.35 1963 Cable (O) 0.70 1974 MPLETE YEAR 1.80 1986 Parliament 1996 Cinema 1.50 2004 Society of Arts 3.20 Cable (P. 196 4.80 1975 0.05 1986 R.A.F. 1.30 1996 Football 1.80 2004 Woodland Animals 2012 Comics 7.00 1.30 1.50 1.50 1.40 4.25 1996 Turne 0.30 0.45 Christmas 6v Olympics The Crimean War UK A-Z Part 2 1996 1964 Shakes (P) 1975 Architecture MPLETE YEA Nomen/Europa Childrens TV 2004 Christmas 3.70 2012 Fashion 7.00 1964 Geog (O) 1.25 1975 Sailing 0.35 1987 1.00 1996 COMPLETE YEAR 2012 ond Jubile 8.00 Railwa 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 9.00 1.25 0.40 0.15 1975 Newton 1996 Cars 1 80 2005 Farm Animals S. 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(P) 1.60 1978 Coronation 1989 1.10 1998 Sounds of Britain 196 Burns (Ó 0.20 1978 Horses 0.40 1989 Microscopes 1.10 1.00 1998 Christmas 1.80 2006 Smilers 6.00 2014 Buckingham Palace 4.00 Burns (P) 1966 0.50 Cycling 0.40 0.40 Mayor Christmas PLETE YE 2006 Christmas Great British Film 6.00 2014 1978 1989 Abbey (O) MPLETE YEAR 2014 Sustainable Fish 6.50 4.00 1966 Abbev (P 0.10 MPLETE YEA 2.20 0.40 **IPLETE YE** 1999 Travellers 1.50 2007 Beatles 0.25 1979 1990 150th Anniv 1.50 1999 Patients 1.50 2007 Sea Life 6.50 (0 2014 The Great War 7.00 3.80 4.00 1979 1990 RSPCA 1.20 1999 Settlers 1.50 2007 Sky At Night 6.00 2014 1999 1999 1.50 1.50 1.50 Greetings Inventions Prime Ministers 2014 7.00 W.Cup (P Entertainers 1960 0.15 1979 Racing 0.40 1990 Europa 1.00 1.00 2007 Slave Trade 3.80 2014 Christmas 8.00 1966 Birds (O) 0.20 1979 Year Of Child 0.40 1990 Queens Award 1999 Roval Wedding 0.85 2007 Seaside 3 60 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.55 1.50 1.50 1.50 0.20 1999 1999 4.00 4.00 4.00 COMPLETE YEAR 1990 Gardens 1 20 Citizens 2007 Grand Prix 2007 2015 Alice In Wonderland 10 00 Hardy Harry Potter 1979 Police Christmas 1990 1.20 1999 1966 Technology (O) 0.20 1979 Birthday **Farmers** 2007 Scouts 3.60 196 0.25 1979 MPLETE YEAR 3.30 1990 Gallantry 1.00 1999 Soldiers 1.50 2007 Rirds 6.50 2015 Inventive Britain 10.00 Hastings (O) Hastings (P) Astronomy 1.10 1.30 0.45 1990 1999 Christians Uniforms nond Wedding Railways Christmas Artists 2015 Comedy Greats 7.00 OMPLETE YEAR 1966 Xmas (O) 0.10 1980 London 0.50 MPLETE YEA 2007 Christmas - 8v 6.00 2015 Great War 7 50 Dogs 196 Xmas (P) 0.10 1980 Landmarks 0.60 1991 1.40 2000 Above and Bevond 1.50 OMPLETE YEAR 8.00 2015 Magna Carta E.F.T.A. (O) 0.10 mous Women Q.Mother 0.55 1991 "Luck" 6.50 1.00 2000 2000 Fire and Light Water and Coast 4 00 วกกร 2015 Battle of Waterloo 7.00 3.60 4.00 E.F.T.A. (P) 0.10 Working Dogs 2015 1967 Flowers (O) 0.40 1980 0.55 1991 tings "Sn 6.50 2000 2000 Life and Earth 2.00 2008 Kina & Queens 2015 Rugby World Cup 8.00 2.00 196 1980 Sports 0.55 1991 1.10 Art and Craft 2008 20.00 2015 2015 1980 1991 1991 Sports Roses 2000 onle and Place 2.00 0.70 Chicheste Christmas 10.00 PLETE YE 1.40 1.40 Folklore 0.70 2000 2.00 1967 Discoveries 0.15 1981 1991 Dinosaurs Tree and Leaf 2008 Cathedrals 4.00 196 Christmas 0.10 1981 Disabled 0.70 1991 Maps Christmas 1.20 2000 Mind and Matter 2.00 2008 Carry On 4 00 2016 Shackleton 10.00 0.70 0.70 0.90 0.35 Royal Mail 500 7.50 Bridges 1991 2000 Body and Bone 2 00 2016 2000 PLETE YE Spirit and Faith R.A.F. Uniforms 2016 7.50 1968 2008 Anniversaries 0.15 Humanitarians 22.00 1.40 1968 Paintings 0.15 1981 Roval Wedding 1992 Wintertime 2000 Sound and Vision 2.00 2008 Women 4.00 2016 7.50 Shakespeare D. Of Edinburg Greetings 1968 Christm 1981 0.70 1992 6.50 I FTF YFAR 2008 Christmas 4.00 0.10 2016 90th Birthday 1992 1992 1.20 1.20 2001 2016 Great War 7.50 1981 Christmas Tennyson Design Classics Ships 0.90 2001 Occasi 2016 Pink Floyd 1969 Concorde 0.20 IPLETE YEA 1992 Olympics 1.50 2001 Cats and Dogs 6.50 2009 Darwin 4.50 2016 Beatrix Potter 8.00 Civil War 0.25 0.80 1992 1.20 2001 Weather 2.00 2009 Industrial 5.00 0.35 1982 Youth 1992 G. & Sulliva 1.40 1.20 2001 Navy Submarines Kings & Que 1982 2016 Great Fire of London 7.50 3.00 2009 Endangered Plants 6.50 4.50 1969 0.20 2001 Double-Deckers 2016 Agatha Christie Mr.Men Little Miss 8 50 1.10 Euro-Market 1969 Gandhi 0.10 1982 Maritime 1992 0.25 2001 Fabulous Hats 2.40 2009 Mythical Creatures nd Life/Euron 2016 1969 1982 1992 Christmas 1 40 2001 2009 re and Rescue 4 50 Technolo Textiles 2016 Christmas 10.50 Technology Navy Uniforms Cars 2001 Nobel Prizes

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# THE DAVID BOWIE COLLECTION BY FDCOVERS.COM









# **BOWIE CLASSICS**

Royal Mail continue their 'Music Giants' series with ten stamps paying tribute to David Bowie, one of the country's most influential musicians who embraced a multitude of styles during his hugely successful career

avid Bowie joins the growing list of rock and pop musicians to be celebrated on British stamps this month, with a set of ten special stamps from Royal Mail, six recalling just some of the many critically acclaimed albums released during his long career, and four stamps, forming a miniature sheet, reflecting the singer's live performances.

When Royal Mail hit upon the idea of issuing a set of 'Classic Albums' stamps in January 2010, with the design of each stamp

performances are reflected in a four-stamp miniature sheet. His final tour was the A Reality Tour, in 2004.

and Fall of Ziggy

David Bowie's live

to collect

Stamp details whilst his last concert Issue date: 14 March, 2017 was in 2006 in New York **Design: Studio Dempsey** 

**Printer:** International Security Printers, gravure

1st Class - Hunky Dory 1st Class - Aladdin Sane

Perforations: 14.5

1st Class - Heroes

£1.52 - Let's Dance £1.52 - Earthling

£1.52 - \*

Miniature sheet

1st Class - Ziggy Stardust Tour, 1972 1st Class - Serious Moonlight

Tour, 1983

£1.52 - The Stage Tour, 1978

£1.52 - A Reality Tour, 2004

Six of Bowie's albums depicting a vinyl record coming are represented in the out of the sleeve and breaking the set. The 2010 'Classic stamp perforations, they must have Albums' set included a known they were on to a winner. That Bowie stamp showing particular set featured a single stamp the cover of The Rise showing Pink Floyd's Division Bell album and another recalling David Stardust and the Spiders Bowie's The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars; since from Mars, giving Bowie fans seven LP stamps then both of these artists have been given another ten stamps, six stamps from each set follow the LP design.

#### A philatelic discography

David Bowie's death at the age of 69 in January 2016 prompted tributes from around the world, from his New York home to the south London streets where he grew up. Music journalists and fans mourned the loss of an eclectic, adventurous artist and debates raged about which albums were the best. The selection

of LPs across the six stamps will no doubt inspire further discussion from followers, but it seems Royal Mail have opted for a chronological selection rather than going for popularity or sales.

The first of the 1st Class stamps shows the album sleeve from the 1971 LP Hunky Dory, which opens with 'Changes' and also features the famous track 'Life on Mars?', voted Bowie's best song in a 2012 poll. Bowie would explore the themes of extraterrestrials and sexual ambiguity further on the following year's 'Ziggy Stardust' album, available from the 2010 set, but the current set fast forwards to Aladdin Sane (1st Class) released in 1973 and featuring songs including 'The Iean Genie'.

The third 1st Class stamp shows 1977's Heroes and sees yet another







DRUD BOWIE
HUNKS DORS



side to the singer's ever-changing persona and style. Recorded wholly in Berlin, the album has a more electronic, ambient feel and produced the classic title track, memorably used for the medals ceremonies during the London 2012 Olympics (perhaps the stamp could be used in an Olympics-themed collection).

Moving on to the three £1.52 values we see Bowie in full 1980s pop star mode on the LP *Let's Dance*. The album saw the singer embrace yet more musical styles, this time combining disco, pop and guitar, thanks in part to co-producer Nile Rodgers, and the collection sold over 10 million copies, becoming Bowie's most successful album.

Earthling (1997) was the now fifty-year-old Bowie's twentieth album and again saw the singer explore contemporary styles, this time reflecting the 'drum n bass' culture of the time.

The final album of the set is *Blackstar*, issued on the singer's 69th birthday, just two days before he passed away. The album was, in part, a deliberate self-styled epitaph for the singer, who had been suffering from liver cancer, and the LP went



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Which David Bowie LP features the tracks 'China Girl' and 'Modern Love'?

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to number one in both the UK and USA charts.

#### **Bowie live**

Completing the set, four additional stamps show Bowie performing live on tours across four decades: The Ziggy Stardust Tour, 1972; The Stage Tour, 1978; The Serious Moonlight Tour, 1983; and A Reality Tour, 2004. The four stamps (two at £1.52 and two 1st Class) form a miniature sheet with another photograph of Bowie on stage in the background.

'For five decades David Bowie was at the forefront of contemporary culture, and has influenced successive generations of musicians, artists, designers and writers,' Philip Parker, Royal Mail Stamp Strategy Manager, said. 'Royal Mail's stamp issue celebrates this unique figure and some of his many celebrated personas.'

In the weeks following David Bowie's death, nineteen of his albums went back into the charts, and his videos and songs were enjoyed by millions of people across the world. A year on, the singer and his challenging, entertaining and thought-provoking work is still being discussed and dissected by fans and critics. One of the country's most influential cultural icons, it seems only fitting that he should be honoured with a set of stamps.

#### Philatelic souvenirs

The stamps will be on sale from 14 March at www.royalmail.com/ davidbowie and from 7,000 Post Office branches across the UK. In addition to the ten stamps, collectors can also purchase a presentation pack (£11.30) featuring a biography; and first day covers for the six stamps (£8.20) and the miniature sheet (£5.60). Two special stamp sheets will also be available, both limited to 7,500 copies. The first includes five Heroes stamps and the second five Hunky Dory stamps, both sheets feature a larger image of the album in the background. Finally, the six LP stamps are available mounted in a black frame, priced at £29.99.





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### 1911GERMAN PRINTERS SAMPLE (BY BRUCKMAN OF MUNICH)

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They were tendering for the 1912 King George V Royal Cypher contract. The sample stamp was printed Imperf in Black (Extra Large format) on unwatermarked gummed paper in reversed image to prevent postal use. Scarce singles A few Marginal singles available ......£125.00



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Bruckman of Munich, the German printers wanted to tender for the contracts to produce British stamps on their new Heidelberg machines.

They used Edward VII stamps during the reign of King George V to protect the Post Office revenue so they would not be used for postage and additionally these 'sample stamps' were produced slightly oversize also to detract from possible usage.

Following on from our original acquisition and announcement, we have now secured a second and final printing of these Edward VII 1d Trails PRINTED ON UNWATERMARKED PAPER INSTEAD of the BAVARAIAN 19th Century 'ZIG ZAG' WATERMARK.

Apparently before printers were to send samples and submit the tender to the British Post Office, the quality controller preferred to print some on the unwatermarked paper which would give a clearer print impression.

This made a lot of sense at the time, however with the outbreak of World War One, no tenders were made and the stamps were archived. The cheapest Edward VII trial stamps listed by Stanley Gibbons start at £1500 each! And generally realise full catalogue or over.

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### King Edward VII Penny Red

In our ongoing series on classic British stamps, Ed Fletcher describes the history and background to the King Edward VII Id definitive, a stamp which saw a departure from the design of Victorian stamps and went on to outlive the king

he stamp we hope to persuade you to add to your GB Gems Affordable Classic Collection this month is a mint (or mint hinged) Edward VII Penny Red with good margins, and in well-cared-for condition. The general public first saw it on sale, together with the near-identical halfpenny green, twopence-halfpenny ultramarine and sixpence pale dull purple on 1 January, 1902, almost a year into the new reign.

After more than sixty years of buying stamps bearing the new King's mother's portrait, Post Office counter customers, who had perhaps hoped for sweeping design changes, now seemed satisfied with the innovation of a male head on Britain's stamps following Victoria's



The new stamps saw a new approach to design, with a more ornamental frame and the crown featured above the portrait of the monarch





62-year monopoly. Some satisfaction was also expressed on seeing that the Post Office had reverted to stamps of single colours; and that the monarch's portrait, centrally set in an oval of laurel leaves symbolising Victory (perhaps with some reference to the Boer War from which Britain emerged victorious that year); and oak leaves signifying sovereignty; showed an honest likeness of the King, revealing his good humour, kindness and commonsense nature.

When buying your first Edward VII penny red you will have questions of colour shade, watermark difference and overall condition buzzing through your mind. Additionally, you have to be aware that two printers - De La Rue and Harrison & Sons - produced these

stamps and subjected their sheets to different perforating gauges. Yes, there is much for the beginner to take in; but the more you look, the more you learn. Don't rush in with a three-figure purchase at the outset. Expect change from £10 when buying the first for your collection.

### What's so special about the **Edward VII Penny stamp?**

It deserves emphasising that the four stamps issued on 1 January, 1902 were special in being the first Great Britain stamps to depict a king. Given that every GB stamp of Victoria's reign portrays her wearing a crown, her son's GB stamps are also rather special in showing him bare-headed,





with the crown set in the framework of the stamp above the King's head. The portrait engraved by De La Rue for the new stamps was later used for many Imperial issues. The 1911 Harrison & Sons printing, with perforations gauge 14, were special in being the first postage stamp work undertaken by the firm. You will probably find the rose-red shade the least costly Harrison stamp issued in May of that year. Their One Penny rose-red, rosecarmine and pale rose-carmine, issued in October, were also rather special with their 15x14 perforations. The rose-carmine should prove the most affordable, though perhaps three times the price of May's rose-red.

### Why was the stamp issued in 1902 and 1911?

The 1902 - 1910 issues of the One Penny formed part of the final work carried out by printers De La Rue



on Edward VII postage stamps. In early 1911 Harrison & Sons held the printing contract. Remaining stocks of the De La Rue stamps were running low when, in May 1911, Harrison was able to print additional supplies as a stop-gap measure and perforate them at 14 gauge to match De La Rue's specifications. In October of the same year Harrison produced further supplies, including the One Penny, gauged at 15 x 14. It is interesting to note that even before Harrison printed the stamps, the King had passed away, but since the George V printing plates were not ready in time, the postal authorities had to continue with the previous monarch's stamps.

### How many varieties are there?

Edward VII gave stamp collectors another short reign that proved long on varieties. As you progress towards forming a collection holding one of each of all Edward VII values (well, as many as you can afford) you will discover that colour shades, watermark inversions, perforation gauges, paper types, printers and overprints all tempt you into deeper waters, which will clear the longer you stay in the pool.

Next month in GB Gems: Your guide to the One Penny Lilac of 1881

Thanks to Royston Stamps and eBay's 7338chriss for help with illustrations for this feature. Both currently have attractive Edward VII stamps for sale on their eBay pages.

Above: there are at least 87 different shade varieties recorded for the 1d red stamp, including the rosecarmine shade seen on the left

### Essential info

Issue date: 1 January, 1902

Value: 1d

Reign: King Edward VII (1901-1910)
Valuable variety: 1902 1d
scarlet with variety 'Pin Repair
below P of Postage' on offer at
hendonstamps.com for £145

#### Shade varieties...

Neil Mantle of UK GB Stamps (www.ukgbstamps.co.uk) has identified at least 87 shades of the 1d across the printers and perforation varieties.

#### Timeline...

January 1902 – the first definitives of Edward VII are issued almost one year after the King's accession to the throne

May 1910 – the King dies after several heart attacks

October 1911 – the 1d red was reissued, this time perforated 15 x 14, along with four other values, even though the king had died

June 1911 – the first definitives of King George V are issued but Edward VII stamps are still in use until 1913

#### Higher prices...

A rose-carmine lower marginal single with the 'F 7' control almost completely omitted, fine mint and 'extremely rare being one of only two examples believed known' was sold at Grosvenor for £1,250

A 1d 'scarlet' featuring a 'Board of Education' overprint sold for £55 recently on ebay.

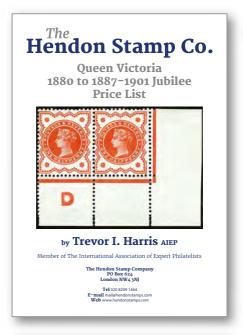
### Affordable prices...

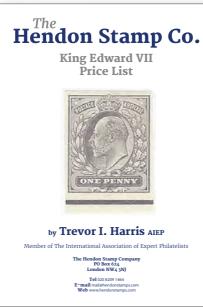
Used examples can be picked up for less than £1. A block of six 1d reds in mint condition sold on ebay in January for £11.

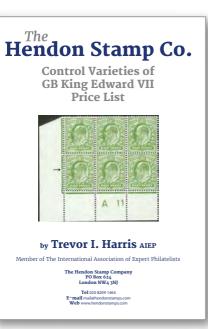
A 1d Scarlet pin repair below 'P' of 'POSTAGE' in heavily mounted mint condition, is on offer at the website www.ukgbstamps.co.uk for £24.

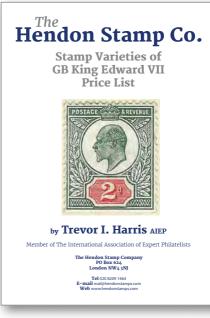
## Six Great New Lists - OUT SOON from Trevor I. Harris AIEP

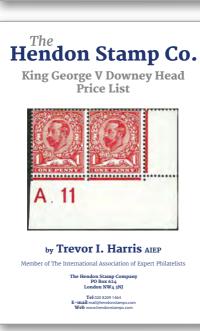
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The GB King Edward VII Specialist

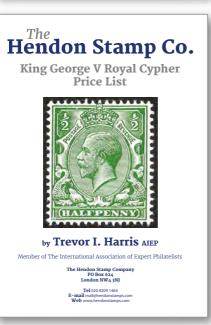












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### Buying by the book

Selling stamps between card covers might have had a rather rocky start but the habit eventually caught on, first with letter writers and then collectors. Ed Fletcher looks at the opening decades of the stamp booklet

n 1895 the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg became the first postal authority to issue small panes of postage stamps stitched in booklet form between card covers. The convenience of not having to queue, or to remember to buy one's stamps so frequently, assured the popularity of stamp booklets. Sweden adopted them in 1898; the United States in 1900; Great Britain in 1904; and during those opening 20th-century years sales spread around the world. One or two hiccups occurred, however, at the time of their advent in Britain.

For example, the Manchester Courier of 13 May, 1904 reported that:

Above, from left: in the early days you bought 24 penny stamps for a florin and paid a halfpenny for the booklet; later you bought a mix of penny and halfpenny stamps for a florin, but one of your halfpenny stamps was replaced with a green X; in the initial years of GV's reign front covers were reserved for GPO information

'In Parliament yesterday the Postmaster-General, Lord Stanley, spoke on the recently introduced little booklets containing twenty-four stamps between covers bearing all sorts of useful postal information. He explained that a charge of two shillings and a halfpenny had initially been made for them; but some customers had objected on the grounds that odd halfpennies were often not to be found in one's change. The Postmaster General was therefore pleased to announce that in future, instead of 24 penny stamps, each booklet would hold 18 penny and 12 halfpenny values. Customers would no

longer need to seek vainly in pockets and purses for the odd halfpenny. They would simply tear a halfpenny stamp out of the booklet they had just purchased and tender it with two shillings across the counter. The PMG also announced that he would inquire into whether stamps of higher denominations might not usefully be issued in booklet form.'

#### Stamp mixtures

The PMG's somewhat offhand and cavalier solution to the problem of the odd halfpenny failed to take into account the piles of odd halfpenny stamps that counter clerks might have had to deal with if the practice had become widespread. Most customers who could afford to purchase a two shilling booklet would have opted for giving back a halfpenny stamp rather than carry a specimen of the grubby bronze small change that generally circulated more widely among labouring people who bought their stamps one at a time rather than in bulk. The more practical solution the Edwardians settled on not long afterwards involved altering the makeup of the booklet with a mixture of penny and halfpenny stamp panes to the value of 1s 11½d and selling the booklet for the full florin.

During the remainder of Edward VII's reign the 2s price was maintained by instructing the contractor (De La Rue for the greater part) to print one of the halfpenny panes with a green



With front cover slots up for sale, anything might appear - so long as it was non-alcoholic

St Andrew's Cross in place of a stamp. When George V became king on 6 May, 1910 the start of a new reign signalled a fresh approach to stamp booklets, though it took the new Postmaster General, Herbert Samuel (1910-1914) almost six months to make a positive announcement, as the Nottingham Evening Standard reported on 21 November, 1910: 'To loud cheering in the House of Commons today, Mr Samuel said he proposed to supply, probably at the time of the Coronation next year, a 2s book of stamps containing its full value in stamps; and that he hoped to receive additional revenue from advertising within the books to pay all the costs of stamp book production.'

On 3 February, 1911, *The Sheffield Telegraph* reported that Sell's Advertising Agency have been appointed by the Postmaster General as sole contractors for the insertion of advertisements in the 2s books of stamps.

Sell's own promotional advertising for the new medium pointed out that stamp books are of a suitable size to carry in the waistcoat pocket, and the advertisements come under notice whenever a stamp is withdrawn. In the new issue the whole of the cover, except for the front, will be available for trade advertisements, as will both sides of the inter-leaves. The popularity of these books will doubtless be largely increased when the extra charge now made is abolished.

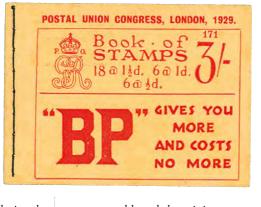
George and Mary's coronation took place on 22 June, 1911; but letter writers had to wait almost two further months until the first booklet containing stamps of the new king made its debut on 10 August. Its covers enfolded eighteen 1d and twelve ½d Downey Head stamps (printer: Harrison & Sons) sold at face value.

POSTAL UNION CONGRESS, LONDON, 1929.

Book of 103
STAMPS 21
100 1 d. 60 ld. 21
- witty, amusing, entertaining

Counter clerks had

One difficulty experienced during the



Counter clerks had hard times convincing customers that the commemoratives within these 1929 Postal Union Congress booklets were genuine

changeover resulted from a decision, at the very least with the PMG's agreement, to sell off all the old (Ed VII) stock at 1s 111/2d before issuing any of the florin booklets. The Sheffield Telegraph reported on 10 June: 'For a few more days we must all buy our stamps loose because the Post Office is still working off stocks of the old stamp books. In Central London supplies of the 1s 11½d books are already exhausted.' On 27 June the same newspaper continued: 'The House of Commons Post Office has only sheets of 1d and ½d stamps, and thin postcards for sale in the new issue. No King George stamped envelopes, no higher value stamps, nor stamps in rolls have yet been issued. Can it be that the authorities fear to inflict the design of

Delays to the face value booklet also occurred because potential advertisers would not commit fully until they could be quite sure that the halfpenny surcharge would not be re-imposed. With that concern removed there was a rush to buy space. In fact three would-be advertisers (Aitchisons Opticians to HM Govt; Gresham Fire Insurance Co.; Empire Hotels Group) wanted to be in the first booklet of the new reign, so three editions of one million copies each were issued at the same time.

the new penny stamps permanently on

the public, and are seeking another?'

A profile head of the king, based on a design by Bertram Mackennal, replaced the Downey Head design in 1912. The first booklet containing these stamps was issued in April 1913. The turbulent decade that followed also witnessed many changes to stamp books. Staples gave way to stitches as a result of wire shortages during the First World War; the compositions and values of booklet panes altered greatly; coloured advertising featured in stamp books; front cover adverting

space was sold; and the minimum letter rate rose from 1d to 2d, then fell back to 1½d. Other minor bumps on the road to universal popularity for stamp books deserve mention:

The Aberdeen Press reported in December 1925 that Glasgow City Council has recorded a protest against the Post Office for including in its red book of stamps an advertisement for alcoholic drinks; contrary to a well recognised canon of public policy. The Derby Temperance Society also attacked the PMG for accepting stamp book advertisements for intoxicants.

The Ballymena Observer of May 1929 told its readers that books made up of commemoratives of the International Postal Union Congress (½d, 1d, 1½d, 2½d and £1) held in London that year were refused by many customers who had not heard about the new designs. They demanded old and familiar definitive books instead.

What a March, 1933 Sunderland Echo called 'G.P.O. Robots' were actually automatic vending machines for the sale of 2s books of stamps. They caused frustration among customers by refusing to accept pre-1920 silver florins, which were in fact more valuable than post-1920 two-shillings made from baser metal. Unfortunately the 'robots' calculated by weight rather than by value. They did, nevertheless, sell 2s booklets to customers with new money.

The 2s blue-on-buff book produced for the Jubilee stamps in 1935 caused a good deal of annoyance when it proved too large for most compartments in wallets and in ladies' purses. This was another problem made worse by the Post Office withholding old stamp books until all Jubilee stock had been sold.

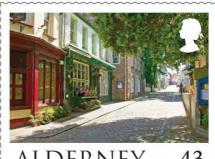
With thanks to Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions (www.grosvenorauctions.com) for many of the illustrations shown here.

Two stamp spaces on this pane sold as advertising labels

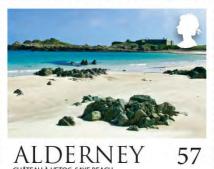




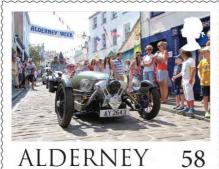
### A picturesque tour of Alderney









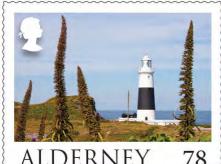




ALDERNEY 64



ALDERNEY



ALDERNEY 78 MANNEZ LIGHTHOUSE, QUESNARD POINT

The scenery of the northern part of the island of Alderney is featured on six new stamps, issued by Guernsey Post on behalf of Alderney.

The island of Alderney, which lies eight miles from mainland France, is a blend of Roman, Napoleonic and German architecture, and has a long history, having been inhabited for more than 5,000 years.

Five different locations are featured on the six stamps: St Anne, Saye Beach, Essex Castle, Mannez Quarry and Quesnard Point lighthouse. St Anne is the island's capital and Victoria Street, featured on the 43p stamp, is the hub of the town and home to some of its most attractive historic buildings. The 58p value shows a classic car participating in the annual Alderney Week parade in St Anne.

Featured next (57p) is Saye Beach, the island's only official campsite, loved for its golden sands, blue sea and surrounding green fields. Continuing the coastal theme, the 64p stamp shows The Pepperpot folly at Essex Castle, a lookout point over eastern Alderney and The Race region. The castle was fortified by the Germans during World War II when the island was occupied by enemy forces.

The final two stamps (70p and 78p) show the Alderney Railway at Mannez Quarry

and Mannez Lighthouse at Quesnard Point. The railway is the only working railway on the Channel Islands and was originally built in the 1840s to allow large quantities of stone to be moved around the island, before being converted into a tourist attraction in the 1980s. Nearby Mannez Lighthouse, built in 1912, is one of the island's best known landmarks and still acts as a warning marker for passing ships. The land within which it stands is cared for by the Alderney Wildlife Trust.

Alderney is well known to wildlife enthusiasts, since the island boasts a rich marine environment with a wide range of habitats including woodland, wetland and heathland, as well as sandy beaches, rocky shores and seabeds. The island's mild, temperate climate and powerful tidal conditions allow a range of animals and plants to thrive, many of which are not normally associated with an island in the British Isles.

In 2005, the island's beauty was officially recognised by the United Nations when its west coast and neighbouring Burhou Islands were designated as wetlands of worldwide importance under the Ramsar Convention - the culmination of 18 months of extensive research carried out by

a volunteer team of local marine biologists, entomologists and ornithologists.

The island's Ramsar status also makes it an attractive destination for bird watchers; Alderney is home to some of the world's northern gannet population.

The Ramsar site, the first to be designated in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, extends to 1,500 hectares and contains Alderney seabird colonies, a small population of grey seals and also a wide diversity of habitats, from the cliff edges to deep sub-tidal kelp forest and sea beds. The diverse marine life comprises of seaweeds, sponges, sea anemones, molluscs, crustaceans and fish. Starfish, crabs and sea urchins can be found hidden between seaweeds or in rock crevices, with limpets scattered across rock surfaces and large boulders.

### Stamp details

Issue date: 17 May, 2017 Design: MarkTotty

Printer: Southern Colour Print Perforations: 14.286 x 14.47 Print process: offset lithography Stamp size: 35mm deep x 41.47mm wide



### The Isle of Man's golden age of tourism

conic tourist posters from the early 20th century have been reproduced on 'The Hearts of Ellan Vannin – Manx Towns and Villages', a six-stamp set featuring artwork by Manx designer and artist Adam Berry.

The issue incorporates two Europa stamps for this year's castles theme – Castletown (EU value), with medieval Castle Rushen; and Peel (1st), home to a coastal medieval fortress. The other four stamps feature the seaside town of Onchan (95p), the harbour swing bridge at Ramsey (£1.24), the harbour town of Port St Mary (£1.27), and the coastal village of Port Erin, one of the earliest Isle of Man locations to embrace the tourist industry and provide leisure facilities for visitors. (£2.33).

Artist Adam Berry, who attended the renowned Kensington Road Art School in Douglas, said of the stamps: 'I'm very pleased and proud to have my artwork on a Manx stamp.

Especially having a whole set of the towns and villages, it's ace. I'm looking forward to seeing them printed up and sending letters out to everyone I know featuring one of the stamps!'

### Stamp details

Issue date: 19 January, 2017

Artist: Adam Berry Design: EJC Design Text: Valerie Caine Printer: Cartor

Print process: offset lithography Stamp size: 42mm x 28mm















### A journey through ancient Jersey

he island of Jersey, with its close proximity to France and mainland Britain, is perfectly situated to attract visitors from near and far, and has done for thousands of years.

Now, 'Ancient Artefacts', an eight-stamp set from Jersey Post, explores the history of Jersey settlers, from the Neolithic era through Roman times and on to the Middle Ages.

The stamps feature eight artefacts left behind by ancient settlers and passersthrough, ranging from a Neolithic arrowhead to an intricately decorated medieval brooch.

The first stamp (49p) shows the Golden Torque, part of the Le Câtillon II hoard which was uncovered in Grouville in 2012 and is still being investigated by archaeologists.

Another Grouville find is an ancient rotary quern (63p) found near the ancient site of La Hougue Bie. It is made of stone imported in the first century BC and so was probably used for food preparation in the Iron Age.

Next, we move to the Roman era, with the St Lawrence Pillar (73p), a stamp forming Jersey's contribution to the SEPAC 2017 issue. The pillar is believed to have started life as a Roman decoration before being repurposed as a gravestone in 600AD.

The fourth stamp (79p) features a bronze dagger found at an Iron Age settlement, which is believed to have been a ceremonial item rather than a functional weapon. The flint arrowhead (90p) on the fifth stamp dates to 2850-2250BC and, having been

imported to Jersey in the Neolithic era, demonstrates the trading links employed by ancient islanders.





We next move to the medieval

era, with a £1.07 value featuring an intricate fleur-de-lys brooch made by a Parisian jeweller and dating to the 14th century. The final two stamps (£1.32 and £2.52) feature a bronze statue from the 2nd century BC and a Bronze Age axe head.













### Stamp details

Issue date: 11 April, 2017 Design: TPA Jersey

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France
Print process: Four colour process offset
lithography, plus spot UV varnish
Stamp die size: 45mm x 28mm

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The latest issues from Jersey Post

### Europa 2017 Jersey Castles and Forts

Issue date: 2 March 2017











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### Berkshire

John Scott continues his A to Z of British county postal history, with an examination of items from Berkshire

t was said of Berkshire in 1823 that it 'may be esteemed one of the most pleasant counties in the kingdom', a view no doubt shared by our present monarch as we join her in celebrating her ninetieth anniversary. The presence of the Royal Family at Windsor Castle means that there is plenty of material for the postal historian to collect - the first datestamp was issued in February 1870 and Glenn Morgan records seven different cachets used by the Lord Chamberlain, the Master of the Horse, the Master of the Household's Department, the Privy Purse Office and the Royal Gardens on letters sent by these departments on official business and therefore not requiring a postage stamp. Over the generations very many loyal subjects have written to congratulate successive monarchs on virtually every conceivable occasion, ranging from the obvious births, marriages and deaths to welcoming them home safely from a royal visit overseas. The Palace has been equally diligent in replying and so there is no shortage of stationery from Windsor Castle bearing the royal insignia as the recipients tended to keep the responses.

Below, from left: while most towns used straight line namestamps in the pre stamp period, several offices in Berkshire had convex or concave marks such as this example from Abingdon in 1797; a copy of the Eton College Chronicle which would have been folded into a narrow band, probably secured with string, and posted from Windsor to Brighton in 1869

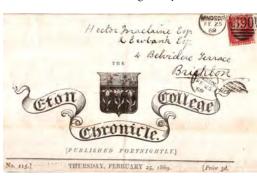
What is even better is a letter or card signed by the monarch but these are naturally more sought after by autograph collectors and consequently will do more damage to the bank balance.

Berkshire's proximity to London and the presence of the Great West Road to Bristol have both ensured the prosperity of the county and as early as the 16th century there were postmasters in Maidenhead, Newbury and Reading. By 1754 Abingdon, Maidenhead and Reading had all achieved post town status and by the early 19th century seven towns in the county had established penny posts within their immediate localities. Nevertheless early postal history from Berkshire is not that easy to find, in part because its population was not that great compared to other areas and, with only 131,979 inhabitants in the census of 1821 it ranked only 34th among English counties. In addition there was no really significant industry, the main activities being the manufacture of cloth and malt. At this time a town such as Slough was merely a hamlet on the Bath Road which did not even warrant a post office, there being merely a letter box

In the days before photography or postcards one option was to write your letter on paper printed with a topographical image. This lithograph showing welldressed people mingling on the terrace of Windsor Castle was posted from there in 1837 by the Canon of Windsor. He writes to his son that 'I send you a print which may remind you of your walks in the pretty garden of Windsor Castle; the flag is not now flying, it has never been hoisted since good King William was buried; but the young Queen has not yet paid her expected visit. They are very busy cleaning & preparing the Apartments for her'. The front shows that the letter cost 8d for the journey to Biggleswade and the letter was delivered through the Potton Penny Post whose boxed mark is recorded between 1834 and 1841. While very few letters have such an extravagant heading, which would have been expensive to buy and took up valuable space on the paper, it is still worth trying to read the contents, particularly as most dealers don't have the time!

at the White Hart, even though some nineteen stage coaches passed through each day. Similarly the presence of Eton College means that more letters survive bearing the undated village mark of Eton than would be expected from such a receiving house elsewhere.

Thanks to the endeavours of G.H.R. Homer-Wooff there is a greater body of literature for Berkshire than might be expected with handbooks covering Abingdon, Bracknell, Newbury, Reading, Wallingford, Windsor and Wokingham. In addition Glenn Morgan's book Royal Household Mail is an invaluable source of detail on postal services provided to the Royal Family generally as well as at Windsor Castle. For postmarks before 1840 please refer to The British County Catalogue of Postal History Vol. 4. As with other counties most stamp fairs will have at least one dealer with a representative stock of Berkshire material and there are active stamp clubs in Maidenhead and Windsor.





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The transit and postal markings on many items of mail can be rewarding with study, whether they are on an envelope or postcard. Social philatelist and historian Dane Garrod follows the fascinating journey of a 1931 postcard which was sent both ways across the Atlantic Ocean

peed is of the essence and can well be of importance in business. We now have instant communication, but being literally at sea for days in 1931 and wishing to arrange or transact information, any improvement in the carriage of mail was most welcome. Following the Great War came the American 'discovery' of Europe, and it was estimated that as much as eighty percent of human traffic across the North Atlantic comprised American tourists. Many of these returned to the States from Genoa or Cherbourg, rather than Southampton. With this in mind and in order to join in the boom for the Atlantic Ferry, the Norddeutscher Lloyd shipping line ordered the first of the new generation of super-liners, the SS Bremen and the SS Europa, both launched in 1928.

Following earlier experiments, this shipping line went ahead with proposals to equip the vessels with a catapult, the purpose of which was to launch the aircraft some 500 kilometres or more, from the coast, so taking mail to land and saving at least half a day's delivery. The first flight was from SS *Bremen* in July 1929, and by the time of this illustrated postal item, a total of 92 flights from both ships had taken place, mainly on approach to New York, Southampton, or Amsterdam.

It would seem that Mac, the writer of this postcard, was catching up on his business correspondence whilst travelling eastbound from New York towards Europe on the SS Europa. He purchased the card on board, and decided he would utilise the catapult service both eastbound and westbound to achieve his aim of swift communication. The quickest way to get the card back to New York City was for it to be catapulted when nearing Europe to Southampton, transferred there to the sister ship the SS Bremen, and catapulted again when nearing New York. Before posting on 29 August, 1931, it was addressed with the additional routing instruction 'By Catapult Plane', and three postage stamps to the total value of 1 mark 15 pfennigs were applied. He paid 50 pfennigs for each of the two catapult flights, plus 15 pfennigs for a postcard abroad. Two blue airmail stickers were added, 'Par Avion / By Air Mail', presumably two to denote two separate flights.

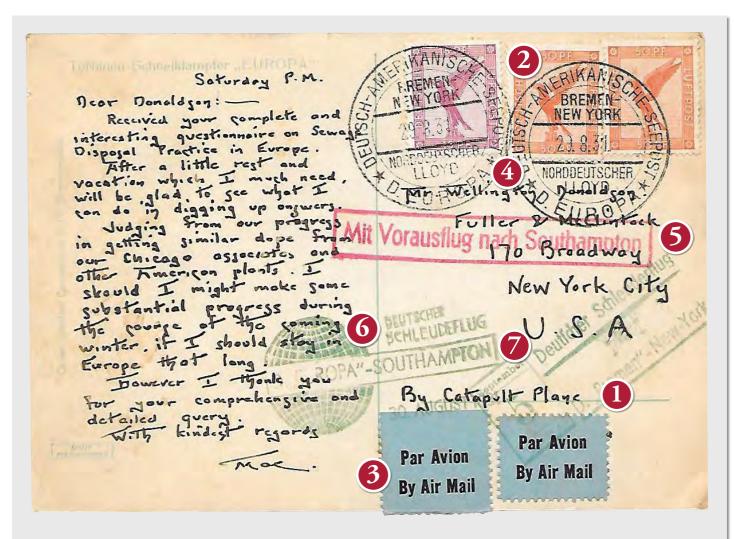
The postage stamps received the round double-ring cancellations detailing the shipping line, the ship concerned, and the date '29.8.31'. An oblong boxed red handstamp stated 'Mit Vorausflug nach Southampton'. Additionally the special dated green cachet for catapult flight No.93 was added. Each flight had a different designed cachet, and this is the

A catapult plane is fired from *SS Europa*. The seaplanes were launched from a catapult on the upper deck between the funnels. SS *Europa* was built in 1928 and was later captured by the allies at the end of the Second World War, the ship was subsequently used by the USA and later France

only flight cachet known with a mistake, where 'Schleuderflug' was spelt incorrectly with a missing 'r'. With other mail, the postcard was flown from the SS Europa to Southampton on the following day, 30 August, launched at 8am and arriving at 3.35pm after a flight of 1,037 kilometres. Earlier the same day at 8.30am, the SS Bremen left her home port of Bremerhaven and, en route to Cherbourg, made a stop at Southampton and took on board mail from the SS Europa destined for the USA. This was the first time that mail could be transferred between the two liners in this way. On board, a second green cachet was applied, and although dated 'September / 5 / 1931', the flight took place on 4 September from 10am to 6pm for a total of 1,180 kilometres, and then land delivery into New York City.

A total of 245 catapult flights transporting mail were made from these two ships in the period 1929 to 1935, but specially, flights numbered 92 and 93 were the first where an item of mail could travel both ways across the Atlantic Ocean. However, what the urgency was concerning the communication about sewage disposal practice in Europe, who can say...?

With thanks and acknowledgements to Eddie Spicer FRPSL who is the source of this 1931 item, and for his assistance in explaining the story.

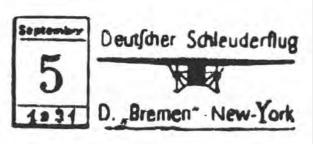


- Before posting our letter was addressed with the additional routing instruction 'By Catapult Plane'.
- Three postage stamps to the total value of 1 mark 15 pfennigs were applied; 50 pfennigs for each of the two catapult flights, plus 15 pfennigs for a postcard abroad.
- Two blue airmail stickers were added 'Par Avion / By Air Mail', presumably two to denote two separate flights.
- The postage stamps received the round double-ring cancellations detailing the shipping line, the ship concerned, and the date '29.8.31'.

- An oblong boxed red handstamp stated 'Mit Vorausflug nach Southampton'. Additionally the special dated green cachet for catapult flight No.93 was added.
- Each flight had a different designed cachet, and this is the only flight cachet known with a mistake, where 'Schleuderflug' was spelt incorrectly with a missing 'r'.
- On board the SS *Europa*, a second green cachet was applied, and although dated 'September / 5 / 1931', the flight took place on 4 September.



The special cachets used for the catapult deliveries



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'78 AUSTRALIA	AVIATORS	(2)	М	95P	'48 N.Z.	OTAGO	(4)	М	40P
'96 AZERBAIJAN	DOGS	(6)	U	68P	'60 N.Z.	WESTLAND	(3)	U	85P
'39 BARBADOS	TERCENT 1/2: 1D ONLY	(2)	U	48P			. ,	-	
'74 BANGLADES	H TIGERS	(3)	M	185P	'84 NEVIS	FLOWERS: \$3-5-10	(3)	M	95P
'85 BR: ANTARC	TIC 7º SKUA S.G. 143		M	75P	'84 NICARAGUA	FLOWERS/INSECTS	(7)	U	85P
'98 CAMBODIA	CATS	(6)	U	74P	'86 NICARAGUA	ROSES	(6)	U	98P
'80 CAYMAN IS	20P HERON 519A		M	50P	'66 PANAMA	FLOWERS	(6)	U	75P
'40 CEYLON	SURCHAREES	(2)	U	40P	'84 POLAND	CLEMATIS	(6)	U	78P
'49 CEYLON	U.P.U.	(3)	U	65P			. ,	-	
'57 CEYLON	STAMP CENT:	(4)	U	78P	'64 POLAND	GARDEN FLOWERS	(12)	U	165P
'61 CZECH	BUTTERFLIES	(9)	U	165P	'64 RUMANIA	FLOWERS	(8)	U	75P
'80 DJIBOUTI	CAPT: LOCK. SHIPS	(2)		120P	'80 RUSSIA	FUR ANIMALS	(5)	М	66P
'66 GERMANY (V	,	(4)		138P	'71 RUSSIA	TROPICAL FLOWERS	(5)	U	55P
	P BIRDS 1629/33		U	55P	'82 RUSSIA	LOCOMOTIVES	(5)	U	68P
'52 HUNGARY	BIRDS ▲'s	(11)		125P			(-)	-	
'64 HUNGARY	BIRDS PROTEC:	(6)	U		'88 RUSSIA	PTGS OF HORSES	(5)	M	55P
'68 HUNGARY	GARDEN FLOWERS	(8)	U	75P	'86 ST LUCIA	LOCOMOTIVES 858/75		M	195P
'60 IRAN	SCOUTS	(2)	M	68P	'85 ST LUCIA	LOCOMOTIVES 824/31		М	90P
'42 IRAQ	KING FAISEL II	(8)	M	220P	'83 ST VINCENT	LOCOMOTIVES 744/59		М	135P
	0263/70 ON STATE SERVIC	-,				LOCOMOTIVES 792/867			148P
'49 IRAQ	AIRMAILS (CAT: £21)	(8)		435P					
'60 IRAQ	KASSEM	(2)	M	72P	'84 ST VINCENT	LOCOMOTIVES 834/41		M	95P
'56 JAMAICA	SET TO 1/6° (LESS 5°)	(10)	U	75P	'85 ST VINCENT	LOCOMOTIVES 872/82		М	140P
'66 KHOR-FAKK		(6)	U	66P	'53 STN RHODE	SIA SET TO 1/- LESS 9º		U	145P
'75 KOREA (N)	PARROTS	(5)	U	55P	'64 STN RHODE	CIA CET 1/	(9)		130P
. ,	BIRDS OF PREY (5) PLUS		U	95P			(5)	-	
'89 KOREA (N)	FLOWERS	(5)	U	55P	'83 TUVALU	LOCOMOTIVES 241/8		M	98P
91 LAOS	LOCOMOTIVES	(5)	U	95P	'84 TUVALU	LOCOMOTIVES	(16)		120P
'69 MALAYSIA	RICE YEAR	(2)	M	50P	'82 VIETNAM	BIRDS OF PREY	(8)	U	140P
'71 MALAYSIA	BANK - ROUND STAMPS	(2)	M	180P	'90 VIETNAM	DUCKS	(6)	U	95P
'79 MALAYSIA	FLOWERS K1/7		M	95P			(3)	-	
'85 NEVIS	LOCOMOTIVES 352/9			125P	'65 YEMEN	BIRDS R72/6		U	00.
'86 NEVIS	LOCOMOTIVES 427/42		M	165P	'69 YEMEN	BIRDS	(8)	U	95P

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## Germany's Humanitarian Relief stamps 1949-2000

The Federal Republic of Germany has a tradition of issuing humanitarian relief stamps. Richard Tarrant examines the themes that were represented on the stamps from 1949 to the end of the 20th century

ermany had a history of producing surcharged stamps to support social welfare long before their introduction by the German Federal Republic (commonly known as West Germany) in 1949. Between 1924 and 1935 there had been an annual issue of stamps to support the German Emergency Aid social welfare programme. They had been followed by stamps issued each year from 1936 to 1940 in aid of the Winter Relief programme, with the aim of helping poorer Germans during the winter months with provisions such as food, clothing and coal.

After the massive upheaval of the Second World War, the German Federal Republic came into formal existence on 21 September, 1949. A set of four humanitarian relief stamps was issued on 4 December that year. They did not sell well, so there was no such issue the following year. However, the next

Above, from left: 1952 portrait of Elizabeth Fry, the English prison reformer, in the helpers of mankind series • 1953 portrait of Norwegian explorer Fridtiof Nansen • 1955 portrait of Florence Nightingale. Note the misspelling of her forename as 'Florentine' • 1956, drawing of Ignaz Semmelweis, pioneer of antiseptic procedures

Below, from left: 1959 stamp depicting Jacob and Wilhelm, the Brothers Grimm • 1964 stamp depicting The Sleeping Beauty fairy tale • 1965 stamp in Cinderella set

such stamps were produced in 1951 and were then issued annually, continuing beyond the absorption of the Democratic Republic (East Germany) into the Federal Republic in 1990. Over the years, money raised from the sale of the humanitarian stamps has been channeled to independent welfare organisations and has benefited countless people. They range from youth to people who are elderly, disabled, unemployed or refugees, and people with substance abuse problems. The money has also assisted international disaster relief.

The humanitarian relief stamps have featured several themes and a collection of these stamps can be of real interest. The first theme addressed was that of helpers of mankind. The 1949 stamps consisted of line engraved portraits of St Elisabeth of Thuringia, Paracelsus (16th century philosopher and medical scientist), Friedrich Froebel (educationist) and the theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern.

The stamps between 1951 and 1954 all bore portraits of similar design to the 1949 issue but with varying typography. The people featured on the stamps ranged from Henri Dunant, the Swiss businessman responsible for the founding of the Red Cross, to the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen. They also included the British prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry.

The 1955 set of four stamps was quite different from the previous issues. The designer, Hubert Berke, featured head and shoulders portraits and a white rather than a coloured background. The portrait of Florence Nightingale was particularly notable, in that it featured her as a very young woman rather than, as she is so often depicted, as older and quite severe. The stamp, incidentally, wrongly named her as Florentine Nightingale, rather than Florence.

Where previous humanitarian relief stamps had been printed by line engraving, the helper of mankind stamps from 1956 to 1958 were printed by lithography. Rather than celebrate a range of individuals they featured activities, namely childcare, coal mining and farm work, respectively. Two stamps, however, bore portraits of people prominent in the activities concerned. One of the childcare stamps included a drawing of Ignaz Semmelweis, who pioneered antiseptic







procedures that could save many women following childbirth or miscarriage, while the farm work set had a stamp portraying Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen, who pioneered rural credit unions.

The humanitarian stamps for the nine years from 1959 were devoted to the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were born in Germany in the mid 1780s and are best known for publishing Grimm's Fairy Tales in 1812. The brothers did not write the fairy tales but sought to save stories that had long been passed orally through many generations. The first edition of their work comprised 86 tales, which was expanded over time until the 1857 edition had 211. Three of the 1959 stamps pictured silhouette scenes from the fairy tale 'The Star Money', while the fourth depicted Jacob and Wilhelm themselves. Subsequent issues had cartoon-like drawings of familiar fairy tales, including Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, and The Frog Prince.

The Brothers Grimm theme can be seen as an attempt to appeal to children, an aim that appeared to continue with the next series that featured toys, chessmen and musical instruments. The designs from 1968 to 1972 were quite similar. All had colourful backgrounds and depicted dolls, pewter models, puppets, wooden toys and chessmen, respectively. The 1973 musical instrument stamps were distinctive and quite different to their predecessors, making good design use of the combination of lithography and line engraving.

The following series spanned 1974 to 1985 and consisted of flowers. Although excellently produced, a series that could have become repetitive and uninteresting was made appealing in two ways. Firstly, there was some variety in the size and

2000 stamp depicting















Top, from left: 1968 stamp illustrating a puppet from 1850 • 1971 stamp depicting a wooden toy of women churning butter • 1973 stamp from the musical instruments issue, this depicting a violin

Above, from left: 1974 stamp illustrating a mallow flower • 1980 stamp from the endangered wild flowers set, this depicting a tassel hyacinth • 1985 floral motif from the border of a medieval prayer book

2000 stamp depicting Lilli Palmer, part of a set illustrating actors shape of the stamps. Second, they pictured different types of flowers each year including alpines, garden and wild flowers, woodland flowers, endangered species, bog and water plants, orchids, roses and woodland flowers and fruits. The series finished in 1985 with a contrasting design, that of floral motifs from the borders of a medieval prayer book. In all, a series well worth collecting in its own right.

The floral series was the last that spanned many years. It was succeeded by a brief (1986 to 1988) but appealing series of arts and crafts, which consisted of precious glassware, and gold and silversmithing. The 1992 issue of precious old German clocks really belonged to the arts and crafts series, although it seemed out of sequence.

Historical scenes of postal and telecommunications services were attractively illustrated in 1989 and 1990, both sets consisting of just three stamps. The 1990 stamps were the last to be issued before German reunification, with the following set depicting old post offices and completing the history of the postal theme. There were six stamps in this set, although that decreased to a standard five the following year.

Two sets picturing traditional German costumes were issued in 1993 and 1994, followed by two years of farmhouses and one year of watermills and windmills. An excellent portrayal of endangered bird species came in 1998, before stamps

the following year pictured scenes from outer space. This set was distinctive in that two of the stamps included a holographic image. Collectors of used stamps should note that being in contact with water ruins the holograms!

The final humanitarian set to be considered in this article consisted of five 2000 featuring actors, namely Curd Jürgens, Lilli Palmer, Heinz Rühmann, Romy Schneider and Gert Fröbe. The stamps were excellently produced, although they were a marked contrast to both the design and the subjects featured in the first few sets of the humanitarian relief stamps.

While considering humanitarian relief stamps it is important to note that from 1969 Christmas stamps were issued that were surcharged for the benefit of humanitarian relief funds. The Christmas stamps were issued a little later than the humanitarian relief stamps and initially consisted of just one stamp each year, although between 1977 and 1979 the single stamps were in the form of miniature sheets. The number of Christmas stamps rose to two each year from 1989, with the exception of 1990 and 1991, which both had four.

A few Christmas stamps followed the theme of the main humanitarian relief stamps but most depicted Christmas scenes, usually religious rather than secular, and it is for collectors to decide whether to include the Christmas stamps in their humanitarian relief collection.



## Death on the Field of Blackbirds

This stamp was issued by the then newly founded 'Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes' in 1921, and celebrates the Battle of Kosovo, which took place in 1389. Balkan history is full of battles, but this one is special, writes Chris West

n the late 14th century, the Ottoman Empire was expanding into Europe. In 1300, Turkey had been a patchwork of small kingdoms, but in the new century one of them, under its ruler Osman, rose to prominence. By 1389, his grandson Murad had an empire in Turkey, Bulgaria and parts of modern Greece, and was keen to expand it. Next stop for him was the then powerful kingdom of Serbia, ruled by Prince Lazar.

Murad's forces marched into modern Kosovo. They met with Lazar's army at a place called Kosovo Polje, which means the Field of Blackbirds, on St Vitus' Day (Vidovdan), 28 June (15 June in the old Gregorian calendar). massive losses – the Ottomans were repulsed, but the Serbs had lost so many fighters that the invaders later returned and Serbia fell under Ottoman rule.

The picture on this stamp is arguably the most famous representation of the battle. It is *The Kosovo Maiden*, painted in 1919 by Uroš Predić, a artist specializing in sentimental (by modern standards) pictures. The woman giving a drink to the dying warrior is the fiancée of the blood-brother of Milos Obelić, the man who killed the Sultan. She roamed the battlefield after the conflict, looking for her beloved and helping wounded and dying soldiers. She did not find her fiancée or Obelić, but a fatally wounded knight,



The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes lasted from 1918 until 1929 and produced enough stamps to give a collector an engaging sideline century – and, as this stamp shows, of Yugoslavia after the First World War.

The 600th anniversary of Kosovo Polje coincided with the rise to power of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. He gave a speech at the site of the battlefield on the day itself which drew parallels between Lazar's warriors and modern Serb nationalists, and referred to the possibility of 'armed battles' in the future. Two years later, that prophecy would come true, and Yugoslavia would descend into civil war.

There is something deeply tragic about this. The beautiful, kind young woman shown on this stamp became a symbol for a nationalism that became increasingly ugly and vicious in the 1990s, culminating in the horrors of the massacre of Srebrenica.

The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes issued its first stamps in December 1918. This one was a 'semi-postal': buyers paid double the rate on the stamp, and the extra part went to a charity for soldiers wounded in World War One.

Around 2,500,000 were printed, by a printer well-known to collectors with an interest in US philately, the American Bank Note Company.

# There is something deeply tragic about this story. The kind young woman shown on this stamp became a symbol for a nationalism that became increasingly ugly and vicious in the 1990s

The battle was a particularly brutal one. Lazar's forces were outnumbered, possibly by as much as two to one, but initially seized the advantage. A group of Serbs tricked their way into Murad's tent and one of them, Milos Obelić, killed him. However, numbers told in the end. Lazar was captured and killed; one of his allies, Vuk Branković, realised defeat was inevitable and fled the field. Both sides suffered

who told her that both had died.

Kosovo Polje became the founding myth of the Serbian nation. Strange, one might think, as it was hardly a great victory. But it has a haunting mysticism to it, with Lazar seen as a kind of Christ-like martyr (and Brankovic as a kind of Judas). It is, perhaps, a bit like the story of Dunkirk – hardly a victory, but a noble defeat.

Its memories were important in the resurgence of Serbia in the 19th

Chris West is author of First Class, A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps (published by Square Peg, £14.99)



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### The German Private Posts

After looking for something challenging to collect and study, Peter Rogers discovered the complex world of Germany's stadtposts. In our regular insight into philatelic exhibits we examine material from Peter's Gold medal-winning collection

### **Peter Rogers**



### How long have you been collecting stamps?

Seventy four and a half years to be precise. My father (himself a collector) bought me a 'strand' album for my seventh birthday. I have collected stamps ever since although my

enthusiasm waned for a while when, in my late teens, I discovered violent sports, beer and girls – in that order.

#### What attracted you to this subject?

By my late twenties I was beginning to move away from collecting by catalogue numbers and was looking for something more challenging. I had by then formed collections of the wartime propaganda and intelligence forgeries and the cancellations of the former German colonies — I joined the Cinderella stamp club in 1960, shortly after it had formed, and have subsequently served as its secretary, editor and president. By chance I came across a copy of the *Glasewald Privatpostmarken Katalog* which introduced me to the world of the German stadtposts — otherwise known as the city posts or privatposts. Almost unknown in the English-speaking world, and little-known in Germany itself, here was the challenge I had been seeking.

For twenty years I collected the stadtposts almost in a vacuum; a German society had 'died' in 1963, and I knew no other collector of these things except Peter Rickenback, the German specialist dealer. In 1980, mainly as a vehicle for picking the brains of anybody else who new anything about these posts, I formed the 'Stadtpost Collectors Group'. The response was immediate; I soon had fifty or sixty members who, like me, were desperate for knowledge. A group of Germans were among them and about eighteen months later they formed their own group. I still run the Stadtpost Collectors Group, in close harmony with its German counterpart, and am currently working on the 125th edition of the group's journal.

### What advice would you give to fellow collectors?

- 1. Don't begrudge money spent on catalogues, handbooks, philatelic magazines and society subscriptions. They will provide you with the knowledge you need to enrich and develop your collection.
- 2. If you collect covers and/or postal stationery always look carefully at the address, the message and the postal markings. It is sometimes surprising what you can find.

ermany was unified in 1871 and in October of that year the newly formed Reichstag passed a Postal Law, writes Peter Rogers. This established a national postal organisation known as the 'Post' which was later named the 'Reichspost'. It was given a monopoly only on the carriage of sealed mail between localities. No restriction was placed on the carriage of any form of mail within a locality or of unsealed mail between localities. In 1873 there was a short-lived attempt to deliver mail in Berlin by a private company but in 1885 the Berliner Packetfahrt Gesellschaft paved the way for what eventually became around 250 private companies operating postal services in some 135 German towns and cities. So successful were these private companies in taking away business from the Reichspost that a Supplementary Postal Law was passed in December 1899 limiting the private posts to the delivery of unaddressed mail only, a restriction which none of them could survive. The law took effect on 1 April, 1900, a date which marked the end of the Private Post era in Germany.



Sample printings (in violet), colour trials and proofs for the HANSA's first stamp issues by Jean Holze, the Hamburg printer. The perforated examples show the stamps as issued.





1 December, 1886: the HANSA's first 2pf postal stationery cards were issued with red-orange imprints on dark green and on yellow card.

The Reichspost secured an injunction against the use of the word 'Post' by the private companies. When used, these cards had the word 'Post' in the heading crossed out; the word was also removed from the cancellers then in use. The HANSA consequently changed its title to 'Privat-Brief-Verkehr HANSA'.



This letter, correctly franked with the May 1887 3 pf brown, was incorrectly posted in a Reichspost letter box on 2 December, 1887. The Reichspost applied the 'Auf dem Briefkasten' mark and a '10' postage due in red crayon, and attempted to deliver. It could not do so, wrote 'return to sender', deleted the postage due and sent the letter to the HANSA. The HANSA tried but failed to deliver on 3 December, opened the letter and resealed it with its pink 'Opened to ascertain the sender' label. The letter was eventually returned to the sender on 6 December.

In February 1888 the HANSA issued four postage due stamps which appeared both perforate and imperforate.

However, the postal clerks preferred to continue using blue crayon to indicate postage due and this cover bears the only recorded example of a postage due stamp in use, although blue crayon was also applied.

The pink label, at the right of the cover, is inscribed 'Zur Ermittelung des Absenders er Offner (opened to ascertain the sender).



June 1888: A set of six values depicting views of Dresden was issued. They were printed by Jean Holze of Hamburg who first offered samples in violet.





27 January, 1889: 2 pf postcard commemorating the thirtieth birthday of Kaiser Wilhelm II. The card was addressed to the Pieschen suburb but this should not have warranted the 3 pf postage due indicated in blue crayon





The Reichspost and the HANSA usually respected the other's mail posted in the wrong letterbox and delivered it with a postage due charge. The Reichspost postcard incurred a 3 pf postage due charge but the Reichspost charged 10 pf to deliver the HANSA letter-card

### Stamp showcase





Two very early unfranked and undated covers. The first, with the boxed 'Privat-Post-Hansa' cancellation, emanates from the first twelve days of the company's existence before its first change of name. The second, with the boxed 'Privat-Brief-Verkehr' cancellation, dates from the period 12 December, 1886, when the Company's first name change occurred, to early 1887 when it changed again.



January 1896: 3 pf postcards, with different coloured imprints, marking the 25th Anniversary of the Proclamation by Kaiser Wilhelm I as the first German Emperor.

### Expert opinion

One of the many marvellous things about philately is the vast variety of material that can be collected and

exhibited, writes Chris King, Chair of ABPS National Exhibitions & International Committee. The German private posts are stamps issued for the purpose – mostly – of receiving, carrying and delivering mail. It is true to say that many companies had a lucrative sideline in selling stamps to collectors, but a very large number of towns and cities in Germany had a genuine local private postal service between the years 1873 and 1900. In this century private posts have been revived, and there's a catalogue for modern German private carriers' stamps.

Collectors should be aware that in some countries the private posts were much more inclined to produce stamps for collectors than for services rendered. These are really Cinderella stamps.

Peter Rogers says that we shouldn't begrudge money spent on catalogues, handbooks, magazines and society subscriptions, and refers to the *Glasewald Privatpostmarken Katalog*. The latest of these is, I think, from 1978. I use the *Michel Spezial Katalog der deutschen Privatpostmarken from 1984 and 1990*, but then I collect only the private posts of Flensburg – six stamps and some postal stationery!

His point about publications is well made, and deserves expanding. It's always worth looking out for the earliest articles and the catalogues on the subject, since collecting areas which were once fashionable are always waiting to be rediscovered. The Glasewald 1953 edition can be found on the internet for around €30 plus delivery, while the latest versions of the Michel catalogue are available from the publisher, but sometimes for significantly less from second hand book dealers.

It's invidious to name particular booksellers, but try looking at AbeBooks which is an antiquarian booksellers' consolidation site.

Dresdner Anslatt

If you want to find out what is available in philatelic literature, you should also use the RPSL website. It brings together library data from around the world. It's almost true to say that every philatelic book can be found there. Try http://www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue\_search.asp. The website is presently being revised and should be relaunched later this year, but it's online and waiting to be used. It's free, although more detail can be accessed by members.

When Peter began his quest to uncover this lost collecting area, he was still in the world of paper catalogues and you needed physically to visit bookshops. It's no longer true, and a combination of the RPSL catalogue, AbeBooks, (abebooks.co.uk) and other online book dealers, together with Mr Google, can bring most philatelic literature, in serviceable quality, to your door in less than a week. Book dealers in Britain, such as Casper Pottle at HH Sales (hhsales.co.uk), are usually willing to advise, and a number of British auction houses hold occasional sales of philatelic literature. If you collect foreign countries, it's often better to look overseas, and again the internet makes almost everything accessible.

That leaves only philatelic societies to address. Great Britain is rich in philatelic societies, and if you are not a member of one, you are almost certainly losing out. My guess is that fewer than ten percent of collectors are members of a society. Peter had to invent his own, but for most of us, there's a specialist and/or a local society to join. See the ABPS website (abps.org.uk) for a list, and find one that suits you. If you need help, email me at exhibiting@abps.org.uk. I will be glad to assist.

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### A vintage collection

The humble stamp offers more than than just cerebral satisfaction, it's also a sensory experience as Paula Hammond discovers as she gets a snoot-full of a thematic with tons of character

ine has been pleasing the palate, and dulling the senses, for at least 8,000 years. Once people got a taste of the good stuff the demand for fermented grape juice seems to have spread quickly. Shipped by merchants from one coast to the next, migrating with tribes and conquering armies, by the 4000 BC wine was known in almost every part of the civilised world: from Egypt to India, from China to the Russian Steppes. Even the wind ravaged lava fields of Lanzarote have been pressed into service to satisfy the world's craving for a glass of something fruity.

Today wine is grown in at least 61 countries, from the world's most northerly 'experimental' winery in a nuclear power plant in Finland, to its most southerly, in New Zealand. There, Weston's Winery actually has two claims to fame: it's the world's most southerly winery and the world's only wine post. Their three 1998 'Wines and Berries' definitives, the 1997 Food & Wine Festival commemorative and 2012 Wine Post Stamp Exhibition FDC are well worth tracking down.

France, Italy, Spain, and the USA are the world's largest wine producers and all have produced wine and vineyard themed stamps over the years – though perhaps, given the sheer size of theses industries, not as many as you might expect. The USA's only wine-themed issue to







date is, in fact, a 5c stamp from last year which features a stylised illustration of two clusters of pinot noir grapes. Interestingly Austria and Portugal also issued wine-themed postage stamps in 2016 with nice sets celebrating the countries wine regions and 'Old Vineyards' respectively. Portugal's issues are especially appealing, marrying evocative and picturesque country scenes with close-ups of wine grapes.

According to the Wine on Stamps Checklist, there are over 2,400 postage stamps featuring wine and wine-related topics so this is one theme that's relatively easy to build and grow. And there's lots of choice, stylistically speaking, too. The wine grower stamp produced for Occupied Northern France, Rheinland-Pfalz is, for a wartime issue, surprisingly attractive and printed using the more expensive photogravure technique. 1953's Greek National Products series, featuring Dionysus holding a bunch of grapes, is wonderfully fresh and fluid. Germany's 1980 2000th Anniversary of Wine Production stamp takes its imagery from Medieval wood-cuts. Canada's lovely 'Wine and Cheese' four-stamp set from 2006, was designed to look like a series of cheese wedges and wine labels. In fact, whether the images are of grapes, wineries, vineyards, barrels, or boozy gods, this is one theme that's hard not to view through rosé-tinted glasses.



### Why collect?

- Wine is grown all over the world.
- Large, popular theme.
- An easy collection to build and grow.
- Lots of stylistic variety.

#### Notable releases

- 1947-1948, Rheinland-Pfalz, Wine grower stamp.
- 1980, Germany, 2000th anniversary of wine production.
- 1998, New Zealand Wine Post, Wines and Berries definitives.
- 2006, Canada, Wine & Cheese, four-stamp set.
- 2016, Portugal, Old Vineyards of Portugal.

### **Expand the theme**

US Wine Revenue Stamps make a wonderful addition to this theme and are a rich collecting vein.

### **Collecting links**

Enophilatelica is the quarterly journal of the Wine on Stamps Study Unit. Issues are available either as PDFs or printed. Checklists are also available to download or buy. For further information visit: www.wine-onstamps.org/enophilatelica.html

SA337 SAUDI ARABIA A small but valuable collection of Saudi Arabian stamps, all different and in superb unmounted mint condition. Contains lots of elusive items, the catalogue value is in excess of £100..................

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### Rotary International stamps

Explore the work of a global organisation by building a collection featuring the humanitarian work of Rotary International, as portrayed on stamps issued by dozens of different countries around the world

ith more than 1.25 million members in over 160

countries, Rotary International is an organisation with a truly global reach and influence. Founded in 1905 by attorney Paul P Harris in Chicago, Rotary International (RI) now has 34,000 clubs around the world, whose members meet regularly to provide humanitarian services and 'advance goodwill and peace around the world'.

Rotary International on stamps is an interesting and challenging theme, which can chart the history of this organisation and its reach around the world, as well as covering the many different campaigns and projects with which RI has been involved over the past 112 years.

Members of RI devote themselves to six key themes, which have proved to be the cornerstone of the organisation's activities over the years and these themes have, in turn, featured on hundreds of different postage stamps. They are: promoting



A February 2015 stamp from Croatia showing the Rotary symbol; and Bolivia's centenary stamp featuring RI founder Paul P Harris









peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies.

#### A manageable project

More than 130 nations have issued Rotary International-themed stamps over the years, and more than 2,000 stamps are in existence. This means that Rotary is a thematic which could conceivably be completed over a number of years, with the satisfaction of 'ticking off' every stamp on the subject, something which can be nigh on impossible with larger themes.

The first Rotary stamp was an Austrian overprint of 1931, where six stamps from the years 1929-30, portraying Austrian buildings, were overprinted to mark the Rotary International convention of that year. Since then, most of the major Rotary conventions have been portrayed on stamps, particularly by the country hosting the event. The first official issue for Rotary, according to the Rotary on Stamps Fellowship, is Scott 354 which was produced for an RI convention of 1941, held in Denver, Colorado.

Rotary conventions, which are often the subjects of stamps, are held in a different city each year and have

Above, from left: this Pakistan stamp from 2000 features the RI's polio projects, one of its most famous and farreaching initiatives; 1955 Cuba stamps for the fiftieth anniversary of the organisation; Montserrat 2005 centenary stamp never been cancelled, even during the two World Wars. The first such event, hosted by Chicago in 1910, welcomed sixty delegates; nowadays the convention numbers are in the tens of thousands. This year's convention will be in Atlanta from 10 to 14 June.

Korea, last year's host country, issued a special stamp, stamp sheets, a commemorative first day cover and a special Rotary postmark featuring the wheel logo, all of which were issued during the conference, held at Goyang Kintex.

The fiftieth anniversary of Rotary International in 1955 saw 27 nations issue stamps on the theme, including a USA 8c blue stamp featuring a globe, the Rotary Wheel and the motto 'service above self'; and an attractive 30f value from Columbia which incorporated the Rotary Wheel into a globe, again including the 'service above self' motif.

25 years later, the 75th anniversary saw stamps from Cyprus, Benin and Iran among others, and postcards, stamps and a special postmark from the Netherlands. Another notable release was the 'health, hunger and humanity grants' issue from the Maldives.

The year 2005 marked the centenary of RI, and as you might expect, countries around the world issued special stamps to celebrate





this landmark. Highlights include a five-stamp set from Montserrat, which featured the Rotary Wheel and a number of RI projects; Lesotho stamps showing a group of children whom the organisation had helped; and a Chile centenary stamp featuring eagles flying over a globe.

RI founder Paul P Harris has featured on a number of Rotary stamps over the decades, including Bolivia's 2005 centenary stamp, a 1955 Cuba stamp for the fiftieth anniversary of RI, and a 2002 Mozambique stamp which featured Harris as one of a set of five 'personalities' alongside Argentine revolutionary Che Guevera and Lions Club International founder Melvin Jones.

The three business men who joined Harris at the inaugural meeting: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram E Shorey were featured alongside Harris on a Sierra Leone stamp sheet of 2015.





In 1971, New Zealand commemorated fifty years of RI's existence in the country; in February 2005, New Zealand celebrated RI again, this time in a set of eight stamps dedicated to 'International Organisations'

Above, from left: 'Service above self' fiftieth anniversary stamp from the USA; Australia's centenary stamp So, which country has produced the finest Rotary stamps over the years? Gerald FitzSimmons, Secretary/Treasurer of the Rotary on Stamps Fellowship, told us: 'They are pretty well spread around. The Philippines have probably produced the most stamps by postal authorities. Recent personalised stamps have been produced in good quantities from a number of countries since they were instituted.'

Rotary International conferences have often seen the launch of far-reaching projects, and even – in the case of a London conference of 1943 which taught that 'war begins in the minds of men' – provided one of the inspirations for the founding of UNESCO in 1946. Many countries have issued RI conference stamps, usually when a particular country played host to one of the conferences, or sent a representative as one of the attendees or keynote speakers.

The eradication of polio has been a long-term and worldwide campaign for Rotary, beginning in 1979 with a project to immunise six million children in the Philippines. Since then, polio is now endemic in just three countries around the world (Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan), thanks in part to Rotary's public awareness and fundraising campaigns.

There have been a number of RI/polio stamps, including Tanzania's Rotary centenary stamp of 2005, which highlighted the polio campaign, and more recently a 2011 'end polio now' stamp from Serbia, which featured silhouettes of active children, along with the Rotary wheel.

Other projects featured on Rotary



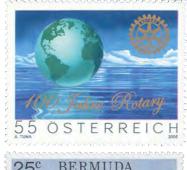
Republic of Korea stamp to mark the 2016 RI convention

stamps include four projects from Tanzania from 2005 – self reliance for the handicapped, basic health care, eradication of river blindness, and the Jaipur foot project.

### Sub themes

There are several possibilities for sub themes within this field and one of the most appealing is to collect Rotary stamps which feature a project or cause of personal interest. Over the years, the accomplishments of the Rotary's 1.25 million members have been honoured in many different fields, including health, the eradication of disease, Rotary Club pioneers, inventions and international emergency response.

Another possibility is a collection of Rotary stamps issued by a single country. Although Britain has never issued a stamp on this theme, with stamps from more than 160 different





The history of RI in a particular country is just one of the possible sub themes in this topic

countries, there are plenty of options.

There are also many related postal stationery items to enhance a Rotary theme, such as commemorative covers, imperforate issues, souvenir sheets, miniature sheets and cancellations, Cinderellas, and first day of issue covers.

### Find out more

Founded in 1955, the Rotary on Stamps Fellowship, founded by the American Topical Association, is a worldwide society dedicated to promoting Rotary-related philately. Members, who include both stamp dealers and stamp collectors, receive the bi-monthly Rotary-On-Stamps bulletin and can also access the members-only section of the website: www.rotaryonstamps.org and borrow items from the Fellowship's library.

The website also sells copies of the ROS Encyclopaedia which comprises almost 1,500 pages of Rotary stamps, arranged in alphabetical order by country of issue, with date of issue, and printing/design information for each stamp.

The Fellowship operates a booth at most Rotary International conventions, where collectors can obtain information on collecting Rotary stamps. The booth also includes a 'mixture picking table' which distributes thousands of free stamps donated by Fellowship members.

Membership is \$US20 per year and an application form is available from the ROS website: www. rotaryonstamps.org/membershipapplication

### TEN STAMPS ON...

### Pop (and rock) goes philately!

Inspired by the new David Bowie stamps, we take a look at stamps featuring music stars from around the world

One of the most frequent subjects of pop music stamps is Elvis Presley, shown on this 2015 USA stamp, issued as part of a 'music icons' series. The design featured a small gold crown in the bottom left, as a nod to Presley's status as the king of rock 'n' roll.

No music collection would be complete without a Eurovision stamp. This scary 2007 stamp honours metal rockers Lordi, who won the contest for Finland the previous year.

In 2008 the USA featured one of the world's first pop stars, Frank Sinatra, who the USPS called a 'supreme interpreter of American popular song'. Sinatra is shown dressed in a suit, tie and hat, with his signature across the portrait.

Pop princess Kylie Minogue was included in Australia's 2013 'Australian Legends of Music' issue, and she is shown here in front of a background of musical notes.

Greece's pop music issue of 2010 featured six stars, including bouzouki musician Giorgos Zampetas, an Athens-born singer who honed his skills in his father's barber shop.

Israel may not be the first country people associate with pop, but the country has produced many stars over the years, including Jerusalem-born singer Yossi Banai whose son formed rock band Mashina.

Ireland's 2002 'rock legends' four-stamp set included celebrated Irish guitarist Rory Gallagher.

In 1983, Sweden paid tribute to one of its greatest musical exports, Abba, pictured on this black and white stamp which was part of a 'Music in Sweden' issue.

Norway honoured its female stars in 2011, with a four-stamp set including Inger Lise Rydpal, a singer and actress who has released sixteen albums and appeared in nine films.

Robin Gibb, singer with the BeeGees, was born in the Isle of Man and so it is fitting that he has been remembered on stamps from the island.



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Your guide to stamp and coin fairs, auctions and society meetings. Send society news to: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

### Society news

Members of Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society were recently treated to an exceptional display of early Transatlantic mail by Frank Bennett. The postal markings on the ships often included the name of the actual ship carrying the mail in question. An equally outstanding display a few weeks later was Alan Godfrey's coverage of the other end of the globe, with 'The Last Explorer - Sir Hubert Wilkins 1888 - 1958', a film-maker and explorer. The many covers shown included one to mark the scattering of his ashes at the North Pole. For Society details contact Colin Fountain on tel: 01789 841 606.

The Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies will be holding their 48th annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair in The Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ from 10am to 4.30pm on 20 May. Admission is 50p and there will be around fifteen dealers present. For further information contact Neil Prior on 01656 740520.

The recent Leamington & Warwick Philatelic Society meeting included Clive Jones's display of the postal history of Sheffield. He showed a Victorian stamp which was hand-embossed to prevent reuse before perfins were introduced. In the Victorian era Sheffield was the world leader in specialist steels but in previous centuries its main industry was lead and Clive showed covers from as early as 1672. For further information contact Nick Bridgwater on tel: 01926 423685; website: https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps

The recent Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society meeting involved presentations by the Society's committee members. John Rawlins (Treasurer) displayed 19th-century German local posts, covers and postal stationery; Allan Bryce (Secretary) delivered the interesting topic of early Italian letters, proofs and essays of some of the first Italian stamps; Ray Goodey (Archivist) covered ephemera relating to the 1924 British Empire Exhibition which included invitations and staff passes; and Pat Adams (Chairman) concentrated on a local interest theme by displaying early postcards of Baddow, Goldhanger, Great Totham and Maldon.

### The Birmingham Philatelic Society is

introducing monthly daytime meetings at The Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge. They will start at 2pm on 16 March and 27 April. Refreshment is available and everyone is welcome. For further information contact Alan Spencer tel: 0121 459 7650; e-mail: alan.spencer9@btopenworld.com

The first **Great Britain Philatelic Society** meeting of 2017 saw Ray Barton present his display 'Things I Like', which featured postal history material including squared circles, spoon and sideways duplexes. Scottish marks were on show together with several interesting documents and pictorial items. In the same meeting the annual competition entries were on display when members were able to form their own opinion of these before the judges, Chris

Harman and Michael Lockton, announced the winning entries. Successful members were G Booth, S Teuma, T Walker, R Horton and D Simmons. For further information visit: www.gbps.org.uk; e-mail membership@gbps.org.uk

Steve Jarvis and Paul Wright took members of The Royal Philatelic Society London on a visit to Jamaica with their display at a meeting in January. The material shown spanned from pre-adhesive and Great Britain used in Jamaica, to the issues of the reigns of Queen Victoria through to Queen Elizabeth II and the post-Independence stamps. Included throughout were essays, proofs, colour trials, Specimens and varieties. Also shown were various postmarks and markings, including accountancy and instructional marks, plus air and maritime mail. For further information contact the Administrative Office on tel: 020 7486 1044.

Mr John Crowe (FRPSL) was the speaker at the recent Swale Philatelic and Postcard Society, displaying Cook to Quantas and Australia to England Airways. Starting with James Cook, Mr Crowe researched Cook's life and voyages in very fine detail, with stamps and postal covers. Later in the display he detailed a mourning cover of a flight from Rochester on an aircraft fitted with floats, pilot Alan Cobham accompanied by his mechanic AB Elliott, who was struck by a bullet fired from the ground and died next day in an RAF hospital in Basra.

#### SPOTLIGHT ON

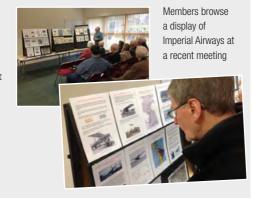
### Northwich Philatelic Society

Northwich Philatelic Society welcomes collectors from this Cheshire town, and surrounding areas, to join regular meetings and a varied calendar of events, including an annual auction and competition, member evenings and a Christmas party.

Members have a diverse range of collecting interests, including GB line engraved stamps, stamps of East Africa, and the postal history of Norway. The meeting programme reflects this diversity, with monthly talks on a variety of subjects: the society meeting on 11 April

is dedicated to stamps of King George VI, followed by a bring, buy and exchange evening on 9 May.

Meetings are held at the St John's Church Centre in Hartford, Northwich and the event programme can be found on the website: www.northwichphilatelicsociety.co.uk New members are welcome to come along to any of the meetings to get a feel for how the society operates, or can contact club secretary Carol Slater via the website for more information.



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#### 1 April 2017

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Mercure Hotel, Langham Road, Bowdon, WA14 2HT 0161 766 9031

#### 7 April 2017

#### Diss

Youth & Community Centre, Shelfanger Road IP22 4EH 01328 855003

#### 8 April 2017

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City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue CF10 3ND 01792 415293

#### Chester

Hoole United Reform Church. Hoole Road, CH2 3QU: 01226 755069

#### Derby

Jubilee Hall, Nunsfield House, Boulton Lane, DE24 0FD; 01909 563394

#### Worcester

Village Hall, Malvern Road, Powick, WR2 4RT; 01283 820151

#### 9 April 2017

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Chester Street Club S40 1DI 0161 766 9031

#### 12 April 2017

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#### 23 April 2017

#### Birmingham

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#### 25 April 2017

#### Stockport

Masonic Guildhall, Wellington Rd SK1 3XE 01283 820151

#### 26 April 2017

#### Birmingham

Walker Memorial Hall. Ampton Road R15 2111 01283 820151

#### 29 April 2017

#### Aberdeen

Queens Cross Church, Albyn Place AB10 1YN 01674 832823

#### Leeds

St Mary's Church Hall. Commercial Street, Morley LS27 8HZ 01909 563394

#### 30 April 2017

#### Southport

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#### 2 April 2017

#### Wallingford

Provincial Philatelics Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Renson 0X10 6LZ; 01235 511083 www.provincialphilatelics.co.uk

#### 5 April 2017

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#### 9 April 2017

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Queens Cross Church, Albyn Place AB10 1YN 01674 832823

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#### 4 April 2017

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#### POSTCARD

#### 25 March 2017

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Norfolk & Norwich PS Hewett School, Gate 1. Cecil Road NR1 2PL 07765 858457

#### 7 April 2017

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Youth & Community Centre, Shelfanger Road IP22 4EH 01328 855003

#### 8 April 2017

#### Cardiff

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Village Hall, Malvern Road, Powick WR2 4RT: 01283 820151

#### 22 April 2017

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#### 25 April 2017

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Masonic Guildhall, Wellington Rd SK1 3XE; 01283 820151

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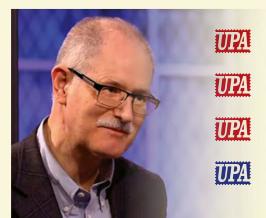
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If you're looking to improve your collection, take my word for it as The International Philatelic Market Expert of 44 years standing; not only do the best collections include sets and singles issued, BUT also they include an eclectic blend of the unusual – interesting postmarks, proofs, essays, forgeries, postal history – all manner of philatelic and sometimes non-philatelic items that add sparkle to the basic collection: these are what Philatelists and Collectors seek in this increasingly commoditised world

Of course you can't make a collection without laying the foundations, but you can make a very special collection by adding the **u-n-u-s-u-a-l**, and increasingly this is where my 65th 21,041 lot 4th April 2017 auction comes in...

...and You don't need to imagine – **Your complimentary Collectors' Secret Weapon Auction Catalogue (worth £15) is already reserved for you if you're quick.** We're the largest philatelic auction in the UK and one of the largest globally – if you seek to deal with one of the best and find just the sort of material you seek – whether you're a Collector of Classic GB, British Empire, later British Commonwealth, Europe, Middle / Far East or America – you're likely to find something you're missing...

...and in order to encourage you to test my auction, your **1st £55 Auction Winnings are FREE... Yes,** we'll automatically deduct £55 if you're NEW to UPA so that you can test my auction and hopefully become a regular client. You'll be joining up to 7 x more enthusiastic Collectors and Dealers successfully participating in my U P A auctions (90% successful) than other auctions... **Don't wait, Start NOW** – **Find Your Secret Weapon... Turn to my £55 coupon page to get started...** 

"Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous introductory offer, what a pleasure to win that elusive gap in my collection for such a tiny sum! I look forward to your next catalogue, they are a work of art in themselves.

I'm certain you shall be receiving more substantial cheques from me in the future! Kind wishes, E. E. Scotland

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## **UPA** – The Collectors' Secret Weapon Unsolicited Testimonials:

- This is a miraculous service ... super prompt and perfect solutions ... I will be bidding in (U P A #)60 if there are items I need
- Not satisfied, You're Joking, a very thorough bidding process, great follow up and fast delivery. I am more than happy with my last bidding transaction. Well done, could not be more pleased

  (PF Malta)
- NO buyer's premium makes it so much easier for bidders especially when you have good material (BK Glos)
- It is great that while running a successful auction you find time to send nice emails and act to the best interests of the hobby. Thanks, it is very refreshing (DW USA)
- Thank you for the superb catalogue here are my bids (TF Norway)
- Absolutely loved the catalogue, great reading on cool fall days here in Northern BC.

  Thank-you

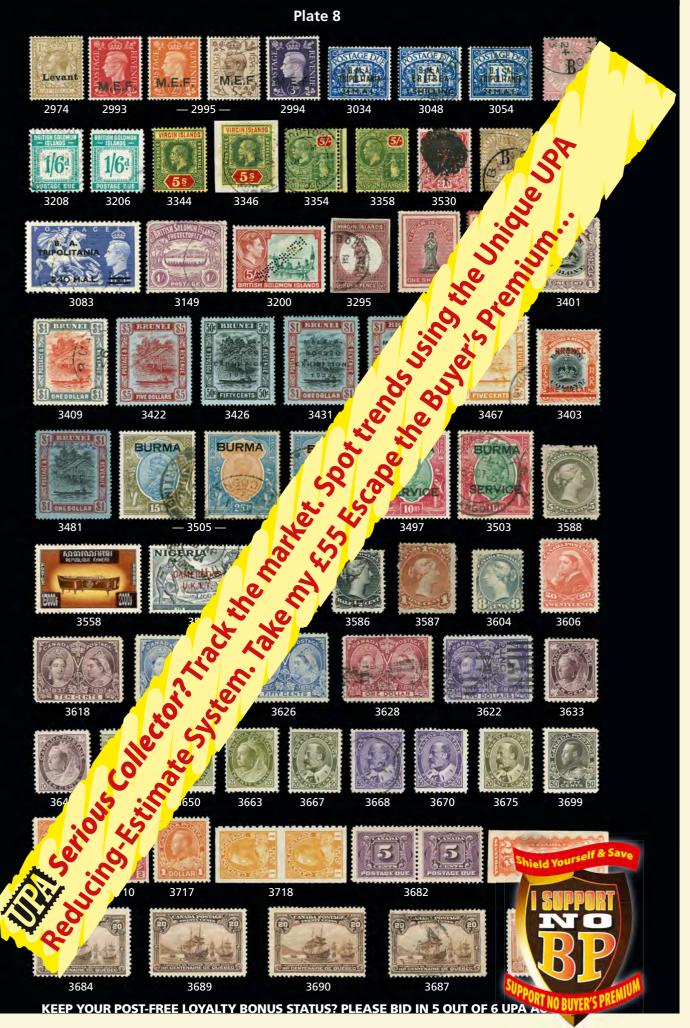
  (JC Canada)
- **Congratulations on another brilliant 999 gram catalogue!** (BM Australia)
- Long may the unique U P A flourish as a blessing to collectors (HP USA)
- I have enjoyed browsing your beautifully-produced catalogue and made several successful bids (MS Cheltenham)
- I am a collector of long-standing, Andrew, and I still find your stamp tips most helpful and informative. Many thanks for sharing your knowledge (AB B. Hill UK)
- Thank you very honest of you but I've come to expect that from U P A! (KB Sheffield)
- May I say, as a new customer, the catalogue is magnificent and the pleasure it gave me in scouring through it will only be matched by my delight at receiving the stamps at such a good price and of course the expectation of receiving the next catalogue in due course

  (KS Spalding)
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the pleasure I have enjoyed from UPA and the hard work you all do to produce such a work of art

  (AE Wirral)
- I was very pleased with the results of my bids at the last two auctions. Have been tempted to come up with a much increased number of bids this time. Very impressed with the catalogue (DM Norfolk)
- I received my parcel with my winning bid of wildings. I was over the moon as it was my first time at doing an Auction like this. I was quite surprised I actually won anything. I will be so looking forward to the next auction (GS Northants)
- I love your catalogues, but since I only collect xxxx viewing it on-line works great for me. I wish you continued success. I love your business model

  (AC USA)
- Once again, your catalog is superb. I particularly appreciate your precise descriptions (CJ California)





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## The **Difference** is that Everything we Do is **Driven** by **You...**

#### Dear Colleague,

#### For the first time, in this open letter, I'm going to give you the thinking, the 'mindset' if you will, of how and why my stamp auction thrives where others do not...

As many of you will attest. At certain 'peak' times in our auction 'cycle,' I personally answer the telephone to callers. It's a wonderfully enjoyable and rewarding thing for me to do, because, you kindly inform me of your likes and dislikes, about us, and other auctions that you may have dealt with before discovering UPA...

One of the most common 'threads' that I have learnt from You, and from other Dealers and Auctioneers, is simply 'how does UPA do it?'How is it that we have become the largest Stamp Auction in the UK and almost the largest globally? How can we afford to expend more upon advertising worldwide than most dealers sell in a year? Simply put: How can we afford to offer more and charge less - indeed - how can we afford to offer more and charge you no extra w-h-a-t-s-o-e-v-e-r??

The fundamental reason why is because, unlike others, everything we do is Driven by You.. Over the course of the past 17 years I have discovered that combining this 'bottom-up' thinking with offering **simply MASSIVE Philatelic Choice** permits us to offer you a Unique Collector-Driven Stamp Auction Experience. Think about it: whilst the rest of our philatelic industry works 'top-down' – issuing diktats, regulation, charges and fees, and few guarantees – ever increasingly we throw these off encouraged by more and more collectors joining us, who crucially continue to participate in auction after auction... rewarding us by their loyalty, enriching their collections... enabling us, in turn, to reward them.

...So that, when you inform us that You don't like 'X' (extra shipping and insurance charges), and You dislike 'Y' (paying credit card charges) and you positively abhor paying 'Z' – up to 25% buyer's premiums... (particularly when you may realise that you are possibly or probably paying a buyer's premium upon that dealer's own stamps that they are selling to You)... we take that valuable knowledge you've imparted and 'dial' it back into our auction system, not purely for your benefit BUT for our mutual benefit because over the 17 years that UPA has been auctioning I have discovered that if we have enough participating bidders in our auctions we can offer you a *radically superior service and a* radically better deal than others...

To me it is logical that when you configure your auction to really give collectors what they seek, mixing in a unique reducing-estimate-auction system, blended with hundreds and thousands of simply massive philatelic choice - these are the reasons why more Collectors bid in my UPA auctions than any other auction in the UK and almost all others globally. Consider that each UPA auction adds up to 250 different new bidders when most stamp auctions only have a few hundred bidders TOTAL – the SCALE of Your SUPPORT permits us to 'square' the circle so that, hopefully, we can offer collectors like you True Philatelic VAL-YOU for Money...

How can you help? Simply by participating regularly in our auctions permits us to give back, producing the most expensive and the best post-free auction catalogues you may ever receive whilst staying in business. Your continued support is powering our new Loyalty Post-Free System. So, all that I would respectfully ask and encourage you to do - is join the 2,233 different Collectors and Dealers from 55 different countries worldwide, who participated in my last auction UPA #64, creating new philatelic world records of participation and in some cases of realisations – whilst an astonishing 90% of bidders were successful... and those lots that remained unsold carried forward at **ever decreasing estimate and reserve** thereby creating the nucleus of this auction with a 'sprinkling' of more than 8,000 new lots of absolutely extraordinary NEW material... whereby, ultimately collectors like You determine values, not catalogues...

My wife and I, and members of our super Team, wish you Happy Hunting and great Philatelic Fun. With thanks for Your continued support. Please do tell your Philatelic Friends. They'll receive the best Philatelic Thank You for joining us and you'll be rewarded too!

> Andrew McGavin, Managing Director Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA,

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### **Delivering Your Dream Collection...**

...can cost less than you think

Y favourite stamp is probably the same as my wife's – the GB PUC £1. Just take a look at the design / engraving – and in single monochrome – utterly magnificent. Strictly speaking I should say the 1d black – it's iconic and an amazing work of design/art in the first place as this stamp represents in communication terms the 'Apple i-phone' of its time – also barring damage to the actual paper – the 1d black is virtually indestructible ... the colour is so 'fast' that you can soak a 1d black in a 1/10 part solution of 'milton/water' (nappy bleach) ... the paper will turn white but the black will remain unaffected. This is the reason why you sometimes see a magnificent used 1d black but the paper is too white – simply it has been left too long in bleach ... over-white paper will actually lower value ... as with most things it is a question of degree ...



#### **Reader:** That's all very interesting Andrew, but where is this going ..?

When I was, theoretically, growing up (in my teens) you could ask me the retail price of virtually any British commemorative set (think 'special issue' for the indoctrinated) and I would know it as black is to white. But nowadays, in value terms, what is black and what is white? - courtesy perhaps more than anything of the internet ... so much is 'grey' and blurred around the edges ... that 'retail' price depends more than ever upon the quality of what is being retailed and no longer does one price fit all ... Just search on-line for an 'Agatha Christie' booklet - don't look at what sellers wish for - look at reality - click 'completed' - far fewer do ... actual 'sold' prices can be 50% of each other

... now look at fixed retail prices, consider the postally valid 'face value' and finally the 'catalogue' value ... you could be forgiven for throwing your arms up in the air. The point is making sense of it all ... not just for 'bog standard' commodity price items but for stamps with character generally pre-QEII and pre 1950 / 1940 classic stamps of which they're not making any more (excepting on-line auction offers of modern fakes/reproductions) ... so it follows that if you can be confident of just *four* things: 1. the supplier is real and reputable (and internet ratings only tell part of the story), 2. the quality is as described, 3. the price is realistic against comparison, 4. You have a reliable guarantee ... then that's the way for you to go ...

#### But to realise your dream maybe there's another way for you to go so that ... turning philatelic dreams into reality may cost you less than you think

I don't believe in 'one price fits all different qualities' or grades. Life doesn't work that way, otherwise we'll be upgrading 'in between' stamps to higher grades – which is anaccusation often levelled at retailers. Even with up to 21,041 different lots each stamp/cover/collection in our auction is individually described and valued.

NO, the solution is in accepting that if something does not sell it is not worth the price that is being asked ... so the answer for you is to utilise my unique

**'U P A Reducing Estimate System'**. I can't take any plaudits for coming up with this system – it took me 20+ years in our philatelic industry to realise that unless one was unscrupulous most dealers profit lies in the stock presented in front of you – and if it is not selling then they will have no money to buy new stock to show you ... so I decided I didn't want to spend my life looking at stamps not selling ... it did take a little 'grit' to see if my ideas would work ... but

... Now 65 quarterly auctions and 17 years later this is the reason why realising your Dream Collection Can Cost You Less than You Think ... Join 2,233 Collector Colleagues using the unique 'U P A Reducing Estimate System' in our last auction - read the testimonials - Start NOW - Request your catalogue at any £55 FREE coupons page to receive your 1st £55 Winnings FREE so you can test this U P A auction without even spending a single penny

P.S. You walk into Marks & Sparks. You are looking for a nice jacket on the rail. There's one priced at £100. Above it is a sign saying if this jacket is not sold today it will be £89 tomorrow ... so you decide the discount is worth waiting for ... next day you return and there's a sign saying if this jacket is not sold today it will be £78 tomorrow – Do you buy it now, before somebody else pips you to the post or let it go another day? Multiply this by 21,041 items with 100's of lots you're probably missing from your collection ... and ALL offered with NO BUYER'S PREMIUM + GUARANTEED

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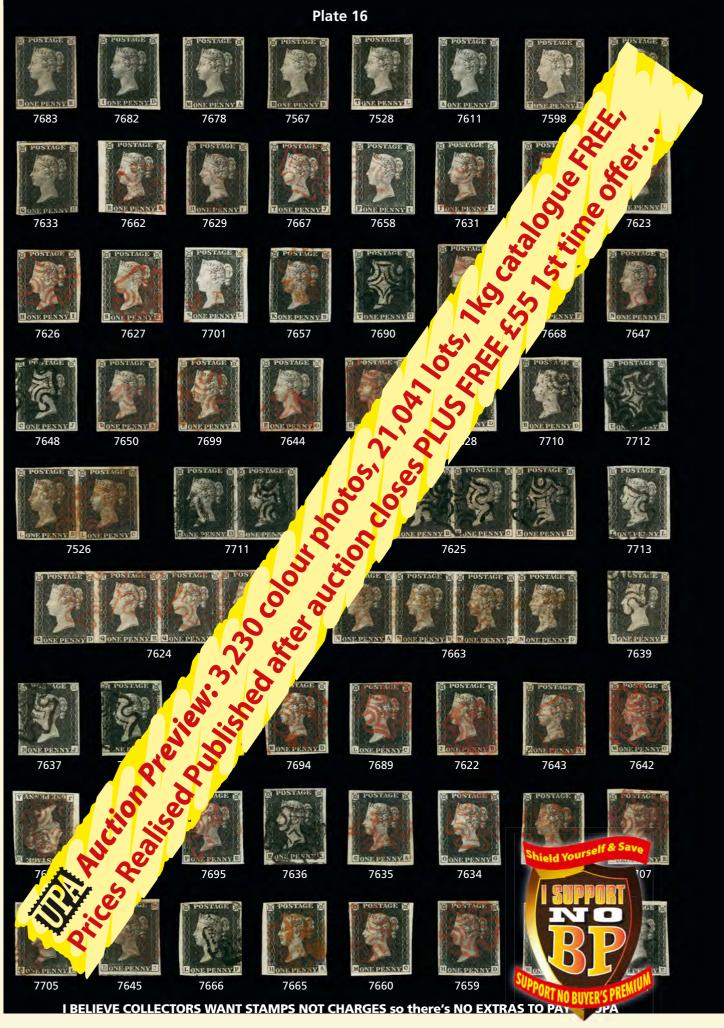




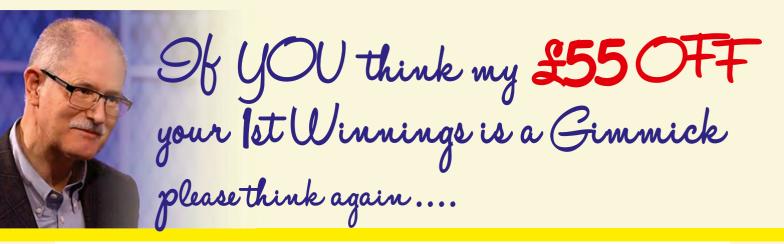
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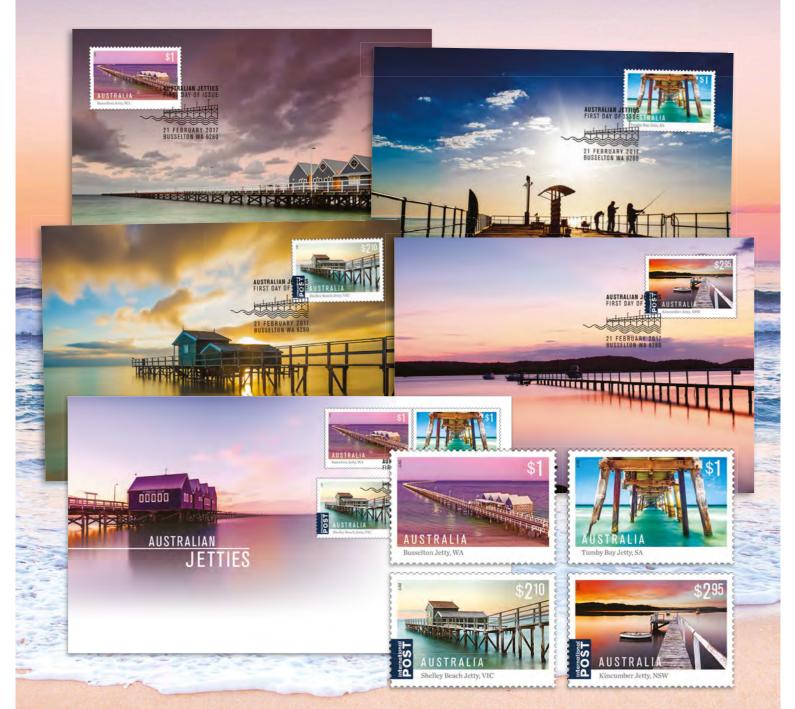
Independent On-line Testimonials may be viewed on-line at STAMPBOARDS.com ... Topic thread: Anyone dealt with Universal Philatelic Auctions, UK?

- "My dealings with UPA have been quick and pleasant. I especially liked the £55 discount, which I wrongly thought was some kind of gimmick. That was a nice little gift."
- "Just had my first dealings with UPA this month. Absolutely delighted. Won some lovely items at decent prices (no rip off premium), got 55 quid discount as a first time bidder, and they let me pay up in instalments. Definitely the most user friendly auction experience I've come across so far."
- "I've been bidding in UPA's auctions almost for nearly 10 years now, never had a problem. As they've grown larger (both in number of lots sold and number of bidders in each auction) the time taken to process each auction has grown, but I've always received any purchases within 10 days of the close."
- "I'll chip in here as well and say they are a decent firm. Not only is their £55 discount off your first order a decent one (I know someone who got a great stamp almost for free in the last auction) but they also have a 'no quibble' guarantee. When I won something last year that wasn't as described it was refunded immediately."

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## **JETTIES**



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## In-depth listings Your comprehensive guide to the latest new stamps from around the world

#### **GREAT BRITAIN**

(listed in every issue)

001 Ancient Britain, six values Issue date: January 17, 2017;

Design: True North, illustrations by Rebecca Strickson combined with photographs of historic sites; Printer: International Security Printers, offset; two phosphor bands;

Perforations: 14.25 x 14. Regular gum

1st (64p) The Battersea shield, a bronze shield discovered in the river bed in the 1850s, and an Iron Age warrior (c.500BC-350BC)

1st (64p) Skara Brae, a stone-built Neolithic village in the Orkney Islands

The Starr Carr head-dress, made £1.05 from the skull and antlers of read deer (c.9000BC), being worn

£1.05 Maiden Castle, Dorset, an Iron Age hill fort built over several centuries. but mostly from c400BC. Ramparts and gateway (in present day) with overdrawn reconstruction of gatehouse and walls

£1.33 The standing stone circle at Avebury, Wiltshire, 2500BC (stone shown in present day), and ancient Britons

£1.33 The Drumbest Horns, discovered in a bog in Co Antrim in 1840: two cast horns, and drawing of them being blown

£1.52 Grime's Graves flint mines in Norfolk (dated to c2500BC): view inside mine shaft and gallery, and drawing

£1.52 The Mold Cape, made of hammered gold, discovered in a bronze age burial site in Flintshire in 1833

#### **ALDERNEY**

(previously listed in February 2017 issue)

002 60th anniversary of the 1st Edition Map of Alderney and Burhou, created by Addison 'Roger' Warren, five values

Issue date: February 1, 2017;

Design: Two Degrees North showing details (reduced) from the map.

Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5. or 14 x 14 (£3)

43p Part of north coast, with Breakwater, Braye Bay and Fort Albert

57p St Anne (principal settlement) 64p coast with Fort Chateau, Mannez Quarry and Longy Common

70p Little Swinge (a sea strait) and outer islands including Burhou

78p Island of Alderney

Miniature sheet £3 - Brave Bay and St Anne (vert. format stamn)

Sheet border illustrates remainder of Alderney, and is free-form cut around shape of the island Notes: Roger Warren was an architect, island resident and community activist

#### **ESTONIA**

(previously listed in March 2017 issue)

003 Lighthouses. Virtsu, one issue Issue date: October 27, 2016; Design: Roman Matkievich; Printer: AS Vaba Maa, offset; Perforations: 13.8 x 13.7

€0.65 Virtsu lighhouse, constructed 1951, and locational map

Notes: printed in sheets of ten with illustrated left and right border tabs. A maximum card was also released

004 The Baltic Assembly, one value and a further value in a miniature sheet Issue date: November 16, 2016; Design: Lembit Löhmus; Printer: AS Vaba Maa, offset: Perforations: 13.5 x 13.25

€0.65 25th anniversary logo, and flags of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. White frame to stamp

Miniature sheet €1.40 - logo and flags, as €0.65, but brown frame to stamp (pebbles) Border depicts collection of pebbles in varied shape and colour, infilling an outline map of the three countries

#### 005 Treasures of Estonian Museums. Painting by Valve Janov, 1921-2003,

Issue date: November 17, 2016; Printer: AS Vaba Maa, offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75 Sheetlet: eight stamps in two blocks of four

Fish Above Karlova (a semi-abstract graphic based on a turbot fish)

Notes: the blocks of four are separated by a large gutter label, bearing a detail from her work

006 Christmas 2016, one value Issue date: November 18, 2016: Design: Indrek Ilves; Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Selfadhesive, die-cut perforations 14 x 14.25

Gingerbread star with snowflake decoration on top

#### **GUERNSEY**

(previously listed in February 2017 issue)

007 Chinese New Year, Year of the Rooster. siy values

Issue date: January 18, 2017; Design: Chrissy Lau (artwork in Chinese style); Printer: Lowe-Martin, Canada, offset, including Chinese character for 'rooster' in gold; Perforations: 13 x 13; sheets of ten with illustrated borders

43p Rooster crowing at dawn

57p Rooster with large cockscomb and spread tail

58p Seated rooster (balancing an egg on its back)

64p Pair of chickens pecking at a Chinese cabbage

70p Two roosters, and gold ingots (stylised)

78n Cockerel, hen and chicks with numpkin plants

Miniature sheet - contains the six designs (se-tenant). Border depicts rooster wearing a golden chain

#### 008 The Meadow Pipit, Anthus pratensis,

WWF issue, four values, and a miniature sheet Issue date: February 15, 2017; Design: Andrew Robinson (paintings, plus WWF panda logo): Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5, or imperforate (premium sheetlet) (A) sheet stamps. Sheets of ten

43p Meadow Pipit (young), Anthus pratensis 57p Meadow Pipit perching on small branch

64p Meadow Pipit in flight Meadow Pipit singing

(B) Miniature sheet - 43p; 57p; 64p; 70p as sheet stamps, but separately spaced forming a composite image with sheet border

(C) Sheetlet of eight stamps (2 x 4, se-tenant), overall format format height

144mm x width 240mm -

43p x two copies - young meadow pipit; 57p x two copies - meadow pipit on branch; 64p x two copies - meadow pipit in flight; 70p x two copies - meadow pipit singing

Border: meadow pipit on broom bush, view of coastline

Stamps in this sheetlet are laid out to form two blocks or strips of four designs

(D) Premium Sheetlet containing eight stamps (the four designs forming two blocks or strips), imperforate

43p x two copies - young meadow pipit; 57p



















007









300



011









x two copies - meadow pipit on branch; 64p x two copies - meadow pipit in flight; 70p x two copies - meadow pipit singing

This sheetlet sold in a card binder, at £12.50. Border is white, with press markings and colour check bars

#### 009 Lighthouses. Post and Go labels,

six designs

Issue date: February 15, 2017; Design from illustrations by Robin Carter; Printer: Walsall, offset (base labels), codings and denominations by thermography added in black by Royal Mail series II machine; Perforations: 14.25 all sides Self-adhesive Post and Go Labels:

(A): strip of six, machine code BB02

- † Brehon Tower, a stone fort built 1856; the light is mounted on the top
- †- Alderney Lighthouse
- †- Casquets Lighthouse
- †- Sark Lighthouse
- †- Castle Breakwater Lighthouse
- †- Les Hanois Lighthouse

(B): strip of six, machine code GG02, designs as (A) but with additional machine inscription 'Envoy House'

Both (A) and (B) were sold philatelically in vertical strips of six designs (labels separately spaced) with values of GY Letter up to 100g; GY Large up to 100g; UK Letter up to 100g; UK Large up to 100g; EUR Letter up to 20g; ROW Letter up to 20g respectively, price £3.70 for strip

#### **JERSEY**

(previously listed in February 2017 issue)

#### 010 Lunar (Chinese) New Year. Year of the

**Rooster**, one value and a miniature sheet Issue date: January 5, 2017; Design: Wang Huming; Printer: Cartor, offset, including gold; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

Rooster, and cockscomb (plant, Celosia cristata, and Chinese character for Year of the Rooster

Miniature sheet - £1 hen and five chicks Notes: the 48p was in a sheets of 10 (2 x 5) with illustrated borders. Postcards were issued for the 48p and miniature sheet designs, the 48p card also being available as a maximum card (stamp affixed and cancelled)

#### 011 King Edward VIII,

one value in a miniature sheet Issue date: January 20, 2017; Design: True North, from photograph; Printer: Joh. Enschedé, offset; Perforations: 14.1 x 13.9 Miniature sheet £2 - King Edward VIII in naval uniform Notes: an issue in Jersey Post's The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria series

o12 **Definitives. Crest of Jersey**, six values Issue date: February 2, 2017; Design: True North; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.5. Regular gum. Sheets of ten (2 x 5).

48p Pink-magenta
60p Pale violet-blue
66p Pale bright emerald
76p Pale lilac
88p Yellow-orange

Pale brown

£1

Notes: these designs are the same as used for gummed sheet stamps in 2015, but in new colour

o13 Shells. Post and Go labels, six designs Issue date: February 15, 2017; Design: from illustrations by Nick Parlett; Printer: Walsall, offset (base labels), codings and denominations by thermography added in black by Royal Mail series II machine; Perforations: 14.25 all sides Self-adhesive Post and Go Labels:

† - Blue Mussel, Mytilus adulis

† - Thin Tellin, Tellina tenuis

† - Common Tower shell, Turritelis communis

† - Great Top shell, Gibbula magis

† - Common Periwinkle, *Littorina littores* 

† - Large Necklace shell, Euspira catene

#### LUXEMBOURG

(previously listed in February 2017 issue)

#### 014 Bicentenary of the Grand Duchy of

 $\textbf{Luxembourg}, \, \text{one value}$ 

Issue date: March 3, 2015; Design: M&V Concept; Printer: bPost Stamps, Mechelen, Belgium; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4

€0.60 Map of the newly formed Grand
Duchy of Luxembourg in 1815

Notes: the new state was drawn up at the Congress of Vienna, and instituted June 10, 1815. It incorporated territory mostly from the former Austrian Netherlands, and also the Duchy of Bouillon (now Belgium)

#### 015 125th anniversary of Organised

**Philately in Luxembourg**, one value Issue date: March 3, 2015; Design: Fréderic Thiry (cartoon); Printer: bPost Stamps, Belgium, offset; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4

0.60€ Emblem of the UTL, cityscape, girl with magnifying glass, boy with tablet, @ sign, youth with stamp stockbook using mobile 'phone

Notes: Union de Timbrophiles de Luxembourg was founded at the Kinder Café, Luxembourg city, on March 30th 1890

#### 016 125th anniversary of the Order of Architects and Consulting Engineers,

one value

Issue date: March 3, 2015;

Design: Rose de Claire; Printer: bPost Stamps, Belgium, offset; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4 €0.60 OAI 25th anniversary

emblem and XXV

#### 017 25th anniversary of Omega 90,

one value

Issue date: March 3, 2015; Design: Pe'l Schlecter; Printer: bPost Stamps, Belgium, offset; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4

€0.60 Emblem of the palliative care and

bereavement support organisation

#### 018 Fruit Varieties: Apples and Pears,

ten self-adhesive values Issue date: March 3, 2015;

Design: Repères Communications; Printer:

Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: die-cut 9.5 x 10.2. Nondenominated, franking value €0.60 each stamp Sheetlet (€6.00): surround shows fallen apples in grass, and the Natur&ëmwelt logo

- (L50g)- Apple Triumph of Luxembourg

- (L50g)- Pear Gute Graue

- (L50g)- Apple Luxembourg Renette

- (L50g)- Pear Doppelte Philippsbirne

- (L50g)- Apple Jakob Lebel

- (L50g)- Pear Neue Poiteau

- (L50g)- Apple Porzenapfel

- (L50g)- Pear Saint Remy

- (L50g)- Apple Eifeler Rambur

- (L50g)- Pear Mostbirne

Notes: issued in a sheetlet, height 127mm x width 68mm, each stamp spaced out on illustrated background.

Stamps feature whole and half fruits, plus their ripe pips, of old varieties tree maintained in the 'Bomgarten' (orchards) of the Natur&ëmwelt Foundation. as valuable cultural and environmental assets

#### 019 70th anniversary of World War II (end of the German occupation of Luxembourg).

**Paintings**, six values in a miniature sheet Designs: modern artworks commissioned by Luxembourg Post; Printer: bPost Stamps, Belgium, offset; Perforations: 11.9 x 12. Miniature sheet: two rows of three stamps

€0.60 La Shoah (wagon at deportment camp), by Philippe Konsbrück

€0.60 70 Joer Enn vum Zweete Weltkrich (70 and emblems), by Kelly Marques

€0.60 L'enrolement forcé (compulsory service) by Stéphanie Uhres:

serviceman running with flag €0.60 Le courage civil by Nathalie Noé

Arlan: civilian being abused €0.60 Le Terreur by Corrine Goetz: prisoner with bound face behind barbed wire €0.60 La Résistance by Stéphane Pekala Colles (fighter holding up belt, and light-beams)

#### 020 Luxembourg Personalities

(anniversaries), three values Issue date: May 5, 2015;

Design: from portraits by Anne Mélan; Printer: bPost Stamps, Belgium, offset, in separate sheets; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4

€0.60 Claus Cito, 1882-1965, sculptor €0.60 Robert Krieps, 1922-1990, resistance fighter (deported to Dachau), lawyer, Socialist politician and party leader, parliamentarian between 1964 and 1989, MEP €0.60 René Engelmann, 1880-1915, teacher, literary historian,

> promoter of and writer in Luxembourg language

#### 021 Europa 2015. Old Toys and Games,

two values

Issue date: May 5, 2015; Design: Gerry Oth; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.4 x 13.4

€0.60 Box with components in stone (Baukasten aus Stern), including building blocks, as given to nursery school students by Anna Berwa, teacher in Hamm

**€**0.85 Furniture and dressed doll from doll's house, handmade by the Reuter family of Pétange for their daughter, 1936

Notes: designs are photographs by Oth of items in the collection of the A Possen Museum in Bech-Kleinmacher

#### 022 Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union, two values

Issue date: July 1, 2015; Design: Binsfeld; Printer: Gutenberg AG, Liechtenstein; Nondenominated; Perforations: die-cut 12.5 x 12 (through backing paper)

L 50g (€0.70) Presidential emblem ('lu' in white on scarlet ground), denomination unprinted (white)

E 50g (€0.85) Presidential emblem ('lu' in white on scarlet ground), denomination in cyan

#### 023 Old Conserved Vegetable Varieties,

second issue, three values Issue date: September 22, 2015; Design: from watercolours by Mariepol Goetzinger; Printer: bPost Stamps, Belgium, offset; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4

€0.20 Pastinake (parsnip), Pastinaca sativa: two roots tied by foliage €0.25 Real Celery, Apium gaveolens: tuber with foliage €0.35 Beetroot, Beta vulgaris

#### 024 15th anniversary of the Reign of Grand Duke Henri, one value

Issue date: September 22, 2015; Design: Christian Aschman; Engraving: Martin Mörck; Printer: Sweden Post Stamps, recess and offset; Perforations: 12.75 x 13

€0.70 Grand Duchess Maria Teresa and Grand Duke Henri, and their royal monograms

#### 025 175th anniversary of Postage Stamps,

one value

Issue date: September 22, 2015; Design: Vidale and Gloesner; Printer: Cartor, offset and gold foil; Perforations: 14.5 x 14.25

€0.70 First stamp of Luxembourg, the 10-centime Schwarze Kapp, bearing portrait of Grand Duke William, who was also King of the Netherlands

Notes: the anniversary commemorated is of the Penny Black, hence the inscription 175 Ans du Penny Black

#### 026 Scenes from Luxembourg's Nature

Reserves, three values

Issue date: September 22, 2015; Design: Lardographic, after photographs by Raymond Clement; Printer: Cartor, offset; Nondenominated; Perforations: 12.5 x 12.5 L 50g (0.70€) Waterfall in Naturpark Mëllerdall L 50g (0.70€) Lake (reservoir) behind the Esch-Sauer dam in Naturpark

Öewersauer/Llewersauer L 50g (0.70€) Mist at dawn over floral

hedgerow, fields and woods in Naturpark Our

#### 027 The National Museum of History and Art, three values

€0.95

Issue date: September 22, 2015; Designs: from Museum exhibits, photographs by T Lucas, or S Weis (€0.70); Printer: Cartor, offset including layer of varnish, and embossed; Perforations: 12.75 x 13

Architectural illustration of the €0.70 Wiltheim Wing of the Museum, noting its opening

> Decorative silver tea caddy, by Johann Michael Kutzer (1700-1760, Germany)

€1.30 Ceramic sculpture Helios by Villeroy & Boch, 1926

Notes: the €0.70 is inscribed 'SEPAC' for European postal cooperation

028 Flowers. Coil stamps for use by Non-Profit Organisations (charities), four values Issue date: December 1, 2015; Design: Vidale and Gloesner, from photographs by Guy Hoffman; Printer: Bundesdruckerei GmbH, Berlin; Non-denominated, inscribed '50g'; Perforations: die-cut 12.6 x 12.6 Self-adhesive coils -

50g (€0.35€) Marguerite (leucanthemum sp.) 50g (€0.35€) Cornflower, Centaurea cyanus

50g (€0.35€) Spiny plumeless thistle, Carduus acanthoides

50g (€0.35€) Field poppy, Papaver rhoeas

Notes: designs affixed in sequence to a vertical coil of 100, dispensed from ATR machines

#### **MONTSERRAT**

(previously listed in December 2016 issue)

#### 029 The Nassau Grouper (fish). WWF issue,

four values in various formats Issue date: May 30, 2016:

Design: IGPC Art Department, from photographs; Printer: C & C Security Printers, China, offset; Perforations 13.9 x 13.9

(A) sheetlet of eight (4 x 2). Contains four designs twice over in se-tenant strips or blocks

\$3.75 x 2 Nassau Grouper, Epinephalus striatus (head)

\$3.75 x 2 Nassau Grouper side view

\$3.75 x 2 Nassau Grouper, side view with open mouth

\$3.75 x 2 Nassau Grouper, from front (B) sheet of sixteen stamps (4 x 4). Contains two blocks of eight designs, arranged as in (A), separated by illustrated gutter

\$3.75 x 4 designs, each x 4 (C) miniature sheet: contains a block of four designs

\$3.75 Nassau Grouper, *Epinephalus* striatus (head); \$3.75 Nassau Grouper side view; \$3.75 Nassau Grouper, side view, open mouth; \$3.75 Nassau Grouper from front

Notes: all sheets have illustrated borders showing a grouper and sea grass The miniature sheet (mint) appears to have been available only from the WWF stamp agency (AG Groth), and not from Montserrat

#### 030 Waterfalls of the World.

four values and a miniature sheet Issue date: July 8, 2016; Designs: taken from photographs; Printing: Printer: C & C Security Printers, China, offset; Perforations 13.9 x 13.9 Sheetlet: contains (2 x 2 se-tenant) \$3.25 Bigar waterfall, Calas Severin









017





018





APRIL 2017 **95** 









0.29



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036





038

County, western Romania \$3.25 Pearl Shoal waterfall, Jinzhai Valley

National Park, Sichuan, P.R. China

\$3.25 Ran Goie waterfall, Cao Bang, Vietnam

\$3.25 Iguazu falls, Misiones Province, Argentina and frontier with Brazil

Miniature sheet: \$10 Great Alp Waterfall, Montserrat Border has inscription explaining the Great Alp Waterfall was destroyed in an eruption of Mt Soufriere

#### 031 Elvis Presley, 1935-1977,

four values and a miniature sheet Issue date: July 27, 2016; Design: I-GPC Art Department; Printing: litho, C&C Security Printers; Perforations:

Sheetlet: contains (2 x 2 se-tenant)

\$3.50 Four different depictions of Elvis in performance, holding microphone

Miniature sheet \$10 Elvis in performance, wearing white studded jacket

#### 032 Sea Turtles.

four values and a miniature sheet Issue date: September 23, 2016; Designs: from photographs; Printer: C&C Security Printers; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5, or 12.5 x 12.5 (miniature sheet) Sheetlet: contains (4 x 1 se-tenant)

\$3.50 Green sea turtle, *Chelonias mydas*\$3.50 Loggerhead sea turtle,

\*\*Caretta caretta\*

\$3.50 Olive Ridley sea turtle,

\*\*Lepidochelys olivacea\*

\$3.50 Kemp's Ridley sea turtle,

Lepidochelys kempii

Miniature sheet \$7 Hawskbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata* 

\$3.50

#### 033 Transportation used in Montserrat,

four values and a miniature sheet Issue date: November 20, 2016; Designs: from photographs of current vehicles; Printer: C & C Security Printers, offset; Perforations: 13.9 x 13.9, or 12.5 x 12.5 (miniature sheet) Sheetlet: contains (4 x 1 se-tenant)

Ferry, MV Caribe Sun (registered in

\$3.50 St Kitts and Nevis) off Montserrat

Van, a conveyance of Montserrat

Correction Department (prison)

\$3.50 State vehicle. 4x4 official transport

of the Premier of Montserrat, flying

Montserrat flag

\$3.50 Police motorcycle (used for vanguard, on escort, and on other ceremonial occasions)

Miniature sheet \$7.00 - Islander aircraft of Fly Montserrat at new airport (the previous

Blackburne Airport was destroyed in the volcanic eruption)

#### 034 Christmas 2016. Christmas Ornaments,

four values and a miniature sheet Issue date: November 20, 2016;

Design: I-GPC Art Department; Printer: C & C Security Printers; Perforations: 13.9 x 13.9, or

12.5 x 12.5 (miniature sheet) Sheetlet: contains (2 x 2 se-tenant)

\$3.50 Baubles \$3.50 Balls on tree \$3.50 Reindeer decoration

\$3.50 Presents

Miniature sheet \$7.00 bauble and silver hanging decoration

#### RUSSIA

(previously listed in November 2016 issue)

#### 035 Hugo Chávez Commemoration,

one value

Issue date: July 28, 2014;

Design: Olga N Ivanova; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 12.25 x 12.5

15r Portrait of Hugo Rafael Chávez Frias, 1954-2013, President of Venezuela, in uniform, and Venezuela flag

#### 036 Centenary of the Outbreak of the Great War. Commanders and Battle Fronts, four

values and a stamp booklet

Issue date: July 31, 2014; Design: A Moskovets; Printer: Goznak, offset; Perforations:  $12.25 \times 12$  (A) stamps from sheets of twelve

20r General Brusilov with his staff officers; map of 'Brusilov offensive', June-Aug 1916

20r Russian soldiers with fixed bayonets, and plan of the defence of Osoviec (Ossovets) Fortress, Sept 1914 to Aug 1915

20r Russian soldiers (with flag) near
Champagne on the Western Front,
1916, and map of route
taken to France

20r Soldiers with gun captured from Ottoman Army: and map of Erzurum offensive, Jan to March 1916

(B) stamp booklet (sold at premium). Contains four panes each with a single stamp, height 100mm x width 180mm, perforations 11.5

pane 20r Brusilov and staff officers, map pane 20r Soldiers and plan of

defence of Osoviec pane 20r Russian soldiers on

Western Front, map
pane 205r Soldiers with captured gun, map of
Erzurum offensive, Anatolia

Cover of booklet depicts monument, with inscription

#### 037 300th anniversary of the Great

Northern War, one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: August 1, 2014;

Design: A Povarihin; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.6 x 11.5

Miniature sheet 50r - Russian fleet of the Hankö peninsula (in the Gulf of Finland) on July 27, 1714

Notes: issue commemorates the naval blockade and subsequent battle of Gangut, and is based upon a print by Maurice Baquoi

#### озв Wild Cats of Asia, four values

Issue date: August 1, 2014;

Design: R Komsa; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5

15r Manul or Pallas's cat,

Otocolobus manul

16r Wild Cat, Felis sylvestris

17r Leopard Cat, Prionailurus

benegalensis euptilurus

18r Jungle Cat, Felis chaus

Notes: the four values were printed se-tenant in a sheetlet of eight (2 x 4); the lower se-tenant block has the designs in reverse order

#### 039 Medals of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945, second issue, four values

10-10, 0000114 10040, 100

Issue date: August 8, 2014;

Design: A Moskovets; Printer: Goznak, offset and embossed with varnish layer over medal; Perforations: 11.75 x 11.75

25r Medal For the

Defence of the Caucasus

Medal For the Defence of Kiev
 Medal For the Defence of Odessa
 Medal For the Defence of the Soviet
 Arctic (Polar Regions)

Each stamp is printed in a sheetlet of seven stamps and a label

#### 040 Centenary of the Founding of Kyzyl,

one value

Issue date: August 12, 2014; Design: Kh Bedretinova; Printer: Goznak, offset; Perforations: 12.4 x 12

15r City coat of arms, and sculpture
Tamar before the Aldan-Madyr
National Museum of
Republic of Tuva

#### 041 The Russian Arctic Fleet, second issue,

two values

Issue date: August 26, 2014;

Design: A Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.9 x 11.9

15r Vitus Bering

(icebreaker and supply ship to oil installations in the Far East)

15r Sadko (tug)

Each stamp is printed in sheetlet with two blocks of four separated by a gutter

#### 042 75th anniversary of the Battle of Khalkhin Gol (Mongolia), one value

Issue date: August 28, 2014; Design: R Konsa; Printer: Goznak, offset; Perforatons: 11.35 x 11.25

15r Black horse carrying a Mongol warrior, after Khalkhin Gol military medal

Notes: stamp is diamond format, printed in sheetlet of nine; issue commemorates the securing of the eastern frontiers of the Mongolian Peoples Republic against the Japanese (who controlled Manchukuo / Manchuria) and subsequent Treaty, 1939 Joint issue with Mongolia Post

#### 043 Hero Cities of the Great Patriotic War,

part VI., six value se-tenant in a sheetlet Issue date: Ausust 28, 2014; Design: V Beljukov; Printer: Goznak, offset, showing a shield, laurels and weaponry, with city names embossed in gold foil; Perforations: 11.3 x 11.3 Sheetlet (3 x 2 se-tenant), contains

20r Anapa (Krasnodar region). Chye-2 seaplane, 45mm anti-aicraft gun, pursuit ship PC-125 (SKA-065)

20r Vladivostok.UT-2 training aircraft, BAI armoured car, patrol ship Red Pennan

20r Kovrov (in Vladimir Oblast). Degtyrarev 12.7mm machine gun, DShK 12.7mm machine gun and SU 76-I field gun

20r

20r

20r

15r

Kolpino (near Leningrad). AP-2 dive bomber, 52-P-353 cannon (1927 type), flame tank OT-34, laurels

Stary Oskol (Belgorod Oblast) and aircraft (DB-3F bomber), 50mm mortar, light amphibious tank T-40

> Tikhvin (near Leningrad). Pe-8 aircraft, B-4 caterpillar howitzer, motorized armed railcar BIE-2 (1936 type), laurels

#### 044 Uniforms of the Russian Post and

Telegraph Service, four values and a sheetlet Issue date: September 1, 2014; Design: S Ulyanovsky; Printer: Goznak, offset, in sheets of 8; Perforations: 13.4 x 13.6

Postman and Clerk of the Yamskoi Posts, 1671 15r Postman and senior oficer. Yamskoi Office, 1767 Chief of Posts, and a female 15r telegraph operator (holding tape), 1870

Postman and telephone

operator of 1950

Sheetlet (2 x 4) - contains two sets of the four value, se-tenant

#### 045 450th anniversary of Book Printing in

Russia, one value

Issue date: September 3, 2014; Design: R Fedulov: Printer: Goznak. offset: Perforations 11.9 x 11.3

Title page and plate from Ivan Fedulov's Books of the Apostles, 1564

046 Saint Sergius of Radonezh, one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: September 16, 2014; Design: S Ulyanovsky; Printer: Goznak, offset with varnish layer; Perforations: 11.9 x 11.8 Miniature sheet 70r - the Trinity Monastery at Sergiev Posad, and the Veneratble Sergius, c1314-1392 as a monk, giving a blessing

#### 047 Centre for Special Communications,

one value

Issue date: September 18, 2014; Design: A Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset; Perforations: 12.4x 11.9

Headquarters building in Moscow, transport (car, van, truck), modern logo

Notes: founded 1913 as State Courier Service for carriage and safe storage of secret documents and valuables (including gold)

#### 048 Coats of Arms of the Russian Regions.

Krasnodar, one value in a miniature sheet Issue date: September 25, 2014; Design: A Moskovets; Printer: Gonak, offset with partial varnish layer; Perforations: 11.9 x 12.3 Miniature sheet 50r - Arms of Krasnodar Sheet border bears locational map

049 RSS Winter Sports coverage, one value

Issue date: October 7, 2014;

Design: S Ulyanosvky; Printer: Goznak, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5

Ice-hockey match scene (goal) and celebrating players

RSS is the joint telecommunications service (equivalent of Eurovision) for the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) Stamp was printed in sheetlet of eight with border noting Russia as winner of 78th 2014 World Ice Hockey Championships, Belarus

#### 050 Inaugural Russian Grand Prix, Sochi,

one value

Issue date: October 14, 2014;

Design: S Ulyanovsky; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 13.t5 x \ 3.5

15r View of two Formula One cars on the street circuit around Sochi, the Iceberg Sports Palace, and illuminations

#### 051 Fauna of Russia and Korea. Raptors,

two values

Issue date: Octobe 12, 2014;

Design: O Shushlebina: Printer: Goznak, offset:

Perforations: 12.25 x 12

15r Eurasian sparrowhawk, Accipiter nisus

Osprey, Pandion haliæetus

Joint issue with North Korea

#### 052 Bicentenary of the Birth of Mikhail Lermontov, Poet, Artist and Writer, one

value in a miniature sheet Issue date: October 15, 2014;

Design: O Ivanova; Printer: litho, Goznak;

Perforaations: 12.5 x 12

Miniature sheet 50r - Portrait, and painting of 1837 A view of the Krestovaya Mountain from the gorge near Kobi

Border depicts manuscript and characters of

poem Sashka

#### 053 Coat of Arms definitive. Sochi,

one value in sheets and in booklets Issue date: October 21, 2014:

Design: A Povarihin; Printer: Goznak, offset; Perforations: 11.75 x 12.25

(A) sheet stamp. Sheets of thirty stamps

Coat of Arms of Sochi (mountain.

golden palmtree, sun) (B) stamp booklet (150r)

pane of 15r x ten copies, taken from sheets (C) stamp bookelt (300r)

pane of 15r x thirty copies, taken from sheets

#### 054 Cavaliers of theOrder of Saint Andrew. Mikhail Kalashnikov, 1919-2013, one value Issue date: October 24, 2014; Design: A Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset, with varnish layer over medal; Perforations: 12 x 11.25

15r Portrait of the armaments designer and developer, best known for the

AK 7.62mm assault rifle (1947) Notes: Kalashnikov was also a tank commander





















066





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#### SAN MARINO

(previously listed in March 2017 issue)

#### 055 120th anniversary of Genoa Cricket and Athletic Club, one value

Issue date: April 13, 2013;

Design: Melonia Communications; Printer: BDT, Ireland, offset: Perforations: 14 x 15

€1.00 Shield with flag of St George and heraldic animal, photograph of Club pioneer James Richardson Spensley, 1867-1915, and Marassi stadium

Notes: Spensley, an English surgeon and sportsman, joined GCC in 1897, and organised their football team as player-manager. Genoa CAC won the Italian football championship in 1898

#### 056 Juventus, Italian Football Champions 2012-2013, one value

Issue date: June 7, 2013;

Design: Marco Ventura; Printer: ÖSD, Vienna, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14

€1.00 Juventus badge, and celebrating players

#### 057 40th anniversary of the European Patent Convention (EPC), one value

Issue date: June 7, 2013;

Design: Mariangela Crisciotti (graphic); Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13

€0.85 Head of man filled with cogwheels, and mock patent document with logo

#### 058 The Church of St John the Baptist (Patron of Sovereign Military Order of

Malta), two values in a miniature sheet Issue date: June 7, 2013;

Design: B & AR, from photographs;

Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.25

Miniature sheet - contains

€1.90 Church exterior

€3.20 High altar, with portrait of

St John the Baptist

Notes: the Church formerly known as Oratorio Valloni. Joint stamp issue with S.M.O.M.; intervening issues were detailed in the March 2017 issue of Stamp & Coin Mart

#### 059 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Buildings

in Italy, four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: October 9, 2013;

Design: Esplorati dello Statio (San Marino); Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.25

Miniature sheet - contains €1.40

Basilica of San Francesco, Assisi, and Crucifix with Five Franciscans (artwork by Giotto di Bondone, 1266-1377)

€1.40 Palazzo Ducale (Ducal Palace), Urbino, and detail from painting of St

Roch, by Lorenzo Lotto, 1480-1556

Mausoleum of Theodoric, Ravenna, and detail from the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the daughter of

Empress as regent

€1.40€ Castello Estense, Ferrara, and depiction of the Palazzo Schifanoia (renaissance era, built for

Emperor Theodosius I, and

Este family)

Border: map indicating the sites

€1.40€

#### 060 Fight against Age and Gender-based Violence and Abuse, four values

Issue date: March 17, 2014:

Designs: graphic artworks by Mariangela Crisciotti; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.25, or 13.25 x 13 (€1.90, €3.60)

€0.05 Young girl covering her eyes in fear

Toddler splitting stones €0.85

with a hammer

€1.90 Young boy holding a weapon in his hands (passed to him by an adult)

€3.60 Crouching naked young woman

#### 061 40th anniversary of Statute 59/1974, The Declaration of Rights.

two values in a miniature sheet Issue date: March 17, 2014;

Design: Fabio Ferrini; Printer: Cartor, offset with fluorescence: Perforations 12.75 x 13 Miniature sheet - contains (not se-tenant) €2.50 and €2.50, arms bearing slogans reaching toward light (composite with

#### 062 30th anniversary of the Special Sports

Federation of San Marino, one value

Issue date: March 17, 2014;

Design: Stefania Sargoni: Printer: Cartor. offset:

Perforations: 13 x 13.25

sheet border)

€0.70 Emblem for thirtieth anniversary

(graphic, logo)

#### 063 'Made in San Marino'. Specialist Paint Manufacturer Colorificio Sammarinese,

one value

Issue date: March 17, 2014;

Design: Esplorati dello Spazio; Printer: Cartor,

offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.25 €0.70 '70' composed of

circular colour samples

#### 064 25th anniversary of Soroptimist International Single Club of San Marino,

one issue

Issue date: March 17, 2014;

Design: Anna Malpeli; Printer: Cartor, offset;

Perforations: 13.25 x 13

€0.85 Emblem, growing trees,

woman, slogan

#### 065 Convention in San Marion of the **International Confederation of Sports**

Fishermen (CIPS), one value Issue date: March 17, 2014:

Design: Josef Costazza; Printer: Cartor, offset;

Perforations: 13 x 13.25

€0.85 Fish, fishing symbols,

CIPS Convention logo

#### **TURKEY**

(previously listed in October 2016 issue)

#### 066 Ottoman Palaces. The Yildiz, two values

Issue date: February 27, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer (PTT Matbaasi), offset and foil embossed; Perforations 13.4 x 13.2

1 10TI The Malta Kiosk (on Palace exterior),

main auditorium, fountain

1.10TL Yildiz Palace exterior (garden frontage), Ottoman tugra

> (calligraphic seal, in gold), and portrait of Sultan Abdul Hamid II,

1842-1918

Notes: the Palace is in the Besiktas district of Constantinople (now Istanbul)

#### 067 Scenes at Eskisehir,

four values in a miniature sheet Issue date: March 21, 2013: Printer: PTT Printer, offset: Perforations: 13.5 x 13.65 Miniature sheet (2 x 2): contains

1.10TL Turkish high speed train 1.10TL Barrage and reservoir,

smoke trail in shape of a pipe

2.20TI Canal

2.20TL City Hall of Eskisehir

Notes: the city is registered with UNESCO as having 'Intangible Cultural Heritage'

#### 068 Child Health and Welfare. World Down's Syndrome Day, three values

Issue date: March 21, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.25

50k Face of child, diagram of chromosome 21, diagram of double helix (DNA)

1.10TL Face of child, heart-shaped balloon and clouds

2.20TL Children walking in open air, heart-shaped balloons

The 2.20TL stamp is double format

#### 069 Izmir, candidate city for World Expo

**2020**. three values in a miniature sheet Issue date: April 4, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer,

offset; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.3

Miniature sheet: contains three diamond-shaped stamps

1.10TL Montage of city views 1.10TL Jogger on the sea front 2.20TL Logo for the canditature, by Adir Sehay

#### 070 Definitives, Scenes from Antalva

Province six values

Issue date: April 12, 2013;

Printer: PTT Printer, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.75 with elliptal cutouts on horizontal sides and star cut-outs on vertical sides

2.20TL Temple of Apollo (ruins) 2.20TL Hadrian's Gate (c 130AD) 2.20TL Tekeli-Mehmet-Pasha mosque (18th century), ancient clock tower on the city wall, and Yivli Minare mosque (c.1226-1227) 2.20TL Kaleici yacht marina 2.20TL Antalya castle 2.20TL Manavgat waterfalls on the

Manavgat river (fifty miles from Antalya city)

#### 071 500th anniversary of the Map of the World created by Piri Reis, 1513,

four values in a miniature sheet Issue date: April 18, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5 Miniature sheet - contains four hexagonal format designs forming a composite with sheet border

Map detail, with open 1.10TI ocean and islands

1.10TL Map detail, with South American coast and Caribbean islands

1.10TL Map detail, with compass rose, ships and coastlines

1.10TL Inscriptions from border of the Piri Reis map, and portrait of Piri Reis, Ottoman admiral and cartographer

#### 072 Europa 2013. Postal Transporation, two values

Issue date: May 9, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset: Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

1.10TL Post van, three-wheel post van, pillar box, post motorcycle, postman, airmail envelope with cancellation

2.20TL Post rider, horse hauling wagon, post box, post motorcycle and sidecar, PTT post truck

#### 073 Europe-Asia Social Business Forum,

two values with surcharge in a miniature sheet Issue date: May 23, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset: Perforations: 13.5 x 13.75 Miniature sheet - contains 1.10TL + 10k Infrastructure on the Bosphorus: (wind turbines, power lines, bridge, roads and teracing (diagrammatic)

1.10TL + 10k Water droplet with a world map

#### 074 The Technical University, Istanbul,

four values in a miniature sheet Issue date: May 24, 2013; Designs: after photographs: Printer: PTT Printer. offset: Perforations: 13.5 x 13.75 Miniature sheet 1.10TL x four different views of the Technical University building

Notes: commemorates 140th anniversary of the technical school in Constantinople

#### 075 130th anniversary of Beypazan

municipality, two values with surcharge Issue date: May 29, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset: Perforations: 13.2 x 13.4 1.10TL + 10k Building with three storeys 1.10TL + 10k Products of Beypazan (lace, foodstuffs, drinks, vegetables)

#### 076 World Day of the Environment. Global Warming and Environmental Degredation,

four values in a miniature sheet Issue date: June 5, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75 Miniature sheet: contains

1.10TL Head of man filling with water (rising sea levels) and next and body of cracked earth (desertification)

1.10TL Section of globe showing Americas, with glaciers and rivers (retreat of ice)

1.10TL Section of globe showing Europe and Africa with solar flares, tractor ploughing, and polar bear

1.10TL Family of four with their pet cat, a rabbit and a fox, and glacier with glacial meltwater pool

#### 077 17th Mediterranean Games, Mersin.

four values in a miniature sheet Issue date: June 10, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13

1.10TL Shell 'surfing' on a sea wave, shot-putter, javelin thrower, runner and boxer

1.10TL Boxer, weightlifter, sailboard 1.10TL

Gymnast, archer, wave bearing seaweed

1.10TL Volleyball player, racing cyclist Border shows Games logo and sea turtles

#### 078 17th Mediterranean Games, Mersin, Turkey (second issue),

one self-adhesive value Issue date: June 10, 2013. Printer: not reported, lenticular three-dimensional plastic print on

backing card. Laser cut perforations 13% x 14% with elliptical punch-outs on horizontal sides. Self-adhesive stamp: sold singly 5TL

Sea turtle (photographic) and cartoon Games mascots (turtles wearing swimming costume)

Notes: sold in a Presentation Folder which contained a single stamp and the stamp

affixed to First Day



#### 079 50th anniversary of the Public Administration Institute (Civil Servant

Training School), one value Issue date: June 28, 2013; Printer: PTT Printer, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75 with elliptical cut-outs on two sides

1.10TL Institute building and logo, portrait of

Atatürk reading books

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#### Coin update







## New coins celebrate Sapphire Jubilee

A number of collectable coins have been issued recently to celebrate the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee, 65 years after she became Queen.

Pobjoy Mint have produced a 'double-headed' coin on behalf of the British Virgin Islands, which features the Pobjoy designed Queen's effigy facing right on the obverse and left on the reverse. A spokesperson for Pobjoy Mint said: 'In order to represent the year that the longest serving British Monarch took to the throne Pobjoy Mint is striking 1,952 of these 1oz fine silver coins. All of our coins are produced to the highest quality and have been struck four times to produce a glorious mirror finish.' The coin was released on 24 January.

The Royal Mint have issued what they are calling 'the official coin for the United Kingdom's first Sapphire Jubilee'. The £5 silver proof coin is limited to just 8,000 editions and features an image of a crown with the text 'My whole life, whether it be long or short, devoted to your service', the edge inscription reads 'Shine through the Ages'. The £5 coin comes with a booklet featuring the thoughts of former BBC Royal Correspondent Jennie Bond.

Meanwhile, the Westminster Collection have issued a £5 coin on



behalf of Guernsey to mark the anniversary. The design features the Sovereign's Sceptres from the Coronation regalia alongside the year dates 1952-2017, it also shows the number 65 which represents the years Her Majesty has been on the throne. The coin is struck to a 'pristine Proof finish – the highest grade of finish found on collectable coins'.

## New Sovereign designed by Pistrucci's descendant

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Britain's most famous gold coin, the modern Sovereign, The London Mint Office Ltd has launched a new version of the coin redesigned by a family member of the Sovereign's original designer.

First struck in 1817 the UK Sovereign has featured the same depiction of Saint George slaying the dragon, created by Italian sculptor and engraver Benedetto Pistrucci (1783-1855) who was the Chief Medallist for The Royal Mint. To commemorate 200 years since Benedetto struck the first coin, The London Mint Office has commissioned his great, great niece, Angela Pistrucci, to recreate the image of this ancient story in a contemporary style. As an acclaimed artist herself, she has created a coin which expertly reflects the legacy of her ancestor's seminal work whilst also drawing on early depictions of Saint George, recasting Benedetto's Greek saint as a Roman soldier.

Dan Penney, Senior Creative Manager for The London Mint Office said: 'It is very much its own coin; the position of Saint George and



his horse to face left brings balance to the composition and the dragon climbing up the side adds interest and movement while making excellent use of the shape of the coin. The 2017 Pistrucci Sovereign is undoubtedly a new Pistrucci masterpiece.'

The coin will be available to buy from 13 February.





## 'Una and the Lion' coin set to fetch £100,000

An example of what auction house Dix Noonan Webb describe as 'arguably one of the world's most beautiful coins' is expected to fetch up to £100,000 at an auction to be in London on 15 March.

The gold British 'Una and the Lion' Proof Five Pounds dating from 1839 is set to the highlight of the sale, which will also include a gold George V Proof Crown from 1935, estimated at up to £40,000.

Una and the Lion are characters in Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queene written between 1590 and 1611. The reverse of the coin designed by William Wyon depicts Queen Victoria as Una guiding the British lion. The design is an unusual one which has given the coin its familiar name of the Una and the Lion Five Pound piece. The obverse of the coin has William Wyon's famous Young Head portrait of Queen Victoria. There is no evidence that these coins were ever struck for circulation, and records suggest that they were only intended to be proof coins and were primarily made for inclusion in the specimen sets of the first Victorian coins.

Only a few hundred were struck and a number of different variations can be found. There are different types of edge, differing patterns of ornamentation on the queen's hairbands and the reverse can read either 'DIRIGE DEUS GRESSUS MEOS' (May the Lord direct my steps) or 'DIRIGIT' instead of 'DIRIGE' (The Lord directs my steps). The coin to be auctioned at Dix Noonan Webb reads 'DIRIGE', has a plain edge and, apart from some minor surface marks, is otherwise virtually as struck. The estimate is £80,000 to £100,000. For further information visit: www.dnw.co.uk

## Tudor and Stuart coins on offer at Spink

The Academic Collection of Lord Stewartby, which consists of many rare Tudor and Stuart coins is set to go under the hammer at Spink this month in London and the USA.

A spokesperson for Spink said: 'One of these choice pieces is... an Edward VI (1547-53), Shilling from 1549 minted in Canterbury. It is from an m.m. G die. Dies m.m. G were prepared for use at York under George Gale, but not used... For collectors with an interest in mint oddities, this will prove a very popular item for its rarity and attractiveness.' The auctions take place on 28 March, for more information visit www.spink.com

#### Auction highlights





The highlight of the world coins section in the recent Warwick and Warwick coin sale was a USA 1793 'flowing hair cent' which sold for £24,780. The next Warwick and Warwick coin and banknote auction will be held on 19 April 2017.

#### **SOLD FOR £24,780**





A range of Ancient Greek coins were on offer at the recent Timeline Auctions sale, including a drachm from Katane, in modern-day Sicily, from 405-402 BC, featuring a depiction of River-god Amenanos. Engraved by Euainetos, the coin featured a 'KATANAIWN' legend beneath a fast quadriga right, the driver crowned by Nike flying left above. On the reverse of the coin was a horned head of Amenanos left, hair bound in a taenia.

#### SOLD FOR £744



Seven Saudi Arabia trade coinage gold guineas, mounted as a bracelet, and fitted with a 9ct gold swivel clasp, were recently sold at Toovey's.

**SOLD FOR £1,500** 

#### delcampe

#### Internet auctions

Your quick reference price guide to recent coin and banknote sales on the popular internet auction site delcampe.net



SOLD FOR £490

Angola, Portuguese province, 10 Angolares 1926 note



SOLD FOR £213

Belgium, 5 francs 1915 'Société Générale de Belgique'



SOLD FOR £294

Luxembourg, 1 Mark 1914 'Internationale Bank in Luxembourg'



SOLD FOR £255

Algeria, 50 francs 1913



SOLD FOR £187

Hong Kong, 1000 dollars, 1996 UNC



**SOLD FOR 1,535** 

Russia, 3 kopeks 1882 Nickel proof 'Le nickel specimen'



SOLD FOR £375

Switzerland, 5 francs 1894 Bern silver coin



SOLD FOR £579

France, Louis XV Ecu 'buste normal' 1716 silver coin

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## Coins on a budget

This coin was purchased from a dealer's £2 box at a coin fair, writes Ed Archer. It is a three kreuzer piece in copper from the reign of Francis II, the last Holy Roman Emperor after 1806 he was king of the Austrian Hungarian Empire.

On the reverse side of the coin is the crown of St Stephen separating two eagles clasping swords in their claws. The value of three kreuzer is in an oval surrounded by the order of the Golden Fleece. The date 1800 is divided by the eagles. The obverse shows the portrait of the Emperor Francis II who was a contemporary of Napoleon and was, for a brief time, his ally after the defeat at the battle of Austerlitz in 1806. However, he rejoined the alliance against Napoleon in 1812. Beneath the portrait is the mint mark 'B', which shows that the coin was minted in Vienna which was the capital of the Holy Roman Empire.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this coin are the titles inscribed on the rim – 'FRANC II .D.G.I.S.A.GER.HUN.BOH. REX.AA.' These Latin abbreviations translate in full as 'Francis II by grace of God Emperor always Emperor Augustus and King of Germany, Hungary and Bohemia and Archduke of Austria.



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## The Normans and their money

Steve Webb looks at the belligerent dynasty that swept away Anglo-Saxon coinage

ome people seem unaware that the ancestral kith and kin of the victors at Senlac Hill in 1066 had striven for several centuries to achieve their goal. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records as early as 787 that in this year came three ships of the Northmen from the Land of Robbers. These were the first ships of those who sought the land of the English nation.

Other Viking fleets pillaged parts of Europe including northern France where a leader named Hrolf, later rendered in English as Rollo, settled his followers around the mouth of the river Seine. He gradually expanded the territory until the Franks, from whom he seized much north-western land,

Above: William I with
PILLEMUS REX (William
King) obverse legend.
The moneyer was
Godwine at Huntingdon
mint. Found in Northants
in 2012. Sold in 2013
for £908

Right: this coin, found near Oxford in 2012, shows William I beneath a canopy. The reverse design is a double quadrilateral with fleurs at corners. Struck at Oxford mint. Sold in 2012 for £1,287



began to call it Normandie (country of the Northmen).

Vikings in general held pragmatic views on coinage: they happily used the money of any nation so long as a pair of coin scales and shears were on hand to ensure that each coin's precise weight and value could be adjusted to meet marketplace needs. In Normandy, Rollo and his successors either used the money of the neighbouring Frankish kingdom; or they struck coins of identical weight to Frankish deniers, with very similar designs. Norman attitudes to currency had altered little one-and-a-half centuries later when Rollo's great-great grandson, William, took control of England's coinage after slaying King Harold in October 1066.

William claimed the throne of England on the strength of an



undocumented promise of succession made to him by heirless Edward the Confessor, to whom he had a tenuous relationship through marriage. A change of heart when on his deathbed seems to have persuaded Edward to offer the English throne instead to Harold, Earl of Wessex. As a consequence, William's aggressive Viking instincts prompted him to invade and to win the throne by force of arms.

A hundred years earlier King Edgar had broken with Anglo-Saxon tradition when he introduced large regal portraiture on the nation's silver pennies. Most reverses in his and subsequent reigns also carried designs that included a centrally positioned cross, together with a mint and a moneyer named in the legend around the cross. Anglo-Saxon pennies were familiar and respected coins known to





On this silver penny William I is shown flanked by two sceptres. It dates from 1072-1074. The legend reads +PILLEM REX ANGLO. (William King of England) Sold in 2012 for  $\pounds 351$ 

Vikings throughout Scandinavia, in part because literally millions had found their way eastward, paid by England's monarchs as Danegelt bribes in unsuccessful attempts to keep Vikings at bay. William's interests were best served by sticking to the usual Viking practice of altering the coinage as little as possible. On the other hand he needed to stamp his Norman authority on England's money; and to show that he was the rightful heir to Edward the Confessor, unlike Harold, who was dismissed in Norman ideology as no more than a pretender and usurper.

The result was a first coin that displayed similarities with both Harold's and Edward's money, minted to the same standard and fineness. Lettering closely resembled Edward's later, and Harold's few, issues. The facial features on William's early coins do suggest that the engravers tried to present a realistic image of the new king to his Anglo-Saxon subjects, showing him with little more than stubble about his chin, compared to Harold's flowing beard; but the profile, left-facing pose is hardly altered. The crown, too, is of strikingly similar appearance in its bands of gold, rising arches, jewel settings and dependent ornaments. Furthermore, all three rulers hold a sceptre as part of their regalia and as a symbol of authority.

It took six years to fully conquer the English. Following his victory at Hastings his army made a broad sweep across the south and west, laying siege to and capturing many strongholds, including London. His plan, after the first year of occupation, seems to have evolved to holding the south and allowing remnants of the English aristocracy to govern the north while paying William substantial taxes. Recalcitrant Saxon earls, who





fought among themselves as much as against the Normans, scuppered that project. William retaliated ruthlessly, confiscating land and property, promoting Norman and French nobility in their place, and continuing with his castle building from Dover to Newcastle and beyond.

As many as seventy mints operated throughout the country during William's reign, some only briefly to pay his highly mobile forces. Coins were struck at the same weight and fineness as in Saxon times, but as the reign progressed a total of eight new



Top: this coin has the letters PAXS (Peace) in the angles of the reverse cross. It was struck c.1086 at Wareham, towards the end of William I's reign. Sold in 2011 for £633

Above: on this penny of William II, struck at Northampton 1087-1097, the king holds a sword in his right hand. On the reverse a central circle encloses a cross pattee

Left: the Normans were strong believers in auspicious heavenly signs. On this William II penny the star on the obverse, and the 'piles' on the reverse, are thought to record the sighting of a comet which augured good fortune for the king

portraits showed William full-face and with left and right-facing profiles. His regalia and other symbols of his status grew more prominent on the new coins which reluctant subjects were obliged to acquire because each new issue deprived the previous issue of its legal tender status. The old money had to be handed in and new coins obtained at exchange rates that paid the king handsomely for his minimal outlays.

We also remember William for the Doomsday Book, a wonderful social record of England in 1086; but let us not forget that the sole reason for William ordering its compilation was to ensure that all who owed him paid full taxes on their land and possessions. William died, of wounds received in putting down a rebellion in Normandy in 1087, before he could spend more of his English fiscal revenues.

Although William had secured the succession of his eldest son, Robert, as the Duke of Normandy, no formal arrangements had been made to ensure that his second son, William, would gain England's crown. His youngest

#### English coins

son, Henry, received a large sum of money but was left landless. Little surprise then that William junior made a hurried dash to England two days before his father finally died from his wounds. The son received the crown and the title William II from the Archbishop of Canterbury ... and was at once challenged for it by his elder brother. He also faced rebellions from the Earl of Northumbria and the King of Scotland, eventually seeing off all opposition and carving out a substantial slice of Scotland to add to his English estates. On coinage one of William II's very few innovations was to issue several coins on which he is shown holding an unsheathed sword rather than a sceptre, perhaps symbolic of his defence of England; or perhaps a warning to would-be challengers. He died from an arrow wound while hunting deer in the New Forest.

That was the *carpe diem* moment for landless Henry, who rushed to Winchester, seized the royal coffers, then sped to Westminster for his coronation as Henry I of England in the year 1100. A few years later he turned the events of 1066 on their head by leading an invasion force to Normandy where he defeated his brother. Soon the ducal crown was on Henry's head and Norman lands on both sides of the Channel once again united.

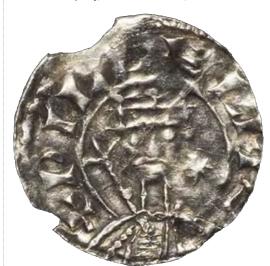
Alas, his monetary affairs proved disastrous. The large variety of types (fifteen in total) issued during Henry's reign provided many opportunities for forgers who could count on people being unfamiliar with new coins and more likely to accept base money. The practice of recoining every few years was therefore abandoned. The brief introduction of round farthings, though innovative and no doubt welcome to the poor, probably also helped forgers as much as it assisted change and alms givers. After twenty and more years of seeing his coins abused by moneyers, Henry moved with Viking-like brutality against them in 1124. All who could not satisfy the king of their innocence had their right hand and both testicles cut off.

Stephen (1135-1154), the last Norman monarch if we disregard





On this William II penny, struck at London mint, the monarch holds a sword over his right shoulder





On this William II penny from Thetford mint the king holds a sceptre over his shoulder





Henry I penny with PAXS reverse

Henry I's daughter Matilda as a brief claimant, took the throne when Henry I died without a male heir. The anarchy of the civil war that followed allowed control of some of England's coinage to fall into the hands of barons, bishops, Scots and Matilda, the proliferation accompanied by extremely low-grade workmanship from local mints.

Collectors are hard-pressed to find

f-grade examples of any coins from this reign, though the high prices achieved by the few that come to market reflect keen interest in Norman money even in its twilight years.

Illustrations accompanying this feature show coins sold as lots by TimeLine Auctions. Visit their website to view coin lots in forthcoming sales.

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## The Bonnington Hoard

Ed Archer provides an insight into the Bonnington Hoard, discovered two years ago by a metal detectorist, revealing the significance of the 41 coins

he Bonnington Hoard was found on 4 July, 2014, and was then handed to Treasure Trove authorities in Edinburgh where it was processed and an ex gratia award was decided, to be paid by whichever museum decided to make a bid. Lanark Museum put in a bid for the hoard of 41 coins and, after the agreed sum changed hands, the hoard was delivered to Lanark.

both sides of a penny of Alexander III of Scotland; the obverse of a Bristol Edward I penny; the reverse of an Edward II penny from Canterbury

Above, from left:

Right: both sides of an Edward I penny minted in Canterbury





The composition of the hoard

The Bonnington Hoard is chiefly made up of coins struck in England. Thirty five of the 41 coins belong to the reigns of Edward I and Edward II of England; two are from Ireland and were struck in the reign of Edward; two are coins from the reign of Alexander III of Scotland; and finally there are two Flemish coins, one struck for Gaucher de Chatillon and the other for Robert de Bethune.

The pennies in the hoard are noticeably thin, since 240 pennies were struck from a pound of silver.

Below, from left: both sides of an Edward I penny from Dublin; both sides of an Edward I penny from London Twelve pennies made a shilling and twenty shillings made a pound, these denominations remained right up until decimalization in 1971.

The coins reflect the strength of sterling as a currency. Sterling is a term used to describe the quality of silver. During the reign of Edward I (1271-1307) silver coins had to have 92.5 percent silver in them and this silver standard remains in use in Britain to this day for all items made of silver. The majority of the coins in the hoard are Sterling Silver.

However some of the coins in the

hoard do not contain 92.5 percent. Indeed tests have shown that some have more copper in them than they should have. The Scottish coins are perhaps of the best quality; those of the lowest silver quality are some of the Edward I pennies (possible Flemish forgeries) and the two Flemish coins. Many Flemish coins closely imitated the Edward I pennies and were particularly disliked by the English Government, because of their low silver content. Eventually Edward I had several laws passed banning them.











#### The English coins

The English coins were from the following mints: Bristol, Canterbury, Durham and London. Two were struck in Bristol, twelve in Canterbury, two in Durham and nineteen in London.

The coins from Bristol were struck in the years 1280 and 1281. Bristol at the time was one of the most important port cities in the South West of England and played an important part in supplying the forces of Edward I when they were campaigning in Wales.

The twelve coins from Canterbury span the period 1282 to 1310; they cover both the reign of Edward I and Edward II. The wear on the Edward II coins suggest that they were in use for a number of years, this would make it unlikely that they were buried immediately after the battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

The two silver pennies from Durham are interesting in that one was struck at the Ecclesiastical mint of Bishop Bek and the other was struck at the royal mint in Durham. Bishop Bec was not only a Bishop but also a military commander. He took part in the siege of Dirleton Castle in East Lothian in 1298. He remained Bishop until he died in 1311. Apart from his campaigning in Scotland, he actively persecuted the Templars in 1308 for their allegedly heretical views.

The bulk of the hoard came from London, nineteen coins in all. Some of these are not particularly well struck and their silver content is not all that it should be. Some of the earlier coins of the 1280s fall into this category. The copper in these coins is fairly obvious, which would



suggest that these coins were forged in Flanders. This was a common practice resulting in several laws being passed in Edward I's reign outlawing these coins. The later coins from London are the most likely to be genuine.

#### The Scottish coins

The two Scottish coins in the hoard are of the reign of Alexander III. They were struck in the great recoinage of 1280-1286. Unlike the earlier coins of Alexander III's reign, they do not have the mintmark on them. The number of points on the mullets on the reverse is thought to indicate the place of issue. Both the coins in the Bonnington Hoard have twenty four points on the mullets, suggesting that they were struck in Berwick.

#### The Irish coins

The two Irish coins in the Hoard were struck in Dublin in the 1280s as part of Edward I's recoinage in Ireland. They are quite different from their English Counterparts in that the King's portrait is in a triangle. Continuing a tradition started in the reign of King John.

#### The Flemish coins

There are two Flemish coins in the hoard. The first is a coin struck by Gaucher de Chatillon at Yves near Florennes in the county of Naumur in Belgium. Gaucher's coins imitate those of Edward I so many people were taken in by them since few people could read in those days. The other Flemish coin was struck by Robert de Bethune at Alost near Ghent in Belgium. Again Robert's coins were a direct copy of the Edward I pennies apart from the inscriptions on the reverse and obverse of the coin.

The reverse of a Yves Flemish silver penny of Gaucher de Chatillon; the reverse of a Flemish Forgery created in London during the time of Edward I

#### Factfile

#### What could you buy with the coins in 14th-century Lanark?

There is approximately 3 shillings 6d in the Hoard. For this sum you might get:
3 sheep @ 1/2d each
2 pigs @ 1/6d each
42 hens @ 1d each
80lb cheese @ 3/4d
3 gallons of Bordeaux Claret— 3/6d
Ale — one could buy a gallon for
1d so beer was very cheap! So one could buy 42 gallons of beer for a really impressive party!
8 spades @ 5d
2 mason's tools @ 1/6d
8 axes @ 5d

#### When was the Hoard buried?

This is a good question but easy to answer in that some of the coins belong to the period of Edward II of England (1307-1322). The wear on the coins suggest that they were not exactly new when they were buried so it is impossible that the hoard has any links with the activities of William Wallace.

The most likely reason for the burial of the coins is a time of political trouble. When was there a period of political chaos that led to the burial of the coins? The main period of chaos was 1322-1336 when Edward III attempted to put Edward Balliol on the throne of Scotland.

#### Was the hoard buried by a local family?

The Bannatyne family rented the nearby farms of Over Bonnington and Nether Bonnington from James of Dalziel in the 14th century. The Dalziel family were sympathetic to the English government at this time and maybe their tenants too.

Equally the hoard could have been buried by a merchant who wanted a secure place to put his money. Finally, of course, the 1340s were the period of the Black Death which killed about fifty percent of the people in Scotland between 1349 and 1359.

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## The yen

In the second of our new series focussing on the origins of the world's currencies, using material from the British Museum's Coins and Medals Department, we travel to Japan to discover the history of the yen

n 1853 and 1854 a squadron of American navy gunboats arrived in Japan to demand trading rights. This aggressive intervention brought about the overhaul of the insular Japanese currency system, and led to the establishment of one of the modern world's principal currencies – the yen.

From the period of the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1867) entry to Japan had been largely forbidden to foreigners, on pain of death. The arrival of the Americans however opened up Japan to the global markets of the 19th century. The early period was something of a disaster. In Japan gold was undervalued against its global valuation and foreign merchants took full advantage, buying up this precious metal at two-thirds of the price available elsewhere. The immediate consequences were catastrophic for the Japanese; paper bills were introduced to fill the void left by the gold coinage, but as the paper money was not backed by a gold currency, inflation, unemployment and bankruptcies resulted. With the imminent threat of civil war looming the last Tokugawa shogun abdicated in favour of the Meiji government. The solution of

The design on the early Yen banknotes shows Daikoku, a god of fortune



the Meiji administration was to look overseas, particularly to the leading western nations, for best practices in the modernisation of the economy.

A major part of the economic revolution was the introduction of a new coin in 1868. The Yen (meaning 'round') was modelled on the dominant specie in the region, the silver dollar. Hundreds of millions of these large coins had been imported to the east; first by the Spanish via their prolific mints in South America; and then from the Republic of Mexico, in exchange for Chinese goods. They were ubiquitous in the ports and principal towns in the region and would become the basis of the modern currencies of China, Vietnam, Korea, and Malaysia, among others.

The traditional money which the Yen replaced comprised the gold ōban (pictured) and kōban, silver rectangular ingots called bu and shu, bars known as chōgin, and small mamieta-gin. The Yen was divided into 100 sen, and the sen into 100 rin, although this latter was abolished in 1892.

Initially two versions of the Yen were struck; silver for international trade, and gold for domestic circulation. Fluctuations in the international price of silver, and the limited gold reserves of Japan, led to the printing of paper money of western type. The first notes were printed in Frankfurt and New York. From 1877 production moved to Japan, and with the establishment of the Bank of Japan in 1882 the national issuers could be regulated and controlled. The first note was issued by the national bank in 1885 (pictured). The note shows the figure of Daikoku, one of the seven gods of fortune, holding a golden mallet and surrounded by bales of rice. The mice below symbolise plentiful food.

The end of the 19th and start of the 20th century was a period in which the Japanese government increasingly looked to overseas expansion. A part of this empire building was the wish to impose a yen currency on neighbouring nations. Forays into Korea and Manchuria led to the First Sino-Japanese war (1894-95) with Qing China, and the Russo-Japanese war (1904-5). Following the First World War Japan gained creditor nation status and made loans to France, Russia and Britain. Following the Second World War the US banker Joseph Dodge established the 'Dodge line' which stabilised inflation and established an exchange rate of one US dollar to 360 yen. It is a credit to the Japanese that this relationship was maintained, as it brought about what has been termed Japan's 'economic miracle'. From the 1970s the value of the yen continued to rise, peaking in the mid-1990s. However the recession of the late 1990s led Japan to be the first nation to use quantitative easing to reduce the overvalued currency. Despite this setback the yen today is still viewed as a safe-haven currency for investors and is the third most widely traded global currency. What the future holds for the yen in the face of the growth of Chinese economic influence will be a fascinating next chapter in the story.







T. Hockenhull (ed.), 2015. Symbols of Power: Ten Coins that Changed the World, London, British Museum Press

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## Staffa and The Green Ray

The stamps of Staffa are not quite what they seem, writes Christer Brunström, as he continues to highlight the quirkier stamps to have graced philately

ocated in the
Hebrides some ten
kilometres west of the
Isle of Mull the island
of Staffa has been
uninhabited since
1800. Stamps have been issued since
1969 and only the very first sets had
any connection with the island.

I was reminded of this tiny island a couple of years ago when I acquired a book by French author Jules Verne in a charity shop. Called *The Green Ray* the story is set in Scotland. It is not one of Verne's more famous books.

Jules Verne (1828-1905) started out studying law but found a literary career far more interesting. He was a close friend of Alexandre Dumas and published his first literary works in the 1850s. Verne's first novel appeared in 1863 and he then wrote about two new books each year. Around the World in 80 Days is probably his most famous novel.

Verne was one of the creators of the science fiction literary genre. He had a profound knowledge of the natural sciences and geography and he followed all scientific and technical discoveries with great interest. He wrote about travels to the moon about a century before the US managed to put a man on the moon in 1969.

He was a very successful writer and he made a lot of money some in which he invested in sailing boats. He appears to have taken sailing



seriously. In 1859 Jules Verne made his first journey to Scotland and apparently he liked what he saw because he returned in 1879.

Verne is only one of many famous visitors to the tiny island of Staffa. In 1772 the botanist and naturalist Sir Joseph Banks visited Staffa on his way to Iceland. He was accompanied by two Swedes, the Bishop of Linköping and naturalist Daniel Solander. Staffa is famous for its caves and Banks gave the name of Fingal's Cave to the biggest one. It is twenty metres high and 75 metres deep.

Other famous visitors are Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The composer Felix Mendelssohn visited Staffa and then wrote the *Hebrides Overture* which had its première in London in 1832.

In *The Green Ray* Verne tells the story of a young lady who wants to catch the very last ray of light before the sun disappears into the Ocean. This takes her and her two







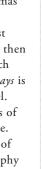
uncles and a boyfriend to the Outer Hebrides. The last part of the book is set on Staffa during a terrible storm. The young lady is trapped in Fingal's Cave. Fortunately everything ends happily as a second young man appears on the scene. Thus we have an eye-witness account of what Staffa was like in 1879.

It is still a very isolated place but boat trips are organised to Staffa from both Mull and Oban during the summer season to visit the cave and have a look at the puffins.

In 1969 a letterbox was installed on Staffa where visitors could deposit their cards or letters. If franked with Staffa and UK postage stamps they were taken by the boatmen to the nearest post office for onward transmission.

The first set comprised four stamps featuring Queen Victoria, Mendelssohn, a cross and a coat of arms. I remember sending off a request to Staffa and sure enough I received a cover with a Staffa stamp on the back.

Over the years there have been literally thousands of Staffa stamps. In 1973 there were eight stamps and a souvenir sheet featuring Staffa scenery. By then the postbox on the island was probably long gone.









Science fiction writer
Jules Verne visited
Staffa and set parts of
his book The Green Ray
on the island. Verne's
life and works have
been celebrated on
many stamps, including
this issue from Togo

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