

# STAMP COLLECTOR

## USA SPECIAL



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...and the Native American experience***

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SEPTEMBER 2020 Volume 2, Issue 9  
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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**

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

# This is How The Stamp Trade Works

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

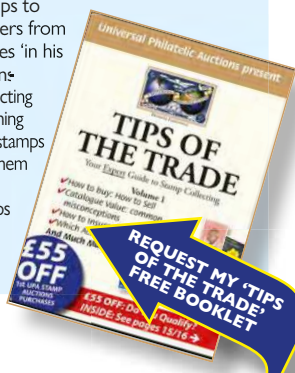
**1 ▶ If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for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

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



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Contact UPA: 01451 861 111**

**UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:**

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely  
D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

**15▶ OK, What Do I Do Next?**

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

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

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

**18▶ What Should I Do Next?**

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



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

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

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

*Andrew*

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



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BUSINESS TO  
THOUSANDS**

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Sarah Hopton 0113 2002925  
[sarah.hopton@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:sarah.hopton@warnersgroup.co.uk)

**STAMP  
COLLECTOR** **ALL  
ABOUT  
STAMPS**

# Welcome YOUR MAGAZINE, YOUR EXHIBITS!



The Summer of Stamps virtual festival has been so enjoyable, thanks to everyone who has visited the website, enjoyed the videos and exhibits and got involved. It's been fantastic to see so many people on the website and to be able to share such expertise and knowledge; thanks also to our festival partners, marketplace traders, and featured societies.

One of the many rewarding aspects of the month-long online event has been the All About Stamps Competition, which challenged collectors around the world to produce a one-page entry on a theme of their choice, with the overall winner receiving the All About Stamps Medal. The competition attracted entries from around the world on subjects as varied as Lewis Carol, the liberation of the Channel Islands, and Asian comics. What's been really encouraging for me is the number of entrants who have never entered a competition like this before; we always wanted this competition to be for everyone and that looks to have worked really well.

As I write, the votes are still flooding in and we'll be announcing the winner in next month's issue. You can view many of the entries in this issue (and all the one-page entries are displayed on the website), and next time why not have a go yourself?

You'll have noted the USA theme for this issue, as folk on both sides of the 'Pond' remember the *Mayflower* voyage that took place 400 years ago. It's no exaggeration to say the ship's eventual arrival in America changed the world forever. We recount that arduous voyage through stamps and also chart the way in which Native Americans have been depicted on US stamps over the years.

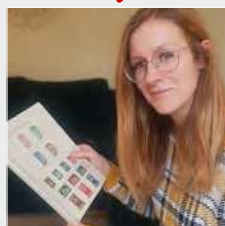
We also provide in-depth collecting guides to the USA's early 'banknote' issues and to creating a high quality US collection. Sadly I'm not sure I can afford the rarer designs just yet but, as ever, there are literally thousands of stamps detailed in this issue, giving us a huge choice of quality material to add to our albums. Keep collecting and, of course, stay safe.

Matt Hill, Editor

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



## Writing in this issue...



Laura McInerney was a teacher, a newspaper editor and now runs a polling company. As a child she received a letter each week from her nan, beginning a lifelong love of letter-writing and, now, stamps. In her first column (on page 29) Laura reflects on the scientific benefits of collecting and asks a few questions about the hobby.



Author Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and *Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album*, and writes our Stamp Story on page 81.



Paula Hammond has worked as a publisher, copy-writer, ghost-writer, author, and journalist. She has written over thirty fiction and non-fiction books as well as comics, poetry, and scripts for DVDs and CD-ROMS. Paula writes our A to Z of thematics series, this month focusing on Lemons (see page 54).

## RECORD NUMBERS ENJOY SUMMER OF STAMPS

The Summer of Stamps virtual festival, held on the [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) website has seen a record number of visitors, with a wide range of guides, offers, and stock on offer.

Running from 9 July to 9 August, the special event has seen thousands of collectors visit the website, with the festival programme being updated each day with new content. With well over 150 guides, offers, and updates – many provided by partners such as The Postal Museum, The Royal Philatelic Society London, and The British Library – the flow of traffic to the website has been consistently high. Some of the most popular content so far includes Frank Walton's Invited Display on Perkins Bacon Revenue stamps, an introduction to the Royal Philatelic Society London Collections, and The British Library's video guide to The Design of the India Scinde Dawk. But it was the exclusive screening of the acclaimed *Freaks and Errors* documentary which brought the most visitors at one time, with hundreds taking the chance to watch the film for free. The documentary explores the appeal of, and the characters involved in stamp collecting, and can be rented or bought from the official website: [www.freaksanderrorsfilm.com](http://www.freaksanderrorsfilm.com)

Meanwhile, the Festival Marketplace has stamps and covers on offer from a range of dealers and post offices, and the popularity of the pages means a similar marketplace page will become a permanent part of the website, once the festival is complete. Sarah Hopton, [allaboutstamps](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) Advertising Manager said: 'The festival has been really fun to work on, and it's so nice to see the high number of visitors that are coming to the site to buy stamps and enjoy the content. The online event was something very new for us and it's definitely been worth all the hard work.'



The All About Stamps Competition, launched as part of the festival, has also been very popular with over thirty entries and, at the time of writing, hundreds of votes being cast. You can see some of the highlights of the festival on page 63 whilst all entries are on display on the website. Meanwhile, the trophy for the competition winner has been revealed. The special wooden award features an intricately engraved version of the All About Stamps website logo. The winner will be revealed on the popular [allaboutstamps](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) email (sign up for free on the website) and in the next issue of *Stamp Collector*.

Due to the popularity of the festival, the majority of the content on the website will be made available to view on an ongoing basis. A permanent Marketplace is set to be launched in September, giving visitors the chance to add to their collection all year round, and the Summer of Stamps is set to return in 2021.

## USA REVEALS 2020 XMAS STAMPS... IN JULY



We might be in the middle of the Summer of Stamps virtual festival, and many of us are taking time away from our collections to spend a few hours in the sunshine, but some post offices are already planning for the festive season.

The United States Postal Service revealed the designs for their Christmas stamps on 28 July, just 143 days before the big day! Ten booklet stamps entitled 'Winter Scenes' celebrate the beauty and serenity of seasonal sights amid snowy landscapes; 'Holiday Delights' features four designs inspired by folk art, vintage ornaments and Scandinavian folk art but with a modern graphic vibe; a single stamp features an 18th-century painting 'Our Lady of Guápulo'; a stamp celebrates the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah; and finally a new design marks Kwanzaa the annual Pan-African holiday, which takes place over seven days from 26 December to 1 January.





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 <p><b>REF T500</b> <b>FREE GENUINE 1840 1d BLACK WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE</b> A SUPERB MIX INC 500 DIFF OFF PAPER, ALSO STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER INC KGVII &amp; WILKINGS IDEAL FOR WTM ETC PLUS ALBUM PAGES MOST REIGNS, MINT &amp; USED AND FDCs, ITEMS OF NOTE ARE 1841 1d &amp; 2d IMPERF PLUS QV TO 1/- GREEN, KEVII WITH VALUES TO 1/-, KGV WITH VALUES TO 2/6 SEAHORSE, KEVII SET, PLUS KGVII WITH VALUES TO 1951 £1 AND QEII TO £5 MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH MANY BETTER VALUES WITH A CAT PRICE OF £1,000+ FOR JUST £139.50 PLUS £8.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p> <p><b>CAT £375</b></p>	 <p><b>REF T501</b> <b>FREE C. O. G. H. TRIANGULAR CAT £130 WITH EVERY COMMONWEALTH BOX FILE</b> A SUPERB MIX INC 1,000 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER USED STC £100+ ALSO ALBUM PAGES WITH A GOOD RANGE OF COUNTRIES, PLUS STAMPS LOOSE ON AND OFF PAPER TO SORT, WITH COUNTRIES A TO Z, ALSO AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £20+, MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT WITH BETTER ITEMS EARLY TO MODERN FOR JUST £89.50 PLUS £8.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p><b>REF T502</b> <b>FREE STOCK BOOK WITH EVERY FOREIGN BOX FILE</b> CONTAINING STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER EARLY TO MODERN ALBUM PAGES AND AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £20+ PLUS 1000 DIFFERENT WORLD USED STC £100+ MAKES THIS A GOOD SORT FOR JUST £89.50 PLUS £8.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	 <p><b>REF T503</b> <b>FREE GENUINE 1840 2d BLUE WITH EVERY GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILE</b> INCLUDING ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER 6 REIGNS. A BAG CONTAINING 500 DIFFERENT GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER AND FDCs. ALSO SINGLE ITEMS 1855 1d &amp; 2d QV TO 1/- 1887 GREEN AND RED KEVII TO 10d, KGV TO 5/- SEAHORSE, KGVII TO £1 1939 AND QEII TO £10, MAKES THIS CAT £1000+</p> <p><b>CAT £900</b></p>	
<p><b>REF T504</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN BOX FILES</b> BUY REF T500 &amp; T503 AND RECEIVE BOTH FREE GIFTS, 1840 1d BLACK &amp; 2d BLUE, AND WE WILL REPLACE 500 DIFFERENT WITH 1,000 DIFFERENT TO MAKE THIS PAIR OF BOX FILES A SUPERB SORT &amp; VALUE FOR MONEY CAT AT £2,000+ AT JUST £299.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</p>	<p><b>REF T603</b> <b>FOREIGN SHOE BOX</b> CRAMMED WITH ON AND OFF PAPER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ALL WORLD MIXTURE STATED TO BE A MINIMUM OF 1000+ DIFFERENT. ALSO ALBUM PAGES, LOOSE STAMPS AUCTION LEFT OVERS CONTAINING STAMPS CAT £5+ THIS IS A VERY GOOD CHEAP SORT (NO GREAT BRITAIN) OVER 4000 SOLD THE LAST 37 YEARS FOR JUST £39.50 PLUS £7.50 DELIVERY</p>	<p><b>REF T604</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH SHOE BOX</b> CONTAINING ON AND OFF PAPER, UNCHECKED A TO Z EARLY TO MODERN, LOOSE AND ON LEAVES, A GOOD MAINLY MODERN MIX, BUT SOME EARLY MIXED IN, BETTER SINGLES, CHEAP LOT, 1000+ STAMPS, MAINLY USED, FOR JUST £39.50 PLUS £7.50 DELIVERY</p>	<p><b>REF T605</b> <b>CHANNEL IS, REGIONALS &amp; IOM SHOE BOX</b> CONTAINS STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, DEFINITIVES &amp; COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS ALBUM PAGES FDCs ETC, ALSO SOME SETS &amp; SINGLES, MINT &amp; USED, A GOOD SORT FOR THESE POPULAR COUNTRIES, FOR JUST £39.50 PLUS £7.50 DELIVERY</p>	<p><b>REF T606</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN SHOE BOX, FREE 1841 IMPERF 1d RED &amp; 2d BLUE CAT £130</b> CONTAINING A GOOD MIX OF ALL 6 REIGNS FROM 1d REDS TO MODERN INC STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, INC SOME EARLY, IDEAL FOR WATERMARKS, ALSO ALBUM PAGES, FDCs, MINT &amp; USED SETS &amp; SINGLES ETC £39.50 PLUS £7.50 DELIVERY</p>
 <p><b>REF T602</b> <b>WORLD (NO GB) 12KG BOX</b> BOX OF ALL WORLD COLLECTIONS COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN (NO GREAT BRITAIN) AND NO STAMPS ON PAPER A GOOD MIX OF COUNTRIES AND SINGLE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS IN STOCKBOOKS AND ALBUMS AS RECEIVED COULD BE ANYTHING 1,000s OF STAMPS</p> <p><b>£299.50 PLUS £15.00 DELIVERY BY DPD.</b></p>		 <p><b>REF T510</b> <b>THE FAMOUS ALL WORLD WOODEN TEA CHEST OF STAMPS</b> YES, THE ULTIMATE SORT WITH OVER 1,000 OF THESE SOLD IN THE LAST 40 YEARS, A MUST FOR COLLECTOR/DEALER OR ANYONE WHO LIKES A GOOD SORT, INC COLLECTIONS, PACKETS, LOOSE STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, ALSO MIXED COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS BOXES &amp; STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC A GOOD MIX INC GB, C/W &amp; FOREIGN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ 1,000s OF STAMPS A LOT UNCHECKED ETC WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF £1,400 AND WEIGHING APPROX 30 KILO SUPERB LOT</p> <p><b>HAVE YOU TRIED ONE YET FOR</b> <b>£950.00 PLUS £28.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</b></p>		
<p><b>REF T623</b> <b>GREAT BRITAIN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES STOCKCARDS, BOXES OF ON &amp; OFF PAPER &amp; LOOSE STAMPS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC 1840 1d BLACK, 1d REDS AND A GOOD SELECTION OF MINT &amp; USED, ALL REIGNS, PLUS FDCs ETC, A GOOD LOT, VERY HIGH CAT, WITH TOP VALUES AND AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, STATED TO RETAIL £700+</p> <p><b>£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</b></p>	<p><b>REF T624</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES &amp; STOCKSHEETS, FROM QV TO MODERN INC CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULAR, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, LOOSE STAMPS ON &amp; OFF PAPER, COVERS &amp; AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, SETS &amp; SINGLES, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, STATED TO RETAIL £700+</p> <p><b>£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</b></p>	<p><b>REF T626</b> <b>FOREIGN WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> CONTAINING COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS, LOOSE PAGES &amp; STOCKSHEETS, ALSO BOXES OF UNSORTED MATERIAL, STAMPS LOOSE ON &amp; OFF PAPER, &amp; SINGLE STAMPS &amp; AUCTION LEFTOVERS CAT £50+ EACH, GOOD HIGH CAT LOT, EARLY TO MODERN, STATED TO RETAIL £700+</p> <p><b>£499.50 PLUS £20 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</b></p>		
<p><b>REF T627</b> <b>ALL WORLD WOODEN HALF TEA CHEST</b> INCLUDING COLLECTIONS OF WORLD, COMMONWEALTH, CHANNEL ISLANDS, IOM &amp; GREAT BRITAIN WITH STOCKBOOKS, COLLECTIONS, ALBUM PAGES, FIRST DAY COVERS STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER BOXES AND PACKETS OF UNSORTED MATERIAL. AUCTION LEFT-OVERS A GOOD SORT FROM QV TO MODERN WITH STAMPS CAT £50+ STATED TO RETAIL £500+</p> <p><b>£299.50 PLUS £20.00 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</b></p>	 <p><b>REF T607</b> <b>ALL WORLD FUN BOX IN 1/2 BOX</b> INCLUDING LOOSE STAMPS ON AND OFF PAPER PLUS CHILDREN COLLECTIONS, STOCKBOOKS OF WORLD ETC PLUS OTHER BITS, ALBUM PAGES, THE ODD COVER, EVERY BOX IS DIFFERENT (VIRTUALLY NO GB) 1,000s TO SORT</p> <p><b>£69.50 PLUS £9.50 FOR DELIVERY BY DPD</b></p>	 <p><b>REF T622</b> <b>WORLD (NO GB) MYSTERY MIX INC PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER</b> A PLASTIC ZIP UP BAG OF UNCHECKED WORLD ON &amp; OFF PAPER AS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CHARITY, UNCHECKED WITH 700 GRAMS AND A PACKET OF 500 DIFFERENT OFF PAPER</p> <p><b>£24.50 PLUS £3 POSTAGE</b></p>		

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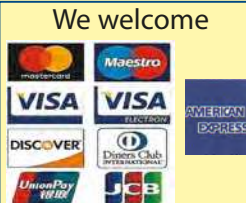
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## IN BRIEF

Royal Mail is partnering with London Electric Vehicle Company to trial its new VN5 prototype electric van – based on a typical London taxi cab – for parcel and letter deliveries later this month. The trial is an example of the Company's efforts to continue to reduce emissions associated with its operations.

The US Postal Service has starting selling t-shirts and other items of clothing featuring USPS logos and stamp or postmark designs. According to reports in the US Press, the move is due to the organisation's fire financial situation with the additional products helping to raise much needed funds. Clothing on offer includes Air Mail socks, a 100th anniversary of Air Mail hoodie, and t-shirts showing stamps including the 'Love' and 'Earth Day' Forever designs and the 'I Want You' stamp from 1998.



Stanley Gibbons has reopened its store at 399 Strand, with new display and exhibition spaces and private meeting rooms. The new-look store, which shares its home with coin dealers AH Baldwin's, now features an auction room and private consultation rooms.

A Bedford-born stamp collector who now lives in Australia has auctioned off over 70,000 stamps as part of fundraising efforts to support young children dealing with cerebral palsy, according to a report in the *Canberra Times*.

## FESTIVAL FDCS PROVE POPULAR

The official First Day Covers issued as part of the Summer of Stamps virtual festival have been extremely popular with collectors, with the first pair of commemorative covers featuring the recently released Queen stamps.

With the opening day of the online event coinciding with the release of the new Queen stamps (as detailed in August's magazine), we couldn't resist releasing some special covers and thanks to the experts at Buckingham Covers, soon had a pair of new covers, featuring a special 'Summer of Stamps' postmark, to showcase as the festival opened.

Editor Matt Hill said: 'I must admit I got a little over excited when we first saw the special

festival postmark! It's something a bit different for us and it's really great that the covers have proven to be so popular with collectors. The Palace of Westminster FDCs look great, and I can't wait to see the Sherlock pair too. The online celebration has had many different aspects to it and we're so pleased to be able to offer souvenirs too!'

The two Queen covers are the first of six FDCs to be issued for the festival; two Palace of Westminster covers were issued on 30 July (pictured), whilst two 'Sherlock' covers will bring the festival to an end, being issued on 18 August. All the covers are still available to buy at [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-festival](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-festival)



## JOINT POSTMARK CELEBRATES FOOTBALL LEGEND JACK CHARLTON

Royal Mail and An Post are jointly commemorating the life of English World Cup winning footballer and Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton with a special postmark. This is the first time that An Post and Royal Mail have collaborated on a postmark, reflecting the role that Jack Charlton has played in football in both nations.

The postmark will read: Jack Charlton, 1935 – 2020, and will be applied across stamped mail posted in England and the Republic of Ireland from Monday 20 July and will run until Sunday 9 August.

Stuart Simpson, CEO at Royal Mail, said: 'Jack was an integral member of England's 1966 World Cup winning squad and played a key role in the Republic of Ireland's football history.'

David McRedmond, An Post CEO said: 'Jack Charlton will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of Irish people. He gave our nation many of our happiest and proudest moments. Jack was the greatest example of a culture shared across these islands: that a proud Leeds player, a tall English football hero could become an Irish legend. That's why it is so fitting that he should be the subject of the first joint postmark between An Post and the Royal Mail.'



Former Republic of Ireland footballer Paul McGrath, who played under Jack Charlton, posts a letter featuring the new postmark





# BRITISH COMMONWEALTH GEORGE VI ISSUES



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## IN BRIEF

Mary Wilson, former member of the Motown group The Supremes, has called for the US Post Office to issue a stamp in honour of her bandmate Florence Ballard, who sadly died at the young age of 31. Ballard was the founding member of The Supremes, one of the most successful all-female pop acts of all time, but became sidelined and frustrated as singer Diana Ross' popularity grew. According to the *New York Amsterdam News*, Wilson said: 'I get so emotional when I speak about Flo. I've been working hard to get that recognition for her because she deserves it.'

Philippine Postal Corp (PHLPost), the post office of the Philippines has joined the growing number of philatelic bureaus to issue stamps in honour of the key workers that have played such an important part in the global pandemic. The 'Front-line heroes' stamps show different workers, whilst a limited edition single value depicts the 'dark knight', a name given to the Covid19 virus.



## PHILATELY FIGHTS BACK WITH VIRTUAL EVENTS



A number of virtual stamp shows are set to take place in the coming months as the world of philately fights back against the global pandemic and the difficulties involved with running a physical collecting event.

In the first weeks of the lockdown many stamp dealers, auctioneers and event organisers were looking to the internet as a way to keep calm and carry on collecting. Here at *Stamp Collector* and on the allaboutstamps.co.uk website we quickly launched the 'Keeping You Collecting' campaign, before launching the hugely successful Summer of Stamps online event.

The Philatelic Traders' Society announced the news of a virtual Stampex, which is set to be held from 1 to 3 October. *Stamp Collector* are pleased to be taking a virtual stand at the event, so do pop by to say hello!

Registration for Virtual Stampex sponsored by Spink opened on 1 August, giving collectors the chance to register to attend at the special website: Stampex.vfairs.com. Registration is free and open to all.

PTS Chairman, Suzanne Rae said: 'We are thrilled by the positive response we have had for the virtual show so far. We have over sixty PTS members and affiliated bodies confirmed to attend and we have lots of exciting activity planned... We look forward to welcoming philatelists from all over the globe – from those just entering the hobby to those who have seen many years of changes within our hobby.'

Now the American Philatelic Society, an official partner of the Summer of Stamps, along with the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society have revealed details of a six-day Virtual Stamp Show which begins on Monday 17 August and runs through to Saturday 22 August. Scott English, APS Executive

Director, said: 'We're excited to continue working with our great partners to bring you the first-in-the-nation virtual stamp show experience. This is another example of how the global pandemic cannot stop philately, only change how we do it.'

Highlights of the week will include the chance to buy stamps directly from APS Dealer members; two First Day of Issue Celebrations, in conjunction with USPS; interactive panels with topics including 'The Future of Philately' and 'Navigating Collecting during COVID-19'; and the chance for attendees to show their exhibits in a virtual format.

ATA president, Dawn Hamman, added: 'Topical collectors throughout the world will enjoy participating in this virtual gathering. We eagerly anticipate meeting fellow topicalists who normally could not travel to our shows.'

Meanwhile, the St. Louis Stamp Expo is set to be one of the first stamps shows to be held since the Covid19 outbreak, taking place 14 to 16 August. According to the APS, the USA show will have a limited attendance and masks/face coverings will be required. Attendees will have their temperature taken at the door, and anyone with a temperature of 100.3 or higher will not be admitted.





## #DONATEYOURSTAMPS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Got spare stamps, mini-sheets, and covers in your collection? Join the #donateyourstamps campaign launched as part of the Summer of Stamps festival, and help encourage youngsters to start collecting!

Kidstamps is a fantastic free postal club which gives young collectors a starter pack of stamps and accessories, free stamps via our website competitions and newsletters, details of the Stamp Active Competitions and the British Youth Stamp Championships. Members also receive four vouchers a year that they can redeem for free stamps and first day covers.

So why not help the organisers by joining the fun #donateyourstamps campaign? Here's the simple steps to get involved and become a donate-a-stamp hero!

- Find spare material (stamps, particularly thematic stamps and first day covers) that you'd like to donate
- Share a photo of yourself with the material on our facebook, instagram or twitter pages (be sure to use the #donateyourstamps hashtag)
- Spread the word! Tell your friends, collecting colleagues and family, and get them involved!
- Most importantly, send your stamp donation to:

#DonateYourStamps, Peter Barham, Donations  
& Auction Manager, Stamp Active Network, 2E  
Broomwood Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JH.

A spokesperson for the Stamp Active Network, which runs the Kidstamps programme, said: 'Donations are very important in resourcing the Kidstamps free postal club and the Kids Zone at Stampex and much more. As a voluntary organisation, the Stamp Active Network are entirely reliant on the gift of stamps, covers and other materials to continue our programmes.'



Get news updates and details of the latest new stamps from around the world at the [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) website. And why not sign up to the allaboutstamps newsletter? It's free and we'll send you regular updates, offers and guides by email. Find out more and sign up at: [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/account/register](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/account/register)

## JERSEY

### 100 Years of the JMC & LCC



2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the Jersey Motorcycle & Light Car Club (JMC&LCC). Persuaded to move to Jersey by his brother-in-law in 1919, motorcycle enthusiast H.W. Rawnsley-Gurd, arrived in Jersey to find there was no established motorcycle club. After taking part as an observer at a reliability trial, as well as organising an impromptu hill climb, Rawnsley-Gurd brought together the Jersey Motor Cycle Club. At the first meeting of the club, at an office in St Helier, only six people attended, including the office boy.

The club had its first formal reliability trial on Easter Monday 1920, which proved to be a tremendous success. By the time of the club's first general meeting, the membership had grown tenfold.

During the early years of the club, two men had differing predictions as to how the club would progress. The first, Mr. David Cope, generously donated a trophy, known to this day as the Cope Cup, believing his name would be carried on for years. The second of these men was a Deputy in the States of Jersey and a keen motorcyclist. One day, Mr. Rawnsley-Gurd caught the Deputy in the Royal Square of St. Helier and asked him to join the club.

The Deputy replied, 'Thanks for asking me my boy, but I'm afraid I could not be associated with your club. You see it is quite impossible to run a motorcycle club on the Island. You've made a start, but mark my words it will die out in six months.' The Cope Cup continues to be presented to this day.

The club holds four hill climbs a year at this venue, as well as the prestigious National Hill Climb, an annual competition which sees competitors from all over the United Kingdom and Channel Islands, as well as spectators.



## GUERNSEY POST

## #GuernseyTogether and #AlderneySpirit



Guernsey Post is delighted to announce the release of two new stamp sets, #GuernseyTogether and #AlderneySpirit, which have been designed by local school children to reflect the positive aspects of the global pandemic as a result of COVID-19.

The Guernsey and Alderney stamp designs, chosen by two independent judges from over 200 competition entries, have now received royal approval from Her Majesty, The Queen, and will be issued on 19 August.

The Guernsey stamps, which include colourful rainbow designs, were created by Kahlan Marriott, age 5; Olivia Le Tissier, age 6; Alexis Drummy, age 8; Danny King, age 8; Joe De Carteret, age 10; Lily-Ella O'Brien, age 10; Oliver Blake, age 11; and, Phoebe Smart, age 13. Continuing the colourful theme, the Alderney stamp set features designs by Eli Maurice, age 7; Grace Chapman, age 7; Isla Cauvain, age 7; and, Hollie Maurice, age 9. Each of the winners will receive a £100 voucher and a complimentary set of the stamps.

Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post, said: 'This is the fourth time in our 50-year history that we have invited children in the Bailiwick of Guernsey to design stamps for us. Given how well they responded to the impact of COVID-19, we felt it was fitting to ask them to create stamps that recognise the positive aspects of the pandemic.'

'We are incredibly grateful to all of the children in the Bailiwick who took the time and effort to create such wonderful designs for our

stamps, and we are delighted for the winners. We definitely have some future artists in the making!'

Guernsey Post will donate all proceeds from the sale of the stamps equally between various charities: the Guernsey COVID-19 Response Appeal; the Social Investment Fund's COVID-19 Community Charity Appeal; and Alderney's Helping Hand appeal, which provides interim support for those members of the community who are struggling as a result of coronavirus.



## Åland honours police force... all 69 of them!

The latest stamp from Åland celebrates the work of the region's police force, which numbers 69, along with another 21 members of staff (that's one police officer for every 433 inhabitants). Law enforcement is one area that falls within the remit of the Åland autonomy. Still, the Åland police largely resembles the police force in Finland, but uses its own insignia depicting the Åland coat of arms on uniforms and vehicles.

Regulated by the Government of Åland, the Åland police largely performs the same tasks as the local police in Finland. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Finnish Security Intelligence Service are administrated by the Åland team of NBI, and the Åland governor represents the national police administration.

According to Åland Post, the latest data on reported offences in Åland show that crimes against property were most common in 2018, followed by traffic offences. 72% of crimes against property and 98% of traffic offences were cleared up... which surely calls for a stamp celebration.





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## REVISED AUCTION SCHEDULE

Our next auction is scheduled for September 6th and will now be Postal  
and also Online at [easyliveauction.com](http://easyliveauction.com). If you are not already on our  
mailing list, please contact us for a free copy of this catalogue.





## ISLE OF MAN

*'O Land of Our Birth'*

Twelve stamps titled 'O Land of Our Birth' depict scenic images that are the result of an open, free-to-enter photo competition that was held in June this year.

The public on the Isle of Man and in the UK was invited to submit their own photographs which they felt summed up the Island's unique beauty, heritage and character, drawing inspiration from the words of the Manx National Anthem.

Over 1,000 entries from IOM and UK individuals were entered into the competition and a final selection was made by judges Maxine Cannon (Stamps & Coins General Manager), Jo Overy (Project Officer UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man) and Renee Caley (Marketing & Online Manager of Isle of Man Steam Packet Company).

Representing the general public's view of the Island, the set reflects what the Isle of Man means to both residents and visitors alike. The stamps illustrate the natural beauty of our Island, showcasing striking landscape imagery from a variety of locations. This varied landscape is evoked in the lyrics of 'O Land of Our Birth', the Manx national anthem, which provides the title of the issue and accompanies each of the stamp images.

Geoffrey Boot MHK, Minister Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture & UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, said: 'I am pleased to see the results of this collaboration. The stamps exemplify the beauty and heritage of Biosphere Isle of Man and demonstrate the skills in our community. Well done to the photographers featured.'

Renee Caley, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, said: 'The wonderful variety of photos submitted showcases the spectacular beauty of the Island and brings its unique personality and quirky character to life.'



Maxine Cannon, Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, said: 'We take pride in this beautiful Island we live on. The diversity it has to offer in landscape, culture and heritage makes it unique and we are grateful for the contribution of everyone involved from near and far in capturing the beauty that surrounds us to create this stunning stamp issue. We would like to thank the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man for joining us on this wonderful journey.'

The 'O Land of Our Birth' collection includes a set of twelve stamps, Presentation Pack, First Day Cover and Sheet Set.

## Take a trip to the 'Aussie Alps'



Australia's natural alpine beauty is celebrated in new stamp issue which highlights three spectacular locations from Australia's largest alpine region.

The national heritage-listed Australian Alps stretch from Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory, through New South Wales and into eastern Victoria, with the stamp issue illustrating their beauty and significance.

Australia Post Philatelic Manager Michael Zsolt said that the spectacular landforms, and the stock huts and stock yards of the area bring to mind Banjo Paterson's iconic poem The Man from Snowy River. 'The Alps are not only a popular tourist and snow sports destination, they also have plant and animal life found nowhere else in Australia and, in some cases, the world.'

The four domestic base rate (\$1.10) stamps, designed by Sharon Rodziewicz of the Australia Post Design Studio, feature: \$1.10 – Snow gums, Namadgi National Park, ACT; \$1.10 – The Cathedral, Mount Buffalo National Park, VIC; and \$1.10 – Swampy Plain River, Kosciuszko National Park, NSW.

Products associated with the Australian Alps stamp issue include first day cover, stamp pack, decorative mini-sheet, postcards and maxicards. There is also a special-edition roll of 100 self-adhesive stamps that is printed using the Gallus Labelfire production system, an innovative combination of flexographic and digital printing. These special rolls are available online and via mail order only, and are limited to 4,000.



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## GUERNSEY STAMPS AND COLLECTABLES New Issue: 19th August 2020

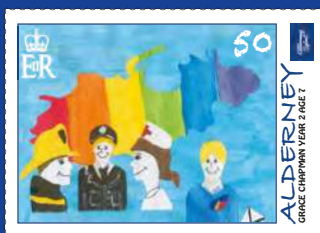


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### LOCAL CHILDREN PUT THEIR STAMP ON NEW DESIGNS

During these exceptional times Guernsey Post has been helping the local community through a number of initiatives. One of the projects undertaken was inviting local school children across the Bailiwick to create a piece of artwork, with the winning designs being chosen to feature on new stamps for the themes #GuernseyTogether and #AlderneySpirit, with all proceeds going to local COVID charities.

As seen around the globe, local children have been involved in numerous activities to help their communities, from painting colourful rainbows to show support for essential workers, to baking for local hospitals and care homes, and generally helping to keep spirits up within the community. For our campaign, children were asked to create designs for our stamp competition that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic in a positive way. Eight winning designs will feature on a set of Guernsey-issue stamps, whilst four designs have been chosen to feature on the Alderney set.

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**CAM25 DAVID CAMERON** A much sought after 2015 General Election cover. The cover bears the QEII "Pound note stamp" with illustrated pmk. Dated 7/5/15 for the shock election results giving the Conservatives an outright majority. The cover depicts the Prime Minister David Cameron. Less than 65 covers exist worldwide meaning this is one of the scarcest political covers ..... Price £18.50

**NY155a BRITISH COLONIALS** A fine collection of early colonial stamps includes mint & used ranging from Queen Victoria to King George V..... Price £12

**SYR10 SYRIAN WAR** A scarce cover for the Syrian ceasefire of 2016. The illustrated cover depicts Putin and Erdogan, Presidents of Russia and Turkey respectively who backed the Syrian ceasefire. The cover is official postmarked with a circular Royal Mail Heathrow Airport PMK, dated the day of the ceasefire, 30.12.16. Less than 50 of this historic war cover are known to exist worldwide ..... Price £24

**MA275 MALTA** A quality collection of Maltese unmounted mint stamps. Over 100 stamps dating back to King George VI to more modern..... Price £11.50

**GB482 GREAT BRITAIN** Impressive collection of over 500 British stamps dating back to K.G.V. including Wilding, Machins and commemoratives. Includes mint but mainly used stamps also contains miniature sheets & F.D.C's. With decimal & pre-decimal G.P.O. & Royal Mail issues ..... Price £23

**CAIRN21 SUMMER ISLANDS** A scarce item of Scottish postal history. The official Royal Mail PHQ card for the 400th Anniversary of the Landing of Saint Columba bears Summer Isles map stamp postmarked "Summer Isles", 9/6/1997, on reverse. Front bears a Cairn IAR Island St. Columba stamp tied with an official green St. Columba PMK. Possibly the scarcest Royal Mail PHQ ..... Price £15

**AG23 BATTLE OF AGINCOURT** The scarce cover issued to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. The cover is superbly illustrated with the arms of King Henry V and bears the official British Royal Mail Postmark, depicting King Henry V, dated 25/10/15, six hundred years to the day of the historic battle. Only 50 of this scarce cover exist ..... Price £15

**HK145 HONG KONG** A fine collection of used stamps of Hong Kong. Almost all the stamps pre date the handover to China. Including \$ values and popular Chinese New Year Commemoratives. Totally unchecked for catalogue value, over 100 old Hong Kong stamps ..... Price £11

**PH165 GREAT BRITAIN POSTAL HISTORY POSTMISTRESS COVER** A scarce cover signed by Doris Gray. The Postmistress of Haroldswick Post Office. A special Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp was produced in 1977 for Haroldswick P.O. the most northerly post office in Britain, specially postmarked by the Royal Mail at Unst. Shetland Island. Only 200 of this scarce cover were postmarked and signed by the Postmistress over three decades ago. Rarely offered for sale ..... Price £10

**SD.48 LATIN AMERICA** Group of Latin American countries date back to Puerto Rico 1890 to more recent. 100+ stamps mint & used ..... Price £7.50

**SD.53 CUBA** A fine collection of Cuba mostly used modern issues, but does include mint dating back to 1898 with blocks and singles, hundreds of stamps.....Price £13

**MC334 MUSIC** An awesome & valuable collection of music stamps begins with an orchestra of musical instrument stamps. The specialist classical section includes: Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Bartok. Also jazz and pop music stamps, with Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Oasis, Marlene Dietrich. With G.B. Royal Mail stamps of Freddy Mercury, The Beatles and Pink Floyd. A multiple of other issues for Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Michael Hendrix, Michael Jackson, Kylie Minogue, Elvis Presley and many more. Hundreds of stamps – mint and used with several miniature sheets. The best music collection we have ever seen ..... Price £29.25

**VCA 4 GREAT BRITAIN WWI VICTORIA CROSS COVER** Issued to commemorate the Centenary of the first Victoria Cross to be awarded in World War I. The cover with illustration of Lieut. Maurice Dease VC who died aged 24 in the first battle fought by the British against the Germans at Mons on 23rd Aug 1914. The cover bears a special Royal Mail VC stamp and postmarked with official Victoria Cross "For Valour" postmark on 23rd Aug 1914. The cover was a restricted issue of only 100 covers and is vital to complete any WWI collection ..... Price £9.25

**SP914 SPORTS** A superb collection of sports stamps from many countries which includes miniature sheets and sport related covers including scarcer signed covers. Hundreds of sports stamps plus covers and miniature sheets..... Price £16

**SD.52 OLD TIME ACCUMULATION** An impressive lot of old Victoriana period early and classic stamps dating from 1841 to about 1900 – British, Foreign and Colonial stamps with old pre. 1900 Spanish Colonial mint, Europe, South America. Includes some genuine and some faux. Condition is mixed from perfect to some stamps with defects with used and mint in blocks. The catalogue value if all stamps were genuine would be over £19,000-00. We cannot be sure if some items are faux or genuine, so the collection is being sold "as is" without guarantee. At the low price of ..... Price £45

**NJB.30 JAMES BOND** A fantastic collection of James Bond stamps including sets, miniature sheets and singles with several scarcer unlisted. James Bond stamp sets ..... Price £19.25

**C545 WORLD COLLECTION** A great starter lot, with mint & used stamps also noted: miniature sheets, PHQ cards and several FDC's. Several hundred different world-wide stamps plus other items. Low price to clear. ....£9.75

**N-MO27 MONACO** A fine collection of Monaco stamps dating back to early issues of the 1920s through to the 1950s and on to more recent issues. Superior engraved stamps. The collection of over 100 different only contains unmounted mint stamps..... Price £13

**BUR7 BURMA, JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF WWII** A small, but important specialised collection of Japanese Occupation stamps including SGJ72, on buff paper plus two similar stamps in unissued colours, blue and green, these are of unknown origin, but maybe colour trials or proofs. These are offered as is, without guarantee but form part of a larger group of other Japanese Occupation stamps plus various King George VI military administration stamps with values to 5 rupees. Stamps are issued circa. 1938 to about 1946. Mainly unused / unmounted mint..... Price £17

**RW986 RAILWAYS & LOCOMOTIVES** A fantastic thematic collection of locomotive and railway stamps. The specialised collection contains several hundred train stamps with many scarcer unmounted mint blocks included, plus F.D.Cs, also several scarcer local issues, specimen stamps, proofs and progressive proofs, lots of higher \$ stamps and £1 values; also many Railway and locomotive miniature sheets. A glorious collection for any philatelic railway enthusiast .....Price £28

**STR58a GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED 1971 POSTAL STRIKE COLLECTION** Dating back to the short period in British Postal History when the Post Office granted licenses to private delivery companies to deliver mail in the U.K. This important GB postal history collection comprising of postal strike stamps in singles & blocks also has scarcer multiples and "Tete-beche" stamps. Used and unused with many unmounted mint (FOC noted).....Price £11

**BA.47 BAHAWULPUR, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH** A lovely collection of mint Bahawalpur, plus Pakistan and Bangladesh. Over 160 different mint and used stamps ..... Price £16

**SJ53a BARDSEY ISLAND** (Welsh Local Issue) A superb specialised group of Unmounted Mint (complete sets). Stamps from this small Welsh Island rarely get offered for sale.....Price £7

**NY146 ENTOMOLOGY** One of the most unusual thematic subjects we have ever seen, insects on stamps. Hundreds of them .....Price £7

**SJ.77 TRISTAN DA CUNHA** Miniature sheet for Sir Rowland Hill, depicting the famous "1d potato stamp" designed during KGV reign. The mint postally valid sheet has been signed by the designer of the "potato stamp", Allan B. Crawford. Scarce with the designer's signature.....Price £19

**MA30 GREAT BRITAIN RARE IMPERFORATE MACHIN STAMPS** 1p black. This highly collectable specialist Machin item is a special printing by Harrison and Sons. With Post Office official approval of the 1p Machin definitive stamp printed in black on thin card. Unusual printer's item, rarely seen ..... Price £11.50

**HRH72 KING EDWARD VIII** Great Britain K.E.VIII special commemorative cover. The scarce cover commemorated the 120th anniv. of the birth of K.E. VIII, quoting the famous abdication speech. "I found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duty as King, as I would wish, without the help and support of the woman I love." From a severely restricted world-wide issue of only 60 covers. The cover bears the K.E.VIII Royal Mail commemorative with first day of issue Royal Family Tree Postmark dated 2/2/12. Unusually the cover was re-posted on 23/6/14 and cancelled with the official Royal House of Windsor Arms pmk. The cover also bears the complete British original K.E.VIII set of 1936 definitive stamps, tied to the cover with boxed purple cache, inscribed "King Edward VIII GPO postage stamp Issue September 1936". We offer this important and valuable cover for sale..... Price £24.50

**E39 TIBET** Fantastic group printed on rough and thin 'Native Type' paper including listed stamps and some shades and colours which appear not to be listed in Gibbons Catalogue. Included are blocks and singles some used on covers. Due to crudeness of the printing of this type of Tibet stamps, there is no way we can guarantee as genuine. If just some of the listed stamps were genuine the Catalogue Value would be hundreds of pounds. We have decided the safest way is to treat them as suspect and possible forgeries. As such we are offering them for sale at the knockdown price only.....Price £13



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# MARKET INSIGHT

## AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



Spink's recent e-Auction of material from Singapore and Malaysia included a top right corner block of twenty 1965 Orchids 15c stamps, with the fourth vertical row, and parts of the third and fifth row missing the black ink (country name and Arms).

**SOLD FOR £1,500**



Part twelve of the The 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire went under the hammer at Spink recently with another 300 lots on offer, including a Barbados 1861-70 1/- error of colour, unused without gum, pen stroke removed as usual; perforated on three sides and imperforate at foot. The lot description noted: 'In 1863 the printers, Perkins, Bacon & Co., sent a supply of 50,000 to the island. On arrival it was discovered that they were printed in blue, the colour of the 1d., instead of black. A new supply was dispatched and the "Blue" error was not put on sale. Before disposing of these stamps, a number were removed and defaced with a cross in ink which has subsequently been cleaned. It is believed that only nine such errors exist.'

**SOLD FOR £5,200**



The Warwick and Warwick July stamp auction some spectacular prices paid for rare Indian States stamps. A Cochin 1942-3 Official overprint 4p sage green reached £3,840, also from Cochin a 1943-4 Official 1a brown-orange made £4,320. A Soruth Official 1948-9 'ONE ANNA' surcharge on 1929 3a black and carmine with the variety 'small o in ONE' (pictured) was bid up to £5,760 despite minor imperfections.

**SOLD FOR £5,760**



The Cherrystone sale in the US including a selection of 1900 Siege of Mafeking stamps, including a Baden-Powell 3p in deep blue with a clear circular cancel of 13 April 1900.

**SOLD FOR £479**



The recent British Empire and Foreign Countries sale at Grosvenor auctions included an attractive 1857 cover sent from Nova Scotia to Glasgow franked by a 3d. strip of three with one of the stamps bisected.

**SOLD FOR £2,300**



The latest Warwick and Warwick sale saw some rare New Zealand Postal Fiscal stamps on offer, including a 1936/- orange, which achieved £3,120.

**SOLD FOR £3,120**

The 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire sale also featured a Malaya, Trengganu 1921-41 \$100 green and scarlet, with bright colours and large part clean original gum. The stamp from the Malaysian state was said to be 'a fine and fresh example of the scarcest stamp of Trengganu...a rare opportunity to acquire this handsome high value.'

**SOLD FOR £4,500**





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One of the lots at the recent Robert A Siegel sale was one of ten recorded examples of the Running Pony handstamp struck in carmine. The cover was described as being 'the earliest of the six eastbound covers and one of only four with 10-cent adhesive stamps.' According to the auction house: 'The St. Joseph Running Pony handstamp was normally struck in black, but the FKW census records ten covers with this marking struck in the distinctive carmine colour. They are dated from 12 August to 13 September 1860, and all but two are struck on the backs of the covers. Four have 10c adhesive stamps, all eastbound with the carmine oval struck on the back as a receiving mark. This cover was sent from San Francisco on 4 August 1860, after the new recalibrated Pony Express rate of \$2.50 per quarter-ounce was announced at St. Joseph. Because news of the rate change took approximately two weeks to reach the West Coast, it was not implemented in San Francisco until the 15 August eastbound trip. The "U.S.A." designation in the address and "To be forwarded" instructions make it almost certain that this cover originated outside the United States, probably from a travelling member of the prominent Coffin family, several of whom were whaling captains.

**SOLD FOR £47,925**



After 121 days of enforced absence, the traditional public stamp auctions at Grosvenor returned. The two all-day sales that followed had been postponed from their original dates in April and May in order to hold true to Grosvenor's promise to vendors that no corners are cut in the effort to ensure the highest possible prices – and that guarantee could not be met unless buyers who wished to do so were able to both view lots beforehand and participate in the saleroom in person. The auctions achieved a remarkable total realisation of £1,146,114, a figure that 'owed greatly to the anticipated surge in bidding received via the internet'. Amongst the higher prices paid was the £9,000 hammer price for a rare mint full pane of twenty of the 1887-92 Jubilee 10d.

**SOLD FOR £9,000**

## STAMP DETECTIVE

### *The short-lived stamps of Quelimane*

Our philatelic private eye spies another stamp that looks set to go up in value

It is a well-known phenomenon that stamps from rather obscure and little-known areas tend to attract frenzied bidding when offered on internet auction sites. The Portuguese territory of Quelimane is such an area.

The city of Quelimane was founded by the Portuguese in 1544. This port city is located on the shores of the Bons Sinais River in the central part of Mozambique about 25 kilometres from the mouth of the river. Today it is the capital of the province of Zambézia.

In 1913 Quelimane was made a separate administrative region and stamps were issued. The first three issues were Vasco da Gama commemorative issues of Macao, Portuguese Africa and Timor overprinted 'REPÚBLICA' and 'QUELIMANE' and surcharged with new

denominations in centavos.

In 1914 there was a new set of sixteen definitive stamps depicting the goddess Ceres. The stamps were printed on chalky paper but five values also exist on ordinary paper.

Locating the complete set of sixteen stamps is far from easy. This is a case where collectors probably will have to build a set a stamp at a time. Unmounted mint adds about 50 % to the value of the set which seems to be on the low side as offers of unmounted mint stamps or sets are far between.

Expect to pay at least £20 for a nice mounted mint set. Finding an UMM set at that price would be an absolute bargain.

Quelimane didn't last long as a stamp-issuing entity. Today it uses the stamps of Mozambique.





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## LATEST INTERNET SALES

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



**SOLD FOR £2794.6**

Monaco, 5f+5f Princess Charlotte's wedding 1920 MH (signed) Vf



**SOLD FOR £1260**

Switzerland, Railway 20c Jura Industriel letterpress printing MNH



**SOLD FOR £790.32**

Belgium, King Albert I issue 1915-19 imperforated MNH



**SOLD FOR £623**

Estonia, Airmail 10Mk & 20Mk, stamps of 1920 perforated and overprinted MLH



**SOLD FOR £623**

Qatar, 1966 Definitive issue MNH



**SOLD FOR £489.5**

Vietnam, Exodus of the populations of the North Vietnam 1955 -pair of imperforated color proofs MNH



**SOLD FOR £445**

Hungary, imperforated sheetlet 80th anniversary of the first Hungarian stamp 1951 MNH



**SOLD FOR £400.5**

Spain, Castile and León, block of twelve stamps 4c red 1856 used



**SOLD FOR £357**

Zululund, 2c Imperium essay perf. 1894-96



**SOLD FOR £374.69**

Japan, First issue Dragons 1871 MNG (no gum)



**SOLD FOR £362.23**

Great Britain, £1 brown-lilac 1878 used



**SOLD FOR £356**

Greenland, Liberation of Denmark 1945 issue MNH



**SOLD FOR £315**

Great Britain, Penny Black with margins cancelled Centered Maltese Cross

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# INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

## ASCENSION

45 with 1924 vals to 3/= (M) and 1/= (FU) KG6 with p13 ½ set (M) plus 1 ½ d Davit flaw, 1935 Jubilee (M & FU) '49 Wedding Pair Cat £1580

£265.00

## AUSTRALIA

+ States 100's on Schaubek leaves with States fairly well represented from imperfs, S. Australia long types to 1/-, Queensland 1898 to 2/= etc then Australia with Roos to 5/=-, Heads to 1 / 4, 1934 Victoria set, MacArthur and Anzac, later to 1940 Cat £3735

£325.00

## AUSTRIA

and P.O.'s in Turkey 36 FU inc P.O.'s with 1867 5s-50s 1890 20pi, etc Austria from 1850 1K, 2K to 1867. Good lot Cat £1070

£120.00

## BAHAMAS

100 all mint KG6 1938-52 issues to 5/=- (5) £1 (2) with wide range shades, papers etc Exceptionally clean Cat £1000

£180.00

## BRITISH GUIANA

100+ from 1860 types to 24c (2) 1889 TO 96C (odd fiscal not counted) KG5 types to 24c (both) 1934 to \$1 (no 50c) etc Cat £1385

£195.00

## CANADA

Fine mint range (70) KG5 issues, all complete sets inc 1911, '22, '35 definitives, Ottawa conference, War Tax O'Prints, good coils inc scarce. Lovely clean lot Cat £1530

£225.00

## FRANCE

Small early range (28) with Sage to 75c (both colours) mint, the rose colour N under B inc 1c, 25c yellow etc Bordeaux 2c (mint, 4 huge M 'gins) 4c, 5c (VFU) 15c imperf Ceres etc A valuable lot Cat £9600

£850.00

Colonies Thick pile of home made leaves housing ranges of Colonies in Africa inc Cameroun 1916-17 to 75c Reunion from 1891 extensive Togo from 1916, Sudan, Mauritania etc Many 100's

£60.00

## ITALY

Colonies 160+ Somalia Tripolitania and Cyrenaica 1934 Exhib sets complete, East Africa 1938 vals inc scarce 50c Ait, Cyrenaica 1938 Rome Mogadishu to 2L etc Mainly mint Cat £1440

£240.00

Colonies 180+ inc Cyrenaica 1936 Exhib set (M) Eritrea 1893 to 25c, 1903 to 1L, 1910 set, 1922 Victory set, Libya from 1912. Tripolitania inc 1930 Trade Fair (M) '34 Exhib set, Somalia from 1906 1b (M) 1922 Victory set, 1931 O'Print set (M) etc Cat £1200

£175.00

## MALTA

About 120 from ½ d buff (3) QV to 2/6, K.Ed to 5d, KG5 to 1/=-, KG6 & QE2 to 5/=- Cat £500

£65.00

## NETHERLANDS

80+ from imperf 5c (2- one is V. Fine) 10c (2) 1807 duplicated for perfs to 25c (2) 1872 to 1G etc

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UK long-time eBay seller, bozzystamps, Cornwall offered this example at £3.50 b.i.n., plus £1 postage, describing it as a decent quality used 1955 one pound value



Australian eBay global\_philately of Cockatoo recently offered this stamp for AU \$19.50 plus \$3.50 postage, describing it as a 1955 VFU, but with some short perfs

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR...?

### *A 1955 £1 Windsor Castle*

The first high values of the Queen's reign have long interested collectors thanks to the beautifully produced artwork depicting the home nations' iconic castles. Ed Fletcher finds out more

The Castle High Value stamps issued during September 1955 completed the first definitives series of Queen Elizabeth II's reign. Four denominations (2s 6d, 5s 0d, 10s 0d and £1) gave GB its first pictorial set, with each stamp depicting, alongside the monarch's image, a castle from one of the home nations that make up the United Kingdom. Earlier GB high values had already displayed pictorial designs – the 2s 6d HMS *Victory*, and the 5s 0d White Cliffs of Dover in George VI's reign for example – but the Castles of September 1955 formed a cohesive set with a unifying theme.

It is important to stress that these high values were not commemorative issues; they were the second part of the Wildings definitives issue (½d to £1), all displaying the Dorothy Wilding portrait of the monarch. The high values added the vignette showing one of the selected castles framed by stonework and foliage. It has been argued that the regional castles motif was a response to rumblings of nationalistic sentiments that called, in addition to other changes, for postage stamps that reflected Scottish, Welsh and Irish sentiments.

Two years earlier, at a time when

the postal authorities dithered over the designs that might appear on the new stamps, sections of the British philatelic press voiced general disapproval of the HMS *Victory* and the White Cliffs of Dover stamps in the George VI high values. Stamp collectors, it was alleged, preferred the allegorical St George and the Dragon, and the heraldic Royal Coat of Arms depicted on the King's 10s 0d and £1 stamps. Perhaps with the buying power of collectors in mind, the authorities then let it be known that allegorical designs might appear on all four of the new stamps. At that point the powerful voices of the Postmaster General (Herbrand Sackville) and the Chairman of the Council of Industrial Design (Walter Worboys) declared their preference for the very opposite: all four stamps to display pictorial designs.

Those voices carried weight; a decision was taken soon afterwards to depict popular British monuments with clear connections to the Royal Family's history. First choices put Windsor Castle, Edinburgh Castle, the Tower of London and Caernarfon Castle in pole positions. (Non-Welsh readers may need reminding of the powerful link between Caernarfon Castle and the Prince of Wales.) At that point Home Secretary, David Maxwell Fyfe, chipped in with a political comment about

Australian eBayer toygirl70 from Victoria, recently offered this pair, described as fine used, at AU \$29.00 plus \$3.20 shipping



disappointments sure to be expressed in Northern Ireland at their omission from the choices. Another re-think replaced the Tower of London with Carrickfergus Castle, which stands on the Irish Sea coast some ten miles north of Belfast. (English readers who Google the castle's history will discover strong links with English monarchs from King John to William III.)

The Home Secretary had a further bone of contention to gnaw at. The colour already decided upon for the now rejected Tower Of London was a green shade popular with Irish Nationalists. After brief discussions the Carrickfergus Castle colour



switched to the brown formerly chosen for Windsor Castle, which in turn became the black stamp we hope to add to our collections.

The First Day of Issue for the highest values (10s 0d and £1) on 1 September 1955 provided the non-philatelic press opportunity to express their views. Some resentment was expressed in Northern Irish newspapers that Carrickfergus Castle featured on the lowest value (2s 6d) in the four-stamp set. Critics were somewhat mollified when it was pointed out that Wales had Principality status, while Northern Ireland did not. Evening papers in England managed to quote from a press conference called that day by Post Office officials to show off the new stamps. Lesser bureaucrats refused to comment on allocation of the values to the four constituent parts of the United Kingdom. The new Postmaster General, Dr. Charles Hill, was more forthcoming: 'Surely no one would deny that the English should have the pound stamp?' he demanded. The pressmen remained silent.

So how much should you pay to add the 1955 £1 black to your collection? First, be sure that you are bidding on, or buying, the correct stamp, first issued on 1 September of that year. Re-printings followed, and all were perforated 11 x 12; but they can be distinguished by their watermarks, or lack of watermarks. The £1 of 1955 has the St. Edward's Crown and E 2 R Multiple watermark; while the re-issued £1 of 1959 has the St. Edward's Crown Multiple watermark. The later, 1967 and 1968 re-issues were on un-watermarked paper.

Beginners seeking low prices will find that many otherwise fine stamps are marred by the heavy obliterations typical of parcel posts; a neat and light c.d.s. on a postally used £1 increases desirability. Pairs and other multiples, even when fairly heavily postmarked, often move substantially up the pricing scale. FDCs (1.12.55) are popular and can be pricey on illustrated covers. Bargains occasionally lie in buying the 10s 0d (issued on the same date) on-cover alongside the £1. Sets of four might be worth considering; you are likely to want to complete the set at a later date.



John Noble Stamps of Ashstead, Surrey recent offered this example, described as a 1955 £1 black, unmounted mint stamps with an almost invisible gum crease, at £60 with free shipping

Seller steve4591 of Grantham, UK, a long-time eBay user, recently had this specimen, described as a 1955 fine, mint, non-hinged marginal stamp, selling for £75, plus 75p postage



Long-term eBay seller northstaffsstamps, recently offered this stamp for £75 b.i.n, with free delivery, describing it as a fine unmounted mint never hinged example of the 1955 issue



Ontario, Canada eBay, mycroft10, recently offered this stamp at C \$85.00 plus \$3.50 shipping, describing it as a 1955 Waterlow £1 black, mint, o.g. hinged, VF+ with good centering

At a 2013 Grosvenor Auctions sale in 2013 the 1955 set of four mounted on a Waterlow & Sons Limited presentation card sold for £300

This is one of four illustrated covers in a 2012 Grosvenor lot, each neatly cancelled by 'PRESTON/BRIGHTON' CDS and each with one stamp from the set. The complete lot sold for £920





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# A Greek God of Covers

It isn't difficult to understand why the Kingdom of Greece, in 1860, decided the head of Hermes would be the most fitting illustration to use on their first postal adhesives, writes Devlan Kruck

**W**hilst in Greek mythology Zeus is the sky and thunder god who rules as king of the gods, and apparently the Father of Hermes, there is none better in all the heavenly realm to place on your post than Hermes, because he's the 'messenger' of the gods. So it stands to reason that he'd be the one who'd bless all Greek dispatches. That's how the Greeks saw it, anyway.

The 'Large Hermes Head' were the first of these blessings, issued in October 1861, and which remained in use up until 1886. During the first few months of issue there were two printings, the more angelic Paris printing, and then the slightly more beastly Athens printing, the former from France, the latter home-made. Literally.

Now there's a devil of a stamp in this sub-set of Athens issues which heralds a significant event. Namely the famous 20 lepta blue without 'control figures' and with the 'quadrille' background, usually called the 'Athens Provisoire Issue'.

Word has it, that these 'provisional stamps', not quite up to the fine quality produced by the French printers, were in fact the Greek printers' immortal plate-proofs, which were never intended for the earthly work of regular stamps.



The so-called 'Conegliano Cover' which features the 20 lepta deep blue stamp; the cover is one of only two known items showing the stamp's usage in combination with other values

'The Solferino Cover' which was sold for over £500,000 in 2002

However, due to supernatural demand for postage, stocks ran dry, so Greek postal authorities decided these godly proofs could be transformed into mere mortal stamps.

Thank the gods they did! Because it's given philatelists heavenly joy ever since. As you might expect, this act of free will by the postal administration wrought consequences for this deviation, and the 20 lepta blue provisional printing is regarded as the most divine standard stamp of Greece.

The featured example of this manifestation is known as 'The Conegliano Cover' and a supreme messenger of just how god-like this 20 lepta deep blue stamp really is. There are only two known items with its usage in combination with other values, this example by far the better, the other being defective. And this example is used in conjunction with the Paris printings of the 5 and 80 lepta, sent from Athens to Conegliano Italy, in December 1861.

Apart from its celestial beauty, it is without doubt one of the greatest items in Greek philately, selling at

the David Feldman auction in May 2004 for an unearthly 206,000 CHF (approximately £174,555). It was in the collection of George Zachariades (1916-1986) a famous Greek philatelist and legendary collector of Greek Hermes head stamps.

However, putting on my white robe of philatelic righteousness, and being a tad judgemental here, mentioned for purity reasons, I confess that 'The Conegliano Cover' is perhaps second to 'The Solferino Cover' in Greek philatelic mythology, and that is because at a David Feldman auction in February 2002 it sold for a Zeus like figure of 646,000 CHF (£547,390).

You see, even in the realm of the gods, you have to acknowledge when you encounter a power more immense than your own. As you've already learned, Zeus is the king of the gods. But that's another story. And like this one, it's legendary.

*Devlan Kruck is the Regional Representative – UK at David Feldman SA.*



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# Adventures of a STAMP NEWBIE

## COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS

In the first part of her new series on starting to collect stamps for the first time and the puzzles the hobby can present, Laura McInerney reflects on the scientific benefits of obtaining new stamps

**I**t all began so innocently. One minute I was on eBay buying vintage badges for a memory experiment when a job lot of used stamps caught my eye. The next thing I knew whole shelves had been taken over by yet-to-be-sorted stockbooks and I was raiding my savings account, shelling out £250 for the complete works of Stanley Gibbons.

Like all collectors, however, such rash buying definitely wasn't my fault. Blame, instead, the *substantia nigra*.

between 1985 and 1996 not a single British commemorative stamp featured a non-royal real woman (fictional ones don't count). During the same period, 28 non-royal real men appeared. Even more embarrassing, the run was only broken because the Europa-dictated theme for 1996 was 'Famous Women'.

But, what is Europa? Investigations revealed that it's a sort of Eurovision song contest, but for stamps. Each year PostEurop selects a theme and each country enters a stamp with related artwork.

*"When we see new things it stimulates the substantia nigra part of our brain...  
With more than half a million stamps issued,  
I was about to get high on philately"*

Dr Shirley Mueller explains in her brilliant book, *Inside The Head Of A Collector*, that when we see new things it stimulates the *substantia nigra* part of our brain which is awash dopaminergic neurons and leaves us feeling great. To get another hit, we need to see more new things. With more than half a million stamps issued, I was about to get high on philately.

Yet, as a modern millennial, the hobby brought surprises. First, the lack of decent stamp-identifying apps. If I want to know a song, an app will find it. A plant? Take a photograph, an app will reveal its genus. But stamps don't have equally reliable technology. For younger collectors this absence is bamboozling.

A second curiosity, as I rifled through Great Britain albums: where were the women? Commemorative stamps, which celebrate notable figures, rarely feature them. In fact,

Public voting happens online and, lo, a winner is later crowned. What joy! How is this not a TV show? If a show about competitive baking can grab public attention then *Britain's Next Great Stamp Designer* is surely a goer.

These days however I've started down a slippery slope of trying to collect every stamp in the world featuring a woman, which is how one ends up up knee-deep in stockbooks squinting at stamps trying to work out the gender of their central characters.

Still, the newcomer questions keep coming. How should I now organise this collection? What's the point of a first day cover? Who decides what goes on a stamp?! In future columns I will tackle more of these puzzles and, wise readers, I hope you will perhaps help with some answers. It will do all our *substantia nigras* some good!

### What is Europa?

The idea of the joint stamp issue dates from the early 1950s in a time when various European countries were nourishing their relations with each other in order to rebuild the continent after the devastation of two world wars. *Read more... Our article on 'The origins of the Europa stamp' is available to read on the website:*  
[www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/the-origins-of-the-europa-stamp](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/the-origins-of-the-europa-stamp)



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

### What no apps?

Stamp catalogues have long been the first port of call for collectors looking to identify and value stamps. Today, the majority of catalogues are available digitally, but this isn't quite the all-singing, identifying app Laura asks about.

There are stamp ID apps available, but none cover every country, period or theme... such an application would be a huge undertaking but watch this space.

Meanwhile, apps waiting to be downloaded to your smartphone include

Stamp ID Pro, which focuses on identifying United States stamps. According to the developers 'it uses the process of elimination to identify each stamp in the least number of possible steps...' and 'currently contains over 1,000 US postage, air mail and postage due stamp variations from 1847 to 1951, and new stamps are being continually added.' The app is free for a short trial period before costing \$9.99 (about £7).

### Where were the women?

It's a very good question and one what sadly has a rather blunt answer. Sexism reigned supreme when postage stamps were introduced (even if the very first stamp features Victoria) and well into the 20th century. Just as our feature in last month's magazine reflected on the uncomfortable history shown on many GB Empire stamps, so earlier stamps reflect different attitudes.

Aside from royalty and allegorical (such as Britannia or the Virgin Mary), and the first woman on a British postage stamp was Emmeline Pankhurst in 1968, but even then the image was of a statue. Florence 'Nightingale attending Patients' followed in 1970, and four stamps honoured Jane Austen in 1975.

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# STAMP SIDELINES

## POST & GO

### *The first print error*

Back in 2008 when the first Post & Go stamps were issued from the Galleries Post Office in Bristol the font was a large and bold Arial style, which fitted on the Machin stamp neatly, writes Stuart Leigh.

In September 2010 in readiness for the introduction of the first pictorial issues – Birds of Britain – the font was changed since the image took up much more space and the area for the service indicator was smaller.

The new font (Font 2) has a smaller service indicator with lines 4mm apart. But is easily identified as 'up to' has a lowercase 'u' and 'g' of '100g' is in Times New Roman or similar serifed font.

After upgrading the kiosks to produce

the smaller service indicator, some machines experienced software glitches resulting in the unintentional part reversion to the larger typeface, or a semi corrupted version of it.

There are several things to look for:

- Service indicator strays onto the image.
- The 'Up to 10g' on the 'Worldwide - Up to 10g' is missing.
- The 'up to 40g' on the 'Worldwide - Up to 40g' has a lower case 'u' and the font is smaller and not as bold.
- On the last item of the strip the 'g' uses the Times New Roman style of font.
- The datastring, comprising – Office id. / Kiosk. No. / Session No / item No – are all squashed together.

The Birds of Britain was originally only issued from approximately thirty Post Offices nationwide, but this error continued and was even seen into early 2012.

It is always worth looking carefully when you buy a strip of stamps – just in case there is an error – you just might be lucky.



## CINDERELLAS

### *Carn Iar*

Intriguing stories can be told about many local stamps, writes Christer Brunström. Some have been printed for islands with no humans, only inhabited by birds. Carn Iar is a prime example.

The North-West Highlands in Scotland is home to the Summer Islands which includes a tiny tree-less speck of land known as Carn Iar (Westward Rock). Sometime in 1960, stamp dealer John Lister contemplated buying the island. Whether this actually happened is unclear.

However, in 1961 he had a set of six 'local' stamps printed for Carn Iar. The stamps are quite attractive and they feature different sea-birds. The denominations range from 1/4 penny to 5 shillings. Why a farthing stamp was included is a mystery.

Lister probably soon realised that no one would take the stamps seriously and

they were never issued. Some reached the marketplace and early catalogues of British locals assigned a value of £20 to the set.

The stamps also commemorate the arrival of St. Columba in AD 563. Sailing from Ireland, he introduced Christianity to Scotland. On the stamps the name of the island is given as Carn Iar with Deas (South) in smaller letters. Carn Deas is located next to Carn Iar. At low tide you can walk between the two islands.

A lot of money had been invested in designing and printing the stamps. As time went by, Lister sold off the entire printing to the trade.

In 1962 the stamps resurfaced during a postal strike overprinted 'LONDON DELIVERY' and 'EUROPA'. Some proof material has also become available.





## POSTCARDS

### *Atoms for Peace*

Pre-war research into atomic energy was hastened by wartime imperative and the Manhattan Project, writes Richard Stenlake. Postcards showing the devastation at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, including before and after views, can be had from about £4 upwards. Thinking quickly shifted to atomic power being used for peaceful purposes and as early as 1945 the concept of reducing reliance on fossil fuels was being promoted, many years before talk of global warming aka climate change. President Eisenhower pushed this at the United Nations in 1953 and declassified reactor technology.

In this same immediately post-war period Electric Boat, an American submarine maker, bought struggling aircraft manufacturer Canadair from that country's

government at a knock-down price. The new company, renamed General Dynamics in 1952, made the US Navy's first nuclear powered submarine USS Nautilus, launched in January 1954. My first illustration is from a very jazzy set of probably eight cards issued for the company with the titles of 'power for peace' or 'atoms for peace'. In 1976 they sold Canadair back to the Canadian government for almost four times what they had paid for it, and General Dynamics is still one of the biggest defence contractors in the world.

Back to Blighty and Calder Hall (now Sellafield) came on stream in 1956. Four Raphael Tuck postcards 'commemorate' this event. In one a young lad lolls on one of the stones of the Druid circle close to the site. From sun worship to masters of the universe seems to be the subliminal theme. My second illustration is a surprisingly common card of Dounreay, with buildings that could easily have blended in at the 1951 Festival of Britain. Indeed there's a 'Brave New World' quality to all this material, very unlike today where these power stations are controversial, clapped out and a bit of a problem.



## FIRST DAY COVERS

### *Plain covers for a Royal residence*

On the 9 February 1968 the Sub Post Office in Sandringham, the Norfolk home of Her Majesty closed and the services of the sub Postmaster (Mr A Hanslip) and his staff (Mr D Goodship) were dispensed with, writes Brian Austin. The office was situated in Sandringham House (near the Kitchen) and offered the normal range of services to the staff and residents of the surrounding Royal Estate, members of the Royal Household and their staff, when the Queen was in residence.

The office was only re-opened in subsequent years when Her Majesty was in residence (the next time was 28 December 1968), when a restricted service was offered. Stamps, Telegrams, Registered letters and Parcels could all be dealt with, as was the Queen's Official mail and Special Despatches to and from Buckingham Palace.

This month I have the chance to show this great pair of plain covers (which both have royal crests on the reverse), the last day before closing (with a clear Sandringham CDS) and then first day of opening (with Sandringham House).





## GB STAMPS

# *The home of democracy*

Royal Mail celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster, the iconic landmark and one of the most famous buildings in the world

One of the country's most familiar and important buildings, the Palace of Westminster houses the UK's key political and law-making institution. As we negotiate our way through this difficult year it would be easy to touch on the timing of such a stamp subject; to use the stamps as an opportunity to comment on modern-day politics and the decisions that have so literally and dramatically affected thousands of lives in recent months. But this is not the place for political commentary – let us instead focus on the stamps themselves.

Issued on 30 July, the six stamps show views of both the exterior and interior of the Palace of Westminster, whilst a miniature sheet shows interior views of the building's architecture and design, with a longitudinal section through the Palace in the background.

The presentation pack gives an overview of the history of the Palace and explores in detail some of the key areas of the building, focussing on the architecture and design of the Palace rebuild after the Great Fire, and the Palace we can see and visit today.

The Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark features the crowned portcullis, the emblem of both Houses of Parliament, and the alternative postmark, with the location London SW1, features an illustration of the Elizabeth Tower clock face displaying the time the clock stopped for the first and only ever major breakdown at 3:45am on 5 August 1976.

Additional products offered include First Day Covers for the stamps (£9.45) and the miniature sheet (£6.40), a stamp sheet souvenir (£6.40), framed stamps and miniature sheet (£29.99), postcards (£4.95) and a Press Sheet (£63.10). See all products at [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk).



## STAMP DETAILS

**Issue date:** 30 July 2020

**Design:** Steers McGillan Eves

**Stamp Format:** Olympic landscape

**Stamp Size:** 60mm (w) x 30mm (h)

**Printer:** International Security Printers, lithography

**Perforations:** 14.5 x 14.5

**Phosphor Bars:** as appropriate

**Gum:** PVA

**1st Class** - Palace of Westminster - View from Old Palace Yard

**1st Class** - Palace of Westminster - River Thames view

**1st Class** - Palace of Westminster - Elizabeth Tower

**£1.68** - Palace of Westminster - Commons Chamber

**£1.68** - Palace of Westminster - Central Lobby

**£1.68** - Palace of Westminster - Lords Chamber

## *Miniature sheet*

**Design:** Steers McGillan Eves

**Stamp Format:** Square

**Stamp Size:** 34.7mm (w) x 34.7mm (h)

**Printer:** International Security Printers, lithography

**Perforations:** 14.5 x 14.5

**Phosphor Bars:** as appropriate

**Gum:** PVA

**1st Class** - Palace of Westminster - Norman Porch

**1st Class** - Palace of Westminster - Chapel of St Mary Undercroft

**£1.63** - Palace of Westminster - St Stephen's Hall

**£1.63** - Palace of Westminster - Royal Gallery





## A FAMILIAR STAMP SUBJECT



It's hardly surprising that the Palace of Westminster has been seen on a variety of stamps in the past, both from Britain and further afield. The building, and in particular Elizabeth Tower, more commonly known as 'Big Ben', is an icon of both the city and the country.

The famous building was seen in 2D form on a 1s 3d value back in September 1961 as we celebrated the Seventh Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The subject was clearly popular with collectors, and perhaps politicians, as the nineteenth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was also marked with a stamp set in September 1973, this time an 8p and 10p stamp, each showing different side-on diagrams of the building. And just in case the importance of parliamentary

conferences hadn't been made clear, two years later the 62nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference was marked with a 12p value showing a simplified aerial view.

Naturally, as a symbol of London, the Palace has appeared on other stamps celebrating the capital. A 2002 stamp featured an 1864 depiction of Westminster Bridge, parliament shown in the distance; and back in the heady days of August 2012, the 'Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games' set featured a 1st Class stamp for Wheelchair Rugby, the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben shown beside the athlete. Add the many stamps issued for the London Olympics in 2012 from the likes of Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Uruguay, and the Houses of Parliament becomes a collecting theme in its own right.

### A history of Westminster

Of course the history of the site goes back much further than 1870 with records suggesting there was a royal residence there as far back as the early 11th century. The first forms of parliament met in the Palace as far back as 1265 and over the centuries the site would become the centre of government, with sporadic renovations allowing more peers to be present. Christopher Wren updated the building's interior in the late 17th century and in subsequent years more changes were made, until disaster struck in 1834.

The fire that ravaged the building was caused by the burning of tally sticks and left only a few parts standing. After an offer from the King to use Buckingham Palace was rejected, the rebuilding of the Palace was eventually agreed upon

and under the guidance of architect Charles Barry (who received a knighthood for efforts) the work was gradually completed and by 1870 it was again ready for use.

The Palace has faced further challenges, including suffering damage from the bombing of London during the Second World War, and is now in urgent need of further renovations. According to the Restoration and Renewal website 'the Palace is falling apart faster than it can be repaired... The restoration and renewal of the Palace is the biggest and most complex renovation of a heritage building ever undertaken in the UK.' The plan is for the Palace to be closed for six years, from 2022, with both the Houses of Parliament and the House of Lords finding temporary new homes.



## WIN THE STAMPS!

We have presentation packs to give away to ten lucky readers in our latest competition, courtesy of Royal Mail. The pack includes the six Special Stamps plus the four-stamp miniature sheet in a separate carrier.

For your chance to win just visit the [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) website and answer the following question:

*In what year was the Palace of Westminster ravaged by a fire caused by the burning of tally sticks?*

Winners will be picked at random from correct answers. Editors decision is final. Good luck. Closing date: 11 September 2020. **Enter online at: [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/competitions](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/competitions)**







# New Zealand's Penny Universals

Ed Fletcher looks back to the turn of the 20th century, when new regulations gave ex-pats and their families a cheaper way to keep in touch with each other, and charts the eventual introduction of a penny post in New Zealand

**T**he 20 December 1898 brought smiles to the faces of millions of Britons with family members and friends girdling the globe; all relying heavily on postage stamps to pay for their communications. A GPO notice issued that day brought news that on and after 25 December 'letters to the following British possessions and protectorates may be posted at the

Above: 1901 (1 January) Universal Penny Postage 'Facsimile' postcard without imprinted stamp

Below: a fine mint complete booklet pane of six

rate of 1d per ½ oz, instead of the 2½d rate as at present.' A long list – from Aden to Zanzibar – followed; but notable non-participants included the Australian States, Cape Colony, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius... and New Zealand. Each, with one exception, had declined to take part on the grounds that they could not afford the reciprocal rate reductions colonists would demand at a time when their administrations relied on every penny of postal revenue generated by stamp sales.

A few weeks later, in January 1900, smiles faded somewhat when many newspapers informed their readers that despite issuing the full list of places to which letters could now be sent for 1d, the Post Office 'has seen large numbers of letters sent since Christmas last year still carrying 2½d stamps, and each wasting 1½d in postage. On the other hand, many letter writers have been deceived, by the title Imperial Penny Postage, into thinking that the reform is universal. They have sent letters bearing only a penny stamp to Cape Colony and Australia, both countries where such reforms have yet to come into line. This is a worse error than the other because the recipients will have to pay double to receive their letters.

Rubbing salt into the wounds, many of those letters contained no more than a brief message of congratulation on inauguration of the reform. The Cape Colonist who pays 3d on an underpaid letter only to find 'congratulations' within may be expected to voice things not fit for drawing-room repetition.'

A few months later the one exception mentioned above, gave a different reason for not following the Mother Country's lead. In August 1900 New Zealand's Postmaster-General, Joseph Ward, announced that: 'The colony will embark on a project to put New Zealand in a prominent position among civilized nations. On the first of January next year we will reduce postage on New Zealand's inland letters from 2d to 1d; and we will bring in the world's first truly universal penny postage to almost any country around the world.'

At the time the first tier of the letter rate to addresses within New Zealand, and from New Zealand to Britain, was 2d; to other countries 2½d; so losses seemed inevitable. When New Year's Day came around many post offices opened to find crowds of customers waiting even though the day was an official Bank







Holiday. At Wellington post office, for example, more than 10,000 penny stamps were sold within half an hour. The overall total for letters posted in New Zealand that year jumped from 35,000,000 to 48,000,000. As for a figure to indicate the growth of New Zealand's mailings during the first decade of the new century, a sevenfold increase was recorded between 1900 and 1910.

Reciprocal recognition of New Zealand's penny post was eventually achieved throughout the British Empire, with the exception of Australia where states still had their own postal rates to juggle between themselves. Although few foreign countries felt able to introduce a rate matching the penny, very many agreed to deliver penny letters from New Zealand without applying a surcharge.

In addition to the stamp's low cost, one or two other factors played their part in creating its popularity. The date of issue (01.01.01) attracted collector interest. That accounts for the high number of FDCs found to this day by anyone poking through New Zealand postal ephemera. Blocks, strips, even the occasional full sheet, were bought in substantial quantities in the first few

Above, from left: 1906 Waterlow 1d die proof in black on dull green card, (22 x 42mm), fine; 1909 1d. Universal; redrawn die proof with outer frame from new plate supplied by Perkins Bacon, in black on glazed card

Right: British Antarctic Expedition stationery envelope with overprinted Victoria Land and King Edward VII Land stamps



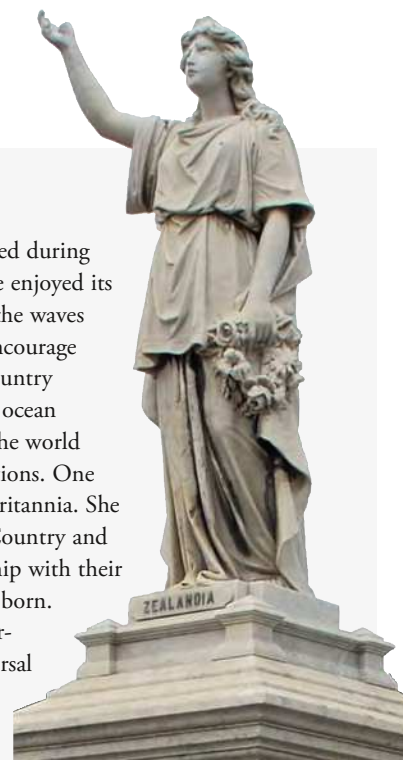
weeks of January 1901. Again, those that have survived to fetch good prices confirm the wisdom of grasping early investment opportunities. Philatelic interest apart, the New Zealand public in general expressed pride in finding Zealandia on their new stamp. Artist Guido Bach; engraver J.A.C. Harrison; and recess printers Waterlow and Sons, London had produced a carmine portrait of Zealandia that captured her, and her country's, youthful spirit as she stood alongside a globe of the earth, with a mail steamer in the vignette's background.

Production and sales of the 1d stamp remained buoyant throughout several years with letter writers availing themselves of the cheap

postage rate, while stamp collectors looked for a range of changes that probably went unnoticed by non-collectors. Watermarks altered; paper altered; ink shades altered; even production of the stamp altered from London to Wellington. Then, in 1908, a switch from intaglio to litho printing brought opportunities to sell the stamps to the public in different ways. As well as offering singles from the usual sheets of 240, the NZ Post Office soon afterwards offered panes of

## THE BIRTH OF ZEALANDIA

British immigration to New Zealand peaked during the 1870-1890s; decades when the Empire enjoyed its most expansive years and Britannia ruled the waves and the consciousness of her people. To encourage potential colonists to leave the Mother Country and undertake more than 14,000 miles of ocean voyaging to the antipodean other side of the world to start new lives demanded a few temptations. One involved the creation of an offspring for Britannia. She would cement Britain's status as Mother Country and link the immigrants in a kinfolk relationship with their distant former home. Thus was Zealandia born. The decision by New Zealand's Postmaster-General to feature Zealandia on the Universal One Penny Postage Stamp ensured its popularity as much as its bargain price attracted sales.



Mint block of six (3 x 2) overprinted 'King Edward VII Land'



Zealandia's image required no alteration when a new monarch – Edward VII – came to the throne; but on 26 September 1907 the Colony of New Zealand gave way to the Dominion of New Zealand. That change called forth a new stamp (issued 1909) on which the words 'DOMINION OF' appeared above 'NEW ZEALAND'. The Dominion's proximity to the South Pole provided opportunities to apply overprints to 1d Universals for use by members of polar expeditions to two regions of Antarctica: Victoria Land and King Edward VII Land, both discovered by British explorers and named for reigning monarchs.

With several alterations including shades, perforations, papers and watermarks, the Penny Universal served its country well until its last issue in 1926, with the world in deep recession and the Mother Country racked by industrial unrest. A few were used into the 1930s; until the New Zealand Posts and Telegraphs Department made the following announcement: 'With effect from March 1st 1931 penny postage is to go. The new rate on letters being fixed at 2d. Postcard charges will increase from ½d to 1d.'



From top: This British Antarctic Expedition postcard has a New Zealand Penny Universal stamp, a Victoria Land stamp, and a King Edward VII Land stamp • British Antarctic Expedition postcard bearing Victoria Land ½d and 1d individually cancelled by expedition c.d.s. of '9 FE/11', '3 MR/12' and 'FE 4/13' (½d), respectively

Right: 1901 perf. 11 1d carmine in a left marginal block of four;  
fine mint hinged

Below: Strip of five NZ Universal Penny Postage stamps, each overprinted VICTORIA LAND

*All images courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions.*







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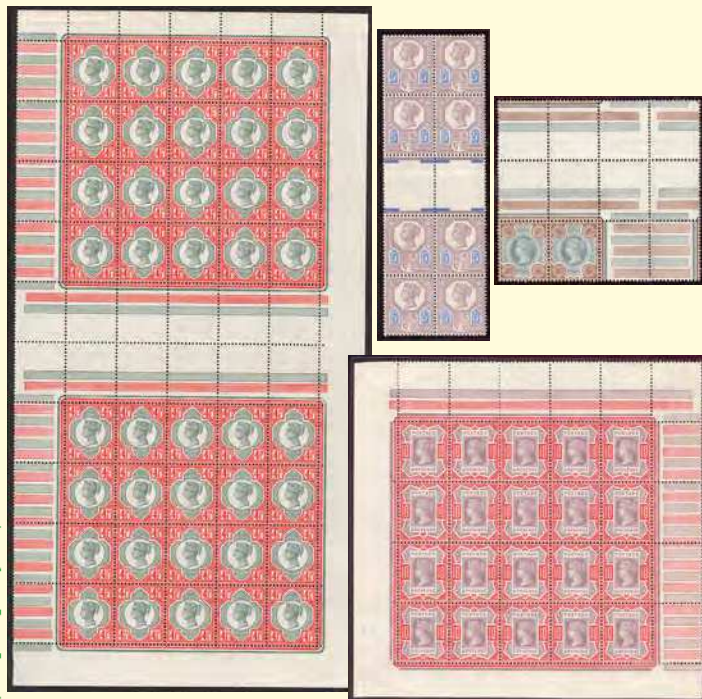
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## USA STAMP GUIDE

# *Collecting dead presidents* *Heads, grilles and secret marks*

In the first of a two-part collecting guide, David Bailey untangles the first banknote issues of the USA and discovers a stamp identification problem that may be insoluble

**W**hen the 1869 definitives were roundly rejected by the public, the USPS had to act quickly. The small-format pictorial stamps had been launched in March 1869. By February 1870, a new set was ready to replace them – and it would last in various guises until 1890, when stamps in a smaller format were introduced.

The first set of ten stamps appeared in April 1870; the 7c deep vermilion followed a year later. The designs add some new faces to the list of great Americans on stamps and with conventional profiles plus classical ornamentation, it looks a prestigious set of stamps.

### **The heads**

#### **1c Benjamin Franklin**

Among his many other achievements, Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster General by the Continental Congress in 1755. This was the group of 13 states that later became the USA, making Franklin, effectively, its first Postmaster General (as well as being a philosopher, scientist, inventor, diplomat, statesman and humorist).

#### **2c Andrew Jackson**

Andrew Jackson was a lawyer and a military man before turning to politics and becoming the seventh President of the United States. He was widely revered as a war hero and as a

Here and on following pages: the National and Continental printings side by side, plus close-ups of the secret marks. Continental images courtesy of Robert Siegel Auctions, National images courtesy of Collect.com and secret mark details courtesy of the US Philatelic Classics Society

champion of the common man against vested interests. But his reputation has suffered since the 1970s for his role as a slave-owner and in the dispossession of Native American peoples.

#### **3c George Washington**

Washington was Commander in Chief of the US forces in the War of Independence and became America's first president. Before that, he was a surveyor and then a farmer of the family property in Mount Vernon, Virginia, which he thought "the most delectable" of pursuits.

#### **6c Abraham Lincoln**

Raised in poverty in rural Indiana, Lincoln also became a postmaster (of New Salem, Illinois) and a successful lawyer before being elected the 16th President. With his leadership in the war, his abolition of slavery, his magnificent oratory and untimely death he is regarded as the greatest American.

#### **7c Edwin Stanton**

Stanton served as Secretary of War under Lincoln and his successor, Andrew Johnson, who was impeached for trying to get him dismissed. On retirement, he resumed his legal career, being nominated as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.







### 10c Thomas Jefferson

Author of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson is one of the best-known figures in US history. A true Founding Father, he played a leading role in motivating the colonists to break with Britain and found a new nation.

### 12c Henry Clay

Although he was never President, Senator Henry Clay had an enormous influence on the development of America and its political systems. He was also a compelling orator; people would flock to the Senate House if they knew he was making a speech.

### 15c Daniel Webster

Webster's reputation has risen and fallen in the years since his death in 1852. As a Congressman for Massachusetts, he championed American business. As Secretary of State, he negotiated the Webster-Ashburton Treaty which ended a long-

running border dispute with Britain. However, he is little known today.

### 24c General Winfield Scott

Nicknamed 'Old Fuss and Feathers', Winfield Scott served as a General in the United States Army from 1814 to 1861 and the Civil War. His strategy of splitting the Confederacy and blockading the Eastern States was initially ridiculed but ultimately successful.

### 30c Alexander Hamilton

Another of the Founding Fathers of America, Hamilton's colourful life is now the subject of a hit, hip hop musical, where the sober facts (founder of the US Financial System) contrast with a sex scandal that ruined his chances of the Presidency and his death in a duel.

### 90c Commodore Perry

Known as the 'father of the steam navy' for his adoption of steam over sail, perhaps Matthew Perry's



most significant role was as leader of the Perry Expedition, which forced Japanese ports to open up to American trade.

### The Grilles

These stamps continued the practise of embossing grilles into the stamps.

A grid of small, pointed dies was pressed into the paper to break up the fibres; this made it harder to remove the stamp without tearing it and to clean off the cancellation. Grilles are numbered A to J (plus Z) according to the grid of points and whether the grilles are points up or down. A, B and C are 'points up', created by a female mould of small rectangular pits. The paper is squeezed between this and a softer lead base, so the points are raised up from the lead to make the impression. With 'points down', the grid is a series of pyramid-shaped spikes.

In general, the grilled stamps were released first and are scarcer than







the ungrilled stamps. But in many stamps of this issues, the grille is very light and difficult to see. This could be because two or more sheets at a time were fed into the machine.

### The secret marks

In 1873, the printing contract passed from the National Bank Note company to the Continental Bank Note Company, who made new plates from the master dies. These were 'rocked in' from a transfer roller in the same way as GB's line engraved. Except that now, all the master dies had been subtly changed, so you could see which company produced a particular stamp. These marks are usually attributed to the Continental Bank Note Company, but this is by no means certain.

New Continental plates were used for the 1c to 15c values. When it came to the 24c, fresh plates were apparently made and stamps printed from them, but it is not clear whether these sheets were ever

delivered to Post Offices. National plates were used for the 30c and 90c values.

All values bar the 90c are found with grilles, but these are considerable rarer than the stamps without them.

### The marks in detail

1c. The pearl to the left of the figure 1 has a tiny crescent at the bottom.

2c. At the top left of the stamp, the ball to the left of the letter S has lines of shading underneath. The Continental stamps have an extra tiny diagonal stroke at the right. But this is notoriously difficult to find.

3c. Below the RE of 'three', the lines of shading between the two tails of the ribbon have been strengthened. Five lines have become four.

6c. At the bottom left corner of the design, the lines in the curl of the ribbon have been strengthened.

Above, right: the National printing of the 1c, showing the H grille: points down

7c. At the bottom right corner, there are crescent-shaped lines of shading over the two points at 12 and 3 o'clock.

10c. The ball under the E of 'postage' now has a small crescent.

12c. The upper and lower balls in the figure 2 have been hollowed out.

15c. At the top left, by the S of US Postage, lines at the bottom of the triangle have been darkened to form a narrow, solid V. However, this stamp and its various printings have been extensively studied by specialists over the years – and an internet search around 'secret marks' will reveal some interesting theories.

### Beyond the marks

Secret marks work best when examining mint stamps, singly or better still in multiples. The marks are not always evident on every stamp; they also seem to be a magnet for cancellation devices. Both printers used a thin, hard paper. So that leaves shades. The National 2c is on a redder brown than the Continental, and this is the best way to distinguish the issues. The 6c is a clearer carmine and the 30c a deeper black.

However, US Auctioneer and occasional columnist John Apfelbaum warns: "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 ....one must go only by shade."







### New stamps and values

From June 1875, the 2c Andrew Jackson stamp was printed in vermilion and a 5c value was introduced in a deep blue or indigo shade. This features General Zachary Taylor, the 12th President of the USA who was elected as a result of a popular victory in the Mexican American War.

These would be the last US stamps to be issued with grilles.

### The American Bank Note Company

In 1879, the Continental Bank Note company was absorbed into the American Bank Note Company, who continued to use

National printings of the three top values

the Continental plates for many of the stamps. Rather confusingly, they also used National Bank Note Company plates for the 10c as well as the 30c and 90c.

However, all American printings use a soft porous paper, which lacks the 'snap' of the earlier stamps when flicked. It also tends to leave loose fibres around the tips of the perforations, while the earlier printings are neater in this respect. If in doubt, compare with earlier and later issues. Any stamp from 1861 to 67 is on the hard paper. Any stamp from 1883-1889 is on the soft paper, as are the Columbians. The last of the banknotes will be the subject of a future article.

New 2c and 5c values appeared in June 1875

### Collecting the stamps

When these stamps were current, America was putting itself back together after the Civil War, the economy was expanding rapidly and print runs were colossal by European standards. National alone printed 1,033,000,000 copies of the 3c value without a grill and 172,000,000 with one. Quantities decrease as you go up the scale of values but remain substantial: National's figures for the 90c are 160,150 and 53,300 respectively. With such long runs, a basic collection should be easily affordable. For slightly scarcer items, US collectors can pay substantial premiums for good centring and a more relaxed attitude can save a lot of money. Meanwhile, beyond the basic issues lies a world of study and specialisation – into shades, papers, plates, printings and grilles.

'Fancy Cancells', hand-carved by postmasters in cork, were widely used for these stamps. And then there are usages, from the fast-expanding cities to farmsteads and one-horse towns.

Fortunately, there is a mass of information available online, plus the support of stamp clubs such as the US Philatelic Classics Society, based in the USA, which welcomes members from overseas, you can find them at [www.uspcs.org](http://www.uspcs.org).

*Many thanks to the US Philatelic Classics Society, Robert Siegel Auctions and Colnect.com for images and information used in this article.*





**SD.46 LUNDY ISLAND (SPECTACULAR ERROR)**

Spectacular error on Lundy Puffin 15p blue definitive perforation run through the stamp causing the word "Lundy" to be transposed from top to bottom of the stamp. A massive mis-perforation error ..... Price £3.50

**SD.47 LUNDY ISLAND (ERROR BLOCK)** As above but a superb unmounted mint block of six errors ..... Price £18

**DR8 THE RED BARON** First World War historic commemorative cover for the centenary of the death of Manfred Von Richthoven – German Flying Ace. Illustrated with iconic sepia picture of the "Red Baron" in uniform with Iron Cross. The cover bears Royal Mail WWI "Sopwith Camel" and early bi-plane tied to the cover with official Royal Air Force illustrated postmark 21/4/2018. Combined with German WWI stamp tied to the cover with purple German cross cachet. A rare aviation cover of which only 40 are known to exist.....Price £19

**ELV32 ELVIS PRESLEY** A hand-picked collection of Elvis Presley miniature sheets depicting the life of the singer from his days in the army through to his star-studded performances. Both the photographic and colourful, artistic representations of Elvis make a lovely memento and present for his worldwide fans. Includes scarcer issues which are not included in Stanley Gibbons catalogue. .... Price £18.50

**L0T K3 GREAT BRITAIN, COMMEMS & DEFINS. UNSORTED ACCUMULATION**

With stamps in blocks, multiples and singles. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pairs and miniature sheets. Well over 500 stamps, only unmounted mint.....Price £18

**SW86 SWITZERLAND** A great starter collection to build upon of fine used Swiss mainly commemorative stamps. 100 + All different ..... Price £7

**NE832 BRITISH LOCALS** A phenomenal and valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cain Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bemara Island, Staffa, Stroma, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles and miniature sheets. This important and valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The normal face value is well over £150 ..... Price £33

**MA92 GREAT BRITAIN RARE IMPERFORATE MACHIN STAMPS** ½p imperforate pair printed on thin paper, these were printed octagonal by special authority of the Post Office at Somerset House. Sought after and missing from most Machin stamp collections..... Price £2

**P8823 PAINTINGS** The rarities of the world's most famous art galleries at your fingertips. A superb collection of famous paintings on stamps, hundreds of different stamps plus miniature sheets .... Price £13.75

**SD.77 UNDERWATER POST OFFICE – POSTAL HISTORY** Cover posted near Hideaway Island under the sea at the world's only underwater Post Office. The cover bears the Vanuatu sea-bed stamp, tied to the cover with "Port Villa" divers. Postmark on official underwater P.O. cover ..... Price £7

**SC484 SCANDINAVIA** A fine collection of Scandinavian stamps including Denmark, Norway & Sweden, and fewer Iceland & Finland stamps. A nice 'starter lot' to build on..... Price £9.75

**CL5 CLEMENT ATTLEE** A scarce political cover commemorating the 70th anniversary of Clement Attlee becoming Prime Minister. Attlee won a landslide election victory in 1945 bringing the Labour party into power. The scarce cover depicts Clement Attlee in his World War I army uniform. The cover bears the official Royal Mail Attlee commemorative stamp issue with London 26/7/15 postmark. Only 50 of this scarce political cover are known to exist.....Price £19.25

**LUS3 RMS LUSITANIA** Special commemorative cover for the centenary of the sinking of the Lusitania. Only 100 covers in existence. Superbly illustrated for the tragic event that brought America into World War I. The cover bears a Royal Mail Navy Ensign stamp with the 7th May 2015 Lusitania illustrated Royal Mail Liverpool postmark.. Price £8.75

**M6 PRINCESS DIANA** Worldwide collection. Some 1981 Wedding Issues, also Prince William Birth, including scarcer sheetlets, V SCARCE GUTTER PAIR F.D.C.'s SIGNED BY THE DESIGNER (stamp designer) also various worldwide 1997 Princess Diana Memorial Issues. The whole collection .....Price £13

**GBX13 GREAT BRITAIN** Royal Mail presentation packs and illustrated First Day covers. Also unmounted mint commemoratives, definitives and miniature sheets. Not counting mint stamps, the presentation packs and First Day covers have a combined catalogue value of over £160 .....Price £41.25

**N-SH305 SUPER HEROES** A spectacular collection of super heroes on stamps including several issues for: Superman and Batman also includes Spiderman, X Men and the Incredible Hulk. Mostly unmounted mint stamps including several miniature sheets .....Price £19.75

**MI349 MALDIVE ISLANDS** An impressive stamp collection of only unmounted mint blocks of Maldivian Island Stamps. The collection is rich in thematic commemoratives. Several hundred mint Maldivian Islands stamps .....Price £16

**PM7 THERESA MAY** Scarce political cover issued for the appointment of Theresa May as Prime Minister. Depicting Theresa May outside 10 Downing Street, with Royal Mail Houses of Parliament commemorative stamp tied to the cover with illustrated special Royal Mail Postmark dated 13 July 2016. Less than 80 of these covers were ever issued .....Price £17

**DOM.23 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** Unusual investors group of Dominican miniature sheets. A duplicated group of unnm. mint better higher catalogue items, with a catalogue value of over £140. Also includes a small collection of Dominica stamps not counted in the £140 cat. value.....Price £25

**CAN.815 CANADA** An impressive collection of Canadian stamps. Dating back to Queen Victoria and following through to King George V and King George VI, but mostly more Queen Elizabeth II issues. Comprises over 400 different stamps .....Price £18.75

**SD.54 GREAT BRITAIN & BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PROOFS** Valuable specialised collection of G.B. and Brit. Commonwealth proofs & progressive proofs includes imperforate stamps and specimens all unmounted mint... Price £18

**SD.33 FALKLAND ISLANDS** Specialised & high collectable collection with mint and used. Includes F.D.C's Falkland Islands dependencies & South Georgia Price £17

**SJ120 MEDICAL** Stamps with specialised lot of Anti-TB and Red Cross stamps. Also Anti-Malaria stamps Red Cross STAMPS BACK TO THE 1940s or earlier up to more recent. With nursing, doctors and all forms of medicine. A most interesting subject rarely offered for sale ideal for anyone with some medical knowledge to form a valuable collection .... Price £7

**IN923 INDONESIA** Super collection of this popular S.E. Asian country dating back to 1945 to more modern with only unmounted mint in blocks & singles. The collection contains hundreds of mint Indonesia stamps..... Price £18

**HUTT4 HUTT RIVER PROVINCE** A lovely collection of unmounted mint stamps from the Hutt River Province. This collection includes complete mint sets including se-tenant pairs. Local issues from this Western Australian territory which claims to be an independent sovereign state, rarely offered for sale..... Price £16

**D30 GERMANY** An impressive specialised collection of Germany, with many unmounted mint and used stamps, dating back to older Bavaria and Wurtemberg issues also Germania stamps. Following on to inflation stamps (circa 1920s-1930s) on to World War II, Nazi issues includes Theresienstadt; (without guarantee – as is). On to Hitler issues; Croatia, Bohemia and Moravia, war stamps (genuine). Later issues for East and West Germany, includes postage dues elusive overprinted stamps with blocks and singles. Several hundred different German stamps Price £23

**FE188 INDIAN FEUDATORY STATES** An interesting reference collection of forgeries of the Indian Feudatory States. Victorian period includes imperforates and stamps printed on various white, coloured and buff papers. Noted: Simoor, Charkhari, Duttia, Fardikot, Indore, Rajpipla, Jammu & Kashmir, plus others. Also some stamps unlisted in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. If genuine the catalogue value would exceed £1000s (Thousands of Pounds) but these are being sold "as is" as forgeries. The collection also includes genuine Indian stamps from Queen Victoria to George VI..... Price £15

**SD.62 PHILIPPINE ISLANDS** Fantastic collection of Philippine stamps. Starts off with early Spanish colonial stamps of 1890's in superb unmounted mint blocks. Through to more recent used. A lovely collection.....Price £13.85

**WW1.3K WORLD WAR I LORD KITCHENER POSTAL HISTORY COVER** An special cover for the centenary of the Gibraltar Garrison, The Staffordshire Brigade served under Kitchener in the 2nd Sudanese War, then continued during World War I at the Garrison in Gibraltar. This scarce postal history cover bears a British WWI commemorative stamp with Lord Kitchener "Your Country Needs You" illustrated Royal Mail postmark. Unusually, the cover also bears a Gibraltar Garrison Centenary cachet in red. Only 100 cover were ever issued and many in Gibraltar collector's hands ..... Price £15

**LAB 4 HAROLD WILSON** Scarce GB mourning cover for British PM Harold Wilson. Arguably one of Labour's most famous leaders. The cover bears an official HW stamp and RM QEII stamp, officially postmarked 24th May 1995. Only 150 ever issued and rarely offered for sale ..... Price £16



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# Your expert guide to the world of philately



In May 1899 Middlesex played Somerset at Lord's. In the first innings, Somerset recovered from 8 for 8 to make 35 all out, Middlesex scored 86 all out. In their second innings Somerset reached 44 all out, giving victory to Middlesex by an innings and seven runs.



The Royal Philatelic Society London



Patron Her Majesty The Queen

President's Dinner

25 March 2017

The Long Room  
Lord's Cricket Ground  
St John's Wood  
London NW8 8QN

## ONLINE RESOURCES

The following videos and exhibits are still available on the [allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-festival](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-festival) website as part of the Summer of Stamps...

RPSL: GB 'Wilding' Queen Elizabeth II definitive issues 1952-1967 by Frank Walton. Discover much more about the Wildings definitive stamps, named after the photographer Dorothy Wilding, in this exclusive virtual exhibit from Frank Walton RDP FRPSL.

Treasures from the Tapling Collection. In this exclusive video, Richard Scott Morel FRPSL, Curator, British Library's Philatelic Collections, examines some of the many philatelic rarities held in the Tapling Collection.

Philatelic Exhibitions, Chris King (Royal Philatelic Society London). There is growing interest in the history of philately and in the extensive literature and philatelic ephemera, writes Chris King, as he provides an in-depth presentation of this fascinating philatelic subject.

Reply Paid Cards in International Mail. Eric Scherer's exhibit, provided courtesy of the Royal Philatelic Society London, aims to lead International Reply Cards out of their fringe existence in philately and enhance the common knowledge.

*Continued on page 50...*



## Treasures at The Royal Philatelic feasts

Contrary to the stereotypical image, philately is far from being a solitary pastime and many of us will have been missing the social aspect of the hobby during the last few months, writes Nicola Davies, Head of Collections at the Royal Philatelic Society London. Newcomers to the philatelic world may be pleasantly surprised to learn that good food and drink plays a central role in the enjoyment of the subject.

Those who have visited us at the Royal Philatelic Society London (either physically or virtually) will be aware of our substantial collection of exhibition medals and exhibition catalogues. What is perhaps less widely known about is our collection of philatelic ephemera. Not only is this comprised of commemorative and promotional items (such as pin badges, pens and bags- to name but a few), it also contains ephemeral items from the social events in philately, including an interesting collection of philatelic menus.

One of our favourite menus is the striking Menu

du Déjeuner from the opening lunch of The London Philatelic Exhibition, 19 May 1890. This exhibition was organised by the RPSL (then The Philatelic Society, London) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Penny Postage. It was held at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street.

Other menus in our collection include those from the dinners hosted by each RPSL President to celebrate their term in office. These menus often reflect the particular interests of that President, such as Frank Walton's RDP FRPSL cricket-themed dinner held at Lord's Cricket Ground in March 2017.

Finally, one of the most imaginative philatelic menus in our collection is from the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee Christmas lunch in 1975. The menu is folded inside a match box with a 13 pence stamp decorating the box.

These menus and other ephemeral items are an interesting record of the history of philately, which is increasingly becoming a topic of study in its own right. For more information about the Society's collections please visit [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk).

## INSIDE THE BRITISH LIBRARY PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS

# Chronicling Croatia

In this month's examination of the philatelic material held at the British Library, we look back on the donation of an impressive collection of Croatian stamps, which reveal the country's difficult modern history



1895. Official cover from Agram to Gorz, showing "AGRAM" cds



1918. 20 heller 'Freedom of Croatia'

**T**he Chismon Collection was donated to the British Library by Joe Chismon, whose father Harvey compiled a fascinating piece of Croatian history. The five albums contain material dating from 1838, but mainly comprise postage stamps from two of the country's most turbulent periods, between 1918 and 1919, and between 1941 and 1945.

The country has had a complex history and at times was a mere puppet state under the

control of other powers. Modern Croatian stamps are bright and eye catching. Older stamps, such as some of those in the Chismon collection, show periods when propaganda ruled the day. They also include proud leaders who, despite the grandiose images portrayed in the artwork, had no real power. Yet many of the stamp designs show incredibly powerful images, thanks to the visionary prowess of the talented artists.

In recent years Croatia has suffered terrible violence and untold atrocities to its people. Now the country, which sits between the Balkans, the Pannonian Plain, and the Mediterranean Sea, is back on its feet and forging links with Europe and the rest of the world.

Croatia in its present form is a relatively new country. Its history can certainly be rather confusing. In the early Middle Ages it was a monarchy, becoming part of Hungary in 1393. Thus it was part of the powerful Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1918 at the end of World War One, this Empire was broken up and Croatia became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. This was rather more conveniently renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929. During

World War Two the Germans occupied Croatia from 1941 to 1945. When the global conflict ended, Yugoslav partisans and Russian forces captured Croatia and it became part of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, under Martial Tito. Moving further on, after the demise of eastern European Communism and the rule of Tito, Croatia at last in 1991 became a free and independent nation again.

Croatia has borders with Slovenia and Hungary to the north, Serbia to the north east and Montenegro to the south east. Its southern and western flanks border the Adriatic Sea and form the Dalmatian coast. It has many fine seaside resorts which are gradually re-establishing themselves as popular holiday destinations.

For Harvey Chismon, the appeal of Croatia was not its beaches or rustic cuisine, but its philatelic output, which seemed manageable, with full sets available, but still engrossing. During a visit to the British Library, where his father's stamps now reside, son Joe described how Harvey's love of stamp collecting came about.

'When he was in his teens he collected Queen Elizabeth II stamps which instigated his



1919. 5 fillir 'Angel of Peace'





1919.5 fillir. Sailor with standard & falcon

love of philately for the rest of his life,' Joe explains. 'Although he found that British stamps limited the scope of his hobby, he was still buying new issues up until his death. There were particular elements that led him to his final choice of which country to collect. He wanted a lesser known country to specialise in, where complete sets were obtainable but still unusual. The other main consideration was



1919. Registered cover from Zagreb to Grimsby

cost. My mother, Esperanza, kept a careful hold on the purse strings so Dad knew he could not push the financial boundaries too far.'

Joe's Spanish mother had met Harvey in Portugal, where he was working as a cartographer in Lisbon. Once romance had blossomed, Esperanza realised that she was going to have to share her new husband's attention with stamps. 'Although they were of no interest to my mother she knew how much he loved collecting,' Joe says. 'So much so that she once jokingly told him "if you are ever unfaithful to me I shall take all your stamps, lick the and stick them on the wall!"'

Like the partners of many collectors, Mrs Chismon was mystified at the delight in dirty bits of coloured paper that someone else has licked, yet she must surely have admired her husband's dedication to the subject.

'Part of what developed my father's interest in Croatia was a book he read called Eastern Approaches,' Joe continues. 'This was written by Fitzroy McLean who was Churchill's representative to Tito. One particular chapter explained the then situation in The Balkans, which was the spark that set off his enthusiasm for Croatia. Out of interest McLean was a larger than life character who was posted to the Foreign Office in Moscow. He met up with Sterling and they went on to found the SAS.'

During the 1980s, Harvey's enthusiasm for stamps grew stronger each day, and while working at Madrid University, he could often be found at the stamp market in the Plaza Mayor. 'He loved strolling through the market searching for new additions to his

Croatia collecting,' Joe says. 'I suspect only other collectors will understand the joy it gave him. He carried on looking for missing items right up until ill health from cancer stopped him. When he died he left everything to my mother except his stamp collections and his desk. Often inspiration comes from nowhere and I suddenly thought it would be a great idea to donate his Croatia albums to The British Library. I am sure it is what my father would have wanted. There is now a marvellous historic record of Croatia in the public domain. Not only will it be available for current and future generations to view an excellent record of that period in history it will always keep my father's name alive.'

Dedicated collectors will always worry about what will happen to their beloved collection once they are gone. Splitting a collection up for an auction at least gives new collectors a chance to obtain a treasure or two, but many of us would like to think our albums will stay together, allowing like-minded enthusiasts the chance to hear the story behind the stamps. By donating the collection to the British Library Harvey's family ensured that his work will be appreciated by many more people. No wonder Joe describes the donation process as 'cathartic'.

The style and design of the stamps in the collection are heavily influenced by politics and propaganda, and clearly demonstrate how important the philatelic offerings of a country are to its national pride. Sometimes it takes the hard work of collectors such as Harvey Chismon to remind us all of the important role stamps can play in our lives.



Newspaper wrapper from Zagreb to Bohemia-Moravia with censor of the Geheime Staatspolizie – the Gestapo



## COLLECTING USA STAMPS

# Shooting for the stars

To coincide with our focus on stamps issued in the USA, Scott R. Trepel, president of Siegel Auction Galleries, provide an in-depth guide to forming a high quality US collection

I love rare vintage Red Burgundy wines, but I do not drink them, unless of course the other guy is paying. Maybe if I had joined Computer Club instead of Stamp Club, the course of my life would be different, and I could indulge in fine Burgundy at \$10,000 a bottle without thinking twice. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, that is not how things worked out. It is the same in stamps. There is no point trying to build a complete US stamp collection, including all of the grills, Special Printings, inverts and other rarities, without the many millions of dollars it requires. A goal and the money it takes to achieve that goal must be in accord. I have helped quite a few new collectors figure out the right approach for them, and the discussion always begins with a candid assessment of financial commitment. Even if someone has the net worth to acquire the rarest stamps, if the mind is unwilling, then the quest will be fruitless. To illustrate my point, I will relay a story told to me by Bob Siegel about Stephen Bechtel Sr., who retired from the Bechtel Corporation in 1960 at the age of sixty. Mr. Bechtel was one of the world's wealthiest men. He was also a stamp collector and a client of the Siegel firm and the Weills until his death in 1989. As the story was told to me, Mr. Bechtel informed Siegel and Weill that he could afford to buy any stamp he wanted at any price, but that would take all of the fun out

of it. So, he set a ceiling on the price of any stamp he purchased, Scott value, and he would never go beyond that number. That was a billionaire's way of applying financial reality – in this case, virtually unlimited buying power – to his collecting strategy, in order to maximize enjoyment. The Bechtel scenario is unusual, to say the least. The more typical challenge is creating a realistic collecting strategy that aligns with the limitations of financial capability or commitment. To enjoy stamp collecting, the collector must be able and willing to buy the stamps he wants.

### How much money does it take?

A fair question. I can answer with rough estimates, based on the collections I have helped clients assemble and sell. A basic Scott U.S. National album, with spaces for regular and commemorative stamps issued from 1847 to the 1930s (at this point, stamps become very common and cheap, except for errors), excluding the rarest grills,

\$4 Columbian (Scott 244), Mint NH, graded XF 90 by PSE. Sold in 2015 for \$18,975

Special Printings and errors, can be filled with well-centred (Very Fine) sound stamps with previously-hinged original gum for about \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. The same stamps in Extremely Fine condition (graded 85 and above) would cost approximately three to four times as much. These values are for single stamps, not blocks, except for coils, which are usually collected in pairs or line pairs. In used condition, the same collection in sound Very Fine quality would require \$300,000 to \$400,000, and if Extremely Fine (graded 85+), a similar three to four multiplier would apply. The rarest grilled issues – listed in the Scott Catalogue as numbers 80, 81, 82, 85A, 85D and 85F – are very difficult to value, because they infrequently appear at auction. However, just based on past realisations, those six stamps alone would bring approximately \$5 million. The Bank Note Special Printings (Scott 167-181, 192-204, 205C, 211D) were sold without gum and are generally only found in unused condition. The Scott value for the whole set is more than \$1.6 million, and even with reduced prices for typical centring and condition problems, it would add at least another million dollars to the budget. A set of the finest-quality Special Printings would probably bring more than \$2 million. The major Invert errors are among the world's most desirable stamps, and serious collectors usually make them a priority. The 1869 Pictorial Inverts exist in both used and unused, but





the unused examples are exceedingly rare (only three of the 15¢ and 24¢ values are available to collectors). An unused set has a value of more than \$2 million. Used examples can be bought for \$60,000 to \$80,000 in typical condition, but sound Extremely Fine examples would cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000. Thus, a basic U.S. stamp collection can cost anywhere from \$300,000 to more than \$10 million. This is why a collector must first determine a personal level of commitment.

Falling down becomes a lot harder as we get older and more cautious. Watching little kids play is a lesson in life. They trip, bang into each other, tumble and fall. They get right back up and brush off the dirt, then play some more. In my twenties and even into my thirties, I could play touch football and hit the dirt. Then it started hurting more, and I began to dislike falling. If it happened – on an icy path, for example – it was very unpleasant. I have not reached the hip-fracturing age, but my dislike of falling has escalated into near fear. I see myself lying on the kitchen floor, calling out ‘help me, help me, I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.’ Falling has a mental equivalent: making mistakes, getting ripped off, and misjudging character. As we go through life, the minor injustices and others’ misdeeds have a cumulative effect. We are more cautious and wary, less likely to take the risk of trying something new, and fearful of looking stupid if we make a mistake or if someone gets the better of us. Even though the financial consequence of a mistake might represent a much smaller fraction of our net worth than it would have when we were young, we treat the possibility of loss as though we might be down to our last dollar. The risk side of the risk/reward ratio blows up out of all proportion. We simply hate to fall. In the collecting world – stamps, coins, art, anything – the potential for making mistakes or getting ripped off is huge. The only thing that comes close is home renovation. Ever since the guy who installed a new deck at my house completely and utterly cheated me, I have been loathe to have anything to do with home builders. (Thus, the reason for my home’s terrible state of disrepair.) There are two types of mistakes in collecting: one is an error of acquisition, and the other is a

## Eminent Philatelists

# Philip Ferrari de La Renotière

(1850–1917)

**H**ere’s a confession. In putting this series of articles together, I’ve been looking forward to this one in particular, writes Devlan Kruck. And being candid I wanted to call this ‘The Philatelic King’, but the trouble is, as you well know, there are a number of ‘proper’ kings who are legendary collectors, not least King George V who will feature in his own article later in this series.

So, with a heavy heart, an all-time stamp hero has been renamed ‘The Duke’. It’s not so bad; duke literally means ‘leader’, a word derived from the French ‘Duc’, and as you’re about to discover, regardless of a title, Philip Ferrari de La Renotière, known simply as ‘Ferrary’ in the philatelic world, is top of the list. Let’s put it this way; Ferrary formed The Greatest Collection Ever. Full stop!

He was the first philatelist to assemble ‘all’ the world’s rarities complete. No one has done it since, and being candid, no-one will ever do it again. So you see, Ferrary is the first and foremost philatelic collector of all time, and will never be toppled.

As you’d expect, he was a wealthy guy, inheriting 120,000,000 French Francs (£5 million), and living in what is now the French Prime Ministers residence; Hôtel Matignon in Paris, he wasted no time in getting to work on amassing a mouthwatering array of philatelic gems.

As well as acquiring the famous British Guiana 1856 1c Black on Magenta, which he bought in 1878 for £150, and we all know sold in 2014 for over USD \$9.4m, his extremely rare stamps also featured the unique ‘Treskilling Yellow’ of Sweden which he paid 4,000 Austro-Hungarian gulden and which sold at a David Feldman auction in 1996 for a staggering 2,875,000 CHF (approximately £2,420,511).

He also owned the stamp that people would kill to own, the only unused example of the 1851 2c Hawaii Missionary; its one-time owner Gaston Leroux was literally murdered for the stamp by a fellow collector. I could go on, the list of stamp rarities is almost endless, but the real story here is what happened to his collection after his death in 1917.

It had been Ferrary’s intention in his will of 1915, to bequeathed it to ‘the German nation’ for display in the Postmuseum in Berlin. But the First World War intervened and being an Austrian citizen in France he fled to Switzerland, where he died in 1917, leaving his collection behind in France. After the war the French government confiscated his collection, claiming it as a war reparation.

Ferrary’s collection was so large it took five years and fourteen sales to sell off. It was auctioned off between 1921 and 1926, raised 30 million French Francs, and resulted in his

collection being dispersed around the world to many individual philatelists; quite literally scattered. Hence the reason why we will never see such a collection formed again. Ironical, given that Ferrary’s wish was that his collection would be kept intact and be shared for all to appreciate after his death.

Next month our famous collector is Englishman Thomas Tapling. You’ll be surprised to learn why he was the inspiration for our Duke Ferrary.

*Devlan Kruck is a regional representative of David Feldman International Auctioneers ([www.davidfeldman.com](http://www.davidfeldman.com))*



## ONLINE RESOURCES

The following videos and exhibits are still available on the [allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-festival](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-festival) website as part of the Summer of Stamps...

Searching the APRL's Online Philatelic Union Catalogue. APS Director of Information Service, Scott Tiffney, shares some tips and tricks on searching the Online Philatelic Union Catalogue, which forms part of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL).

The Stamps of Pierre Bequet. This fifteen-page display of the work of French stamp designer Pierre Becquet, presented by David Roseveare, highlights his precise engraving of designs for many of the issues of the French Antarctic Territories.

Tristan da Cunha and the Reverend Harold Wilde. In the first of three special articles on Tristan da Cunha, Neil Donen and Gary Wayne Loew look at the Reverend Harold Wilde and his influence on the life on one of the remotest places on earth.

Migration on USA postage stamps. In this exclusive video, Richard Scott Morel FRPSL, Curator, British Library's Philatelic Collections, examines USA postage stamps that reflect the theme of migration.

Ways to collect Olympics and Sports. Discover more about collecting sport and Olympic-related stamps with this one-frame exhibit from the Sports Philatelists International society.



missed opportunity. I'll just talk about errors of acquisition, because they are more likely to cost you money and make you feel like you have fallen hard. Missed opportunities are the regrets of advanced collectors.

### Fake or Fortune and The Price is Right

An error of acquisition is a bad stamp, a bad price, or both. In stamps, as in life, if a deal looks too good to be true, it ain't. Sub-par stamps are everywhere. If accurately described by the seller – centring grade, gum condition if unused, faults or alterations fully disclosed – there is nothing wrong with a sub-par stamp. In fact, if a collector wants to stretch a budget, filling an

\$2.60 Graf Zeppelin (Scott C15), Mint NH, certified Superb 98 by PSE. Sold in 2014 for \$3,687

*With thanks to Andrew Titley and Scott R Trepel of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries ([www.SiegelAuctions.com](http://www.SiegelAuctions.com))*

5c 1847 Issue (Scott 1), part original gum, graded XF-Superb 95 by PSE. Sold in 2015 for \$20,700

album with this kind of stamp is one approach. Sometimes a stamp's centring is just shy of a higher grade level, or a tiny flaw knocks it out of the sound category. The price can drop significantly for such as stamp, just as a G-colour VVS diamond will sell for much less than a D Flawless stone. Therein lies the potential for error (or fraud). An unscrupulous seller who sells Very Fine as Extremely Fine, or hides the fact that a stamp has a thin or has been reperfed or regummed, can turn a \$500 stamp into a \$2,500 stamp. That is every beginning collector's nightmare: buying something that is not properly and accurately represented. Thanks to certification services like The Philatelic Foundation (PF) and Professional Stamp Experts (PSE), collectors have the means to protect themselves against misrepresentation most of the time. If a stamp has a certificate dated within the past ten years, then most condition factors affecting the value will be described in the opinion. Not all, but most. It is important to make sure the certificate is an original, not a copy, and that the photograph on the certificate matches the stamp. As for price, there are three sources: the Scott Catalogue for relative values, Stamp Market Quarterly (published by PSE) for graded stamps, and the Siegel firm's online POWER SEARCH, which allows you to see what actual stamps have brought in Siegel auctions (by Scott number, condition, grade). There is no easy way to learn about values, but these sources are a start. Just remember that you will fall sometimes. It is inevitable. The key is playing the game without letting your fear of making a mistake get in the way.



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## A-Z THEMATICS

# A zesty collection!

There's a well known saying: if life gives you lemons, make lemon juice.

It's the sort of platitude that's often thrown around in an attempt to encourage positivity and a 'can-do' attitude but, when it comes to philately, there's no need for faux optimism. Lemons may be hard to swallow, but a lemon-themed collection is indeed a sweet thing, writes Paula Hammond

Lemons are one of the few citrus fruits that are rarely eaten straight from the fruit bowl. Instead they're appreciated for their medicinal qualities, their high levels of vitamin C in particular, and as a flavoursome cooking ingredient.

Originally grown in southern Asia, the humble lemon is now found in Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Antipodes. And, if proof of their enduring popularity was needed, two of the world's top lemon producers, China and Italy, love lemons so much, they don't export any of their crop!

A good starting point for such a fruity thematic are nations that grow and export lemons and a nice addition to any collection would be the USA's 2018 Meyer Lemon stamp. Meyer Lemons are actually a cross between a lemon and a mandarin, and are only available seasonally, making them popular additions to winter dishes. Despite the fact that lemons don't grow well in the UK, they also made an appearance on the fun 2003 self-adhesive fruit and vegetable stamps. The USPS's 2020 Forever Stamp booklet also includes lemons in a set that commemorates the beauty of still-life paintings with 10 different portraits of fruits and vegetables.



Collectors interested in unusual issues might like to look out for New Zealand's Pete's Post. Pete's was a once independent carrier and they make extra revenue selling the front of stamps to advertisers. Their 2006 45c stamp featured a lemon.

Strawberries may grow in the Arctic, but lemons don't. However, should you want to include all seven continents in your lemon thematic, then the British Antarctic Territory's Marine Invertebrates 2007 release has you covered. The stamp featured a sea lemon, which is species of colourful sea snails.

In fact, for those looking to stretch the theme a little, there's plenty of wriggle-room. Costa Rica's 2006 Indigenous Fruit stamps featured a jorco, which is a type of monkey fruit, known colloquially as a lemon-drop mangosteen. New Zealand's 1998 Town Icons ten-stamp sheetlet is a bright and breezy issue

which includes a 40c bottle of lemon and paeroa mineral water. San Marino's 1967 release showed a lemon daylily. The Netherlands' 2004 semi-postal included an anthropomorphic lemon using a skipping rope. While the 2010 ANZAC Remembrance 50-cent stamps included the silhouette of a soldier wearing a 'lemon squeezer' hat.



## L IS FOR LEMONS

### Why collect?

- Natural links to horticulture, flora and fauna themes.
- National issues celebrate lemon production, processing, and exports.
- Interesting and colourful issues.
- Great for displays.
- Plenty of scope for interpretation of the theme.

### Notable releases

2003, UK, fruit and vegetables self-adhesives inc. Smilers.  
2004, Netherlands, children's semi-postal.  
2006, New Zealand's Pete's Post, lemon advertising issue.  
2018, USA, Meyer Lemon stamp.  
2020, USA, fruit and vegetable still-life booklet.

### Expand the theme

Flora makes a perfect expansion to this thematic, especially as many lemon stamps are released as part of larger fruit and vegetable issues.

### Collecting links

Julia Trickey has illustrated three sets of pictorial stamps featuring the flora of Great Britain for the Royal Mail's Post & Go series. This is chronicled in the lovely *Plant Portraits by Post* published by Two Rivers Press (ISBN: 1909747076).



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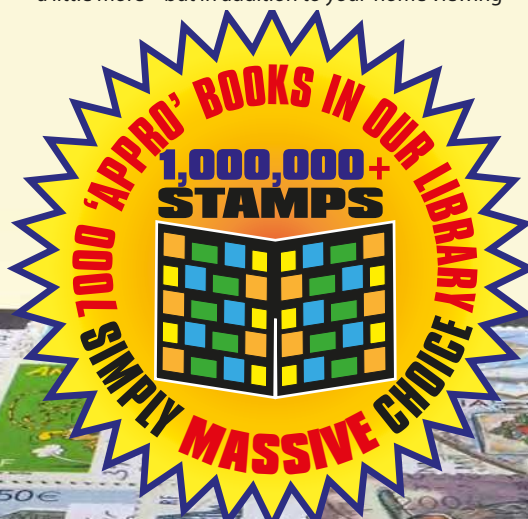
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## THEMATICS

# *Journey to the New World*



Stamps and covers can provide an intriguing account of the story of the journey of the three-masted sailing ship known as *The Mayflower*, which carried settlers to the New World in 1620, as this presentation from the Plymouth Philatelic Society demonstrates

It was intended that two ships would travel together; *The Speedwell* from Holland and *The Mayflower* from Rotherhithe in London. Their Charter, permitting the passengers to leave the country and to set up a new plantation in the British colony of Virginia, had been granted by the King, James I of England, also known as James VI of Scotland. The journey was funded by the Virginia Company, which had offices in London and Plymouth.

*The Speedwell* sailed from Delfshaven, with passengers who had come from Leiden. On board were William Bradford, Myles Standish and over fifty more Separatists.

*The Mayflower* sailed from London. On board were the Captain Christopher Jones, Governor John Carver, and over sixty others. At Southampton, more adventurers joined *The Mayflower* including Stephen Hopkins, who had previously visited Jamestown VA. Both ships sailed together from Southampton







on 5 August 1520.

*The Speedwell* started leaking, so both ships put in to Dartmouth, to seek repairs. Once they were able to continue their epic journey, both ships sailed together from Dartmouth on 2 September 1620, but there was another false start. Though well past Land's End, the two ships were forced to return to Plymouth to make more repairs to the leaking *Speedwell*, but she was deemed to be no longer seaworthy. Following the news, 102 passengers boarded *The Mayflower* and it sailed from Plymouth on 6 September 1620.

With over 100 passengers crammed into the middle deck, the conditions could hardly have been pleasant. There were also said to be two dogs on board, and perhaps some chickens and goats. The crew of about thirty stayed on the top decks.

Little was recorded about the rough sea journey across the Atlantic. According to accounts, one of the crew was exceptionally unpleasant and



The story of the *Mayflower's* journey across the Atlantic has been recounted on a variety of stamps, but the 47p value above was actually part of a set celebrating pub names



rude to the passengers, threatening to throw them overboard. William Bradford recorded that 'It pleased God to smite him with a disease' and the un-named sailor died and was thrown overboard himself.

Another tale to have survived the four centuries of time since the historic journey involves passenger John Howland. Having fallen overboard into the unwelcoming waters, John grabbed a rope and was eventually hauled back on board to safety. He went on to father ten children and today around two million Americans claim to be descended from him. Another notable event was the birth of a baby boy, who was named Oceanus by his proud parents Elizabeth and Stephen Hopkins.

After enduring 66 days at sea, land was eventually sighted, but the ship was about 500 miles north-east of Virginia. The crew dropped anchor near today's Provincetown in Cape Cod on 11 November 1520. Having realised that they were on their own, a Social Contract was signed by 41 Heads of Household, called The



Mayflower Compact. Today, this is regarded as America's equivalent of the Magna Carta.

Just three days before land was sighted, William Button died at sea. Whilst at anchor, Peregrine White was born, and another four passengers sadly passed away.

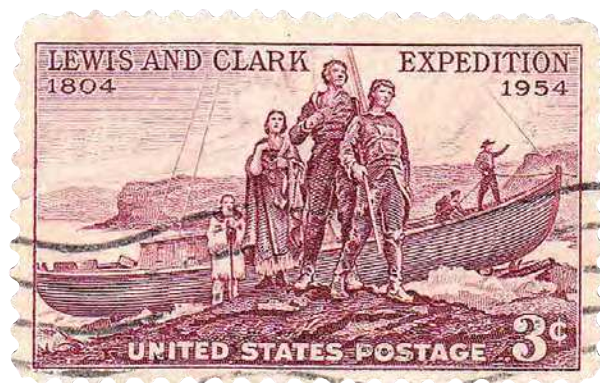
They decided to move across the bay, to the area that had been named Plymouth by Prince Charles (later King Charles I) on Captain Smith's 1614 map. They anchored in Plymouth harbour on 16 December 1620.

The first landing party went on shore on which had been the home of the Patuxet. *The Mayflower* stayed until 5 April 1621 before arriving back in England on 6 May.

In 1957, a replica sailing ship re-enacted the original voyage, sailing from Plymouth, Devon to Plymouth, Massachusetts, where it remains in the harbour. The ship had been built in Brixham Devon, based on known designs of 17th-century ships.







## USA STAMPS

# *The Native American Experience*

The Mayflower 400 anniversary is being marked with a series of events and exhibitions as we look back to the arrival of the Pilgrims, but the story is almost always told through the eyes of the passengers, with little coverage given to the Native Americans who watched these strangers arrive on their shores

As the Mayflower 400 website ([www.mayflower400uk.org](http://www.mayflower400uk.org)) explains: 'this particular vessel and the people on board would have far and long-lasting consequences for their future and legacy... The history of Native American people is often charted from first contact with Europeans, beginning in 1492 with the arrival of Christopher Columbus, but there are aeons of history that stretch back centuries before that period.' In fact, the history of the Wampanoag Tribe that inhabited

the New England area stretches back around 12,000 years.

So how has philately treated the subject? From the previous pages we can see how the journey of the Pilgrims has been recalled on a variety of stamps, but for stamps celebrating Native American life and culture we have to turn to the stamps of the USA. According to an exhibition at the USA's National Postal Museum, stamps depict many aspects of Native American life, including Leadership; Native American life, and Native American Arts and Traditions. Here we will profile the stamps that reflect leadership.

The story of both Pocahontas and Sacagawea are well known in the USA, but the more difficult aspects of their lives are often avoided



### Profiles in leadership

Historic Native American leaders honoured on postage stamps, exemplify a wide range of reaction to the radical confrontations that would drastically affect the traditions and culture of their peoples. Some chose resistance and war; others chose a path of adaptation and accommodation to a new way of life. In all cases, these leaders of nations were elder representatives of huge extended families, and their commitment to future generations was paramount.

### Pocahontas

Pocahontas was the daughter of Powhatan (Wahunsenacawh),





powerful chief of thirty confederated tribes of Algonquian people of the Virginia Tidewater region. In the early 1600s she became a respected intermediary between her nation and the English colonists. Pocahontas was 'the instrument to pursue this colony from death, famine, and utter confusion,' according to English pioneer John Smith.

But her story is not so simple – indeed Pocahontas wasn't even her real name – and in recent years has been reassessed, not least due to the release of a Disney film telling the story. Speaking to the *Smithsonian Magazine*, Camilla Townsend, author of *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*, argued that the story had become distorted to serve the needs of modern America: 'The idea is that this is a 'good Indian'... She admires the white man, admires Christianity, admires the culture, wants to have peace with these people, is willing to live with these people rather than her own people, marry him rather than one of her own. That whole idea makes people in white American culture feel good about our history.'

Pocahontas married successful tobacco grower and exporter John Rolfe, and died at age 22 while returning from a diplomatic mission to England. She was depicted on a stamp issued as part of the Jamestown Exposition Issue commemorating the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown, Virginia, settlement by English colonists, and is based on an engraving by Simon Van de Passe in *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*, written by Captain John Smith in 1624. It was issued in May 1907.



The Great Americans series of definitive stamps was issued by the United States Postal Service between 1980 and 1999 and was the first definitive series to include stamps devoted to Native Americans: Red Cloud (10c), Crazy Horse (13c), Sequoyia (19c) and Sitting Bull (28c). Out of over sixty stamps issued in the series over the years, only one African-American was featured: Nobel Peace Prize winner Ralph Bunche

### Sacagawea

Similarly, the story of Sacagawea has stretched the truth over the years. The tale goes that, focused by her mission to reunite with her birth family at her ancestral Shoshone home, she led the 1804 Lewis and Clark expedition 1,000 miles over the major portion of its trek across the Rocky Mountains, down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. Much of this is true, but what is often omitted is that Sacagawea was kidnapped as a child and sold to a French Canadian when she was just thirteen years old.

She is today renowned for being hardy, resourceful and keenly aware of her indigenous geography; her presence served not only to calm the potential for war with the tribal nations along the way, but to secure the lives of her non-Native companions in negotiations for supplies and safety.

She has been depicted on several stamps, including a 1954 design marking the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark (and Sacagawea) expedition. Meanwhile, the Legends of the West stamps of 1994 featured a value depicting Sacagawea, and the set was the first in the Classic Collection series that featured broadly defined, Americana-based themes. The twenty-stamp sheet portrays sixteen individuals.

### Sequoyah

A skilled silversmith without a formal education, Sequoyah is said to have understood the importance of the written word or 'talking leaves' of the non-Native settlers, and set out to devise a method of writing using 85 symbols to represent all the vowel and consonant sounds that formed the Cherokee language.

Sequoyah's syllabary was completed around 1821 and brought written literacy to the Cherokee people. It was used to publish books, newspapers, hymnals, and hand bills. Tsa la gi Tsu lehisununhi or The Cherokee Phoenix, made possible through the innovation of the syllabary, became the first Native American newspaper in 1828.

The 1980 Sequoyah stamp was the first issue in the Great Americans series. The stamp image is based on a full-colour portrait of Sequoyah, painted in 1965 by Charles Banks Wilson, that hangs in the Oklahoma state capital.

### The Trail of Tears

The Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, Cherokee and Seminole peoples became known by non-Natives as 'The Five Civilized Tribes' after making every effort to adapt to the ways requested by their treaties - establishing courts and a formalized code of laws, and constructing schools and churches. Issued in October 1948

Nevertheless, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act into law in 1830, intending to open up Indian land for settlement by European migrants. Their lands now appropriated, the five tribes were forcibly relocated to 'Indian Country,' today's Oklahoma, their long walk known as The Trail of Tears. Amid the unjust conditions they had endured, these Southeastern peoples retained their resolve to resettle as sovereign tribal nations, to establish themselves on new homelands and to continue their traditions and cultures.

As recently as July this year, the US Supreme Court ruled that around half of Oklahoma belongs to Native Americans, in a landmark case which demonstrates how the struggles

This 14c stamp portrayed Chief Hollow Horn Bear but only referred to him as 'American Indian'





between Native Americans and European 'settlers' continue.

### The Paths of Great Sioux Leaders

A flood of American settlers was moving west over the Plains by 1866. Red Cloud fought a war to keep the wagon trains from trespassing on Oglala lands and destroying the buffalo herds, forcing the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, which was to guarantee the Lakota possession of their lands forever. The treaty was broken and his people were forced onto the Pine Ridge Reservation. Red Cloud now envisioned that the route to survival and prosperity for his people was education. He petitioned Washington DC for a mission school where the Lakota youth would be equipped to walk equally in both the Lakota and white man's worlds. A school continues in Pine Ridge as the Red Cloud Indian School, enhanced today by other educational institutions such as the Oglala Lakota College.

Part of the Great Americans series of 1987, the stamp depicting Red Cloud was designed by Robert D. Anderson based on photographs in the Smithsonian Institution collection.

### Crazy Horse

Tireless in his passion to thwart American military efforts intent on the confinement of the Lakota to reservations, the name Teshunke Witko remains a symbol of national

pride and resistance among the Sioux people. A superb military tactician in his own right, Crazy Horse played a major role in the defeat of General George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. 'My lands,' he said, 'are where my people lie buried,' and 'One does not sell the earth upon which the people walk.' Crazy Horse chose to continue fighting after other chiefs such as Red Cloud and American Horse had chosen to seek peace with the United States. He was fatally bayoneted by a U.S. soldier while resisting his own confinement.

There are no authenticated photographs of Crazy Horse, but he was depicted on a 13c stamp in 1982. Stamp designer Brad Holland based his portrait on studies by Korczak Ziolkowski for his enormous sculpture of Crazy Horse in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

### Sitting Bull'

Tatanka Iyotaka, or a large bull buffalo at rest, remained resistant to takeover until his death, and was to be the last chief to surrender his rifle. Like Crazy Horse, he served as a combined military, spiritual and political leader, standing firm against land intrusion by those who would talk peace and not guarantee it. At the Battle of the Little Big Horn against General Custer, his spiritual vision of victory was powerful enough to inspire his warriors to succeed. When famine forced him finally to deliver himself and his band

Native American traditions and art have been featured on many US stamps. These stamps were issued in a booklet in 1990. Under USA law, the eagle feather is now exclusively used by Native American people, and only for cultural and religious purposes

into the hands of the United States Army, he still refused to sell his land. Today, once again inspired by the visionary hope of their leader, Sitting Bull College has as its motto that of the great Hunkpapa leader: 'Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.'

Part of the 1989 Great Americans series, the stamp portrait of Sitting Bull was designed by Robert D. Anderson and based on photographs from the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution.

### Hollow Horn Bear

Hollow Horn Bear fought for his treaty rights at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. A well-recognised speaker for his people, representing them at treaty negotiations, he was a steadfast negotiator for peace in the face of overwhelming force. 'You talk to us very sweet, but you do not mean it. You have not fulfilled any of the old treaties,' he said. He was also chosen to represent his people in negotiations with General George Crook at Rosebud Agency, South Dakota. He travelled to Washington, D.C. in 1905 to take part in President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration as representative of his people, and walked in the Woodrow Wilson inaugural parade in 1913. His great appeal as a representative of a Native American nations resulted in his likeness also appearing on a 14c stamp (the first issued with that denomination) and a \$5 bill.



### Signal of Leadership

The Assiniboine headdress, circa 1920, was crafted from felt and wool. Large strips of ermine hang from both sides.

The principal component of Plains and Plateau headdresses is the eagle feather. As 'the one which flies highest,' the eagle is considered a main mediator for humans with the



blue sky of the Great Mystery.

A man gained an eagle feather for a feat of valour or great generosity. A many-feathered headdress indicated an individual of superlative leadership.

The headdresses depicted on these stamps contain eagle and hawk feathers, beads, strips of animal fur, and horsehair. Under U.S. law today, the eagle feather is exclusively used by Native American people, and only for cultural and religious purposes.

Five Native American headdresses are featured in a booklet of commemorative stamps, the first in the American Folk Art series to be printed in booklets, and the first to feature more than four designs. The stamps were designed by Lunda Hoyle Gill of Riverside, California. They were issued in August 1990.

### Geronimo

A most combative Apache leader, Geronimo resisted all government attempts to confine his people to reservations. 'I was born on the prairies where the wind blew free and there was nothing to break the light of the sun. I was born where there were no enclosures.' A masterful warrior-chief, he fought Anglo-American and Mexican encroachment for thirty years, and suffered exile as a prisoner of war to a Florida jail, later to a guarded area in Alabama, and finally returned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Much of Geronimo's military prowess was attributed to spiritual knowledge, partly expressed in his autobiography: 'When a child, my mother taught me to kneel and pray to Usen for strength, health, wisdom and protection.'

The 1994 Legends of the West' series included this 29¢ value showing Geronimo



### Chief Joseph (Hin-mah-too-yah-lat-kekt)

Although he opposed war, he was drawn into it and, even in retreat from forced relocation, fought a heroic 1400-mile running battle from his homeland in present-day Oregon, to near the Canadian border before laying down his weapons and vowing to 'fight no more forever.'

Chief Joseph stood for a natural connection to his peoples' land. His spiritual depth is revealed in his famous phrase: 'The Earth and myself are of one mind.' At treaty councils he often recalled his people's assistance to the Lewis and Clark expedition and simply requested justice: 'We only ask an even chance to live as other men live. We ask to be recognized as men. We ask that the same law shall work alike on all men.' The Nez Perce or Nimi'ipuu are still working to regain lands reserved in their 1855 Treaty.

He appeared on a 6-cent Cyrenius Hall 'Chief Joseph' stamp.

### The White Cloud (Mew-hu-she-kaw)

By 1900, Euro-American settlers had claimed nearly all of Iowa's 36 million acres as farmland. The original Iowa people had signed treaties to accommodate the expansion and had been relocated to a small reservation in southeast Nebraska where they became increasingly impoverished. Mew-hu-she-haw, inheriting the leadership skills of his father, decided to raise funds by touring with other Ioway in London in 1844-45, meeting with British dignitaries. While there, the entourage

dressed in formal regalia and were engaged by George Catlin to perform in his studio and elsewhere for donations, part of which was donated to European hospitals. White Cloud was awarded a gold medal by the king. 'The Americans have been long trying to civilize us, and we now begin to see the advantages of it, and hope the Government of the United States will do us some good,' White Cloud said. Today, the tribal headquarters of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska is located on reservation lands west of White Cloud, Kansas.

The Four Centuries of American Art sheet of twenty stamps was issued in August 1998 in Santa Clara, CA. One of the stamps features the 1844/1845 The White Cloud, Head Chief of the Iowas painting by George Catlin currently in the Paul Mellon Collection at the National Gallery of Art.

### Reassessing our history

The Black Lives Matter campaign has taught us to reassess our history and ensure each side of the story is told, as we fight to abolish racism from all aspects of our lives. Whether these and other stamps depicting Native Americans tell the whole story or simply a diluted version is a matter of debate, but these stamps at least add to the story of the Mayflower and provide an introduction to a part of world history that demands more attention.

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# Summer of STAMPS

## ALL ABOUT STAMPS COMPETITION 2020



The inaugural All About Stamps Competition formed part of the Summer of Stamps Virtual Festival and has been hugely popular with collectors around the world.

Supported by the ABPS, the competition challenged collectors to produce a one-page entry on a subject of their choice, with the overall winner set to receive the All About Stamps Medal. At the time of going to print, the final results are being decided, so be sure to check online at [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk) to view each entry and find out which one-page display came first.

The idea of the competition was simple; we want to give collectors everywhere the chance to share their material and knowledge, whether they were new to exhibiting or an experienced competitor. Philatelists around the world regularly enter competitions, often of eight or even sixteen frames – that's pages upon pages of philatelic material and knowledge. To keep things a little simpler and to encourage everyone to enter, the All About Stamps Competition asked for just one page. The number of entries, the varied topics, and the quality of the material was fantastic. We're so proud to present highlights here. Thank you to everyone who took part.

See many more at [allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://allaboutstamps.co.uk)

As the Summer of Stamps virtual festival comes to a close, and the results of the All About Stamps Competition are decided, we take a look at some of the highlights of the one-page philatelic challenge

### THE SAD STORY OF NURSE ALBINE PECHA A PARABLE FOR TODAY

The inscription on the picture-side of this privately-illustrated postal-stationery card reads: "*Andenken der Wienerin Pestträgerin, die Wärterin Albina Pecha, 1898.*" (In memory of the Viennese plague-victim, nurse Albine Pecha, 1898).

Albine Pecha (4 May 1877 to 31 October 1898) worked as a nurse at the Kaiser Franz Joseph Hospital in Vienna where she assisted the scientist Hermann Nothnagel. A member of his staff, Franz Barisch, contracted what was thought to be pneumonia but turned out to be plague. Nurse Pecha and a colleague, who were assigned to his treatment, both caught the plague and were hermetically isolated within the hospital, where they both died. Nurse Albine Pecha was the last person to die of the plague in Vienna.

The 2 kreuzer stationery-card was mailed from Vienna to nearby Mödling three days before her death. The story of the pretty young nurse suffering a lingering death had featured in the newspapers for several days, and had captured the public imagination. The postcard had been published in sympathy for her plight. (Scan of reverse below).



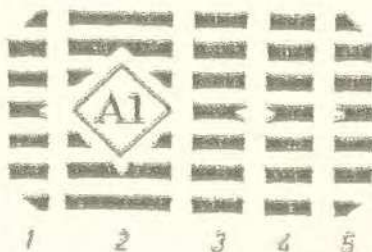
KEITH BRANDON



## Azemar Machine

In 1865, two German inventors - Carl Fischer and JCW Maas – applied in England for their new postmarking machine. Initially unsuccessful, they received a patent in 1867. Robert Hinrichsen would become manufacturer and JC Azemar of London would be their English sales representative.

The 'Azemar' machine, as it is known, had three die heads. Each consisted of a 20mm dater dial with the Code 'YI', 'LONDON' 14mm in length and the month, day and year date. The obliterator varied and had various combinations of Bar-Configurations. The picture below shows the Bar Variations which could be inserted into a frame in different sequences, thus the postmarks will have a different look about them.



The First Trial ran from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1869 to 24<sup>th</sup> June 1869.

This item, sent from London to Needham Market in Suffolk shows the combination of 1, 3, 2, 4, 5. This is the first type of Azemar cancel, with the dater dial being Low and Left of the Obliterator. This was sent exactly 29 years after the Penny Black was introduced. Penny red Plate 118 cancelled by Azemar:

**YI/LONDON/MY 6/69 =A1=.** The reverse shows a receiving mark of **NEEDHAM MARKET/A/MY 7/69.**



Plate 118, KI



Plate 148, MH with J & C Boyd Underprint

The second type has the dater in parallel with the obliterator.

This Second Trial was 17<sup>th</sup> May 1871 till December 1871.

Dater Die-Head 'CB', on a Penny Plate 121, combination 1, 2, 3, 4. And cancelled:

**CB/LONDON/26MY/71 =A1=.** On piece.

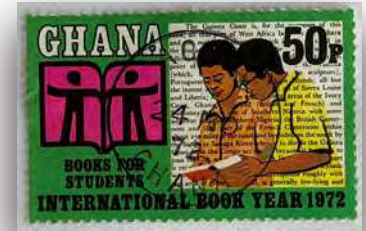
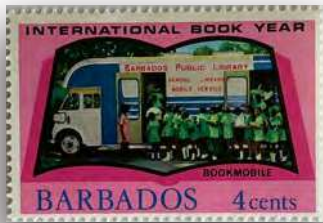
*First Month of use.*





# The year that books united the world

UNESCO  
declared 1972 as  
World Book Year, to  
highlight and address  
the book famine  
experienced by many  
countries.



Technological developments meant that, by the 1970s, good quality books were being mass produced at low cost. At the same time, the spread of literacy worldwide led to a huge demand for the written word. However, this 'book revolution' was failing to reach large numbers of people in developing countries. From the outset, World Book Year captured the public imagination, with its themes of promoting writing, **libraries**, reading, and **education**. UNESCO itself expressed surprise at the amount of mail that 'poured in' from around the world, as well as 'extraordinary' levels of media coverage.



The logo was displayed on various media, including postage stamps, and achieved unparalleled universal acceptance. Around 50 countries and postal administrations issued stamps to commemorate World Book Year. Some, such as **Qatar**, depicted only the logo. Others included the logo in a unique design of their own: a lovely example is the stamp issued by **Algeria**, which has the logo as a book mark within a book.



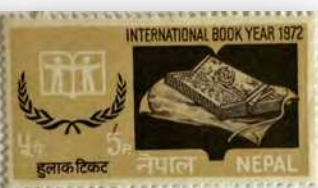
World Book Year took place during the Vietnam War, a complex and long running conflict that cost an estimated three million lives and displaced millions more from their home countries. The war finally ended in 1975, but conflict in the region continued for several more years. Despite the turbulence and the horrors of war, countries at the centre of the conflict, such as **South Vietnam** and **Cambodia**, took part in World Book Year.



From **Spain's** Don Quixote (often called the first modern novel) to **Turkey's** *Divan Lughat al-Turk* (the 11th Century compendium of the Turkic languages), World Book Year celebrated the diversity of global literature.



Around 130 countries took part in World Book Year. From **Israel** to **Pakistan** and **Nepal**, the initiative truly spanned cultural, political and geographical divides, a testament to the power of books to unite the world.



'What an astonishing thing a book is... Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other' **Carl Sagan**



## Popular East Asian Comics

Comics are entertaining for both children and adults as they humorously reflect daily lives issues. Among the popular ones that we usually read or found in our newspapers and magazines were...

**Old Master Q** where he and his friends, whose funny actions not only reflects the daily lives, but pokes fun at some contemporary issues of Hong Kong in the 1980s.



"Old Master Q" Stamps issued on 5 December 2019 by Hong Kong Post.

**LAT** narrates the author's early life in rural and urban Malaysia and its multi-racial society in the 1970s.



Malaysia 2008 LAT cartoon MS overprinted for Stamp Week issued on 1 December 2008 by POS Malaysia.

**Doraemon** tells a story about a 22nd Century Robot Cat who travels back to the 1980s Japan on a mission to save 6 year old **Nobita** from becoming a bankrupt and failure as he grows up.



Doraemon Greetings Stamps booklet issued on 1 July 2016 by Japan Post.



## The Channel Islands 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Liberation Commemorative Stamps

### The stamps that the GPO Officials did not want to be issued

During World War Two the Channel Islands, consisting of the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, were occupied by German Forces. The Occupation started on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940 and ended on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

In March 1946 there was an Inter-Island Conference to discuss how to revive the tourist industry in the islands following their liberation. As a result, the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey wrote to the Home Office requesting that the Islands should have their own postage stamps or at least a slogan cancellation to publicise the islands. The Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter-Ede, supported this request and asked the Post Master General, the Earl of Listowel to make it happen.

The Director General of the Postal Services Department and his staff vigorously opposed such a move. They created many obstacles and, instead, tried to have some regional definitives for the six UK regions produced. Political pressure was brought to bear so, eventually in June 1947, it was agreed to issue two stamps. The design brief on the subject of "Vraicing – Channel islands" was issued to eight designers.

The stamps are sometimes known as the "Seaweed" issue and were issued on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1948.



1d 'Gathering Vraic'

Designed by J R Stobie



2½d 'Islanders Gathering Vraic'

Designed by Edmund Blampied



An example of the many designs of the First Day Covers



## BIRDS as EMBLEMS/SYMBOLS of Regions

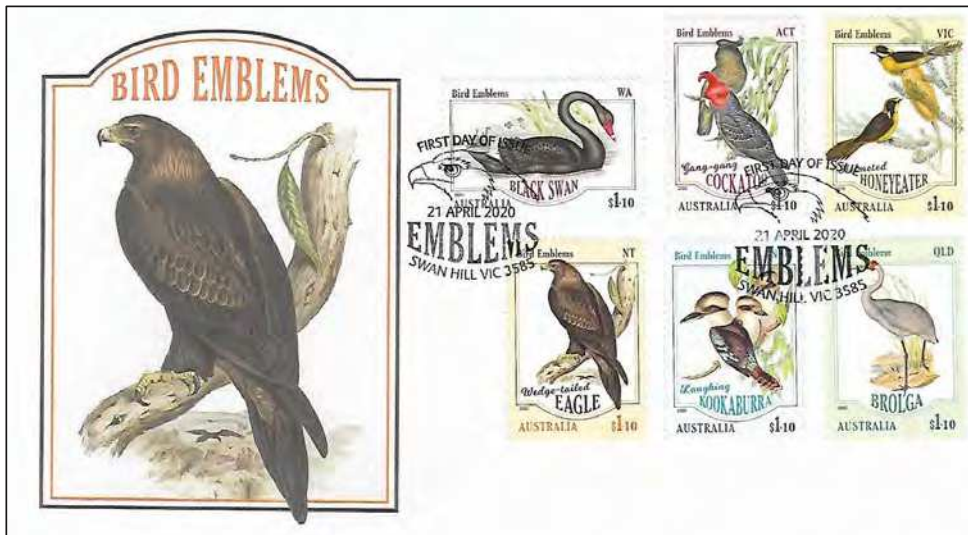
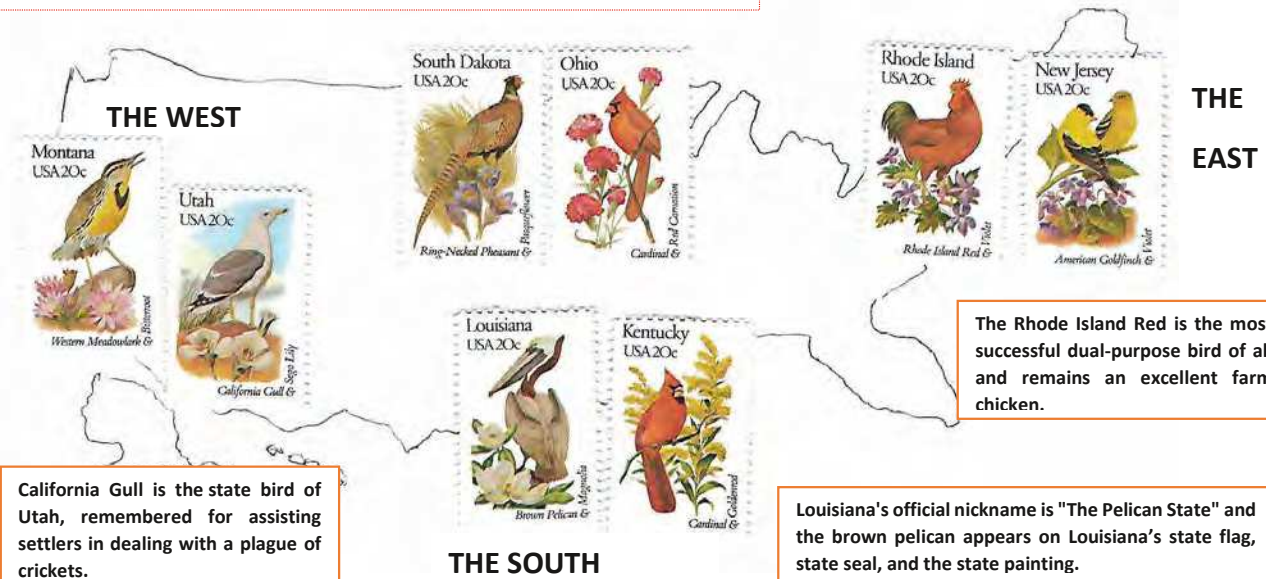
A high soaring bird in flight or predatory bird serve as a symbol of strength, power, and purpose both in its "Symbolic meaning" or an image of compositions related to comfort, love, and family.

Countries are home to some lovely array of birds, some of these species have been proclaimed as official emblems of our states and territories. These animals have a connection with the relevant geographic area/states and, in some cases, are species in need of conservation/protection.



The Montserrat Oriole is a medium-sized black-and-yellow icterid (the same family as many blackbirds, meadowlarks, cowbirds, grackles, and others, including the New World orioles) endemic to the island of Montserrat.

USA - These are eight lovely birds from the selection of 50 USA State Birds – paired per



Australia is home to an incredible array of animals. During the past 40 years, some of these species have been proclaimed as official emblems of the states and territories.



The Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) was officially proclaimed as the bird emblem of Western Australia in 1973 and forms part of the state badge, seal, flag and coat of arms.

The Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*) is Australia's largest bird of prey, so named for its wedge-shaped tail. It was proclaimed as the bird emblem of the Northern Territory in 1978.





# LUNDY - NORTH DEVON

## The W.W.II. 1940 "Red Cross" Surtax Overprint Issue

Lundy is an island in the Bristol Channel and is eleven miles from Hartland Point in North Devon.

The G.P.O. closed the Post Office in 1927 and in 1929, the island's owner, Mr. M.C. Harman started the "Local Post" service that carried the mail to and from the Devon mainland.

To record that payment had been collected, he had stamps printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.

During World War II, due to the shortage of paper and ink, the printers were unable to supply new stamps, so some of the existing stock was overprinted for the war time issues.

To raise money for the International Red Cross, a set of stamps were issued with a surtax equal to the face value and the extra money collected was donated to the Red Cross. The set was only on sale for three months and all unsold stock was destroyed. The overprint was also in the margins of the sheets.

The set of eight stamps were issued on the 24th July 1940.



Numbers Issued.	1/2 Puffin - 1,211.	1 Puffin - 1,211.	2 Puffin - 1,006.	3 Puffin - 852.
	4 Puffin - 789.	6 Puffin - 673.	9 Puffin - 792.	12 Puffin - 796.

As very small numbers of each value were issued, stamps with the selvedge attached are scarce.

### THE "PRINTER'S IMPRINT"



The "Red Cross" Surtax overprint was not applied over the printer's imprint.

### THE "INVERTED OVERPRINT" VARIETY



1/2 Puffin



12 Puffin

Only two values are known with the "Inverted Overprint" variety.



## The Conversazione & Exhibition at the Guildhall

The Corporation of the City of London asked The Post Office to co-operate in arranging a Conversazione & Exhibition at the Guildhall from 16th to 19th May 1890. A fully equipped Post Office was established in the Great Hall where "in order to illustrate the postal system in operation at the present day, public business of all kinds will be transacted". All the correspondence from the 49 letter boxes in the EC district was dealt with at the Guildhall and 190000 letters were stamped, sorted and despatched.

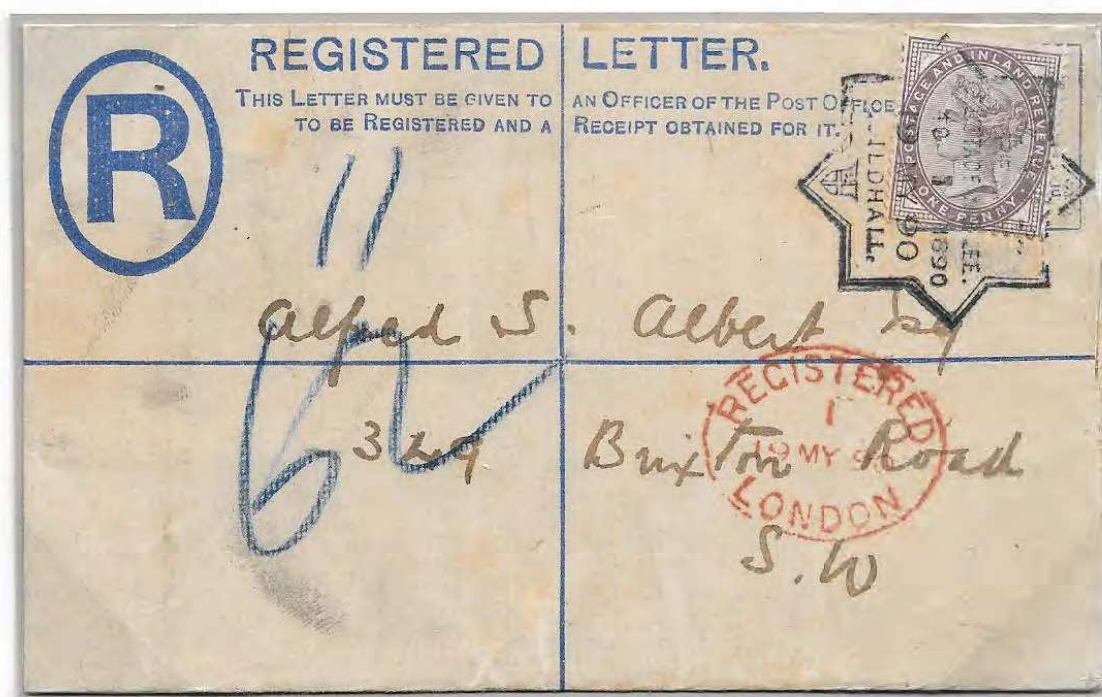


The first ever decorative handstamp was used at the Exhibition in the shape of an octagonal star. Proof strike with changeable date slug (code 12) in red on Guildhall laid paper. Type S3 (Bauschke)



1883 10/- ultramarine on white paper  
Wm. Anchor, Perf 14  
with 1890 Guildhall cancellation.

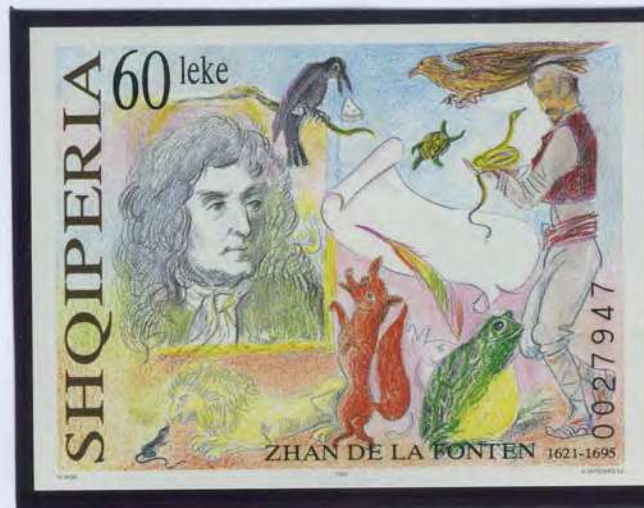
One of five recorded examples



Registered Cover from the last day with the Jubilee metal handstamp.  
One of only thirty eight items registered at the Exhibition.



## The Fox and The Crow



There are many versions of this fable, most notably those of Aesop and Jean de La Fontaine, but Latin and Greek versions exist from the 1<sup>st</sup> century. In some versions the crow is replaced by a raven.

The story has been told in prose and poetry, and as well as appearing on stamps, is the subject of paintings and sculptures, and has even been set to music. It is also believed to be depicted no less than three times in the border of the Bayeux Tapestry.



Used as a warning against listening to flattery, it tells of a fox who sees a crow fly off with a piece of cheese in its beak and settle on a branch of a tree.

Wishing to get hold of the cheese he walks up to the foot of the tree and begins to make compliments upon the crow's size and beauty.

He goes so far as to say that she would probably be made Queen of the Birds if she also had a voice.



Anxious to prove to him that she does possess a voice the crow lifts up her head and begins to caw vigorously. But the moment she opens her mouth the piece of cheese falls to the ground and the fox pounces upon it and carries it off.





Ever since I was a child I've been fascinated by dirigibles/airships. Tales of daring-do in comics, maybe the future of air travel. The Major Powers researched but the German Empire had the lead and the first flight of LZ1 took place in 1900. When I returned to philately 4 years ago, I was surprised, delighted by the range of material of my childhood dreams.

Centenary of LZ1 2000 Mi.2128. Inventor of LZ1, Ferdinand Von Zeppelin, 1938, Mi669-Mi670 and 1992, Mi.1593



Zeppelins transported people and mail all around the world and were the fastest, safest Atlantic crossing.

However they were used to bombed England in WW1. Later they became a propaganda tool in the Third Reich.

Transatlantic 1928-1931, Mi 423-455 with overprints for special flights: 1932, Polar Fahrt. Mi 457, 456 reprints



The era of airship transport began to end after the crash of Zeppelin Hindenburg LZ 129, killing 36 souls, on May 6th 1937

My cover, Berlin to New York, a year earlier May 1936. Flight card, from Berlin to Reykjavik, Zeppelin LZ 127, July 1931



Airships are a favourite of most stamp producing nations, here are a few of my mine. I will let you guess the years.



PHIL SEYMOUR



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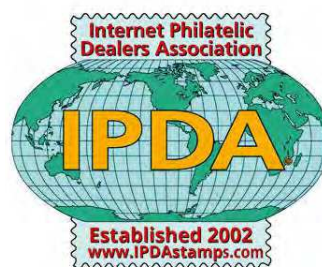


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**ZA.41 ZANZIBAR** Superb collection of Zanzibar, dates back to circa 1920's "Sultan Kalif Bin Harub" stamps. Later King George VI period on to Republic Issues. Also, elusive postage due stamps includes unmounted mint and used stamps. A lovely collection..... Price £13

**WWI.74 GHURKA** A valuable and scarce Ghurka cover issued to commemorate the heroic Ghurkas at Gallipoli. In 1915 the Ghurkas gained immortal fame at Gallipoli with the capture of "Ghurka Bluff". The Ghurkas were the only troops in the whole campaign to gain the ultimate objective in capturing the Crest line that overlooked the straits. The cover bears the official Royal Mail Ghurka stamp issue with "Cape Helles" Gallipoli postmark. Dated 14/05/2015 in combination with the Royal Mail "We will remember them" illustrated postmark. Dated 25/04/15. The cover is highly recommended as only 60 covers exist worldwide..... Price £23

**SD.68 GREAT BRITAIN** Ultra-specialised collection of G.B. unmounted mint, G.P.O. pre-decimal and Royal Mail decimal stamps. Includes errors, colour shifts, gold head error, missing phosphor errors, missing colour errors, imperforates, missing denomination (value). A small but outstanding collection..... Price £55

**SH73 SHETLAND ISLANDS** Impressive cover for "Up-Helly-AA" The Viking Fire festival at Lerwick, when a Viking long boat is set on fire. The cover bears the Shetland Island local stamps depicting Vikings and a blazing Viking ship tied to the cover with Hildasay - Shetland Island cachet in blue, in combination with Royal Mail Stamp postmarked with the Celtic "Up-Helly-AA" Lerwick postmark..... Price £13.25

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## POSTAL HISTORY

# Morayshire

John Scott's epic tour of the United Kingdom in search of postal history and ephemera continues with another trip to Scotland

Sorting out your counties can be problematical in itself. For example Elginshire is better known these days as Morayshire or just plain Moray, and immediately next door to Moray, in the alphabet as well as geographically, is Nairnshire. Both ceased to exist as separate local government entities in 1975 but, as postal historians, it is the nomenclature from Victorian times which seems the most appropriate.

Anyone who collects the more remote and rural counties of the United Kingdom will know how difficult it is to find interesting material from all the towns and villages of this country and over the centuries many places have declined in importance. Elgin for example had a cathedral in 1224 which was burned to the ground by the Red Wolf of Badenoch in 1390, only to be rebuilt in 1414. Nowadays it is a picturesque ruin as the lead roof was so valuable in an otherwise impoverished area that it was removed in 1568.

In the days before the internet, the camera and the postcard we need to look at writing paper to give us an impression of a place. Elgin is quite unusual for a modest town in that the local stationer, P. Macdonald, published at least three views of the town in the mid nineteenth

century. The quality of the engraving is such that by enlarging the image we can identify his premises at the left of the High Street, with a perfumer next door and the church taking centre stage. What becomes clear from the lack of people and the two wagons in the street is that even in 1860 the town was something of a backwater. The condition of the street may explain why in 1825 there were no fewer than 23 boot and shoe makers in the High Street alone but it must be doubtful that they were the most prolific of letter writers. But sometimes the very isolated nature of a town, far removed from the bureaucracy of Edinburgh or London, has given rise to idiosyncratic postmarks such as that inscribed 'Post Office, Elgin' in a style unique to that office. Despite having a life of more than ten years, from 1779 to 1790, it still

Above: the presence of a square of Rob Roy tartan on this postcard of 1904 resulted in it being surcharged in Fochabers

Right: the Post Office Elgin namestamp used on a letter of 1788 to Edinburgh



The quality of the engraving on this writing paper from Elgin enables the image to be enlarged to show the people and buildings as they were in 1859



cannot be described as common. Apart from the county town of Nairn itself, there were only two post offices in the whole of that county in 1840.

Fortunately when all else fails in Scotland there is always the heather and the tartan, without which no Edwardian postcard album was complete. A piece of tartan affixed to a postcard necessitated paying the letter rate of 1d instead of the postcard rate of 1/2d and so consequently the postcard of 1904 embellished with the Rob Roy tartan was charged an extra 1d in Fochabers for the short journey of thirteen miles to the Post Office in Lossiemouth. The card is unusual also in retaining its original cellophane cover designed to protect the tartan from the potential ravages of mishandling in the Post Office. The covering is actually rarer than the card but perhaps it would not be the ideal subject for a thematic display.



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## STAMP STORIES

# The hidden dictator

Few people know about the man on this stamp, but General Alfredo Stroessner ran his small, landlocked country for 34 years, longer than any other South American ruler, writes Chris West

**L**ike most dictators, Stroessner was an expert at rigging presidential elections. He won his first two in 1954 and 1958 by being the only candidate. This stamp was issued to celebrate the 1958 victory, and looks forward to 'five more years'. Later elections did involve rivals, though these usually got less than 10% of the votes. Some were celebrated with stamp issues – the last of these, from 1988 (his eighth win), show an old man. The country had to wait until 1991 for a stamp celebrating democracy.

Stroessner was born in the southern city of Encarnación in 1912. His father was a German immigrant who managed a local brewery; his mother came from an old Spanish colonial family. He joined the Army as an officer cadet, and fought in the successful war against neighbouring Bolivia in the early 1930s, rising swiftly to senior rank. In 1948, he took part in a coup against another military leader. He chose the wrong side and had to be smuggled into the Brazilian embassy in the boot of a car. Later he took part in another, successful coup and in 1954 he launched a coup of his own, after which his first election followed.

The words on the stamp mean 'Peace and Progress'. Stroessner did deliver on the first of these. Paraguay had a history both of coups and of bloody and incredibly costly wars. It avoided both during his rule. Progress is more debatable. He came to power at a time of rampant inflation, a problem he solved. In the 1970s the Paraguayan economy grew at nearly 10% a year. However little of the new wealth found its way into the pockets of poorer Paraguayans – the majority of the population – and the price of political stability was appalling repression.

Stroessner declared a 'state of siege' soon after taking power, which gave the security services sweeping powers of imprisonment without trial. This state, possibly necessary at the time it was declared, was never rescinded. Instead, opposition to the regime would be sniffed out by a network of 'pirague' informants – the word means 'hairy-footed', a dark tribute to their ability to spy on people undetected. Anyone troublesome would be arrested and tortured. The lucky ones would survive. A programme of virtual extermination was carried out against the indigenous Aché people who lived on lands in the east – lands on which logging companies and agribusiness had their eye.



Many of the modern stamps of Paraguay command only low prices, yet they can reveal much about the country's history

Together with this came corruption. In addition, ex-Nazis were given asylum, including Josef Mengele, the notorious Doctor of Auschwitz, who became a citizen in 1959.

Yet all this time, Stroessner was supported by the USA, due to his staunch anti-Communism. In 1989, the Cold War came to an end, and so did his rule. This was partially due to geopolitics, partially due to his desire to be succeeded by either of his two sons, who were disliked by other members of Paraguay's elite. In a coup he was replaced by a former associate; he fled to exile in Brazil, where he died in 2006.

The General was early to catch on (in the 1960s) to the revenue-raising wheeze whereby a country churns out stamps with the usual range of subjects – sport, dogs, flowers, trains – that are never used postally. These are worthless. Most other Paraguayan stamps, including this one, are cheap to buy, except for its first issues from 1870 and 1878.





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