

STAMP

& COIN MART

March 2015
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IN-DEPTH GUIDES



HOW TO COLLECT 'PHQ' STAMP CARDS

SPECIAL REPORT: 'UNPRECEDENTED' ANGLO-SAXON COIN HOARD DISCOVERED



GERMANY'S LOST EMPIRE



YOUR GUIDE TO STAMPS OF THE GERMAN COLONIES



VICTORIA'S GERMAN VALUES THE STORY OF HELIGOLAND STAMPS

GB STAMPS NEW SMILERS STAMPS REVEALED 2D BLUE FORGERIES WIN 'INVENTIVE BRITAIN' SET



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By Andrew McGavin, Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

In all my 40+ years in the trade I have never seen an introductory offer to new clients like this ... so you may be wondering the reason why my company UPA can afford to make this offer to you?

In '*plain talk*' – most auctions charge 'Buyer's Premiums' – YES! You have to pay up to **25%** (some charge more) on top of the winning price you paid. That is Simply an Incredible surcharge. Apparently this significant premium is justified by charging the seller a lower fee in order to entice consignments for sale.

My company UPA does not charge any premiums which is one of the reasons why we hold the UK record of 1,975 different bidders in our last auction – an amazing 89% of whom were successful. Fortunately the average bidder spends an average of £250+ per auction ... so that with 4 auctions a year offering 80,000+/- lots from £1 to £100,000 for you to choose from ...

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So How can UPA offer You £55 OFF too?

1. Our Business Model is Different. Fundamentally I believe that if a stamp/philatelic item is not selling then it is too expensive. Compare that with the stamp business whose stock is the same each time you see or hear from them. At the risk of boring you ...

2. Stamp Industry's BIGGEST problem. ... twenty years ago I started to ponder upon what is the biggest problem faced by the average stamp dealer? The answer came back loud and clear. The biggest problem faced by a stamp dealer is not what sells ... but **what does not sell**. This is the reason why most stamp dealers have lots of unsold stock you have seen time and time again – worse still this is what prevents that dealer from buying new stock to offer you.

3. Surface Sell. There is an actual name for this – it is called 'surface sell' – good material 'floats' on the surface and sells. Less desirable stock sinks so that unless a dealer pays almost nothing to replace his stock then the profit in the business becomes stagnant and bound

in less saleable stock. If only that dealer could move this stock he would have more money to invest in new stock to offer to you.

4. Cover-up. Twenty years ago almost the entire stamp industry spent its time disguising what did not sell – in those days so pernicious were 'unsolds' that it was common practice for one auction house to sell batches of 'unsolds' to another auction where the new auction could present them to (hopefully) different collectors as new lots. 'Passing the Philatelic Parcel' was common practice.

5. E-Bay. Today the philatelic world is almost unrecognisably different. In large part courtesy of the internet. How things have changed. Few 'pass the parcel'. Really active Dealers - these days they **also** sell on eBay - large lots, small lots, all manner of stamps, covers, down to fakes and forgeries – today's equivalent of the Wild West – there's philatelic 'gold' to be mined in those hills ... but Boy – you have to work to find it and sadly 'all that glistens is not gold' – you pays your money and you takes your chance often with little support or recourse. UPA too sells surpluses on eBay backed by support and our guarantee – access eBay links via www.upastampauctions.co.uk

Continued on page 25...



WELCOME

From Alice's adventures to the Kaiser's quest for power, this issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* reflects the diversity of our hobby, which offers so many different, enticing avenues for us to wander down.

Our articles on the stamps used in Germany's colonies give us a fascinating insight into the country before the world wars, as colonial muscles were flexed. As followers of our regular 'dead countries' series will know, these often short-lived territories also

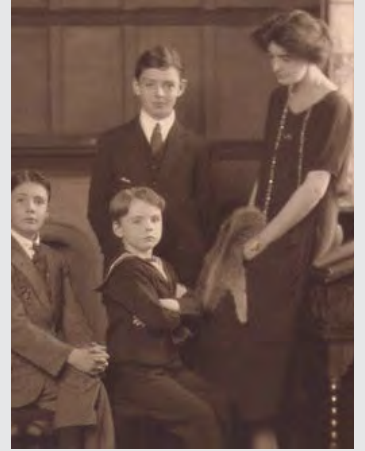
provide collectors with a manageable number of stamps to collect, and no doubt the unusual story of Heligoland will be told in the albums of many GB and Commonwealth collectors, since the island was a British possession before being given to Germany.

For those readers who have not collected PHQ or stamp cards before, our guide to the subject gives you all the information you need to start a collection. Elsewhere we provide a guide to the many links between author Lewis Carroll and philately, from the charming stamp case he invented in the 1880s to the many stamps depicting his colourful characters in more recent years – don't miss Alderney's new 'Alice' stamps detailed in our regular 'Around the Islands' feature on page 46. I do hope the stamp card set given away with this issue, courtesy of Royal Mail, will inspire you to begin a new collection along these lines, be sure to let us know if it does!

As you will see, this issue also comes with your free copy of the Stampex catalogue, boasting an extra eighty pages to accommodate comprehensive details of the Great Britain Philatelic Society's (GBPS) sixtieth anniversary celebrations. It's been great to work with both the GBPS and the PTS, who organise Stampex, on the catalogue and I for one cannot wait to see the many displays at this month's Stampex. I look forward to seeing you there and finding out which philatelic avenues you are currently exploring.



BPMA PODCAST



Tap the image to jump straight to the podcast

Matt Hill, Editor
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Meet the experts...



Selwyn Goodacre is a past chairman of the Lewis Carroll Society. He collects stamps and FDCs relating to Lewis Carroll and Beatrix Potter, the 1972 Village Churches issue (having been married in one of the churches), and the 1986 Halley's Comet issue designed by Carroll illustrator Ralph Steadman. He details the links between Carroll and philately on page 66.



David Bailey has been trading in Portobello Market, on and off, since 1995. These days he trades from a street stall on sunny Fridays and on Delcampe. David investigates the many stamps issued for use in the German colonies for our special feature on page 48.



Michael Adkins collects stamps and banknotes from countries, colonies, entities or occupational forces which no longer exist. He manages the website DCStamps.com and writes our regular 'dead countries' series which, this month, focuses on the German Colony of Kiautschou, on page 52.

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JUMP TO THE ARTICLE

Tap the image to jump straight to the article

CONTENTS

PAGE 40



PAGE 56



PAGE 48



PAGE 66



PAGE 104

STAMPS

COINS

REGULARS

9 STAMP UPDATE

Fifty years of special stamps. Guernsey join Post & Go family.

26 COLLECTING PHQ CARDS

Your guide to collecting PHQ stamp cards

29 STAMP SOUVENIRS

The philatelic products issued by Royal Mail over the years

36 INVENTIVE BRITAIN

The latest GB stamps celebrating inventions

40 AROUND THE ISLANDS

Latest stamps from Alderney, the Isle of Man and Jersey

44 LONDON 2000

Looking back on the Earls Court exhibition

48 GERMANY'S LOST EMPIRE

We examine the many intriguing stamps issued for use in the German colonies at the turn of the twentieth century

52 STAMPS OF KIAUTSCHOU

Germany's presence in China during the 1890s

56 HELIGOLAND STAMPS

Why these intriguing stamps featured a portrait of Queen Victoria alongside German values

62 COVER EXPLAINED

The journey of an unusual registered cover and the history of the recipient

66 ALICE THROUGH THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

Lewis Carroll expert Selwyn Goodacre provides a guide to the many stamps and covers related to the famous author

73 TEN STAMPS ON...

Well and lesser known inventions on stamps

109 STAMP STORY

The iconic three-cent stamp to commemorate the battle of Iwo Jima

92 COIN UPDATE

We report on the 'unprecedented' discovery of 5,000 Anglo-Saxon coins in December, and speak to the metal detectorist who found the hoard. PLUS: £100 coin selling for £300 on ebay.

99 MARKET INSIGHT

Royal Mint coins for 2015. Coins on a budget and the latest coin issues

100 NEW ZEALAND'S COINS

The latest coin auctions and internet prices

104 GERMANY'S COINAGE

In the latest part of his ongoing series on coins of the British Empire, Steve Webb examines the pre-decimal coins and tokens used in New Zealand

16 READERS' LETTERS

Share your views and you could win a £20 Prinz voucher!

20 STAMP SIDELINES

Our regular guide to Machins, postcards, postmarks, Cinderellas and stamp posters

32 MARKET INSIGHT

Latest prices and opinion

59 PODCAST

Listen to the latest BPMA podcast

76 OUT AND ABOUT

This month's events.

Plus, your guide to Salisbury Stamp Show

83 NEW ISSUES

The latest new stamps listed in detail

106 CLASSIFIED ADS

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110 ADVERTISER INDEX

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Fifty years of special stamps

Royal Mail has launched a new website and video to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Special Stamps programme, which began in July 1965.

Criteria for the creation of Special Stamps to celebrate events and commemorate anniversaries relevant to UK heritage and life was devised by the then Postmaster General, Tony Benn, who worked with designer David Gentleman to modernise stamp design. The stamp of Sir Winston Churchill, issued in July 1965, was designed by Gentleman and was the first under Benn's administration. It was the first British stamp to feature a contemporary individual and with its bold modernist approach with no words, it set the scene for the future.

According to Royal Mail, a total of 2,663 special stamps have been issued since July 1965. Other than The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh is the most featured person on special stamps since 1965, followed by William Shakespeare.

As part of the programme to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Special Stamp programme, Royal Mail has launched an online gallery of every special stamp issued since July 1965. Visitors to the site at www.rmspecialstamps.com can browse through the stamps by the decade and also view the stamps that were issued in the year that they were born.

A short video has also been launched. Presented by broadcaster and historian Dan Snow, the film explores how the Special Stamp programme has been shaped by the changing face of the UK and can be viewed on the *Stamp & Coin Mart* website at: <http://stamp.cm/50-stamps>



Future designs revealed

The design of two stamps set to be issued later this year were recently revealed by Royal Mail, including a 1st Class stamp featuring comedy duo The Two Ronnies.

A statement from Royal Mail read: 'The British sense of humour is celebrated with the Comedy Greats issue. The set features iconic comedians who have provided some of the nation's most memorable laugh-out-loud moments in television, film and theatre history, including one of the nation's best loved comedy duos, The Two Ronnies.' The stamp features the pair as themselves and in character with a scene from the famous 'Fork Handles' sketch shown in the background.

Meanwhile, a £1.47 value from the second issue in the five-year series of stamps commemorating World War One has also been revealed. The stamp shows an image of the football used by the London Irish Rifles during the Battle of Loos in 1915. Read about the latest GB stamps in our regular preview on page 36.

Highlights of the last fifty years

How many of the 2,663 special stamps issued since 1965 do you have in your collection? Perhaps you have some of these highlights...

Stamps in the late 1960s celebrated the technological innovations of Britain, like the **1966** set which included the Jodrell Bank radio telescope, the hovercraft and the car industry.



By **1982** stamps were commemorating the growing role of computers with Information Technology stamps depicting the then cutting-edge technology of lasers reading bar codes. This stamp is an early example of computer-assisted design. It remains Britain's widest-ever stamp.



The commemoration of Shakespeare underlines how stamps have changed. In **1982** a set of stamps on the performing arts included a colourful painting of Hamlet. Thirty years later, a photo of actor David Tennant as Hamlet in contemporary dress and text in striking calligraphy reflected evolving interpretations of the Bard's work.



Stamp issues featuring sport have also generated interest with 'England Win the Rugby World Cup' (**2003**) and Gold Medal Winners at the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games among the most popular.





New Smilers designs issued

Royal Mail recently issued a miniature sheet featuring eight new 1st Class stamps intended to be used on personalised Smilers sheets.

The first new Smilers designs since 2010, the eight stamps are on the themes of 'Well Done', 'Mum', 'New Baby', 'Wedding', 'Happy Birthday', 'Dad', 'Grandparent' and 'Love'. The stamps were issued on 20 January and were designed by illustrator Jenny Bowers, of the UK-based 'illustration collective' Peepshow. In addition to the miniature sheet, the stamps are also available in a Smilers generic sheet, presentation pack, retail booklet, on a first day cover and as stamp postcards.

First introduced in 2000, 'Smilers' enable consumers to have their photo printed next to a stamp which they can use on their mail. Available in sheets of ten or twenty, customers can access the service by downloading the Smilers App using an iPhone, iPad or Android device; by going to www.royalmail.com/smilers; or by posting a photo together with an order form contained in Smilers leaflets available from

the Royal Mail Smilers Team, FREEPOST SCO 5817, EDINBURGH, EH12 9PH.

The presentation pack features the poetry of Roger McGough who was challenged to write a poem that would celebrate the varied occasions that the stamp set features. A spokesperson for Royal Mail said: 'Roger's charming, witty poem about "celebrating celebration" really captures the spirit of the project. The highly talented Jenny Bowers then brought the poem to life with her distinctive bright, colourful and joyful illustrations.'

STAMP DETAILS

Issue date: 20 January, 2015
 Design: Jenny Bowers
 Printer: International Security Printers, lithography
 Perforations: 15 x 14
 Gum: PVA
 Stamp size: 20(w) x 24(h)

Alice stamps transformed into mini book

The illustrations used for Royal Mail's recently issued 'Alice in Wonderland' special stamps have inspired a new mini version of Lewis Carroll's famous story.

The three-dimensional, cut-paper gift edition, worth £5, has been published by Walker Books in association with Royal Mail and unfolds to reveal ten of the most famous moments in this classic story. The illustrations by Grahame Baker-Smith were commissioned by Royal Mail for a set of special commemorative stamps to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

We have ten copies of the book to give away, courtesy of Walker Books. For your chance to win simply answer the following question: *What was author Lewis Carroll's real name?*

Enter at: www.stampandcoinmart.co.uk or by mail to: Stamp & Coin Mart, Alice Book (SCM2062) Warners Group Publications, Fifth floor, 31-32 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5JD. Closing date: 13 March, 2015.



Guernsey Post joins Post & Go

Guernsey Post is set to issue its first series of Post & Go stamps this month at the Stampex exhibition in London. The new stamps will feature the Guernsey Flag.

Guernsey Post is the second postal administration to join Royal Mail Post & Go, following Jersey Post. The stamps will be available throughout the Stampex

event, which takes place at the Business Design Centre in Islington between 18 and 21 February. The stamps will be in values of GY Letter, GY Large Letter, UK Letter, UK Large Letter and International Letter up to 20g, International Letter up to 40g.

Guernsey Post's head of philatelic, Dawn Gallienne said: 'Post & Go stamps are overprinted with the postage on demand, each carrying unique identification numbers depending on the machine and session number of where they are issued. We are very excited to join the Royal Mail Post & Go family and to offer our customers a new product which complements our existing stamps.'

Guernsey's red, white and gold flag features the St George's Cross and incorporates a uniquely shaped gold cross taken from the flag of William the Conqueror. It was adopted by the States of Guernsey on 30 April, 1985 and first flown on 9 May, 1985 - the fortieth anniversary of the island's Liberation from the Occupation of World War Two.



Wildlife on new Jersey Post & Go



A new Post & Go design entitled 'Jersey Protected Species' is to be launched by Jersey Post on 18 February, the first day of Stampex in London, where the stamps will be available to vend from Jersey Post's JE01 Post & Go kiosk.

The six new stamp labels will feature species protected by the Island's Biodiversity Strategy, including a puffin, an agile frog, a red squirrel, a green lizard, a hedgehog and a barn owl, all illustrated by Andrew Beckett. As well as being available from Jersey Post's JE01 Post & Go kiosk, which will be at Stampex, the new stamp labels will be available from the JE02 kiosk located at Jersey's main Broad Street post office in St Helier and from Jersey Post's 'B series' back office kiosk 'B002'.

Melanie Gouzinis, Senior Philatelic Manager at Jersey Post, said: 'This is the second issue in our Post & Go series. We joined Post & Go in February of last year with the launch of our Jersey flag design and, a year later, we're excited to be able to offer our Post & Go customers something new. Jersey is very proud of its rare and varied wildlife and we wanted our first pictorial Post & Go issue to showcase some of the Island's protected species. Andrew Beckett worked with us on our Kennel Club stamp issue and we felt his illustrative style was a perfect fit for the subject.'

In addition to the new 'Jersey Protected Species' issue, Jersey Post & Go kiosks will continue to vend stamps featuring the Jersey flag Post & Go design. A special Stampex overprint will be available on Jersey flag stamps vended from the JE01 kiosk during the exhibition and, for those unable to attend, Jersey Post will be offering Collectors Strips featuring the overprint from their back office kiosk 'B002'.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss-based auction house David Feldman recently filed a law suit in a federal court in Manhattan against the estate of the late Sheikh Saud bin Mohammed bin Ali Al Thani, who bought \$7.5 million-worth of stamps during the high profile sale of the John E. du Pont collection of British Guiana in June 2014, only to pass away before settling the debt. Following the lawsuit, members of Qatar's ruling family have stated that all debts are being assessed and will be paid in full. The stamps, meanwhile, remain in possession of the auction house.

US TV channel CBS recently revealed that investment firm founder, philatelist and philanthropist William Gross purchased the 'upright' Jenny Invert \$2 stamp pane sold at auction in the USA in June. The well known collector paid \$51,000 for the modern rarity, 100 of which were issued by the US Postal Service in 2013. Watch the CBS TV report on our website at: <http://stamp.cm/cbs-stamps>

Australia Post celebrated Valentine's Day with a set of four 70c stamps showing



hearts. A statement explained: 'The stamps convey a sense that love is something limitless, uplifting and exciting; that love is about to happen; that love is in the air...'

The PTS Council recently unanimously agreed that the PTS should re-join The International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations (IFSDA), extending IFSDA membership to all PTS members. Find out more about the PTS and their links with the IFSDA in the new PTS Directory, to be given away as a free gift with the April issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*.

The Jury has been announced for London 2015 EUROPHILEX, to be held at the Business Design Centre in London on 13 to 16 May. To see the full list of jury members visit the website: <http://stamp.cm/2015-jury>

'You're safe with the PTS'

The April issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* comes with a free copy of the PTS Member Directory, your comprehensive guide to the UK stamp trade, listing over 400 PTS-approved dealers. In anticipation of the publication, PTS Chairman and member of the *Stamp & Coin Mart* Advisory Board, Rick Warren, explains the background of the trade organisation and why thousands of collectors around the world trust the familiar PTS logo.

'The letters PTS stand for (the) "Philatelic Traders' Society" – with a frequently misplaced apostrophe. Formed in 1929, with many 100s of members, it is by far the UK's biggest and one of, if not the biggest in the world. Yet, as a society for stamp dealers, paid for by stamp dealers and run by stamp dealers, does that make it completely biased in favour of stamp dealers?

'To answer that rather leading question, you have to consider the nature of the stamps-as-collectables market. Dealers and collectors are as inextricably linked, as are the water molecules in the rivers, the clouds and the oceans. Both regularly buy from and sell to the other – quite a different business model to manufacturing, or even a corner shop, where

the commerce is almost entirely one way, top to bottom. Certainly stamp dealers aim to make a living by selling to collectors; yet just ten minutes spent in the refreshment area at Stampex listening to the chatter, will convince you that philatelic chicanery is by no means a one-way street.

To put it another way, the cash value of your collection relies on dealers making markets, whilst those dealers will only make markets when they have customers to sell to. In this respect, the PTS is there for everyone; *la cosa nostra* in its very literal sense (and nothing *sinistra* about it!).

'The instantly recognisable PTS Shield logo (a trademarked sign) has been used continuously since those early days. Only members of the PTS may display the logo in their adverts, or on their websites. Dealers wishing to join the PTS have to satisfy the society that they are who they say they are, have had a satisfactory trading track record for two years or more, and/or provide two stamp trade referees, bank records and other information – a far higher bar to jump over than set by most societies or online auctioneers. Once accepted, members are required to abide by a strict Code of Ethics. You can feel secure in the knowledge that a dealer displaying the PTS logo has been comprehensively checked out – and continues to be so.

'For collectors, the PTS website is open to all and free to use. It's a public service, no need to register, no need to think of yet another password. Use it to search for



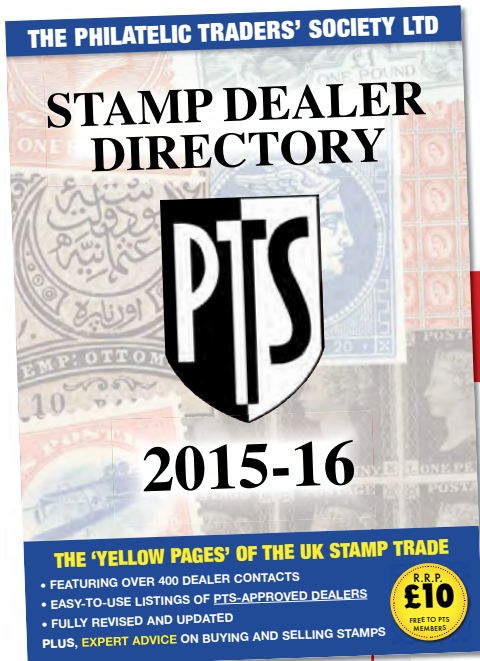
PTS dealers in your area, or stocking your speciality. Our many members are also listed in detail in the new PTS Directory, to be published by *Stamp & Coin Mart* next month. The comprehensive guide to the PTS is a valuable reference tool and lists members by region, speciality, and name, giving you all the information you need to find the right dealer for you. Come and meet members face-to-face at Stampex (Business Design Centre, Islington) twice a year in February and September. Make use of our highly regarded flat-fee certification service for GB stamps, and our internet-based Red Call urgent fraud and theft warnings. And if you should ever find yourself in dispute with one of our members – and can't resolve the matter between you – then the PTS offers a free and impartial arbitration service.

'You are safe with the PTS.'

Find more details about the PTS at: www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Claim your FREE PTS DIRECTORY with the April issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*!

Worth £10, the comprehensive directory has been described as 'the yellow pages of the UK stamp trade' and includes details of every PTS member, allowing you to quickly find a dealer in your area or one who specialises in your collecting interests. Pre-order your copy of the April issue today by calling 01778 392030; order online at: <http://stamp.cm/scm-shop>; or why not subscribe to *Stamp & Coin Mart* and we'll deliver the magazine and PTS Directory direct to your home? See page 59 for details.



Competition winners

Congratulations to the following readers, who won Christmas Presentation Packs courtesy of Royal Mail in our December issue: Sheri Darby, London; Peter Schofield, Lytham St Annes; Nick Hawksley, Stanford le Hope; K Curran, Preston; Jacqueline Cook, Liverpool; Fergus Sutherland, Glasgow; Clare Scanlan, Shipston on Stour; G Bates, Dronfield; Keith Hatch, Maidenhead; John McDonald, Oldham.

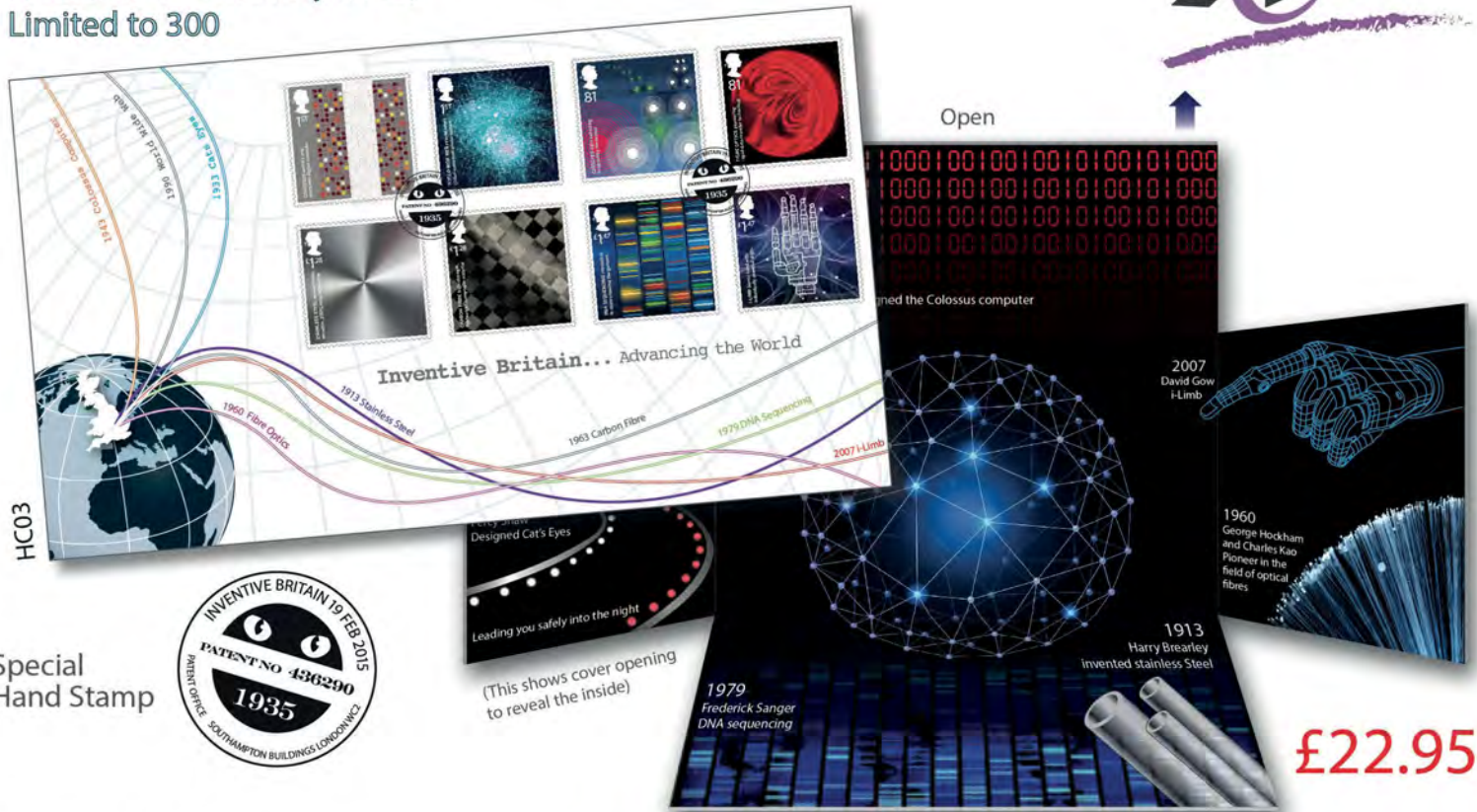
Congratulations to Kevin Williams of Worthing who won the Royal Mail Yearbook 2014.

T L Pearce of Plymouth won Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man 2014 yearbooks and the following runners up each won a Jersey 2014 yearbook: Martin Carr, Warwick; R Fielder, Weymouth; Marion Gold, Nottingham; Neil Barrett, London.

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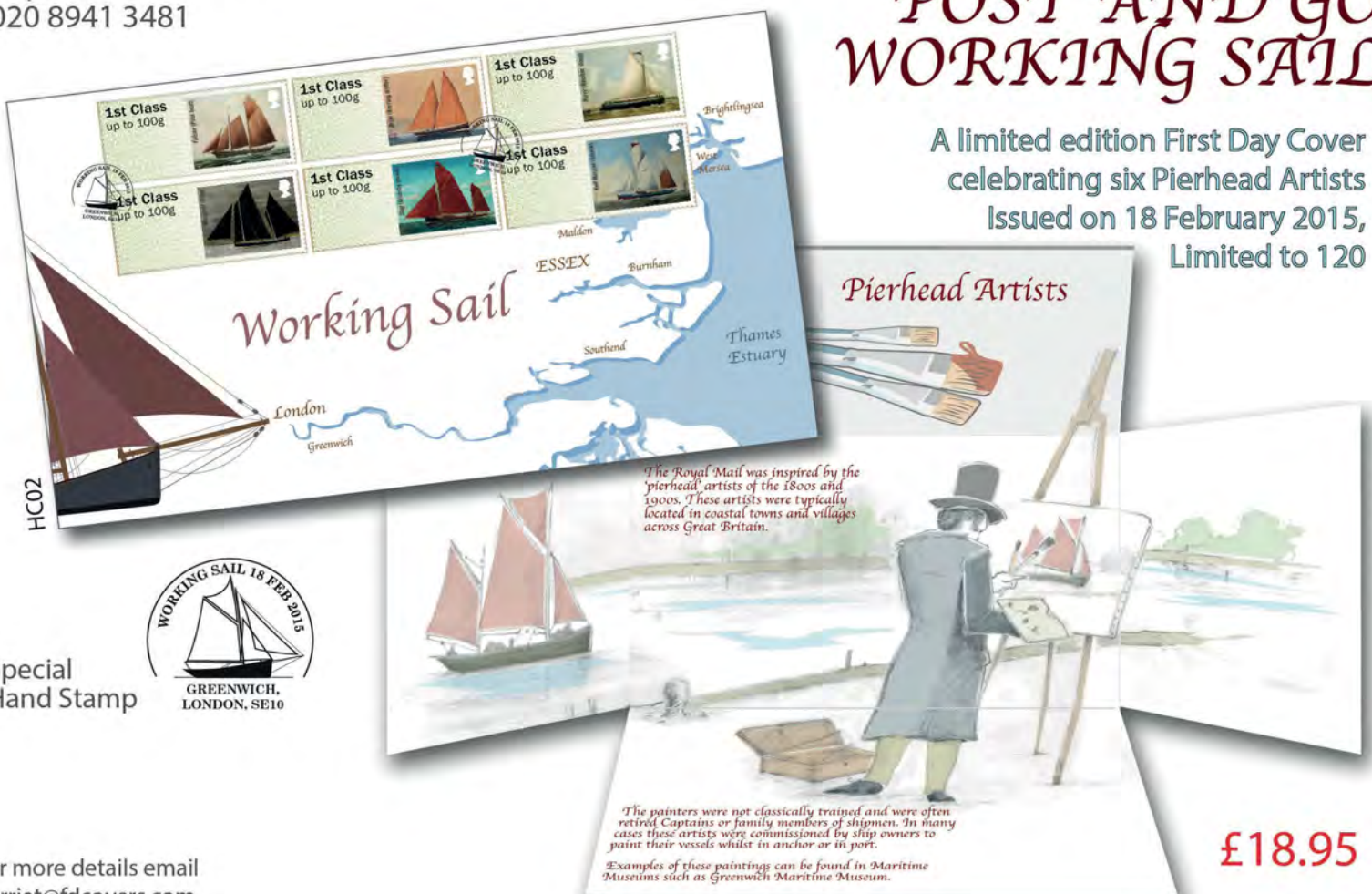
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SOCIETY NEWS

The recent meeting of the **Leamington & Warwick Philatelic Society** was members' night on 'Special Events'. One of the unexpected items was a set of solid gold replicas of modern Chinese stamps in a presentation box. The other special events covered a wide range of topics, including Gloucestershire and Bath souvenir postmarks, Olympic gold medallists, Maggie Bence's Falkland Island centenary penguins, the Isle of Man, and the 1924-5 British Empire exhibitions. On 14 January 2015 members saw two of the vintage GPO Film Unit publicity films, one of which *Cable Ship* showed how the sailors checked the tension in a telephone cable by sitting on it and bouncing up and down. Further information from Nick Bridgwater on tel: 01926-423685; web: <https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps>

Two presentations kept **Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society** members enthralled during recent meetings. Tony Farrington explored the challenge of completing a collection of Hong Kong stamps, some of the most difficult gaps being quite modern. Colin Searle made his displays of Malta and the engraver Czesław Ślania even more enjoyable with colourful PowerPoint close-ups of maps and stamps. The Malta stamps started with pre-stamp disinfected covers, and

continued to modern issues, including the infamous 'Pnney' overprint error which was, apparently, created by connivance between the overprinters and the postmaster. For society information contact Colin Fountain on tel: 01789 841 606; web: <https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps>

Streetly Philatelic Society will be holding its annual stamp fair at The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF on Saturday 7 March, from 10am to 4.30pm. Fourteen dealers will attend with material including stamps, postal history, covers and postcards. There will also be a display of material from members of the Society to illustrate the wide variety of interests. For further information contact Brian Hyner, tel: 0121 357 5340; e-mail: brianhyner@googlemail.com

Nigel Gooch visited the **Kingston And District Philatelic Society** recently with his display of Persia. Some pre-stamp covers of the Ottoman period were shown but more modern uses of the post came about in 1868 when stamps had been introduced and Nasr-ed-Din had assumed leadership as Shah. The portrait of the Shah appears on the higher values of these stamps and the Persian lion on lower values. Initially stamps were not

cancelled but peeled off for reuse by the post-office clerks consequently only a few used values of the early stamps are known. For further information contact Brian Sole, tel: 01932 220677; e-mail: brian.sole@btinternet.com

Members of the **West London Philatelic Society** visited **Kodak and Harrow Stamp Club** recently when Maurice Buxton and President Melvyn Green entertained that society. The group's annual dinner was held in Hammersmith and proved enjoyable once again. For further information contact Christopher Oliver, tel: 020 8940 9833; e-mail: olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

Members of the **South African Collectors' Society** recently joined the other **Southern Africa Philatelic Societies** at an annual weekend at Leamington Spa. About forty members attended this lively and enjoyable event with many good displays, several dealers present and the popular auction to culminate the proceedings. London meetings for 2015 will be on 18 April with a theme of 'Cinderellas' and on 19 September when the theme will be 'Varieties seen without the aid of a glass'. For further information contact Christopher Oliver, tel: 020 8940 9833; e-mail: olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

Iran Philatelic Study Circle

The Iran Philatelic Study Circle is the only worldwide organisation devoted to the study of Iranian philately. The group was founded in the UK in the early part of the twentieth century and then reactivated in 1948 before being reorganised along its present lines in 1966.

The Circle has members around the world who are kept in touch with each other via a bulletin which is issued at least four times a year and contains in-depth articles on Iranian philately. The group also holds meetings five times a year in London, with an annual meeting in America.

The Circle's website www.iranphilately.org is home to an

evolving catalogue of Iranian philately which includes information on stamps, postal stationery, flights, rates, cancellations, censor marks and cancellations. Various Iranian stamp exhibits and articles are also available, whilst members can access an additional database of news and information.

New members are welcome and membership is £15 per annum. For more information contact: Mr B Lucas, 99 Moseley Wood Drive, Leeds LS16 7HD; website: www.iranphilately.org



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Postbag

Get in touch

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Join the debate and get the latest news
on the Stamp & Coin Mart facebook page:
www.facebook.com/stampandcoinmartmagazine



SOCIAL MEDIA

The official MacMillan 'Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll' facebook page recently shared our post about the Alice in Wonderland stamps, prompting plenty of comment...

Rachel Helen Markwick

I like the Cheshire cat best and will definitely be buying some to put on international post, but will have to make up the remaining 16p – why don't we have 97p commemoratives?

Jackie Curbishley

I wish they had used the original illustrations. These are like cartoons.

Jessica Rose Hilton

Love these! We should start writing letters more often.

Miki Marrow

Oh I love them!!! Will they come to the States?

Mary DeMarcus Beautiful.

Liz Babbage Love them all.

Ambre Carrier

I ordered a sheet right on Royal Mail's website, but they have framed sets there, too!



LETTER OF THE MONTH

REMOVING SELF ADHESIVE STAMPS

Dear Stamp & Coin Mart,

Can anyone suggest a foolproof means of removing the dreadful self adhesive GB stamps from backing paper?

I have used both hot water and STAMPLIFT individually and in combination and on each and every occasion I damage as many stamps as I manage to remove cleanly.

With more complicated formats such as the 2013 Dinosaurs set, the situation is even worse as the small perforations become detached with a most annoying frequency.

'Stripping' stamps has always been for me an integral and enjoyable part of preparing stamps for my album, but unless someone can help me to preclude the inevitable problem I will sadly terminate my collecting before self adhesives make their most unwelcome presence felt.

John Spragg, Evesham

Stamp & Coin Mart replies:

We asked GB stamp dealer and expert Ian Billings for his thoughts on removing self adhesive stamps:

'There is no foolproof method of removing more recent GB stamps from backing paper for collecting. As indicated in Stanley Gibbons Concise catalogue, they are best collected *on* paper since the Christmas 2008 issue and definitives issued from 2009 onwards.

'There is no water-soluble layer between the stamp and the adhesive. Since 2009 collectors have been trying with various degrees of success and there are many suggestions in blogs and online forums. Most involve the use of either pure alcohol or citrus oil. Both leave an adhesive residue on the stamp. Some suggest this can be scraped off while in its loose form. Others say talcum powder (or similar) can be applied to eliminate the stickiness. Both methods can prove detrimental to your stamps.

'My advice is to try to find them used alone on small covers with clear dates. This is relatively easy for inland 1st and 2nd and the larger versions, much less so for international rates. But it is possible to build up a comprehensive and interesting postal history collection this way. Remember, postal history did not stop in 1840, it continues.'



Congratulations to Mr Spragg who wins a £20 Prinz voucher

UNDERSTANDING POSTAL HISTORY

Dear Stamp & Coin Mart,

Your 'cover explained' article is very interesting and certainly makes deciphering postal history items easier. I am often attracted to postal history, especially when the covers feature stamps I collect, but have been put off in the past by the markings and my struggle to understand them. This understanding, or lack of it, affects both the enjoyment of the item and the price. A dealer's knowledge of the cover and its journey can sometimes be a little intimidating and can leave collectors without similar knowledge uncertain of whether they are paying over the odds. I am therefore studying the articles carefully.

J Renshaw, Manchester

THE BEST OF TIMES?

Dear Stamp & Coin Mart,

Would stamp collecting have been more enjoyable and rewarding years ago, as Dane Garrod asked in his recent Opinion piece (Stamp & Coin Mart, February 2015)? I don't think so. The hobby of stamp collecting continues to adapt to the changing world, and I have no doubt that we collectors have never had it so good, with the internet allowing us to reach material previously stored away in dealers' boxes at the other side of the world, and the knowledge and study of philately allowing us to make much more measured decisions about what to collect, buy and sell.

Nick Brown, Birmingham

OPINION

'To specialise or not...that is the question'

We are spoilt for choice in today's stamp world, and collector Dane Garrod gives his opinions on whether it's better to review the world, or to take a narrow and more detailed collecting route



Where do we start? Well, where we did start – all of us? Someone, a father, uncle, aunt, grandparent, gave us some stamps. We were aged in single figures, I have no doubt, and either we'd seen a collection of someone else or been envious of a school friend who'd shown their stamps to us with childish pride. Other possibilities abound, but I suspect it was one of the aforementioned.

What then? Hopefully someone gave us a little guidance, but maybe not. We therefore took gratefully what we could find from inwards family correspondence and purchased packets of assorted foreign stamps. Not forgetting new issues from the British Post Office, though they were limited in number in those far off days. For me, it was the 1957 Scout Jamboree issue, which was the beginning of the never-ending increasing tidal wave of commemorative issues. Let me say, I have no problem with that, and hope you don't too, as there is no compulsion to purchase anything – you make the rules, not any catalogue or article such as this!

I would say that this wide collecting view is very beneficial, as it allows you to look at any and everything, and then see whether there is any particular aspect that interests you to a greater degree. I recall people saying that if only they'd not collected stamps of the world, or the whole British Commonwealth, for so long, they could have spent their money and time earlier and better on what they have now decided they will do. Perhaps that misses the point, as without that learning experience, they would not have been able to appreciate the many twists and turns of our hobby, and what possibilities abound.

So where are we now? It pays, naturally, to first look at where

we've been. From 1840 onwards the scope and collecting areas have increased. Generally, the pre-1900 collectors concentrated on the whole world, or maybe a European country and its colonies and territories. Yes of course there were specialists, but they were a minority. As we moved past the Great War, territories were re-aligned, created and re-formed, and pictorial stamps began to be more frequent, even if not in Great Britain (as the albums titled it in shortened form). Evolution in collecting fields brought about single country collecting to a greater

degree, and then something that would have surprised your grandparent and mine – thematic collecting. My opinion is that this can only be for the good. All must learn to live together – a mirror of the ideal for society in general, though it is often difficult at times. For a time, we had social philately, but as far as exhibitions and competitions are concerned, this term is redundant – 'Open Philately' is preferred. 'Open', I thought, so that anything goes! Actually it doesn't, as the rules are quite precise.

Personally, I don't label what I do, and I don't think you need to either. What I do find is that having one or two specialist interests, I find it hard to restrict myself and not add another when I see and hear of something that is equally interesting. I marvel at those who manage

to just focus on one singular aspect, such as 'Tasmania', or 'Line-engraved GB', or whatever. By way of example, well-known collectors who won't mind being spoken of are Sue Hopson, Patrick Reid and Christine Earle, all of whom have found their own particular specific interests within philately.

When I see the joy in the faces of the youngsters at Stampex either looking with their parents, or joining in at the Stamp Active area, then I am heartened to know that they are finding the joy that we had – and I do hope it will continue for them in later years, as it has for us, whatever subject they choose to pursue.



Well-known collectors... Sue Hopson, Patrick Reid and Christine Earle, all of whom have found their own particular specific interests within philately

I find it hard to restrict myself and not add another interest... I marvel at those who manage to just focus on one singular aspect

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INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

KG6 Crown Album containing 100's all FU with Aden Dows to 5R's, 1939 '49 sets, Australia 'Robes' set, Basutoland to 2/6 & 10/=, Cyprus to £1, Falkland '38 to 2/6, 10/=, £1, Gib to £1. GB 1939 to £1, RSW 1951 set, Hong Kong most to \$10 (both) K.U.T to £1, Malta both sets to 10/=, Much more useful inc Indian, Malayan States to mid / top vals. Excellent range
Cat £4500

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ASCENSION

45 all mint with KG6 to 10/= duplicated for perfs, fairly complete to 2/6, 5/- (2 of each) 10/-, 1963 Birds set Cat £620

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S.G 119-24, 1938 1d-6d on clean hand illustrated FDC

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BERMUDA

20 KG6 key plates all mint, being 2/= (4) 2/6 (4) 5/= (6) 10/=, 12/6, £1 (2 of each) A clean lot worthy of research
Cat £1750

£285.00

BOLIVIA

About 600 from 1867 inc 1894 to 100c, 1925 most to 2b, 1930 50c, 1b, 1935 to 2b, 1939 set to 5b, 1960 Tiahuanacu surcharge vals to 5,000b etc. An excellent range

£60.00

BURMA

S.G 012 1937 2R Official fine mint
Cat £50

£25.00

S.G. 013 1937 5R Official fine mint
Cat £190

£95.00

ICELAND

Many 100's all FU in Davo 1873-2000 inc Posthorn Skilling with scarce perfs to 16 aur (both) 1876n to 100 aur, 1902 set 1907 set, both Sigurdsson sets, 1920 set, 1921 surcharges complete, 1931 re- drawn set, thence virtually complete to 2000 inc all officials, airs etc, then a separate lot of Tollur cancels (not counted) Quite the finest collection of Iceland we have seen
Cat £19200

£2800.00

MALAYA

STRAITS Few 100's on old leaves from O'Print on India range to 32c, Crown CC to 96c (2) good range surcharges inc 1879 '10' on 30c, later

QV to 96c and 50c, K.Ed to \$5, KG5 to \$5 (3) '35 Jubilee, 1936 set, KG6 set etc. Some have obviously fiscal cancels but these have been ignored.
Cat £4700

£525.00

SOUTH KOREA

Many 100's on printed leaves from 1950 inc 1951 set and range surcharges, 1954 Defence Treaty, '56 Re-Election pair, '57 Christmas, '63 Instruments, '65 Plants, '67 President Pak, later to 1970 then range Airs, M/S etc. Mainly mint
Cat £1875

£310.00

SPAIN

About 300 in appro book all FU unless otherwise stated commencing 1865 inc 1R green superb used, 1866 19c (pulled perf) 1867 19c CDS 1870 vals to 2e inc 19c, 1872 inc 10c lilac, 1874 most to 10 pes (rare!) 1875 to 50c inc 20c brown, 1889 to 10 pes, 1905 Don Quixote to 1 pes (M) then a good range Carlist issues, telegraphs etc. All with holes punched ignored in cat
value of £9350

£875.00

SUDAN

180 nearly all mint from 1898 set, 1902 set, 1936 Officials, 1927 and 1948 Small type sets inc Officials, 1936 Air set, 1948 to 50pi, Pictorial Air set with Officials etc. beautiful lot
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£250.00

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23 KG6 types all mint with range of perfs to 1/= (2), 2/6, 1/=, 10/= Fine lot
Cat £330

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UNITED NATIONS

80 all mint fairly complete to 1960 inc scarce 1955 M/S
Cat £210

£40.00

VATICAN

S.G 173-174 1951 Gratian Airs fine mint
Cat £330

£110.00

33 better items inc 1935 Juridical sets (2M, 1FU) 1949 Express pair (M & FU) 1951 set (M) etc.
Cat £1050

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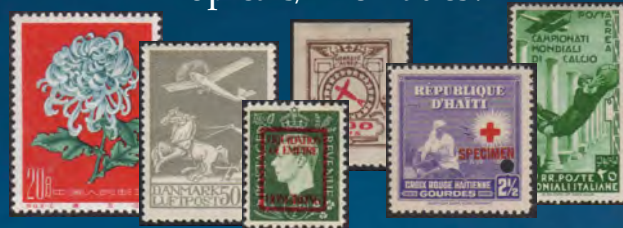
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FIRST DAY COVERS

First 'past the post' day cover

On the 5 July, 1978 Brighton Races issued this official cover for the Horses set of stamps with 'The Sport of Kings' special postmark. Today it sells for between £40 and £50, around the same price as many of the other officials for this issue.

This particular example landed on my desk with something extra included. It came with the lapel badge from Brighton races (Club Stand) on the day the stamps came out, and



another badge for the following day. The cover was also signed by jockeys Frankie Durr and Joe Mercer who both rode at the meeting, with a small note saying that these were the only ones signed.

I always hesitate before making a bold statement and calling anything 'unique', but this cover is certainly very rare and the extras add something, giving it a likely retail price of around £75.

You tend to see jockey and trainers' signatures on the 1979 Derby issue, but a few postmarks on this issue would lend themselves to signing, such as the Kings Lynn FDI (the nearest Post Office to Sandringham where Her Majesty keeps her horses) or the rare Aintree and Ascot CDS postmarks, which even without a signature sell for around £100 each.

BRIAN AUSTIN

POSTCARDS

Postcards with a punch

One set of postcards I always have an eye out for are those published by Raphael Tuck & Sons recreating images from *Punch* magazine. In 1905 the giant postcard publisher announced that it had won exclusive rights to produce postcards with images from *Punch*. The deal brought together two very successful publishing outfits: Tuck's, the postcard publisher with the Royal Warrant of Appointment, and *Punch*, the magazine which many regard as the source of the 'cartoon' as we know it today.

Pictured is a card from the 'Boating and Seaside Jokes' series, one of many Tucks-Punch collaborations. The card is titled 'Imperturbable Boatman' and was first published in 1908. The image depicts a scene in which, while a storm rages, an unflappable seafarer encourages his apparently less nautically-experienced passenger to simply hold up his fishing rod: 'Ye have 'm! Ye have 'm!' Brilliant!

GUY ATKINS



POSTMARKS

Postage underpaid

Royal Mail has always been concerned to reclaim any underpayment of postage, and there are many markings that are used to show when there has been such an underpayment. The cover shown here is an excellent example of the treatment of such mail.

Posted in Norwich in 1997, there is a 'NORWICH/NORFOLK' machine cancellation with the Quality Street slogan in the bottom corner. Where the stamp would normally be found, there is a red double circle 'ROYAL MAIL/NORWICH/POSTAGE UNDERPAID/SURCHARGE' datestamp dated 10 November. The following day a black explanatory boxed '40p/TO/PAY' cachet was added and alongside it a 'NORWICH/NORFOLK' rubber datestamp, also in black.

Four days then pass before a red boxed 'PAID' cachet was applied, and alongside it a 'PAID/ROYAL MAIL NORWICH' rubber datestamp, also in red. What happened in those four days? My guess is that this item would normally have been paid by meter mark by the sender, but missed being stamped for some reason. Royal Mail checked with them and the postage was then paid. There may have been a number of items that had missed stamping, and it was worthwhile holding on to them until the postage was paid. Nevertheless, the result is an interesting cover.

DAVID GWYNN



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CINDERELLAS

Warm praises for Cold Island

Ed Fletcher looks at the colourful history of Caldey Island, just off the coast of South Wales, and details the limited number of stamps issued by the island's Trappist monk community

Where might you once have combined the dangers of a *Saving Private Ryan*-style beach landing with the delights of a *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory* tasting session... while adding half a dozen attractive Cinderellas to your collection? Answer: Caldey Island, which lies about three miles off the Welsh coast opposite Tenby in Pembrokeshire.

The place is home to a community of Trappist monks who make some of the money needed for the upkeep of their monastery by permitting visitors to the island and selling them home-made chocolates and perfumes. The DUKW amphibious vehicles allow landings at low spring tides when the regular ferry can't get close enough inshore. The confectionery owes something to the monks' Belgian connections and the milk given by the island's cows; the perfumes derive from the island's abundance of wild flowers, with one of the lavender fragrances highly praised by French perfumers.

Had you survived the beach landing, fought your way to the island's post office where Caldey's stamps (carriage labels to conventional philatelists) rubbed shoulders with souvenir postcards and packets of shortbread biscuits, you might have purchased a 'Views of Caldey Island' card. To it you could have added a set of Caldey issues to the left side, fixed an Elizabeth GB to the right, and obtained a Caldey Island franking on the cover. Then, had you possessed a persuasive tongue, you could have tried to cajole the captain/driver of a landing craft to autograph your card and carry it to the ferry vessel as the first leg of the journey to link up with mainland postal services at Tenby.

The monks began issuing their own stamps in 1973. In keeping with the frugality demanded by their order they added only five to the original design in more than forty years. With one exception, subject matter remained predictably ecclesiastical, the island's places of worship featuring prominently. All the stamps were attractively two-colour printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., with values indicated in dabs, a local flat-fish and a Christian symbol. The Abbey church was shown on the first stamp, followed in 1974



Caldey Island is situated two miles from the mainland, close to Tenby in Pembrokeshire, South Wales. The limited number of stamps issued over the years make the island popular with collectors of Cinderella stamps

by a stamp featuring St David's church. Two years after that, another stamp appeared with St Illtud's church illustrated. In 1979, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Cistercians on the island, a black and gold commemorative stamp went on sale. In 1981, a fresh view of the Abbey church appeared on a stamp. Thus the island's entire output could be summarised as:

- 1973 - Monastery Church blue/black
- 1974 - St. David's Church red/black
- 1976 - St. Illtud's Church yellow/green
- 1980 - Caldey Abbey gold/black
- 1982 - Abbey Church blue/black
- 2001 - Caldey Lighthouse red/black

Well, perhaps not quite so succinctly if we add the reprints of earlier issues which were needed in the late-1980s to meet visitor demand. Experts in Caldey stamps record these as having different colours and perforations.

As with almost all islands around Britain's coasts, history has left its own frankings on Caldey. It's very name derives from a comment by Vikings: it meant Cold Island in their quaint tongue, so they warmed things up a little by burning down the Anglo-Saxon church and carrying off its relics. Monks returned in more settled times and the subsequent monastery flourished until the reign of Henry VIII, into whose greedy clutches yet more silver and golden relics fell. He also took possession of

Caldey, which passed out of Church ownership until the early 1900s, eventually bought by the Belgian Cistercian Order who helped the Trappists move in.

Among Offshore Island specialist collectors Caldey is praised for not adopting the fairly common prolific issuing policies many embark upon. The stamps are also admired for illustrating subjects that directly relate to the island's history. There's even a tantalizing rumour that the Lighthouse issue in 2001 is much scarcer than many collectors realise, making hunting for an example in unsorted lots an adventure almost as exciting as a ride on a DUKW!

Footnote: A friend who took a Pembrokeshire holiday last year visited Caldey, only to miss out on an amphibious landing because a high tide enabled the conventional ferry to dock while keeping passengers' feet dry. He tells me he failed to spot any of the island's stamps on sale at the post office; but a few days later he browsed various charity shops in Tenby and picked up several second-hand postcards with Caldey stamps attached. He also asked me to mention that he thoroughly enjoyed his day on the island, especially cliff walks, views and lots of chocolate!

Find out more about Cinderella stamps issued by the many islands around the British Isles in our online article. Just visit our website at: <http://stamp.cm/island-stamps>

MAXICARDS

Posters in the Post Office



These attractive posters, also known as 'grill' or 'grille' cards, were first produced for commemorative stamp issues in 1967 by the Post Office and were never sold. The A4-sized posters were produced to promote not just the stamp issue but other Post Office products and services, such as prestige booklets and postage rates, and were placed in the Post Office counter screens.

The posters came in various sizes, although the most common was A4, as illustrated here. The early posters did not always show the stamp issue, they were simple designs with the title of the issue theme and the date of the release. Each poster issue had a reference number on the front, with the prefix changing through the years.

Interestingly, these posters were also produced in the Welsh language for use in Post Offices in Wales and are scarcer than the English language equivalents so are more expensive. Some of the posters are written solely in Welsh, however, many later issues are bi-lingual with both Welsh and English. These posters have the same reference number as the English version, except for a W at the end.

Special dealer posters were produced with foreign language texts printed on the reverse of the poster, such as French, German and Japanese, providing the overseas Royal Mail agents with details on the latest issue. They were often folded in half so they could be sent through the post. Like the Welsh language posters, these had the same reference number as the English version, but with a G at the end.

AMANDA GRIEVE

To discover more about Stamp Posters check out the Packs & Cards website www.PacksAndCards.com or call: 01252 360530; email info@packsandcards.com; Packs & Cards, Oaklands House, Reading Road North, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4AB.



Clockwise from top left: 1967 British Painters commemorative poster; 1983 definitive postal rates poster; 2003 Coronation Welsh commemorative poster; 1993 Beatrix Potter prestige book poster

MACHINS

Training stamps

In order to train post office counter staff, special training stamps were used. These were actual stamps which received an additional overprint. It is possible to gather quite a collection of Machins with these overprints.

Some pre-decimal Machins may be found with the overprint 'SCHOOL SPECIMEN', but most overprints that were used consist of either a single horizontal black bar, a single vertical black bar, or two vertical black bars. Though it would seem likely that the number of bars would coincide with the number of phosphor bands on the stamps, this is most definitely not the case!

There are varieties to collect in the thickness of



the overprinted bars, which vary roughly from 0.5 to 3mm. The width between the two bars varies too, again roughly from 2 to 6.5mm. To make things even more interesting, quite a few values come with different types of overprint. Some of these varieties occurred within single stamp sheets, so it is even possible to find pairs of stamps with differing overprints.

Most Machin training stamps will come at a price similar to the normal stamp, making this a very affordable but great sideline. The practice of overprinting Machin stamps for training purposes lasted from the first pre-decimal stamps until well into the 1990s.

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Collecting British PHQ cards

First issued in 1973, Royal Mail's PHQ or 'stamp cards', which recreate British stamp designs in a larger postcard format, are becoming increasingly popular with collectors, as Amanda Grieve of Packs & Cards reveals in our special beginner's guide

PHQ cards, also known as stamp cards, are postcards that depict enlarged reproductions of British stamp designs by Royal Mail from 1973 to date. The term 'PHQ' stands for Postal Headquarters. The initial print figures of these cards were just a few thousand, issued as a cautious experiment and intended to be just an occasional picture postcard for sale to the public at Post Offices and Philatelic Counters. However, Royal Mail now produces these full colour cards in large quantities for every issue.

The first PHQ card was based on the 1973 Cricket stamp issue, but only the image of the 3p stamp of WG

Two of the ten Alice in Wonderland stamp cards, as given away with this issue of Stamp & Coin Mart, courtesy of Royal Mail

1982 Textiles 29p PHQ card (PHQ 61d) missing the dark green colour

Grace was used. Although the 1973 Cricket stamps were issued in May, the card was not released until mid-July of that year. The first two card issues, 1973 Cricket and 1973 Inigo Jones cards, were 120mm x 172mm in size with all subsequent issues being approximately 104mm x 148mm.

It was not until the 1974 Great Britons issue that a card was produced for each of the stamps in the set and by 1977 every commemorative stamp issue had a matching PHQ card set, with only a few exceptions. For example, the 1998 Diana, Princess of Wales and 2013 Andy Murray Wimbledon Champion stamp issues were not made into cards since the stamp sets were produced at short notice.

PHQ cards have also been produced for definitive stamps, starting in 1993 with the Britannia £10 and the high value Castle stamps. However, Royal Mail do not produce PHQ cards for each new definitive stamp release, the last being the 2012 Diamond Jubilee issue.

PHQ cards with First Day of Issue postmarks

Also very collectable are PHQ cards with the matching stamps attached to the picture side or the reverse of the cards and postmarked with the first day of

issue. The first day of issue (FDI) refers to the stamp shown rather than the cards themselves, as the cards are made available for sale prior to the stamp issue. However, the first PHQ card, the 1973 Cricket issue, was released after the stamp, so the card does not exist with a genuine FDI postmark.

There are a number of good reference catalogues that detail the special handstamp postmarks normally available on First Day Covers and PHQ Cards, for example *Bradbury's Collecting British First Day Covers* and Booth's *Collect GB First Day Covers*.

Errors have been observed in the special handstamps on PHQ cards. In some cases the National Postal Museum handstamp on the 1995 Cats issue has London spelt as 'Lodon'. Both versions of this handstamp can be found.

Errors and misprints

Like stamps, errors can also be observed on PHQ cards, although they are fairly rare. PHQ cards with missing colours are sought after and can be very dramatic. For example, the 1982 Textiles 29p PHQ card exists missing the dark green colour, which has meant that the Queen's head and stamp value have been completely omitted. Missing colours and colour





Just like stamps, stamp cards can feature errors or scarce design variations. Examples of the 2012 Portmeirion card were issued with the '1st' value missing from the design. The error was quickly spotted by Royal Mail and replacements were issued



shifts are very collectable and make interesting additions to a collection.

Mistakes have also been observed in the text on the cards. For example, the 20p value card from the 1998 *Magical Worlds* issue has the author, JRR Tolkien's, name spelt incorrectly on the stamp image. The error was identified and correct cards were issued. A more recent error was in 2012 on the A to Z Landscapes (Part 2) where the '1st' was omitted from the Portmeirion card, again the mistake was identified and replacement cards were produced.

Cards have been discovered with no text on the reverse, although some are believed to be printing proofs rather than errors.

An interesting printing mistake was noted on the 2009 Kings and Queens – The Age of the Tudors PHQ cards (PHQ 322), on which the wrong image was printed on the front of the Royal Exchange (9) and Francis Drake (10) cards, as they did not match the text on the reverse. These cards were not reprinted by Royal Mail.

There appears to have been a few

mistakes and duplication in relation to the numbering system of PHQ cards. For example, there was no card issued marked as PHQ 24, which should have come between 1977 Heads of Government, PHQ 23, and 1977 Wildlife, PHQ 25. It is unknown whether this was due to a withdrawal or if the number was accidentally omitted. The 1980 London Exhibition card and the 1980 London Landmarks cards were both marked as PHQ 43, with the subsequent Authors issue labelled PHQ 44.

Special printings

Royal Mail have also produced PHQ cards with special printing on the reverse for specific organisations, or even converted them into Greeting cards. For example, the 1978 Cycling Proficiency card was issued with the 11p value stamp design on the front and a special message on the reverse.

In 1993 and 1994, Royal Mail held a promotion of specially printed

Right: the first PHQ card, produced for the 1973 'Cricket' stamp set which marked 100 years of county cricket



Reproduced from a stamp designed by Edward Popley issued by the Post Office on May 16th 1973 to commemorate one hundred years of County Cricket

Greetings stamp PHQ Cards with 'Send a little happiness with Royal Mail' on the reverse. To obtain them, you were required to send one Greetings stamp booklet and two booklet covers to Royal Mail.

Another special printing for the 1994 Greetings set was the Rupert the Bear card, which was produced with a different reverse promoting the Royal Mail Collector's Club. The card also has a First Day of Issue special handstamp for 'Bearsden' on the front.

More recently, two versions of the 2013 Dr Who PHQ cards were released. The official Royal Mail issue has a barcode on the reverse of the cards, however *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine had a special cover give-away of these PHQ cards with a different reverse. There is no barcode and there are two extra lines promoting Royal Mail stamps and collectables. The Alice in Wonderland stamp cards given away with this issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* also differ from the usual issue, with different text on the reverse and no barcode, as illustrated on page 26.

Prepaid PHQ cards

Intermittently, Royal Mail has issued special prepaid cards. In 1993, the first set of these cards had an 'Airmail' theme and featured the 33p stamp from the 1988 Transport and Communications issue. Later, however, the cards came with their corresponding stamps to be attached and the cards were slightly bigger than the standard PHQ cards.

Postcard books

Royal Mail has produced PHQ cards in the form of souvenir postcard



1993 Britannia £10 PHQ card (PHQ D1)

Collecting stamp cards

books for certain issues. The 1995 Cats issue contained 10 tear-out postcards reproducing the stamp designs along with other images by noted Scottish artist, Elizabeth Blackadder. The last postcard book produced was the British Museum issue in 2003, which contained six large postcards of the stamp designs.

PHQ cards were also incorporated into the 1997 Golden Wedding Souvenir Pack, which included the All The Queen's Horses and Golden Wedding stamps, featuring a specially-commissioned portrait by Lord Snowdon, plus eight pages of commemorative photos and eight tear-out PHQ cards.

Condition

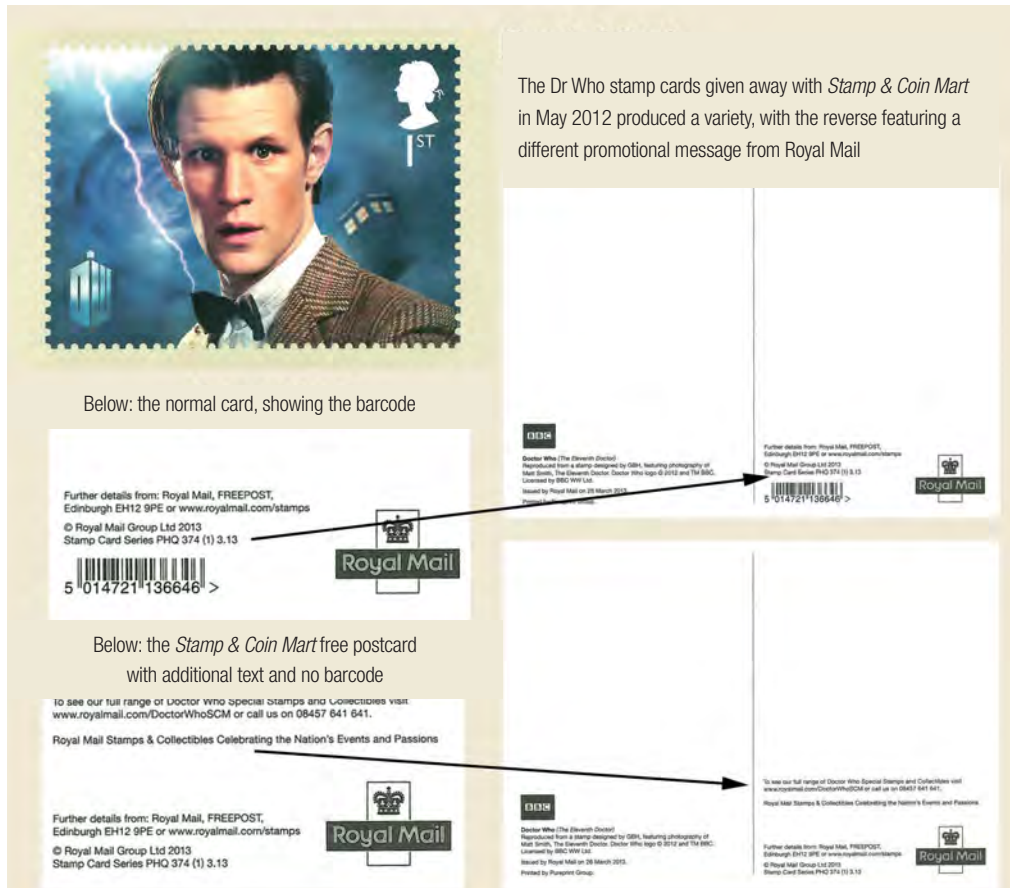
Condition is of great importance. With mint cards, especially the early examples, the prices listed in reference guides relate to perfect cards without any damage. A mint card with a good appearance but a knocked corner can be half the value. A used card by its very nature may have one or two very slight corner knocks, but cards in a lesser condition would command a lesser price. A small address label is always preferable to cards with a handwritten address.

How to start collecting

The most recent PHQ cards can be obtained from your local Post Office at the time of each issue. For older issues, have a look round at stamp shows, auctions, ebay, and there are a number of online sellers who deal with PHQ cards. Of course, obtaining the free Alice in Wonderland postcards given away with this issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* is also a great way to start a collection.

How to store your cards

With the condition of the cards being

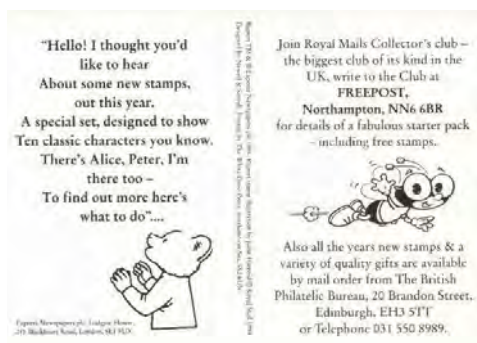


The Dr Who stamp cards given away with *Stamp & Coin Mart* in May 2012 produced a variety, with the reverse featuring a different promotional message from Royal Mail

The Alice in Wonderland stamp cards, given away with this issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*, also feature different text and no barcode with additional text and no barcode



1994 Rupert special printing promoting the Royal Mail Collector's Club



very important, it is advisable to store your cards in an album specially designed for the purpose. There are many types on the market and they are available from most stamp shops. The

most important thing is to keep them in a cool, dry environment, away from direct sunlight.

Collecting PHQ cards is increasingly popular. These attractive cards show British stamps in clear detail that is not apparent when looking at the much smaller matching stamps. A wonderful collection can be built at a low cost.

For more information on PHQ cards contact Dr Amanda Grieve, Packs & Cards Tel: 01252 360530; e-mail: info@PacksAndCards.com; website: www.PacksAndCards.com; twitter: com/PacksAndCards; facebook.com/PacksAndCards

Products that have endured

Royal Mail recently totalled the number of special stamps issued over the past five decades at more than 2,600. Yet for many years we have also been encouraged to buy additional philatelic products, such as stamp postcards and presentation packs, as Paul Brittain explains

Understandably Post Offices are anxious that, for each new issue, collectors should buy more than just a straightforward set of stamps. Over the years several additional products have been introduced, many of which have endured.

The most famous product is clearly the first day cover, not that those who posted letters on, or just before, 6 May, 1840 realised the significance of what they were creating. For a while it remained fortuitous that items were posted on the first day of sale, and it was not until the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 that specially designed envelopes could be obtained. Initially these were private productions, until the Post Office entered the market in 1964: since the Shakespeare Festival issue of that year, special envelopes have been available, for both special and definitive releases.

With the Shakespeare set the Post Office also introduced a handstamp reading 'First Day of Issue'. However, the previous year, for the Paris Postal Conference 6d stamp, it had introduced a slogan 'First Day of Issue' postmark.

A second product was introduced with the Shakespeare Festival set, the presentation pack. While packs containing current definitives had been sold at exhibitions in 1960, the Shakespeare pack provided

The final issue of 1963, COMPAC, for which the Post Office had no official envelope and just a slogan 'First Day of Issue'



much background information about the stamps and their designs. Initially not every issue had an accompanying pack, but now the pack is regarded as an essential feature of each new release. In fact, their popularity is such that many other postal administrations produce similar packs. An offshoot of these packs has been the Year Packs and Year Books containing the special issues for a year, an idea similarly now widely adopted.

Nine years after Shakespeare came another product that has endured, and that is the stamp card, for a long time popularly referred to as the PHQ card. A tentative start in 1973 saw a card produced reproducing the design of the 3p County Cricket stamp. For a while it was only a single value from selected issues that were given the stamp card treatment, but from the American Bicentennial stamp of 1976, all new British designs have been reproduced on cards. See page 26 for our in-depth guide to the cards.

The prestige stamp book is another product that has survived, albeit its characteristics have changed. Originally seen in 1969 as a way of offering a good mixture of definitives within a sponsored booklet (in 1969 this being the Milk Marketing Board with 'Stamps for Cooks'), the criteria changed in

1989 with The Scots Connection. No longer were the booklets sponsored, while their contents were extended soon to include special issues. Today, they appear two or three times a year, invariably accompanying a special issue.

Similarly accompanying many special issues these days is the miniature sheet. Perhaps these are not so much an accompanying product as an extension to a stamp issue, since these days they comprise distinctive designs. The concept was already well established in the philatelic world before Royal Mail issued its first sheet in 1978 by way of supporting the London 1980 international stamp exhibition. The major change came in 1999 with the Solar Eclipse, and since then miniature sheets have been a key product offered by Royal Mail.

The final product, much more recent, that has survived, is the Smilers sheet. Not quite in the same category as those previously mentioned for, with the exception of Christmas each year, these are only rarely produced as an accompaniment to a special issue. However, an extension has been the Commemorative Sheet, produced for events for which no special stamps are produced. To an extent these sheets replaced that commemorative booklet labels that existed from 1994 to 2001.

The first issue of 1964, Shakespeare Festival, for which there was both a special envelope and handstamp



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TRAVELS OF AN AUCTIONEER

The 1840 VR Officials

Auctioneer and philatelic expert Colin Such looks back on a unique design from the very first days of postage stamps



One of the Rowland Hill reforms of 1840 was the abolition of free postage for Members of Parliament, a privilege which had been widely abused for a long period. Rowland Hill proposed that in addition to the 1d and 2d stamps or 'labels' to be printed for public use there should be stamps printed for use by Government Departments and that the officials in these departments should be held accountable for their use. A Treasury minute of 20 February, 1840 made it clear that there were to be stamps, as opposed to one stamp, for use in Government Departments and that they should differ in colour from the stamps for public use.

A memo from Rowland Hill to the printers, Perkins, Bacon and Petch, on 26 March, 1840 records: 'One plate of penny and one of twopenny stamps will be required to supply the Government Offices. They are to be distinguished from those used by the public by inserting VR in place of the ornaments used in the upper corners.'

In this memo no mention is made of the fact that the stamps should differ in colour from the public stamps and the assumption must be that the engraving of the letters 'VR' was sufficient differentiation.

The engraving of the VR 1d value plate was completed on 14 April, 1840 and 174 sheets in black were printed that same day. The next day worries were raised concerning the marginal inscription on the printed stamps, namely 'Price - 1d per label - 1/- per row of 12 - £1 per sheet', as the stamps would not be for sale to the general public and the inscription was unhelpful and unnecessary. The printers said that the inscription could be removed within six hours. Rowland Hill visited the printers the next day and decided to retain the marginal inscription and proceed with the balance of the printing. A total of 3,471 sheets of 240 were printed between 14 April and 3 June. Although the Treasury minute of 20 February, 1840 referred to 'stamps', there is no information in the Perkins Bacon records of when the decision was taken to abandon the idea of a 2d value Official.

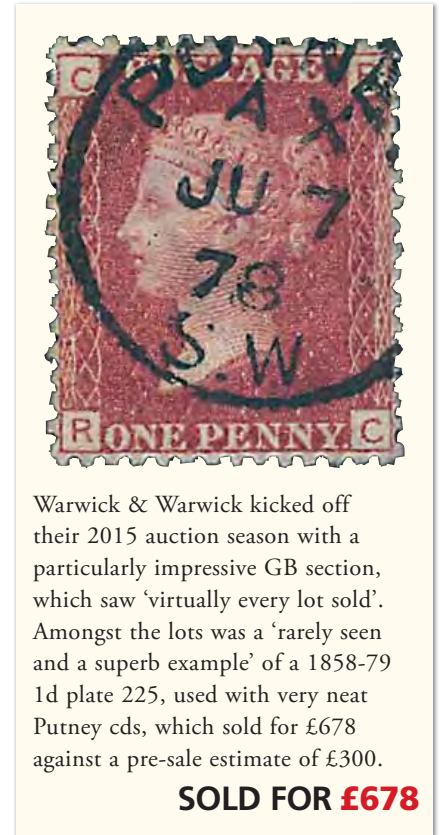
As every philatelist knows, the VR 1d



Clockwise from top left: very rare GB 1840 VR 1d block of four with marginal inscription; GB 1840 VR 1d single with four large margins and marginal inscription; GB 1840 VR 1d marginal pair

Official was, however, never issued and the vast majority of the sheets were destroyed. The reason for this is unclear, but it has been suggested that it could be related to the unpopularity of the Mulready postal stationery. When Hill proposed the introduction of postage stamps he also proposed the introduction of pre-stamped postal stationery and he thought that the latter would be much more popular than the former. Unfortunately the public, influenced by the press, ridiculed William Mulready's design and the Post Office was left with a large stock of postal stationery that the public were unwilling to purchase and use. It has been suggested that this postal stationery was given to the Government Departments to use instead of printing Official stamps.

Although the VR Official stamps were never issued to the Government Departments and their use was never authorised, a number were distributed with the 7 May, 1840 'Notice to Postmasters' and a small number of these have been found used. In unused condition the stamp is rare and unused multiples are extremely rare. Warwick and Warwick are offering an unused marginal block of four, with marginal inscription, as well as an unused marginal pair, and a four margined single, again with marginal inscription, in their auction on 8 April.



Warwick & Warwick kicked off their 2015 auction season with a particularly impressive GB section, which saw 'virtually every lot sold'. Amongst the lots was a 'rarely seen and a superb example' of a 1858-79 1d plate 225, used with very neat Putney cds, which sold for £678 against a pre-sale estimate of £300.

SOLD FOR £678



The 'East Africa from the Vestey Collection' sale at Spink saw an array of rarities go under the hammer, including a single East Africa and Uganda Protectorates 1912-21 500 rupees green and red on green, described as 'one of the major East African rarities'. The stamp was centred slightly to lower right, with good colours, fresh and fine unused with large part original gum. High value stamps such as the 500r value usually used for revenue purposes and are therefore more scarce.

SOLD FOR £22,000

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

One of the finest examples of the first stamp issue of the French island of Reunion, located in the Indian Ocean, was recently sold at Robert A Siegel. The stamp was described as 'by far the most spectacular single in existence' and is the only recorded example that has a sheet margin at right, and the only one with full sheet margin at bottom. The auction catalogue stated: 'There are no other examples of the First Issue of Reunion that come close to the magnificent physical characteristics of this stamp. There are only a tiny number of unused examples known surviving today. They practically all have faults to some degree (often severe) and have the margins into the frameline(s). The minor flaws in the margin of this stamp are totally insignificant. We have yet to encounter a completely sound four-margin example. That this example has survived intact for over 150 years is quite remarkable.'



SOLD FOR £21,376



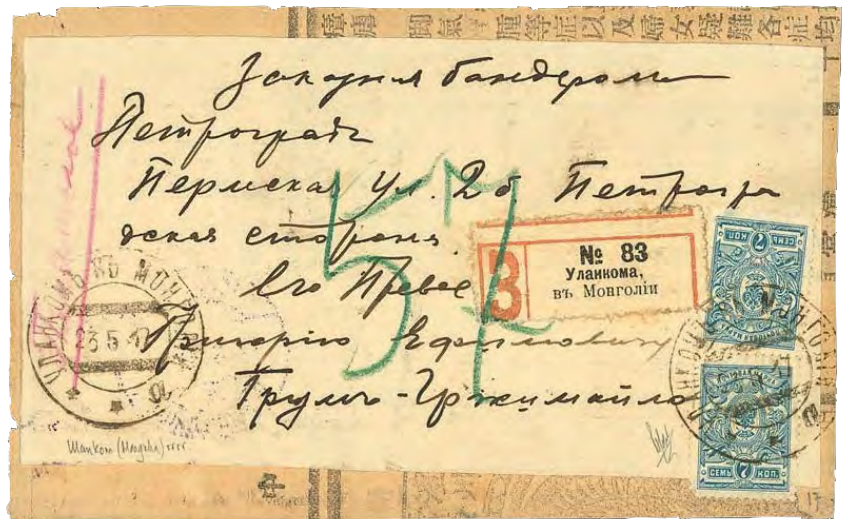
Warwick and Warwick recently sold a 1929 PUC £1 marginal block of four, fine used. The high value was amongst a set of five stamps issued to mark the Postal Union Congress which opened in London in May 1929. Designed by Harold Nelson and featuring a depiction of St George and the Dragon, the £1 stamp was initially criticised for being too high in price, but has since become a British classic, and a 'must-have' for any collector of GB stamps.

SOLD FOR £1,534



Robert A Siegel recently offered a range of patriotic illustrations on covers produced and sent during the US Civil War. Amongst the lots was a cover to Prussia, Germany, with an imprint produced by firm Gates of Cincinnati featuring the text 'Onward to Victory!' The cover featured an 1861 3c Pink also tied by a 'Franco' handstamp, and an 1861 12c Black.

SOLD FOR £6,601



Spink's recent Hong Kong sale saw a 'highly important cover of Mongolian Postal History' go under the hammer. The cover is thought to be the only recorded item of mail from the remote Russian Post Office in Ulanom, Mongolia, which was opened in 1917 only to be closed shortly after the October Revolution in Russia. The auction catalogue explained: 'Before China joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU), mail to overseas countries needed postage stamp of a UPU country for the international delivery. To prevent the theft of the foreign stamp a special postmark was made, this is called a tie-print and consists of the letter "I.P.O." (Imperial Post Office). This was applied over the stamp and envelope to show that the envelope had been sent with a stamp on it. This special mark was required as the foreign stamps needed to be postmarked by the country it represented.'

SOLD FOR £153,264

The pros and cons of investment



Investment in stamps is big business, writes US stamp expert John Apfelbaum, but it is not without its problems, with supply and demand not always easy to predict

Stamps were a hot hobby in the 1930s, and how hot is best illustrated by the fate of two United States souvenir sheets that were issued three years apart.

When the APS sheet was issued in 1933, the hobby was just beginning its Great Depression ascent. The face value of the sheet was only 12¢, but quantities were not saved. When collectors began to demand the sheet, the stocks that dealers had on hand were soon exhausted, and prices rose rapidly. Today, it catalogues at \$32.50. By the time the 12¢ TIPEX souvenir sheet was issued three years later, collectors and dealers were putting away big stocks of each new issue, and this stamp was one of many from the mid to late 1930s that got put away. Today, with the same face value as the earlier sheet, it catalogues at only \$1.75. Even today, nearly eighty years later, quantities of thousands exist that have never been in collections and which have been bundled up in groups and still reside in dealer stocks.

In every field, investments are good directly to the extent of how few people are investing in them, and this is especially true in stamps. Very few US stamps issued after 1940 sell today on the wholesale market for even face value, and that's for issues that are over seventy years old. The reason is that beginning about 1935 large numbers of US collectors began to put away quantities of each new issue. The demarcation point, where this began, is nowhere better illustrated than in the history of these two sheets. The expectation of those early investors who bought them was that the hobby would continue to grow and that there would

be increasing demand for the stamps that they put away.

This didn't happen for three reasons. First, stamp collecting was an increasingly popular hobby for many years, but even in its best years never attracted the hundreds of thousands of new adherents annually that would have been required to raise the price of all those mint stamps that had been saved. Second, philately responds immediately to price changes. When prices of mint US rises quickly, collectors move to used stamps, or to another country, or (and I know this sounds sacrilegious) even a different hobby. This moderates the rise in price of older stamps. And third, in the last thirty years the amount of new mint material issued by the Post Office each year has sucked up an enormous amount of collector money, leaving relatively little for older stamps. Always remember that, though many philatelists make a fine financial profit from their hobby, it is usually the case that this has been a by-product of a lifetime of pleasurable collecting. The financial success of pure investment philatelists has been more problematic.



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

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Nyasaland 1891 Revenue BCA £25 blue imperforated proof



SOLD FOR £613
Belgian Congo 25 centimes blue 1900 Mols issue mint without gum (with cert.)



SOLD FOR £345
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INTERACTIVE GALLERIES

Tap to enlarge the stamps

Impressive inventions

Royal Mail celebrate a century of home-grown inventions with their new Inventive Britain stamp set, which spotlights eight of the greatest innovations of the past 100 years

For centuries, Britain has been recognised for its prominence at the forefront of inventions, particularly in science and engineering. From Isaac Newton's reflecting telescope, to inventions which helped bring about the Industrial Revolution, including the spinning frame, the steam engine and the passenger train, this country has produced many of history's leading scientists and engineers.

Now, Royal Mail bring the story right up to date, focusing on eight key inventions of the twentieth and 21st centuries, each of which has changed the world in some way. The eight stamps in Inventive Britain cover a range of disciplines and applications, from materials to medicine.

Design company GBH created original illustrations which interpret each of the inventions in pictorial form for six of the stamps, with two stamps (World Wide Web and Fibre Optics) designed using existing imagery and computer-generated imagery illustration.

First in the set (1st class) is the Colossus computer, invented by London-born engineer Tommy Flowers MBE. The Colossus, which was the world's first programmable electronic computer, was a hugely-complex machine which played a crucial role in World War Two,



STAMP DETAILS

Issue date: 19 February 2015
 Design: GBH
 Size: 35mm x 35mm
 Printer: International Security Printers
 Print process: Lithography
 Perforations: 14.5 x 14.5
 Phosphor: Bars as appropriate
 Gum: PVA
 1st: Colossus
 1st: World Wide Web
 81p: Catseyes
 81p: Fibre optics
 £1.28: Stainless steel
 £1.28: Carbon fibre
 £1.47: DNA sequencing
 £1.47: I-limb

The accompanying prestige stamp book also includes Machin definitives and, alongside the new 'Colossus' 81p stamps, a value from the 'United Kingdom A to Z' showing Bletchley Park, and two 'Britons of Distinction' stamps celebrating the life of Alan Turing, who worked at the home of the wartime codebreakers

helping to decipher coded messages sent by senior German officers to military commanders. The Colossus mark 1 took Tommy Flowers eleven months to create and before it was finished, work began on mark 2. This was the machine which, from its home in Bletchley Park, provided information crucial to the success of the D-Day landings in 1944.

The achievements of Flowers have remained comparatively unrecognised, as much of his work remained a secret even until well into the 21st century. He died in 1998 at the age of 92.

The second of the two 1st class values is devoted to the invention of the World Wide Web. With a striking image of an internet blog map, the stamp celebrates an invention which can justly claim to have changed the world in which we live. Its inventor was Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, a London-born computer scientist. In 1989,

whilst working at CERN, a particle physics laboratory in Switzerland, he implemented the first successful transfer between a server and a http client, launching what would become the World Wide Web in 1993.

Over the following years, Berners-Lee went on to achieve a number of other 'firsts', including the creation of the first web page editor and the first web server. He was knighted in 2004 and was honoured as the creator of the World Wide Web at the London 2012 Olympics.

We now move from computer-based inventions to a simple transport innovation which must have saved thousands of lives in the eighty years it has been installed on our roads. The catseye, which reflects headlights from the centre of the road, was the invention of Yorkshire businessman Percy Shaw. The stamp (81p) features a night time scene showing a line of catseyes reflecting back from car headlights.



As a roads contractor, Shaw had an in-depth knowledge of the transport system and he lived during an era in which car ownership grew hugely. The success of his invention lay in its simplicity, comprising four glass beads embedded within a tough rubber housing which can not only withstand heavy traffic, but also automatically cleans the reflectors each time the rubber is compressed.

The catseye was patented in 1934 and went into production the following year. The popularity of Shaw's invention boomed during World War Two, when blackout restrictions were in place, and he was given an OBE for services to export in 1965.

The second of the 81p values celebrates pioneering work in fibre optics, especially within the field of telecommunications. Although the technology upon which fibre optics is based dates back to the mid

The stamp designs present an unusual, abstract interpretation of each of the inventions



nineteenth century, in 1966, scientists Charles Kao and George Hockham published results that first demonstrated the full potential of fibre optic communication. Half a century on, their predictions have been proved correct, with millions of kilometres of optic cable around the world transmitting data at lightning speed.

Portrayed by a simple and striking design on a £1.28 value is stainless steel, discovered by Sheffield steelworker Harry Brearley, who made the pioneering discovery of 'rustless steel' in 1913. Stainless steel was widely used in arms making in World War One, when it was valued for its resistance to erosion. It has since been adapted for use in an array of products and structures, ranging from tiny artificial heart valves to towering skyscrapers.

Another invention with its roots in the Industrial Revolution, which was later perfected by British inventors, is carbon fibre. The modern day use of this lightweight material dates to 1964, with experimental work carried out by scientists at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough in Hampshire. Carbon fibre has a wide range of uses in fields as diverse as sports, aviation, transport, textiles and civil engineering. The stamp shows a close-up detail of a sample of carbon fibre.

DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) is the chemical code inside cells which bears the instructions for synthesising the different protein molecules which are needed to build humans, animals and plants. Early attempts to work out different DNA sequences were slow and labour intensive until, in the 1970s, biochemist Dr Frederick Sanger devised pioneering DNA sequencing methods which revolutionised later research.

The ongoing Genomes Project aims to map 100,000 human genomes by 2017, as part of a government pledge

to make the NHS a world leader in the use of genomic medicine.

The final stamp in the set is also devoted to a medical discovery – the i-limb, a revolutionary bionic hand with a rotatable thumb and articulated fingers, each individually powered by its own miniature motor and gearbox. Users only need to think about moving their hand to send an electrical signal from their brain to contract the muscles in the remaining portion of their arm.

The technology was created by David Gow of the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital in Edinburgh and was launched in 2007. The stamp shows a stylised design of an i-hand, with individually-moving fingers.

Product portfolio

The Inventive Britain issue also includes a first day cover with filler card, a presentation pack, first day envelope, prestige stamp book, stamp cards and three different handstamps. The first day cover was designed by GBH, with an envelope design which comprises a graphic representation of the Union Flag. The filler card inside was written by Dr Lesley Paterson, a professional science and engineering communicator at the Royal Academy of Engineering. Dr Paterson provides a summary of each of the eight inventions and discusses how these have developed over the years.

Dr Paterson also provides the information in the presentation pack, which takes a look at each invention, referencing the key people behind the success stories and an insight into how each ground-breaking invention was achieved.

The postmarks feature the i-limb (postmarked Edinburgh, the city where it was invented), fibre optic cables (handstamped Harlow, where the technology was invented) and a Harlow non-pictorial handstamp.



For your chance to win one of ten Inventive Britain presentation packs, courtesy of Royal Mail, simply answer the question below:

Which of the eight featured inventions made extensive use of vacuum tubes?

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GB STAMPS UPDATE

There were several reports before Christmas of Post Offices with Self-Service Kiosks (NCR) and Post and Go machines (Wincor) using the wrong stamps. It seems like, as with the 97p definitive stamp, branches ran out of stock of Winter Greenery and were forced to use other stock.

The 2nd class Winter Greenery was used at Perth for 1st class services and other offices used 2nd class Machins MA12 & MA14. Similarly the following stamps have been seen with 2nd class values: Symbolic Flowers, Spring Blooms, Poppy, Union Flag, Robin undated and MA14 Machins. It has been suggested that this use was officially authorised but this has not been confirmed.

The Post and Go stamps issued on 18 February at Stampex and from Post Office branches, will depict paintings of sailing boats. Most PO branch machines are NCR Self-Service kiosks but some Wincor-Nixdorf Post and Go machines are still operating, and may be supplied with the new stamps.

Two short-term slogan postmarks were used without notice from Royal Mail. Both examples seen were used on 22 January marking special days on 25th. SE Wales Mail Centre used a bilingual slogan marking St Dwynwen's Day, and Edinburgh Mail Centre used a slogan Celebrating Burns Night.

The Inventive Britain prestige stamp book issued on 19 February includes a pane of gummed Machin definitives with security codes MPIL M14L. The values are 1p and 97p (2 each), 2p (3), and 81p (single example). Thus each book contains only one set of these four new stamps.

Ian Billings
<http://blog.norphil.co.uk>

The influence of those little white lines



White lines are everywhere, on our roads, on our sports fields and on stamps. So it's vital we make sure we know when dishonest 'players' have 'crossed the line', suggests stamp dealer and postal historian Devlan Kruck

When you stop and look around we are pretty reliant on 'white lines'. Where would we be without those lines on our roads and highways which ensure we stay within our lane and can see the flow of the road for safety? Car parks and runways have them, and then there are the white lines around the playing surface of a football pitch. Not just for the boundaries but to demarcate different zones and activities. In fact cricket, tennis, rugby, running and pretty much all other sports have 'white lines' to help manage and control the flow and enjoyment of the game. In some sporting events they have even taken to the introduction of 'temporary white lines' to control set plays after infringements – the referees now carrying canisters of 'shaving foam' or 'vanishing spray' which they squirt onto the pitch to stop defenders in the wall edging forwards. Then there's the goal line technology which gives us an accurate assessment of whether the ball crossed the white line within a few seconds.

White lines seem to establish the end of one thing and the start of another, without which many aspects of life would be a lot more chaotic, and in certain games a lot of money rides on what crosses that humble little white line.

It comes as no surprise then that we have little 'white lines' in the philatelic realm to help distinguish certain issues from others and these white lines can make a big difference to values too.

This is especially so in the early Queen Victoria stamps, the best example of this being the white lines introduced on the Twopence blues of the 1841 issue. They came on the scene after the use of the very first Twopence blues issued in 1840 which didn't have white lines under 'POSTAGE' and above 'TWO PENCE'. But in an effort to improve security Rowland Hill introduced both new ink and white lines to the 1841 Two pence stamp, in a bid to make it more difficult to clean off cancellations from used

postage, and thus reduce the reuse of postage stamps; which was a real problem of the time.

According to the Treasury Minutes dated 17 December, 1840: 'as it may be important, hereafter, to have the means of distinguishing the new Twopenny Lables [sic] from the old ones, and to make alteration in the plate used for printing them...' the white lines have been added. That is why we often term these stamps as 'the 2d with lines'.

Now that is actually very helpful today because as you are probably aware the 1840 Twopenny stamps from plates 1 and 2 are much scarcer than their later relations from plates 3 and 4, so a means to easily identify one from the other is important. To illustrate, the catalogue value for a standard 1840 2d Blue is from £850 used, whereas the 1841 2d Blue starts from £90 used.



So, like many aspects of our everyday life, little white lines play an important part in keeping us on track of where we are and what it is we are looking at. That is true as long as some naughty person hasn't come along in the night and

Painted out those white lines. Sound far-fetched? Well, take a look at the illustrated stamp, it's a Queen Victoria Two pence Blue and there doesn't seem to be any white lines under the 'POSTAGE' or above the 'TWO PENCE', so this should be the more valuable 1840 issue. With what appears to be an 1844 cancel it might set you back as much as £400, whereas a used 1841 SG14 would cost around £25. But sadly it isn't an 1840 issue but an 1841 2d with lines, it's just that someone has rather crudely painted our white lines out.

I suspect Rowland Hill would be disappointed to learn that his 'white lines' are being painted out in order to profit unethically, but somehow I don't think he'd be surprised. We might be 174 years on from their introduction but distinguishing between those that have white lines and those that do not is just as financially significant. And like many modern sports, recording exactly what happens on and around those white lines can make all the difference.



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Our monthly guide to stamps from Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey details an Alice-inspired set from the island of Alderney, a speedy set of six celebrating Hornby train sets, and a poignant reminder of the global nature of World War One

Alice's adventures in Alderney

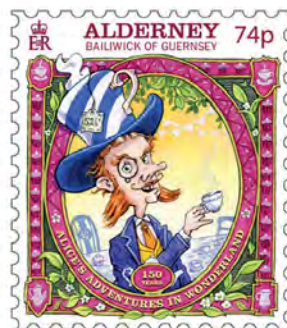
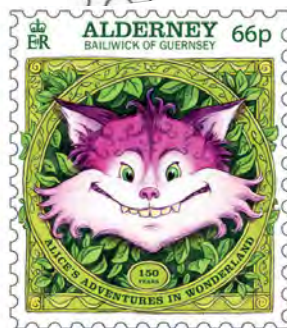
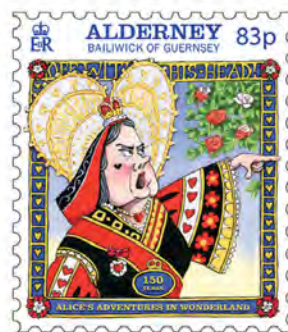
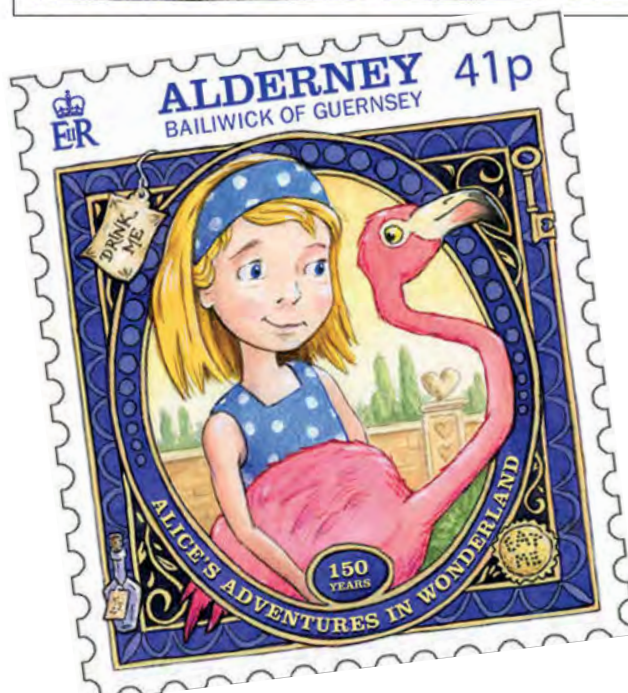
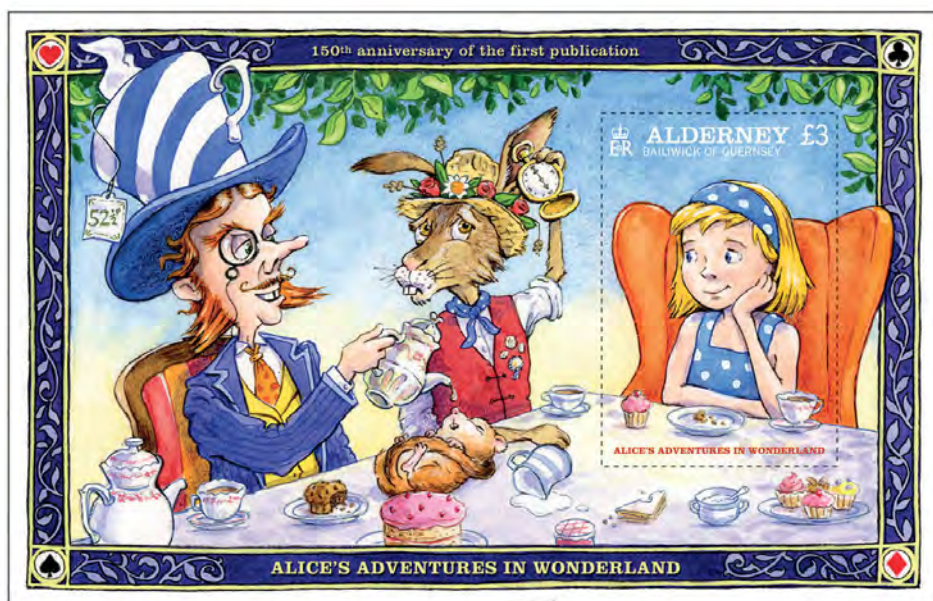
As collectors of British stamps will know, this year marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and Royal Mail are not the only philatelic bureau to issue stamps to mark the occasion. Guernsey Post have issued six colourful stamps and a miniature sheet, on behalf of Alderney, showing some of Lewis Carroll's unique and well known characters, including the hard-nosed Queen of Hearts, the hookah-smoking caterpillar, and the unpunctual white rabbit, who leads Alice down the rabbit hole and into Wonderland.

Illustrated by UK-based artist Keith Robinson, who has previously worked on Guernsey stamp issues including the Adventures of Penny the Postie and Sherlock Holmes, the stamp images are set in decorative frames, reminiscent of classic stamp issues, with appropriate motifs dotted around the designs. The miniature sheet is similarly framed, showing a scene of the Mad Hatter's tea party, with the single £3 value on the sheet focussed on the modern-looking Alice.

The presentation pack provides a biography of Charles Dodgson and explains how the author 'invented the pen name Lewis Carroll by translating his first two names "Charles Lutwidge" into Latin as "Carolus Lodovicus", then anglicising and reversing their order.'

STAMP DETAILS

Issue date: 5 February, 2015
 Design: Keith Robinson
 Printer: Cartor Security Printing, offset lithography
 Perforations: 13 x 13.5
 Stamp size: 40.64mm x 36.85mm
 M/Sheet size: 70mm x 110mm
 M/Sheet stamp: 42mm x 28mm
 41p - Alice with flamingo
 54p - White Rabbit
 55p - The Caterpillar
 66p - Cheshire Cat
 74p - Mad Hatter
 83p - Queen of Hearts
 £3 - Alice at Mad Hatter's tea party




JERSEY

On the right track



No doubt many young stamp collectors in years gone by will have split their spare time between adding stamps to their albums and playing with their model railway. Both hobbies were hugely popular with children for the best part of the twentieth century, and both still have a huge following today from both youngsters and grown-up enthusiasts.

With this nostalgic appeal in mind, Jersey Post pay homage to Hornby, the most well known producer of model railways, on a new set of six stamps, which fit nicely into this year's Europa theme of toys and show actual artwork used to produce Hornby train set boxes.

The British company was founded by Frank Hornby who, in 1901, applied for a patent to protect an invention we now know as Meccano. By 1920 Hornby had introduced toy trains into the market place, and five years later the first Hornby electric train was produced. As the years progressed, specifications were upgraded and over time improvements were made to provide finer details, such as the introduction of the high definition printing of names and liveries.

Today, there are over 650 items in Hornby's range, and the train sets and models still delight children and adults alike.

STAMP DETAILS

Europa 2015 – Traditional Toys

Issue date: 24 March, 2015

Design: True North using artwork supplied by and © Hornby Hobbies Ltd.

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, offset lithography

Stamp size: 40mm wide x 30mm deep

46p - British Pullman

56p - GWR Passenger Freight

62p - Flying Scotsman

(includes Europa logo)

70p - The Cornishman

82p - Mixed Freight train

(includes Europa logo)

91p - Caledonian Belle


ISLE OF MAN

The global scale of WWI

The anniversary of World War One continues to be marked on stamp sets as we head into 2015, and the Isle of Man's second part of their four-year series surveys a wide geographical range of battle scenes.

The six stamp images each feature the Royal British Legion red poppy alongside pictures of six battle fronts, including Turkish guns at Hircira, Palestine in 1917; Austrians marching through Eastern Europe; and the British at work at Gallipoli in 1916. The familiar image

of The Western Front is also shown.

In the presentation pack for the stamps, Colonel Charles Wilson reflects on the truly global scale of the conflict, as illustrated across the six values. 'It was the dispersion of World War One which made it "world"' he writes. 'Millions of lives were lost. The outcome changed the world for ever. Battles raged around the oceans. Armies locked from the Baltic to the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Conflicts ranged from wars of movement in

the deserts to nullifying trench stalemate on the Western Front.'

Maxine Cannon, General Manager of Isle of Man Stamps and Coins said: 'We were delighted that Colonel Charles Wilson agreed to produce the accompanying text to this issue. His words give a detailed account of the scale of the war and build a picture of the battle fields across the world during World War One.'

STAMP DETAILS

WWI Battle Fronts

Issue date: 17 February, 2015

Design: CASCO

Printer: offset lithography

Perforations: 14

Stamp Size: 42.58 x 28.45mm

42p - Turkish guns at Hircira 1917

42p - Women painting a tank

75p - The Somme 1917

£1.10 - Austrians in Eastern Europe

£1.44 - Gallipoli: British battery, 1916

£1.64 - Austrians at Tyrol, 1916



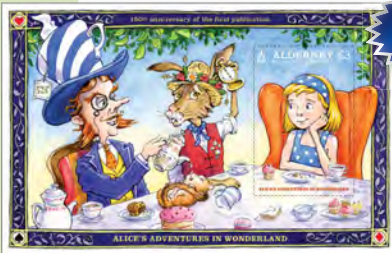
COMMEMORATIVE GUERNSEY & ALDERNEY STAMPS

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Issue Date 5 Feb: Set of six stamps: £3.73



Miniature Sheet: £3.00



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Presentation Pack Miniature Sheet: £3.90

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Year of the Goat 2015

Issue Date 28 Jan: Set of six stamps: £3.73



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Europa 2015 Traditional Toys

Issue date: 24 March 2015
Six stamps feature illustrations based on actual artwork used to produce Hornby train set boxes.

Jersey Protected Species

Jersey Post & Go powered by Royal Mail Issue date: 18 February 2015
The second issue in Jersey's Post & Go series features a collection of animals protected by the Island's Biodiversity Strategy.



2015 Definitives - The Crest of Jersey Issue date: 18 February 2015



Ten new Definitive stamps depict the Crest of Jersey in a contemporary colour palette. Printed in micro text in the background waves are the names of all twelve Jersey parishes.

The ten stamps are accompanied by a £5 hologram stamp, the first in the world to feature the effect of a hologram which has been embossed.

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Jersey Post

The Stamp Show 2000

In our special series of articles looking back on major philatelic exhibitions, Richard West recalls the 2000 show, described as 'probably the last of the great London internationals'

Initially the choice of Alexandra Palace in north London as the venue for Stamp World London 90 seemed strange: in the event it proved highly suitable. The success inspired the owners of the venue to approach the British Philatelic Trust in the mid-90s offering Alexandra Palace for the next London international in 2000. However, before the offer could be seriously considered, Royal Mail advised that it had already been in contact with exhibition organisers, P&O Events, and a contract had been signed for the two jointly to organise the 2000 exhibition, to be held at Earls Court. One can only assume that both parties were content that the event would make a profit, despite the fact that previous exhibitions had to be subsidised.

The Stamp Show 2000 filled the lower floor of Earls Court from 22 to 28 May, an event 'organised and hosted by Royal Mail'.

A Philatelic Board with representation from major collector and trade bodies was established, chosen to advise the organising team from Royal Mail. However, suffice to say that the marriage of Royal Mail and P&O Events did not prove to be happy. With less than a year to go, the arrangement was severed and, while Earls Court remained the venue, P&O Events played no further part in the organisation. Everything was now controlled by Royal Mail, although the Philatelic Board, with some changes, remained in place.

It is clear the experience did not prove satisfactory for Royal Mail, with unconfirmed reports of a deficit of around £7 million. One can well understand why subsequently it has preferred to keep the organisation of London internationals at arm's length.

However, in fairness, much thought and effort was put into ensuring the event appealed to a wide public. The key to this was Smilers, the customised



stamps that had already been tested by other postal administrations. Advertising on London's Underground, including within the carriages, focused on the idea of having one's own picture next to a stamp that could be sent through the mail. Even the entrance ticket continued the idea of putting oneself 'in the frame'.

The Smilers sheets comprised ten stamps, using the Smiles designs that had been used for Greetings stamps in 1990. Alongside each stamp could be a 'self' portrait, although 'generic' versions with decorative labels were also available. The sheets were sold within a red folder with a 'cut-out' smile on the front.

Similar personalised stamps were also available from a stand jointly organised by the Australian and Irish Post Offices. More unusual was the 'customised' meter mark offered by Neopost.

The admission ticket adopted the idea of putting oneself in the frame as seen on Royal Mail's Smilers sheets, launched to coincide with the exhibition

A £5 phone card marking the event. At the time phone cards were popular with some collectors

No surcharged sheets

Royal Mail decided that the idea of raising finances by issuing miniature sheets carrying a premium was no longer practicable. Instead, in the months leading up to the exhibition, three Prestige stamp books were issued, on the themes of the Wilding definitives, methods of printing stamps, and the design talents of Jeffery Matthews.

During the exhibition two miniature sheets were issued, albeit without surcharge. One featured ten colours developed by Jeffery Matthews for the Machin definitives, this also being available in a 'pack' comprising a mint sheet and one affixed to a card and cancelled on the day of issue. A second sheet, called 'Her Majesty's Stamps', included four of the definitives introduced to mark the new Millennium, coupled with one of the Coronation designs from 1953: this was also available in a presentation pack.

Admission to the exhibition was free except on the opening day, for which a £10 charge was made. However, the first day pass was an elaborate production and included the Millennium Timekeepers miniature sheet with the top margin overprinted with the exhibition logo. (In theory, there was a £5 admission charge on the other days, but there were so many free tickets distributed, that no one actually had to pay.)



Back in 2000 the collecting of phone cards was creating a few waves – so Royal Mail responded by selling a £5 card depicting the exhibition logo.

Two retail books were also on sale during the event, one including two from the Millennium special series coupled with eight definitives, while the second featured a label depicting Postman Pat.

Young visitors were well catered for, being able to visit Postman Pat at Greendale, plus have fun with both the National Youth Stamp Group (now Stamp Active Network) and the youth section of the RSPB. Professor Shrink was also on hand for those who wanted to design their own stamps. Equipment provided by The House of Questa meant designs could be reduced to stamp size and printed off as self-adhesive labels. Later, the three best designs were made into a souvenir sheet printed by Questa that was distributed through the *British Philatelic Bulletin*.

Other features

Other features included displays of rarities from The Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library Philatelic Collections, while Post Office Heritage (now the British Postal Museum & Archive) showed how mail has been carried over the years, and presented a separate display of iconic Post Office posters. Collaboration among the main collections created a special display looking at the development of definitives from the Penny Black. A press from the British Library was used to demonstrate how

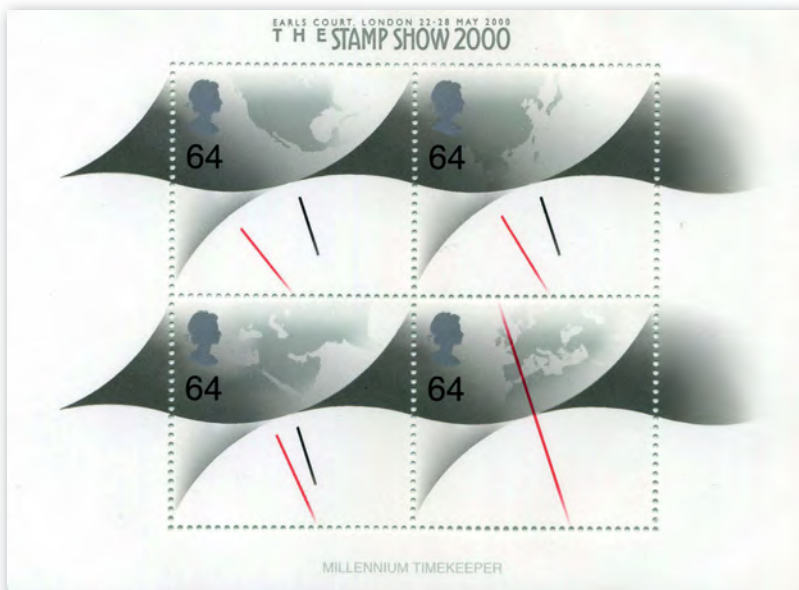


Generic Smilers sheet

the Penny Black was originally printed, reproductions in blocks of four being available in special presentation packs.

Also on show were the artworks that had been created for the designs of the special stamps issued throughout 1999 to mark the new Millennium.

The principal printers of British stamps each had stands, as did paper makers Tullis Russell. Joh Enschedé was giving away three souvenir sheets each depicting 'The Night Watch' by Rembrandt that had been reproduced on a recent stamp



Millennium Timekeepers miniature sheet with exhibition details in top margin

issue from The Netherlands. Tullis Russell was offering a souvenir sheet specially created for the exhibition.

There were, of course, many dealers, auctioneers and postal administrations represented: in many cases the overseas Post Offices had issued special stamps for the exhibition. A large proportion of the exhibition was devoted to the competitive displays which, unusually for a London international, included Astrophilately and Maximaphily, plus the embryonic Open Class. A reading area for entries in the Literature Class was hosted by the National Philatelic Society, while the Association of British Philatelic Societies presented displays from a large number of specialist societies.

As mentioned, Royal Mail poured vast resources into the project, but it never brought the final returns that were clearly anticipated. That despite Royal Mail having a massive sales area from which current products were sold. It is somewhat ironic that much was available on a self-service basis, pre-packaged in special packs, for these packs are today highly sought-after.

Sadly, it is unlikely London will ever host such an ambitious exhibition again.

LONDON 2015

From 13 to 16 May, 2015 there will be held an International Stamp Exhibition at the Business Design Centre, London. Organised by 'Stamp World Exhibitions 2015' it is a full International Exhibition with 'patronage' of FEPA (the European Federation of Philatelic Associations) and 'recognition' of FIP (Federation of International Philately). To advertise the event, a series of postcards have been produced which illustrate souvenirs from fifteen London International Exhibitions, held between 1890 and 2015. The postcards are progressively being given away at stamp exhibitions throughout the world. The eleventh postcard highlighted the 2000 event, reproducing a first day cover produced by Benham, and was distributed NORDIA, Oslo in November 2014.





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Germany's lost empire

Germany began to stretch its colonial muscles in the 1880s and, over the ensuing years before world war, acquired a number of possessions dotted around the globe. Today the colonies' stamps provide an intriguing reminder of the country's pre-war history, as David Bailey reveals

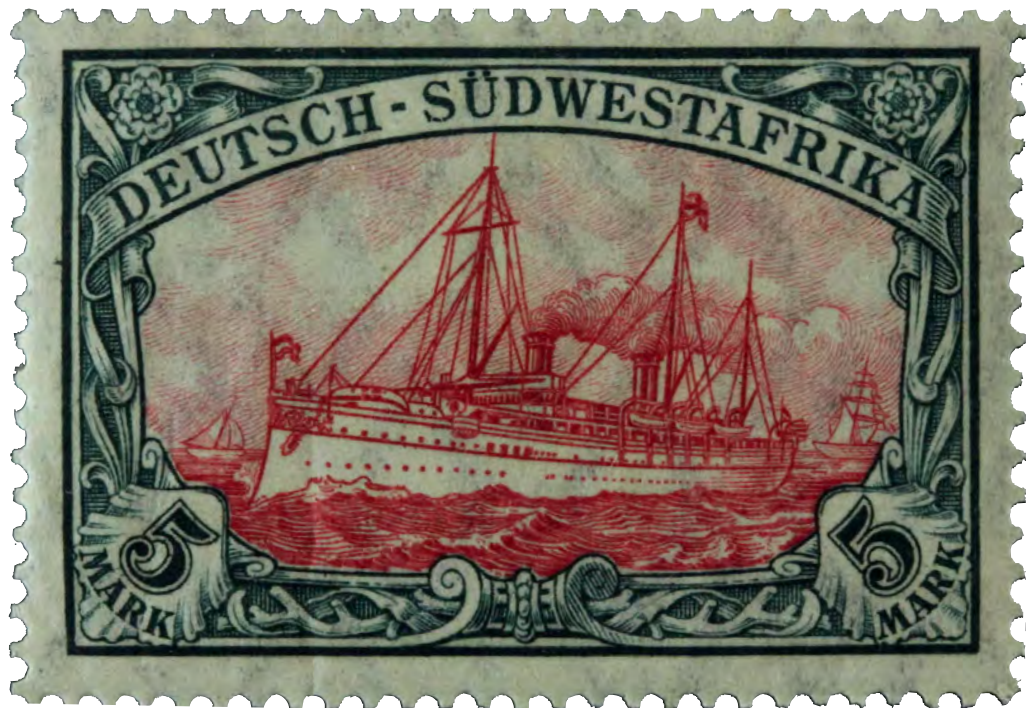
Formed only in 1871, Germany soon became established as a major European power. Next, it wanted to be a player on the world stage, and that meant an overseas empire. Otto von Bismarck, architect of the new Germany, was not keen on colonialism, but it had strong support at home. Between 1830 and 1860, around one million Germans had emigrated to the USA, losing their Teutonic identity for ever. German colonies would give emigrants a place to go that was still Germany. Colonies would stimulate trade in imports and exports and provide opportunities for investors.

A new colonial power

German merchants and adventurers were already acquiring interests abroad but in 1884, Bismarck changed his mind and made it government policy. At the second Congress of Berlin, fourteen European powers agreed ground rules for the 'scramble for Africa', partitioning the continent between them.

During 1884 and 1885, Germany acquired a rag-bag of possessions in East, West and South-West Africa and the Pacific Islands. But Bismarck was determined that the colonies would not be a drain on the Exchequer: they would be administered by chartered companies, not the state, and they would always take second place to German interests in Europe, as in 1890, when German territories in Zanzibar were exchanged with Britain for the strategic islands of Heligoland (see article on page 64).

By 1890, the new German colonies had official post offices, using German stamps. But a glance at catalogue prices



The Kaiser's Yacht, seen on all of Germany's colonial stamps, symbolised the country's power and imperial ambitions

reveals a low level of economic activity, especially when compared with similar British territories during the same period.

With Bismarck's resignation in 1890, the pro-colonial movement gained strength, and Germany bought, bullied or bargained its way to further territories in the Caroline Islands, the Mariana Islands and Kiaochow on Mainland China.

Pro-colonialism was accompanied by *Weltpolitik*, a word which articulated the German desire to be a leading player in world affairs. The Colonies were a major part of this and as their perceived importance grew, they clearly merited their own stamps.

The colonial issues

Colonial stamps were issued in German currency throughout the overseas empire, except where there was already an established economy, as in German

East Africa and Kiaochow. The first colonials were overprints on German stamps issued in 1887 and 1888; these were followed in 1900 with the 'Yacht' key types. The first overprinted stamps for the Caroline Islands, POs in China, Southwest Africa, and the Mariana Islands have the overprint at 48 degrees. All the rest of these issues are at a noticeably steeper 56 degrees.

The Yacht types feature Kaiser Wilhelm's vessel the *Hobenzollern II*. The Pfennig values are typographed, or surface-printed, in similar colours to the Germania stamps. The Mark values are recess-printed in one or two colours. Two frame types served to accommodate the colonies' names and two central engravings of the yacht were cut to fit them. As with the German mark stamps of the period, there are three different perforations, which can only be

Right: a rare bisect on cover from Cameroun (image courtesy of Heinrich Kohler Auctions)

distinguished by counting the holes. Varieties also occur when the wrong centre is used for the frame.

The first printings of these stamps were on unwatermarked paper, replaced in 1905 by paper with the Lozenges watermark. However, not all the Lozenges issues actually made it to the colonies. Some were sold to collectors in Berlin while remainder stocks were auctioned off after the war.

Where stamps are found both mint and used, the latter are generally more expensive, so there is an implicit risk of fake cancellations. Most forgeries are betrayed by the ink of the cancellation; genuine cancels have a slightly oily sheen. But most of the German colonial material for sale in this country will have been imported from abroad and will usually have certificates from German-based experts.

The naval arms race

By the mid 1890s, a new word was being heard around the Reichstag. This was *Flottenpolitik*. It expressed the idea that since Germany now had a worldwide colonial empire, she ought to have a navy to match. The idea gained ground in 1897, when Britain threatened to blockade German ports if Germany intervened in the Boer War. And in 1898, the first of four Fleet Acts committed the country to an extensive

THE GERMAN COLONISERS



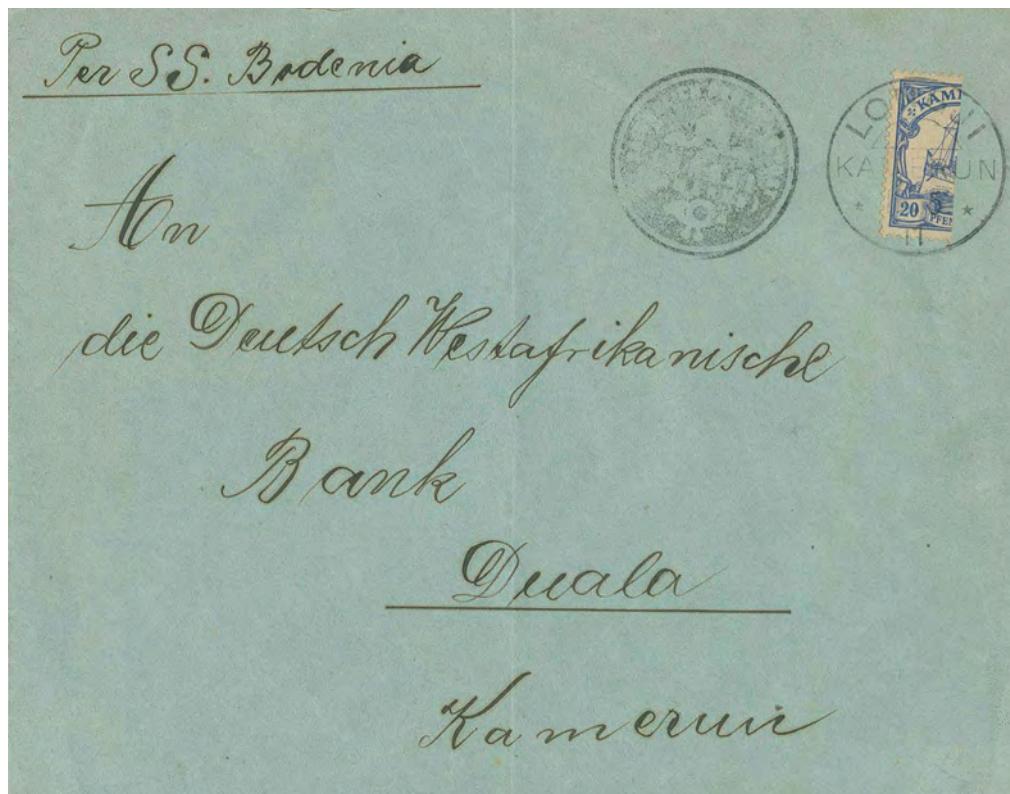
In 1934, Germany commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of colonialism with a set of stamps (SG537-40). It's something of a rogues' gallery.

Franz Luderitz founded German West Africa on a disputed treaty, through which the local tribal leader signed away most of his land. He had no understanding of the word 'miles' and the contract was nicknamed the Mile Swindle. 'Luderitzland' became a German Protectorate in 1884 and Luderitz subsequently went bankrupt buying up more acres of land and prospecting for non-existent minerals.

Gustav Nachtigal was a conventional explorer, making epic journeys through Central Africa and the kingdoms of the Sahara. Here, he witnessed the horrors of the African slave trade and became convinced that a European takeover of Africa would be the best way to stop it. He was later appointed as special commissioner for West Africa to found the first German colonies in Togo and the Camerouns.

Karl Peters founded the influential 'Society for German Colonisation' and conducted an expedition to East Africa to secure territories in their name. He subsequently founded the German East Africa Company but it lost territory in the Heligoland-Zanzibar treaty exchange with Britain. In 1891 he went out again to East Africa as Imperial High Commissioner for the Kilimanjaro Region but his brutality towards the native population cost him his job.

Hermann Wissman was a soldier and explorer, appointed to subdue the Aushiri rebellion in German East Africa. He remained in the territory and was appointed Governor in 1895. He founded the first Schutztruppe in the region, a highly effective fighting force despite its small size. He was admired by his officers and men but criticised for acting like a military dictator.



shipbuilding programme.

The British responded by accelerating their own programme and revolutionising naval design in the process. The Dreadnought battleship of 1906 was the first of a new class of warships with steam turbine engines and a mass of heavy guns. Rapid expansion of the navy, alongside maintenance of Europe's largest army, placed an enormous strain on the German economy, while the colonies themselves created a lesser one. The private companies that were supposed to run things had proved, at best, incompetent and, from 1907, the overseas empire was run from a Colonial Office along British lines.

The colonies at war

When war came, the overseas colonies were quickly overrun, except for German East Africa, where General von Lettow-Vorbeck commanded



a Schutztruppe of 3,500 Germans and 12,000 native Askaris. They succeeded in tying down a British army of 40,000 men through a combination of guerilla warfare and set-piece battles. At the Battle of Tanga in November 1914, Von Lettow-Vorbeck's army beat a British force more than eight times its size. Von Lettow-Vorbeck was assisted by the light cruiser *Konigsberg*, operating off the coast. When the cruiser was scuttled due to lack of coal, the crew converted the ship's guns for land use. Eventually, weight of numbers and dwindling supplies caused him to abandon the colony altogether and he retreated via Mozambique to Northern Rhodesia. When he heard the war was over, he surrendered.

A fine registered cover from Nauru to Kiel in Germany (image courtesy of German & Colonies Philatelic Society)

The two angles of the overprint on stamps of the Caroline Islands. The first set is much scarcer (images courtesy of Robert Uden); an example of the 'Wuga' provisionals, which lay buried for five years (image courtesy of Heinrich Kohler Auctions)

Philatelic treasure

The war in German East Africa created its own postal history, especially when supplies of stamps started running low. Postage was collected in cash and letters were franked with special handstamps. A supply of Germania stamps was salvaged from the Konigsberg and distributed to eight local post offices. Then in 1916, faced with further shortages, the mission printer at Wuga ran off a set of three stamps (2.5 heller, 7.5 heller and 1 rupee). These were roughly printed by letterpress on locally-made paper, then rouletted; but when fresh supplies arrived, the stamps were not required. They were buried on a plantation near Morogoro and dug up again in 1921. Today, these undistinguished stamps are among the rarest of the colonial issues.

The colonial legacy

Germany's overseas empire had too little time to put down any serious roots, but there are some fascinating reminders. German is still spoken in Namibia. Place names across East Africa retain their German spelling. Some fine architecture has survived, like the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Lome, Togo and the Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

An unexpected legacy comes from China, where the port of Tsingtao was laid out like a German city in miniature, with architecture in traditional style. In 1903, German settlers set up a brewery. The local people acquired a taste for German-style beers and Tsingtao Beer is still brewed there today, using hops imported from Europe.

Otherwise, the most widespread reminders of Germany's lost empire must be that most ephemeral of products: stamps.

Today, the colonial stamps are a fascinating collecting area in themselves. They make a natural extension to a collection of Germany. But collectors of British or Francophone Africa might also enjoy tracing back the stamps of Togo or Tanganyika to their beginnings in the lost empire.

**AFRICAN COLONIES
Cameroun**

Founded as a coastal colony in 1884, it was extended in 1894 as far as Lake Chad and in 1911 by a further 120,000 square miles to the Congo and Ubangi Rivers. From 1916, it was occupied by British and French forces and in 1919, the Treaty of Versailles divided the country into two League of





Nations Mandates administered by Britain and France. Cameroun was re-unified in 1961.

German East Africa

German East Africa became a German Protectorate in 1895 when German troops were called in to quell a native rebellion. Bad government and local unrest continued until 1907, when Bernhard Dernburg created a modern, enlightened administration. After the war, the colony was divided up. Ruanda-Urundi went to Belgium. The southern territory of Kionga became Portuguese. The remainder became Tanganyika, now Tanzania.

Togo

Togo became a German Protectorate in 1884 and gradually expanded inland becoming Togoland in 1907, when substantial investment in agriculture, roads and railways created a prosperous community. Togoland was invaded by British and French forces and fell in 1914, after which the country was divided between them. British Togoland voted to merge with Ghana in 1957. French Togoland is an autonomous French Republic.

German South-West Africa

German South-west Africa became a German Protectorate in 1884. In 1907, disputes about funding for the

colony provoked a general election, nicknamed the Hottentot Election. It fell to South African troops in 1915 and is now known as Namibia.

From left: the stamps of German East Africa are denominated in the local currency, there was a thriving economy based on Indian Ocean trade; A German New Guinea 20pf value. Colours of the yacht types are as for the corresponding German issues (images courtesy of Robert Uden)

THE PACIFIC COLONIES

Caroline Islands Mariana Islands

Purchased from Spain in 1899, they were occupied by the Japanese in 1914 and became part of Japanese territory. In 1947, both island groups became United States Trust Territories.

German New Guinea

The German Protectorate extended over the north eastern part of New Guinea plus the Bismarck archipelago, the Admiralty Islands and the Northern Solomon Islands. These last were traded with Britain for the renunciation of British claims to Samoa. The others were taken by Australian troops and remain as an Australian mandated territory.

Kiaochow

Germany occupied the port of Tsingtao in 1887 and leased the surrounding territories from China for 99 years. They were taken by the Japanese in 1914 and returned to China in 1922. See page 52 for more on the region's stamps.

Marshall Islands and Nauru

These became a German protectorate in 1885. In 1914, the Marshall Islands fell to the Japanese and are now administered by the USA. Nauru was taken by Australia and after a British Mandate from 1916-22, returned to Australian control.

Samoa

These long-contested islands were finally divided between Germany and America in 1899. In 1914, they were occupied by New Zealand and gained independence in 1962 as Western Samoa.

With thanks for information and images to Robert Uden, Enfield Stamp Centre, Heinrich Koehler Auctions and the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society.

THE KAISER'S YACHTS



The Yacht featured on the Colonial stamps is the second in a series of three. *Hohenzollern I* was a paddle steamer, considered out of date by Kaiser Wilhelm II. He commissioned the *Hohenzollern II* as a dual purpose vessel – a luxury yacht and an armed naval sloop – thus getting budgetary approval from Parliament. It was launched in 1893 and the Kaiser, who enjoyed cruising, spent a lot of time on board, however, *Hohenzollern II* never saw military service. By 1913, it was obsolete and the keel for *Hohenzollern III* was laid down. It was never completed.

The German Colony of Kiautschou

To coincide with our focus on German colonies, 'dead country' expert Michael Adkins examines the German's presence in China, which produced a series of stamps suitable for study

During the nineteenth century, the Empire of China, an ancient kingdom long closed, was pressured by a technologically superior west to open its borders to influence and trade. For over 100 years, China was bullied and manipulated by European powers, the US, Russia and an increasingly powerful Japan.

The history, as well as the multitude of different stamp issuing entities from this period, is a very complex and a very interesting area for dead country specialists to collect.

With the defeat of China by Japan in the Sino-Japanese war (1894-95), European powers began to view China as terminally weak and doomed to failure. In order to capitalize on this, they adopted a policy commonly called 'carving up the Chinese melon'. The British obtained the New Territories around Hong Kong, the Russians gained Port Arthur and the Germans set their sights on the Bay of Jiaozhou Bay (Kiautschou in German).

On 1 November, 1897, two German missionaries were murdered in the small fishing village of Tsingtao (today Qingdao), which provided an 'excuse' for the German military to move in and 'stabilize and protect' the area.



From left: issued in 1901 in Germany currency, the stamps used the common key design for all German colonies.

The common design left blank the name at the top and the number and currency at the bottom; in 1905, the currency of Kiautschou changed to Mexican Dollars (not US); 'Peacetime' printings for the dollar denominations with a watermark have 26 holes across the top and bottom of the stamp; 'Wartime' printings for dollar denomination stamps were printed in Berlin and only issued to collectors. If there are 26 holes across the top and bottom, it was printed in 1918, if there are 25 holes, such as this one, it was printed in 1919

Soon, the powerful Germans forced the Chinese to agree a 99-year lease of the region around Jiaozhou bay. Known as the Kiautschou Bay Concession, the agreement gave the German Empire sovereignty, while officially the area remained part of China. Additionally the agreement gave Germany railroad and mining rights, including areas beyond the borders of the Concession.

While Kiautschou was considered a colony, it was administered under the authority of the Imperial Navy rather than a colonial administration. The colony attracted many German businessmen and colonists. During the time of the colony, China experienced tremendous change with events such as the Boxer Rebellion, (1900), the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5) the fall of the Qing Dynasty and creation of the Republic of China (1911-12).

With the outbreak of World War One, the Republic of China cancelled the Kiautschou lease and Japan issued an ultimatum to the Germans to unconditionally evacuate the colony. Germany rejected the demand, and on 23 August, 1914, Japan declared war on Germany; within three months the Japanese were in control of the region.

After the war, the Treaty of Versailles agreed to Japanese claims at the Paris Peace Conference and assigned all German territories north of the equator in the Pacific territories to Japan, which included Jiaozhou Bay. The Chinese government refused to sign the treaty, and eventually, through negotiation led by the US Government, it was agreed that the region would be returned to China.

From 1897-1901, German stamps and German Offices in China stamps were used in the colony; these can be identified by a 'Tsingtao' postmark. In

1900, stamps from the German Offices of China were surcharged '5pf' in Tsingtao and issued in the colony. There are many varieties of these surcharges and they have been extensively forged. If you plan on collecting them, expertisation is a must.

In January, 1901, Kiautschou printed and issued stamps using a common key design for German colonies, which featured the Kaiser's yacht, the SMY *Hozenzollern II*, as detailed in the major article on page 48. The unwatermarked stamps were issued in German currency (100 pfennig = 1 Mark) in thirteen denominations from 3 pfennig to 5 marks.

In 1905, the colony changed its currency to 100 cents = 1 dollar. Stamps with the new currency were issued on 1 October 1905, also on unwatermarked paper.

Shortly thereafter, stamps began to be issued on paper watermarked with the typical vertical lozenge design of Germany. These continued to be issued until the German post office closed with the Japanese occupation on 7 November, 1914. It is also important to note that all of these stamps were printed using the 'peacetime' printing. These stamps, issued before the war, usually have a clearer, crisper print quality with brighter colours than the 'wartime' printings. Often it is hard to determine the difference, even by an expert.

In 1918, the 1c, 20c, as well as the \$1 stamps were printed in Berlin with 'wartime' printing, and were put on sale to collectors. These of course are of lesser value than the stamps from the 'peacetime' printing.

Michael Adkins runs the website DCStamps.com

FACT FILE

Region: China

Government: German Colony

Key Dates:

14 November, 1897 - Germans invade and occupy Tsingtao

6 March, 1898 - Germany and the

Chinese Empire agree to a 99-year concession

1911 - Chinese Empire falls

23 August, 1914 - Republic of China cancels the concession

7 November, 1914 - Germans driven out of Kiautschou bay by the Japanese

Following Regime: Japanese Occupation of Kiautschou

First Stamp Issued: 1898





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1924	Wembley	12.00	*	*	1973	Tree	0.10	1.00	0.25	1988	Transport	1.10	1.10	0.60	2000	Above and Beyond	1.60	1.60	1.00
1925	Wembley	35.00	*	*	1973	Explorers	0.50	2.00	0.60	1988	Australia	1.10	1.10	0.60	2000	Fire and Light	1.60	1.60	1.00
1929	P.U.C.	15.00	*	*	1973	Cricknet	0.40	2.50	0.60	1988	Armada	1.00	1.00	0.60	2000	Water and Coast	1.60	1.60	1.00
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	160.00	*	*	1973	Paintings	0.35	1.00	0.40	1988	Lear	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Life and Earth	2.00	2.00	1.00
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	42.00	*	*	1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	1.00	0.40	1989	Christmas	1.30	1.30	0.60	2000	Art and Craft	2.00	2.00	1.00
1935	Jubilee	3.30	*	*	1973	Parliament	0.25	1.00	0.30	1989	Birds	1.00	1.20	0.60	2000	People and Place	2.00	2.00	1.00
1935	Jubilee Inv.	20.00	*	*	1973	Wedding	0.30	1.00	0.30	1989	Greetings	5.00	*	5.00	2000	Stone and Soil	2.00	2.00	1.00
1937	Coronation	0.10	*	14.00	1973	Christmas	0.75	1.50	0.75	1989	Food	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Tree and Leaf	2.00	2.00	1.00
1940	Centenary	2.50	*	25.00	1974	Tree	0.15	1.00	0.20	1989	Anniversaries	1.10	1.20	0.60	2000	Mind and Matter	2.00	2.00	1.00
1946	Victory	0.10	*	25.00	1974	Fire	0.40	1.20	0.50	1989	Toys	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Body and Bone	2.00	2.00	1.00
1948	Wedding	15.75	*	*	1974	U.P.U.	0.35	1.50	0.40	1989	Ind. Arch.	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Spirit and Faith	2.00	2.00	1.00
1948	Liberation	0.10	*	14.00	1974	Britons	0.40	1.50	0.40	1989	Microscopes	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Sound and Vision	2.00	2.00	1.00
1948	Olympics	3.00	*	20.00	1974	Churchill	0.40	1.50	0.50	1989	Mayor	1.00	1.00	0.60	2001	Hopes for the Future	2.00	2.00	1.00
1949	U.P.U.	0.40	*	34.00	1974	Christmas	0.30	1.50	0.40	1989	Christmas	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Occasions	2.75	3.00	1.00
1951	Festival	0.10	*	15.00	1975	Charity	0.05	-	0.20	1990	150th Anniv.	1.30	3.00	1.50	2001	Cats and Dogs	6.50	6.50	3.00
1953	Coronation	7.50	*	30.00	1975	Turner	0.30	1.20	0.35	1990	RSPCA	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Weather	2.00	3.00	1.00
1957	Scouts	2.60	*	14.00	1975	Architecture	0.45	1.20	0.50	1990	Greetings	6.00	*	6.00	2001	Navy Submarines	2.00	5.00	1.50
1957	Parliament	0.25	*	60.00	1975	Sailing	0.35	1.00	0.45	1990	Europa	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Double-Deckers	3.00	3.00	1.00
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1960	G.L.O.	1.30	*	25.00	1975	Parliament	0.15	1.50	0.30	1990	Gardens	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Pond Life/Europa	2.40	2.40	1.00
1960	Europa	3.75	*	20.00	1975	Austen	0.40	1.20	0.45	1990	Green	0.20	0.20	0.20	2001	Punch & Judy	3.30	3.50	1.00
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.70	*	30.00	1975	Christmas	0.40	1.20	0.35	1990	Birthday	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Nobel Prizes	4.50	10.00	1.20
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10	*	2.00	1976	Telephone	0.40	1.00	0.40	1990	Gallantry	1.00	1.00	0.60	2001	Christmas	3.00	3.00	1.20
1961	Parliament	0.75	*	14.00	1976	Reformers	0.40	1.00	0.40	1990	Astronomy	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	Kipling Stories	6.50	6.50	3.00
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.75	*	17.50	1976	USA	0.10	0.40	0.20	1990	Christmas	1.30	1.30	0.60	2002	Golden Jubilee	3.00	3.00	1.20
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	9.75	*	75.00	1976	Roses	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Dogs	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	Occasions	2.75	3.00	1.20
1963	F.F.H. (P)	9.75	*	22.00	1976	Culture	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Greetings "Luck"	6.50	1.20	4.50	2002	Coastlines	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Paris (O)	0.10	*	5.00	1976	Caxton	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Scenes	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	Queen's Mother	3.00	3.00	1.20
1963	Paris (P)	2.40	*	17.50	1976	Christmas	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Greetings "Smile"	6.50	*	4.50	2002	Circuit	3.00	3.00	1.20
1963	Nature (O)	0.10	*	10.00	1977	Sports	0.45	1.40	0.40	1991	Space	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	Aircraft	3.00	3.00	2.00
1963	Nature (P)	1.10	*	16.00	1977	Chemistry	0.45	1.40	0.40	1991	Sports	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	C.wealth Games	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Lifeboat (O)	1.10	*	14.00	1977	S. Jubilee (5v)	0.50	0.60	0.50	1991	Roses	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	Peter Pan	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Lifeboat (P)	17.50	*	24.00	1977	Government	0.10	0.30	0.30	1991	Dinosaurs	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	London Bridges	3.50	12.50	2.00
1963	Red Cross (P)	2.00	*	16.00	1977	Wildlife	0.45	0.60	0.40	1991	Maps	1.30	1.30	0.60	2002	Pillar Boxes	3.00	3.00	2.00
1963	Red Cross (P)	25.00	*	40.00	1978	Christmas	0.45	0.60	0.40	1991	Christmas	1.40	1.40	0.60	2002	Christmas	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Cable (O)	0.80	*	10.00	1978	Energy	0.40	0.60	0.35	1992	Wintertime	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	Birds of Prey	6.50	6.50	3.00
1963	Cable (P)	4.80	*	27.50	1978	Buildings	0.40	0.60	0.35	1992	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2003	Occasions	3.00	3.00	1.50
1964	Shakes (O)	1.40	10.00	3.30	1978	Coronation	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Accession	1.20	1.20	0.70	2003	The Secret of Life	3.00	3.00	1.75
1964	Shakes (P)	1.50	*	6.00	1978	Horses	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Tennyson	1.20	1.20	0.70	2003	Fun Fruit & Veg	6.50	6.50	2.50
1964	Geog (O)	4.50	85.00	8.00	1978	Cycling	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Olympics	1.50	1.50	0.70	2003	Endeavours	3.50	3.50	2.00
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1964	Bot (O)	1.40	85.00	8.00	1979	Dogs	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	G. & Sullivan	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	Prince William	2.30	2.30	2.00
1964	Bot (P)	9.75	*	16.00	1979	Flowers	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	Green	0.25	0.25	0.20	2003	Scotland	3.20	3.20	2.50
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.15	275.00	2.00	1979	Elections	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	Euro-Market	0.25	0.25	0.20	2003	Pub Signs	3.20	3.20	2.50
1964	F.R.B. (P)	2.00	*	6.00	1979	Racing	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	Transport Toys	3.20	3.20	2.00
1965	Churchill (O)	0.15	28.00	1.50	1979	Year Of Child	0.40	0.50	0.30	1993	Swans	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	British Museum	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Churchill (P)	0.80	*	2.50	1979	Rowland Hill	0.45	0.50	0.30	1993	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2003	Christmas	4.50	4.50	2.50
1965	Parliament (O)	0.35	40.00	1.00	1979	Police	0.45	0.50	0.30	1993	Clocks	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Locomotives	4.00	5.00	3.00
1965	Parliament (P)	0.35	*	10.00	1979	Christmas	0.55	0.60	0.30	1993	Orchids	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	Occasions	3.00	3.00	1.50
1965	Army (O)	0.30	*	8.00	1980	Birds	0.50	0.60	0.30	1993	Art	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Lord of the Rings	3.00	3.00	1.50
1965	Army (P)	0.70	*	10.00	1980	Railways	0.60	0.70	0.30	1993	Roman	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Northern Ireland	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Lister (O)	0.30	*	5.00	1980	London	0.50	0.60	0.30	1993	Canals	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Entente Cordiale	1.00	4.00	0.50
1965	Lister (P)	0.80	*	6.50	1980	Landmarks	0.50	0.60	0.30	1993	Autumn	1.50	1.50	0.80	2004	Ocean Liners	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Arts (O)	0.30	*	6.00	1980	Famous Women	0.55	0.70	0.30	1993	Holmes	1.20	1.20	1.00	2004	Horticultural	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Arts (P)	0.90	*	8.00	1980	Q.Mother	0.10	-	0.30	1993	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.80	2004	Vales	3.00	3.00	2.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	4.20	35.00	8.00	1980	Music	0.55	0.60	0.30	1994	Railway	1.50	1.50	1.20	2004	Society of Arts	3.20	3.20	2.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	4.20	*	10.00	1980	Sports	0.55	0.60	0.30	1994	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2004	Woodland Animals	6.50	6.50	3.00
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.15	6.50	2.00	1981	Christmas	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	Paintings	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	The Grimean War	3.80	3.80	3.00
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.15	*	2.50	1981	Folklore	0.75	1.00	0.50	1994	Postcards	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	Christmas	3.70	3.70	3.00
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.30	*	5.00	1981	Disabled	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	Tunnel	1.40	1.40	0.70	2005	Farm Animals	6.50	6.50	2.50
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.70	*	6.00	1981	Butterflies	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	D-Day	1.30	1.30	0.70	2005	S. West England	3.00	3.00	2.00
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.30	*	6.50	1981	National Trust	1.00	1.00	0.60	1994	Golf	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Jane Eyre	3.80	3.80	2.00
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.80	*	8.00	1981	Royal Wedding	0.40	0.70	0.50	1994	Four Seasons	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Magic	3.30	3.30	2.50
1966	Jurms (O)	0.20	30.00	8.00	1981	D. Of Edinburgh	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	Medical	1.30	1.30	0.70	2005	World Heritage	4.20	4.20	2.50
1966	Burns (P)	0.60	*	2.00	1981	Fishing	0.90	1.00	0.50	1994	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Trooping The Colour	3.20	3.20	2.50
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20	24.00	2.00	1981	Christmas	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Cats	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Motorcycles	3.20	3.50	2.50
1966	Abbey (P)	0.10	*	5.00	1982	Darwin	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Springtime	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Tastes in Britain	3.20	3.20	2.50
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.25	*	2.50	1982	Youth	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2005	Classic ITV	3.20	3.20	2.50
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.25	*	3.00	1982	Theatre	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	N.Trust	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Smilers	7.50	*	6.00
1966	W. Cup (O)	0.15	12.50	7.00	1982	Maritime	1.10	1.20	0.50	1995	Europa/Peace	1.20	1.20	0.75					

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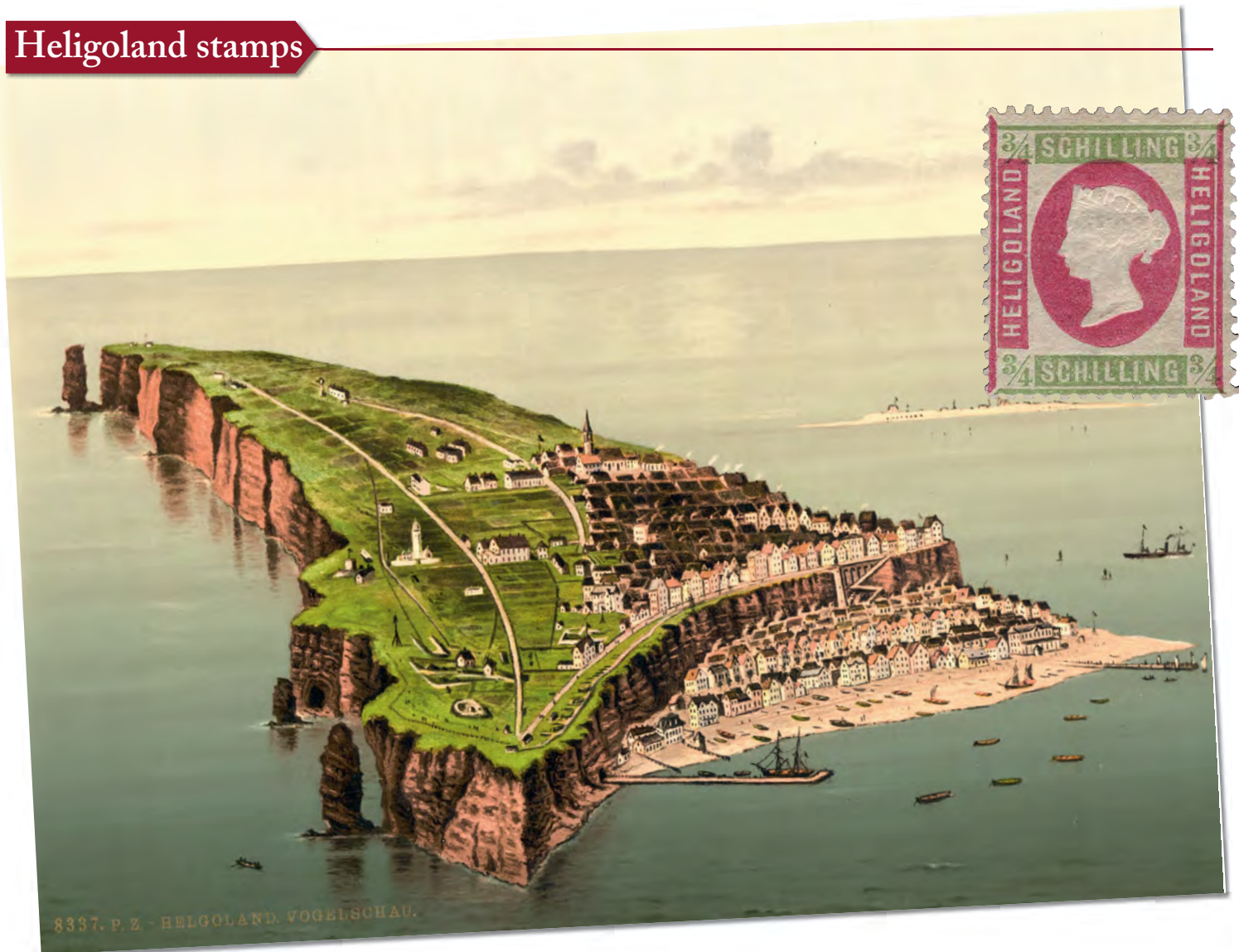
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The North Sea island Britain exchanged for Zanzibar

The stamps of the former British possession of Heligoland are an intriguing footnote in both German and British stamp histories. Ed Fletcher examines the stamps and explains why they featured German denominations alongside the head of Queen Victoria



Hamburg had run the postal service on Heligoland in the eighteenth century and continued by agreement with Britain when the island became a British possession in 1814. After issuing its first adhesive stamps in 1859 Hamburg introduced perforates at its Heligoland post office in 1862. The stamp shown is a 1¼ schilling issue of 1864

In September 1871 a *London Daily News* correspondent, recently returned from a visit to Heligoland, reported that the islanders were unimpressed by Prince Bismarck's declaration that a united Germany ought to include 'every place and people who use the German tongue.' The islanders did, indeed, speak German in their everyday lives the correspondent confirmed; but many were also fluent in written and spoken English.

They went on to inform him, in English, of their anger at British threats to interfere with their ancient claims to wreckage thrown up on Heligoland's

foreshores; and of their disappointment that a pier and breakwater promised by the British had not been built; nor had a telegraph cable, that brought the islanders news of shipping movements in the North Sea, been repaired after it was cut in an accident off England's Norfolk coast three years earlier.

The correspondent rounded off his report with some travel advice. He had taken his trip to Heligoland via Bremerhaven on a regular steamship service from the Thames. He urged readers who enjoyed sea bathing and boating to 'try a short holiday on this small British possession in the North

Sea and send greetings cards to friends at home to show them its attractions.'

He failed to mention that the island's postal service was run by Germans, and that greetings cards and letters addressed to Britain were treated as German mail and taken first to the port city of Hamburg sixty miles to the east; then westward across the North Sea to Southampton aboard a steamship of the Hamburg-Amerika Line. The stamps that British visitors bought to use on German Gruss Aus cards stocked by the island's only post office had been designed by a German, engraved by a German, printed in Germany by the Prussian State Printing Office, and denominated in German currency (the schilling and its fractions). Indeed, the only postal clues to the island's membership of the British Empire were the Anglicised spelling of its name on the stamps (Heligoland rather than the German Helgoland) and a profile portrait of Queen Victoria centrally embossed on every one. How had such incongruous stamps and postal arrangements evolved? A thumbnail sketch of the island's history throws light on the question.

Vikings occupied Heligoland in the thirteenth century and settled to agriculture, fishing, salvaging and wrecking; remaining largely undisturbed until the Hanseatic League seized control of most of the waters and islands in the German Bight in the fifteenth century. The League stationed their own agents on Heligoland and operated an effective ship letter service that linked major European cities, including London, with Hamburg via Heligoland. In the early eighteenth century war between the League and Denmark witnessed Danes occupying Heligoland in 1714, though the Free City of Hamburg continued to operate the postal service on the island.

During the Napoleonic War, Denmark

supported France, and at the war's end was obliged by the 1814 Treaty of Vienna to cede Heligoland to Britain. An agreement between Britain and Hamburg allowed the postal services to continue as before, an arrangement that remained in place when the Free City of Hamburg issued its own adhesive postage stamps in 1859, introducing them at its Heligoland post office in 1862. The island's name did not appear on postage stamps until 1867 when Britain issued stamps for its North Sea colony. They were designed and printed for Britain by the Imperial Printing Works at Berlin, and denominated in Hamburg schillings. As mentioned, they carried Victoria's image and the English spelling of the island's name. When Hamburg joined the North German Postal District in 1868 its postal rates altered accordingly, and Britain agreed to align Heligoland's rates to coincide with them.

Hamburg retained its schilling currency at that time; but when a newly unified Germany emerged in 1871 the Hamburg schilling withered away as the various states of the German Empire embraced a new currency based on 100 pfennigs to 1 mark. When Germany joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 July, 1875, Heligoland adopted the same rates, issuing new stamps and again leaving their production to the German state printing works in Berlin. Victoria's profile still appeared on the stamps of that year, but in subsequent years her portrait gave way to Heligoland emblems with the British crown above. From 1875 values were expressed in both British and German currencies, giving rise to 1 FARTHING/1 PFENNIG, 2 FARTHING/2 PFENNIG and 3 FARTHING/ 5 PFENNIG stamps in that year. A 2½ FARTHING/3 PFENNIG with the island's emblems

An early twentieth-century Danish charity stamp that shows the island's formidable cliffs



depicted was issued in the following year.

We will return to 1875 in the next paragraph; but first let us proceed to 1890 when Prince Bismarck (known as the Iron Chancellor by that time) finally achieved his ambition to absorb Heligoland (as he called it) into the German Empire. He offered several German outposts in Zanzibar in exchange for the North Sea island. Britain, eager at that time to secure its East Africa possessions, agreed. Within a few weeks the Kaiser's yacht *Hohenzollern* (depicted on the stamps of most German colonies, as detailed in our article on page 48) anchored in Heligoland's harbour and the Kaiser stepped ashore to claim the island. Had that marked the end of British Heligoland issues they would, perhaps, attract far more British Empire collectors than they do today.

During the Hamburg schilling period visitors to the island – especially German speakers – invariably sampled two of Heligoland's attractions: nudists' bathing facilities, and the unusual stamps with portraits of England's queen sold at the post office. Throughout Europe stamp collectors in their thousands must have taken great delight in receiving a postcard or letter from Heligoland bearing stamps with pfennig values and Victoria's portrait. A Hamburg stamp dealer, Joseph Goldner, was probably visiting Heligoland regularly; acquiring stamp sets to add to his stocks and rubbing shoulders with crowds of day-trippers from Hamburg, many clutching their souvenir postcards. News that schilling values would shortly cease, and (a year later) that Victoria's image would be erased, spurred Herr Goldner to play a bold hand.



Some visitors preferred to send letters. This one has two schilling types of 1868. They were cancelled at the island's post office. (Image courtesy of Schwanke Philatelic Auctions, Hamburg)

We have no record of an actual conversation, but conjecture leads to the strong likelihood that the dealer approached Heligoland's postmaster and said something like: 'Why not stock up on those popular pfennig issues before they are replaced? I'll buy any you don't sell to visitors, so you won't be left with unsold stamps.' The postmaster took up the suggestion and placed a substantial order with the government printing office in Berlin, where the pfennig issues had always been printed, and where the original plates were used to fulfil this new order. When the stamps arrived Joseph Goldner bought many and had soon supplied several souvenir shops on the island with enough to keep visitor demand satisfied. His Hamburg premises also coped well with its incoming orders.

Nature intervened in this Heligoland idyll when storms and flooding seriously damaged buildings and foreshore structures in the winter of 1878. No doubt concerned that stamp and postcard sales would slump if visitor landings were disrupted in the spring, the postmaster eagerly seized on Goldner's offer to buy stamp stocks, and also to purchase outright the old printing plates for the pfennig issues that were still held in Berlin. It is believed that whenever the dealer required a fresh batch of stamps run off he placed his order through the Heligoland postmaster and was thus able to keep himself, and other dealers who purchased in bulk from him, regularly supplied with the older withdrawn types.

Until 1886 the British authorities seem to have known nothing of Herr



1/4, 3/4 and 2 schilling values depicting Queen Victoria. The idea of stamps showing the British monarch beside German values created oddities that were popular with collectors

A colourful array on this posting from Heligoland to Hannover (Image courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, London)

Goldner's interference in Heligoland's postal affairs; but in that year newly appointed colonial governor Sir Arthur Barkly took office and soon learned enough to demand that the Berlin state printing works cease supplying reprints of withdrawn stamps to Heligoland's postmaster. The stamp dealer apparently acted with sufficient speed to collect the most recent printing order, together with the printing plates he had purchased from the postmaster more than a decade earlier, from Berlin before the new Heligoland governor could intervene. Undeterred, and probably with dealers across the world placing orders, Goldner decamped to Leipzig and contracted with a printer in that city to fulfil his Heligoland orders; moving again in 1889 back to Hamburg from where intermittent reprintings of Heligoland stamps emanated until 1895.

What is written here is a simplification of the entire Goldner reprints affair; and you will no doubt be wondering how, if you decide to look further into Heligoland, you might date reprints, identify

early material, weed out forgeries of reprints that have crept in to further complicate matters, and generally avoid getting your fingers burned. Hopefully some readers will not simply turn the page and give Heligoland the miss they always thought it merited. You can become a knowledgeable collector, thanks largely to the meticulous studies undertaken by experts who have gone before you and generously published their work on the internet. Digital cameras and scanners also help; you can make high-resolution images of any stamps you buy and study them closely on your computer screen. Obviously your initial purchase – perhaps of a small unsorted Heligoland lot – should not cost more than a few pounds that you can look upon as training material. But even before going that far type the following into internet searches:

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P14517543 £125

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Special Delivery & AR to Brighton 1965



Postal historian Dane Garrod examines the postal markings and transit of an unusual special delivery and registered cover, and explains the linked history of the recipient and transmission from Parliament

It may be thought that a cover needs to either emanate from the nineteenth or early twentieth century, and to be re-addressed and re-delivered a number of times to have interest to the postal historian. Not so, as this cover from London to Brighton, sent fifty years ago, shows. To begin with, a short description of the addressee is appropriate to show the reason for the range of postal directives that appear on the cover.

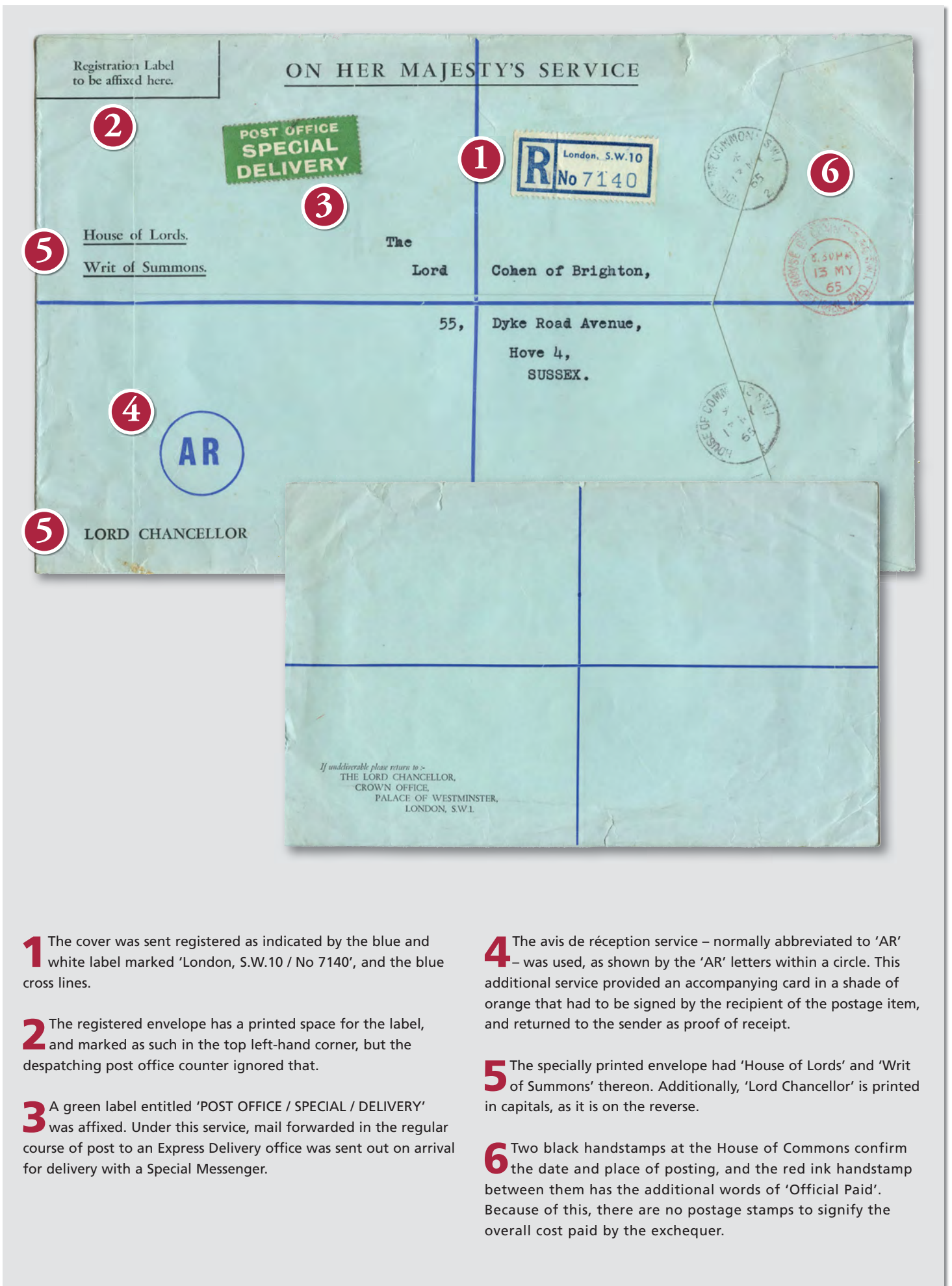
The addressee is Lord Cohen of Brighton, the man they called Mr. Brighton, one of the leading lights of the town. As a young man, he was shocked by some of the poverty and poor housing he saw in the seaside town while he worked there. This led him to become a socialist and politically active. While he never succeeded in being elected as an MP, he did become Mayor of Brighton, was highly regarded by all parties, and was a maverick and inspirational-ideas-man for three decades, making a big impact on the development of the town. His major national success was turning the local Brighton building society into a national society, the Alliance, later the Alliance and Leicester Building Society. In recognition for the work he had undertaken over many years, Lewis Cohen was created a life peer and this entailed, in the usual way, a summons to the House of Lords at an appointed time to be introduced to the House. This is where our illustrated cover comes in.

It was imperative that the newly created Baron Cohen attend the House of Lords, and had ample notice to do so. The responsibility was with the Lord Chancellor to ensure this occurred, and so a suitable letter was sent, within an envelope that had a number of postal conditions and requirements. Firstly, it was sent registered as indicated by the blue and white label on the right-hand side, marked 'London, S.W.10 / No 7140', and the blue cross lines. The registered envelope has a printed space for the label, and marked as such in the top left-hand corner, but the despatching post office counter ignored that. This registration on demand brought a charge at this time, on 13 May, 1965, of a basic one

shilling and nine pence (1s 9d), covering a value of £20. This is the sensible assumption, as the value within was of documental importance rather than material. Secondly, a green label entitled 'POST OFFICE / SPECIAL / DELIVERY' was affixed. Under this service, mail forwarded in the regular course of post to an Express Delivery office was sent out on arrival for delivery with a Special Messenger. There is no evidence that a Special Messenger service was requested all the way from London to Brighton (Service I), rather than the more usual Special Delivery after transmission by post at sender's request (Service II). A flat fee of one shilling applied at this time, soon to be tripled to three shillings in four days' time when the postal rates were revised.

Thirdly, the avis de réception service – normally abbreviated to 'AR' – was used, as shown by the 'AR' letters within a circle. Here we have the additional service that provided an accompanying card in a shade of orange that had to be signed by the recipient of the postage item, and returned to the sender as proof of receipt. There was no doubt about the sender and what was being sent, as the specially printed envelope had 'House of Lords' and 'Writ of Summons' thereon. Additionally, 'Lord Chancellor' is printed in capitals, as it is on the reverse, complete with the address of Crown Office at the Palace of Westminster – the official name of the Houses of Parliament. Finally, two handstamp postmarks in black at the House of Commons confirm the date and place of posting, and the red ink handstamp between them has the additional words of 'Official Paid'. Because of this, there are no postage stamps to signify the overall cost paid by the exchequer.

Lord Cohen responded to this Writ of Summons to the House of Lords, as Hansard reported on 26 May, 1965 in a one sentence statement that Lewis Coleman Cohen 'was (in the usual manner) introduced'. For the postal and social historian, it is a pity that the enclosure that was once in this cover, is no longer there. Hopefully, it resides elsewhere.



1 The cover was sent registered as indicated by the blue and white label marked 'London, S.W.10 / No 7140', and the blue cross lines.

2 The registered envelope has a printed space for the label, and marked as such in the top left-hand corner, but the despatching post office counter ignored that.

3 A green label entitled 'POST OFFICE / SPECIAL / DELIVERY' was affixed. Under this service, mail forwarded in the regular course of post to an Express Delivery office was sent out on arrival for delivery with a Special Messenger.

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Alice through the magnifying glass

The stories of Alice and the colourful characters she meets on her adventures has inspired many people over the past 150 years, including stamp collectors and philatelic bureaux. Lewis Carroll expert Selwyn Goodacre provides an introduction to Alice and her creator on stamps

Lewis Carroll was a prolific letter writer and was fascinated by postal services and its various associated activities. In 1890 he contacted the Post Office with his views on registering parcels. The same year he invented The Wonderland Stamp Case. 'What made me invent it was the constantly wanting stamps of other values,' he explained, 'for foreign post, Parcel Post etc., and finding it very bothersome to get at the kind I wanted in a hurry'. It seems likely that this was the first 'stamp case' of any description. The case was issued with a booklet 'Eight or Nine Wise Words about Letter-Writing'. Both went through several editions, and have gone on to become widely sought-after collector's items.

However, it was not until 1979 (the 'Year of the Child'), that the Alice books came to be featured on British postage stamps, when Alice appeared on the 13p stamp, with Peter Rabbit, The Wind in the Willows, and Winnie-the-Pooh featured on the other values. In a scenario reminiscent of a scene in 'Wonderland', at the last minute the issue date was brought forward from 18 to the 11 July, because of a temporary shortage of definitives. Naturally, this caused major consternation amongst



Top: Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat appeared on a British 'Year of the Child' stamp in 1979

Above: first day covers can be found with Alice-related stamps and with Lewis Carroll-related cancellations and illustrations

Disney's animated Alice has been seen on a variety of stamps, often alongside other Disney characters

first day cover dealers, but they met the challenge with alacrity and coped with the problem with amazing success. Over thirty years on, one would hardly notice.

Many organisations took advantage of the issue to create a whole range of first day covers, including three schools, Westminster Cathedral, Great Ormond Street Hospital, places associated with the children's books in question, a Bowls Tournament, and toymaker Palitoy who, in their innocence, only issued their official cover with one stamp. An enterprising dealer organised a small number with all the stamps, thereby creating one of the legendary FDC rarities of modern times.

From 1989 to 1997 each winter the Post Office issued a series of 'Greetings' issues – ten stamps on a particular theme, all bearing the same value. Lewis Carroll was to feature prominently. His Cheshire Cat appeared in the February 1990 'Smiles' issue, repeated in 1991 with '1st class' replacing the 20p value. Tweedledum and Tweedledee (from *Through the Looking-Glass*) featured in the

'Gift Giving' issue in February 1993, and 'Alice in the White Rabbit's house' in the 'Messages' issue of February 1994.

Lewis Carroll next featured in the 'Magical Worlds' issue of stamps in July 1998, where the Red Queen and Alice (again from *Through the Looking-Glass*) were on the 63p stamp.

The May 2000 Stamp Show, as remembered in our latest piece on London exhibitions on page 44, saw the first appearance of the Post Office 'Smiler' sheets. This first one simply reprinted the stamps from the 1991 Smiles issue, so again we had the suitably smiley Cheshire Cat. They were reissued in slightly different format for the 2001 Stamp Show.

In January 2006, a most elaborate issue of stamps appeared titled 'Animal Tales'. This issue consisted of four se-tenant pairs, featuring different children's books. Carroll's White Rabbit was one of two 42p value stamps (paired with Kitamura's Ginger Cat). The situation was a little complicated as the British issue was linked with a simultaneous USA issue of eight stamps all of 39c value. But only the 'Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Maisy Wilbur' featured on both sets.

The completist collector should also add the Peter Blake 'Sergeant Pepper' stamp from the Beatles issue of January 2007 to their collection; Lewis Carroll can just be seen as one of the figures on that famous LP cover design and John Lennon is said to have been a big fan of the author.

Worldwide Wonderland

The 'Alice' books are widely known around the world. Czechoslovakia issued



a stamp from the Nicole Claveloux 1974 illustrated edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and Burundi issued a 26F stamp with the Arthur Rackham 1907 picture of the Mad Tea Party, se-tenant with a 26F stamp with a picture from 'Jean Le Tuer de Geant'.

For Christmas 2001, the Democratic Republic of Congo, issued a miniature sheet of nine stamps, each of 1.00CF value, showing various scenes from *Alice au Pays des Merveilles* by the artist Carlos Busquets.

The 1951 Walt Disney film *Alice in Wonderland* has proved very popular around the world in philatelic terms. In 1980 The Republic of Maldives issued a set of Disney Alice stamps, in 1987 Grenada issued another set. We also find Disney's Alice appearing as part of Disney stamp sets from countries such as the Dominican Republic (1984), Tanzania (1990), Sierra Leone (1991), and St. Vincent (1992).

Very enterprisingly, in 1982 the Republic of Mali issued a set of three stamps to celebrate the '150th Aniversaire de la naissance de LEWIS CARROLL', the 110F value shows the author against a background of scenes from the Alice books, the 130F value shows characters from *Through the Looking-Glass*, and the 140F value characters from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Carroll on stamps

St Helena, in an issue of stamps celebrating the 'Age of Victoria' in 2000, included a 50p value stamp showing Lewis Carroll himself. Tristan da Cunha has long held an interest for Lewis Carroll scholars and enthusiasts, as his brother Edwin Dodgson was the Anglican Minister there during the 1880s. Never slow to celebrate elements of local history, Tristan da Cunha has twice recognised Edwin's tenure there, on All Saints Day 1969 as part of an issue of stamps to celebrate the work of the Society for the Promotion of the Gospel (SPG) on Tristan, the 1/6 stamp pictured Edwin's arrival 'Down-where-the-Minister-land-his-things (1881)'. In March 1981, they went further and celebrated the centenary of his arrival on Tristan da Cunha with a fine set of three stamps and a miniature sheet showing the Dodgson home at Croft Rectory near Darlington.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a work of fantasy, and it was inevitable that Alice would feature on Cinderella stamps.

THE WONDERLAND STAMP CASE

This charming little item, invented by Lewis Carroll in 1888, is prized by collectors, writes Mike Jackson. The case was published in various editions, priced at one shilling, by Emberlin and Son, who printed many of the Oxford college stamps of the late 1870s and 1880s.

The complete Wonderland Stamp Case consists of four items. The stamp holder is a small folder with pockets stitched by a sewing machine. It slips into a case and is accompanied by a forty-page booklet entitled *Eight or Nine Wise Words about Letter-Writing*. These three items are contained in a printed envelope. The case

measures approximately 80 x 104mm. Collectors should be wary of being offered just the holder and case without the booklet and envelope.

The Case was designed to hold a selection of stamps, which at that time were the 1881 Penny Lilac and the Jubilee set of 1887. There are two spaces for the 1d value and one each of the 1/2d, 1 1/2d, 2d, 2 1/2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d and 1s – the 4 1/2d and 10d values are missing since they had not been issued when the case was invented (the 4 1/2d was issued on 15 September, 1892 and the 10d on 24 February, 1890).

Each pocket was meant to hold about six stamps, and Carroll wrote 'I would recommend you to arrange the six, before putting them in, something like a bouquet, making them lean to the right and to the left alternately: thus there will always be a free corner to get hold of, so as to take them out, quickly and easily, one by one: otherwise you find them apt to come out two or three at a time.'

The other sections of the little booklet deal with 'How to begin a Letter', 'How to go on with a Letter', 'How to end a Letter', and lastly 'On registering correspondence' in which Carroll describes (and illustrates) his elaborate system of recording letters received and sent.

Carroll was eager to point out that imitations of his stamp case would soon appear, but promised his readers 'two Pictorial Surprises' unique to his design. 'Take the Case in your left-hand,' Carroll wrote, 'and regard it attentively. You see Alice nursing the Duchess's Baby? (An entirely new combination, by the way; it doesn't occur in the book.) Now, with your right thumb and forefinger, lay hold of the little book, and suddenly pull it out. The Baby has turned into a Pig! If that doesn't surprise you, why, I suppose you wouldn't be surprised if your own Mother-in-law suddenly turned into a gyroscope!' Carroll does not explain the second surprise which is, apparently, that the Cheshire Cat is plunged into darkness!

The Wonderland Stamp Case was reprinted several times and some later versions can be identified by the inclusion of an advertisement for a book 'first published in 1893' despite the booklet having a date on the front of 1890.

Original printings of the Lewis Carroll Wonderland Postage Stamp Case are increasingly hard to come by, with both book and stamp collectors eager to find a copy. However, later versions can be purchased from antique booksellers and stamp dealers for around £100, depending on condition.





Gerald King wrote *Alice Through the Pillar-Box* and *What She Found There* (Whizzard Press, London) in 1978, and not only created a host of spoof stamps, but also produced a whole range of related spoof first day covers, which are now becoming very collectable.

But King was not alone in the Cinderella field. The Kaulbach Island (off the coast of Canada) issued a series of semi-official stamps, based on Alice (for local use only) in 1976. Ivor Wynne Jones created Alice stamps for the Llechwedd Slate Caverns at the same time as the Year of the Child stamps (detailed above) in July 1979. In Cheshire in 1986, a set of four Alice stamps were issued by 'The Frodsham and Halton Local Post'.



Above: more depictions of Carroll's characters on British stamps from 1994 and 2006

Alice FDCs

First day cover collectors need to keep their eyes peeled for covers relating to Alice, on which the actual stamps are not. There have been a goodly number over the years.

The first was for the Christmas 1973 se-tenant issue of stamps and was something of a curiosity. The Runcorn Stamps Shop issued a set of six covers each with one of the se-tenant stamps, to celebrate the 141st [sic] Anniversary of the Birth of Lewis Carroll. Until last year it was thought that no cover existed with all six stamps (the cover barely has space to accommodate all six), but one has now been declared; it is believed to be unique.

New definitives were issued on 27 January, 1982 which, quite by accident, coincided with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Lewis Carroll. DG Taylor issued a memorable FDC (now rare) to celebrate both.

Hawkwood covers had Alice covers to celebrate Blackwell's bookshop in 1981 and the Royal Wedding in 1986. Zanders issued a fine official cover for the Games and Toys issue of 16 May, 1989, featuring Alice.

Carroll philatelists will also be interested in Harry Furniss, who illustrated Carroll's *Sylvie and Bruno* books (1889 and 1893). He produced the famous spoof cover 'Post Office Jumble of Uniform Penny Postage' in 1890, and in 1973 his drawings were used for the County Cricket issue of stamps on 16 May, 1973. Ralph Steadman won awards for his illustrated versions of the Alice books and he designed the stamps for the 1986 Halley's Comet issue.

And so we arrive in 2015, the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Royal Mail have done us proud and a special medal pack is to be issued in April.

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'85 BR-ANT:	SKUA SG143	(1)	M	75P	'68 QUAITI	RENOIR PAINTINGS	(4)	U	48P
'61 BR: SOLOMONS	FRIGATE BIRDS	(3)	M	55P	'68 RUSSIA PTGS IN LENINGRAD MUSEUM	(10)	U	58P	
'78 CAMEROONS	BUTTERFLIES	(3)	U	75P	'60 RHODNYASA	KARIBA DAM SET TO 1/39	(4)	U	125P
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LA39K BRITISH ISLES A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stroma, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay - Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200..... Price £47.25.

R28 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PROOFS: A specialised and most valuable collection of Printers PROOF STAMPS AND PROGRESSIVE PROOF STAMPS some stuck down on special Printers Cards together with Official authorised verification & check signatures. Rarely does such a precious collection get offered for sale, a total of TWENTY PROGRESSIVE PROOFS plus various Proofs..... Price £42.00

PH 165 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 1997 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 nearly two decades ago. Rarely offered for sale..... Price £10.

JOR.43K - JORDAN & TRANS JORDAN A superb collection of only unmounted mint stamps in blocks, pairs and singles. Impressive Trans Jordan early engraved stamps in blocks, following on to later Jordan issues. Over 100 stamps Price £13.75

Z33E UNORTHODOX STAMPS One of the most unusual collections we have ever seen assembled, with everything except normal stamps. Including triangular stamps, self adhesive 'free form', map shaped stamps, gold foil round (circular) stamps, diamond shapes, '3 dimensional' and others. Hundreds of different mint and used unorthodox stamps Price £13.

PM22 - HAROLD WILSON Scarce GB Political Cover, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Election of Harold Wilson as Prime Minister. The cover is illustrated with the iconic "Labour will get things done" poster and bears Royal Mail, Wilson stamps with official first day post mark and famous Harold Wilson quote: "The main essentials of a successful prime minister are sleep and a sense of history." Only fifty of this cover are known to exist, reposted on 16/10/14 with official Royal Mail "Big Ben" postmark exactly fifty years to the day of his first election victory. Price £14

GB 32EP GREAT BRITAIN ACID RAIN ERROR STAMP A super GB stamp error has recently come to light. The error a "must" for any complete GB collection shows a "full stop" at the base of the 24p denomination. As it is a constant error only one such stamp appears in each sheet of 100 stamps. So, it is 99 times scarcer than the normal stamp (SG 1629) Many serious GB stamp collectors are now realising that their collections are incomplete without this important value denomination variety. We offer the Acid Rain error stamp, together with normal stamp for comparison. Price £8.75

KG6. H2 KING GEORGE VI An impressive Collection of GB & British Colonial Stamps issued during King Geo VI reign. Mainly singles but includes some fine unmounted mint blocks. A vast range of countries covering the period 1937 - 1951. Hundreds of stamps (not counting extra stamps of earlier reigns). A great collection to build on..... Price £16.50

MS. 561 GB MINI SHEETS A specialised Collection of Great Britain Stamp Exhibition Miniature Sheets. Comprising of over a dozen mint miniature sheets issued for British Stamp Exhibitions. Include Stampex and International Exhibitions with Royal Mail postally valid sheets & scarcer sheets with post office approval; which were not available generally from the Royal Mail. The whole collection Price £9.75

WW1. 3K - WORLD WAR I LORD KITCHENER POSTAL HISTORY COVER A 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 covers were ever issued and many in Gibraltar collector's handsPrice £15.

M27A CORONATION STREET A specialised end most unusual thematic collection of Coronation Street Stamps with COMPLETE UNM, MINT SETS. From various British Local Islands, including scarcer High Values and several £1.00 values. Personalities depicted on stamps include: Jack & Annie Walker, Stan & Hilda Ogden, Ken & Irma Barlow, Jack & Vera Duckworth, Martha Longhurst, Ena Sharples, Mike & Alma Baldwin, Kevin Webster, Raquel Wolstenholme, Ray Langton, Liz McDonald, Alf Roberts, Bet Gilroy, Curly Watts, Emily Bishop, Martin Platt, Leonard Swindly, Elsie Tanner, Reg Holdsworth + others.....Price £12.00

LOT B2 GREAT BRITAIN UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted includes Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps only unmounted mint.....Price £21

ATH6 GREECE A colossal collection of Greek stamps from early issues to modern. Many older unmounted mint stamps including scarcer overprinted issues. There must be well over 500 different stamps of Greece including mint and used Price £23.

E56 LUNDY ISLAND A VAST HOARD of Unmounted Mint Sheets, blocks, multiples includes imprints gutter pairs etc. from 1953 to about 1962 - Heavy duplicated Mass, must be 600+ stampsPrice £35.

E.28 POSTAGE DUES Unusual collection of POSTAGE DUE stamps, including GB, Br Cols and Foreign. In singles, blocks of multiples, all uncat. Mint (mostly unmounted) and used. About 120+ stamps Price 8.00

E.32 GREAT BRITAIN SPECTACULAR ERROR on 1966 XMAS 3d. Value (SG713) SHIFT OF GOLD COLOUR, causing Queens Head Shift Error, superb unmted mint together with normal stamp for comparison Price £4.25

CH28 GREAT BRITAIN The GB Churchill Commemorative 4d White Brown and Black with startling broken white line error. The white line dividing Churchill from the Queens head on the stamp is broken; causing Churchill's shoulder to be dislocated. We offer the unmounted mint error stamp plus normal stamp for comparison Price £7.75

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 4. 23 Aug 1914. The cover bears a special Royal Mail VC stamp and postmarked with official Victoria Cross "For Valour" postmark on 23 Aug 14. The cover was restricted issue of only 100 covers and is vital to complete any WWI collection..... Price £9.25



Buying GB Royal Mail 2008 handover of Olympic flag from Beijing to London, presentation pack number M17 paying MORE than full Stanley Gibbon Catalogue Value Paying £9.25

MA 95 MALTA An impressive collection of Maltese Stamps, mostly all different, with strength in QEII issues but dating to KCVI engraved stamps. Mostly used but mint noted, several hundred different stamps Price £18.50

ERIC 2. ERIC MORECAMBE GB Special Cover for Eric Morecambe. The cover had a limited and restricted issue of only 150 covers and bears the official Royal Mail stamp issue in honour of Eric Morecambe. Postmarked with official Royal Mail illustrated "Morecambe and Wise" cancellation, which was in use for one day only Our Price £5

EL54. ELEPHANTS A gorgeous collection of elephants on stamps. With Indian and African elephants on stamps (Might include the odd mammoth). Mostly modern but dates back to KGV. With blocks and singles, mint and used. Over 100 stamps.....Price £7

SP27X SPACE Space, the final frontier. A small but impressive collection of outer space and space exploration camps. Including original 1969 moon landing cover and People's Republic of China space covers. Over 100+ mint and used stamps and miniature sheets. Noted mint Royal Mail issues for Planetary Nebula in Norma & Aquila, Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus, Pegasus Galaxy. Also Russia mint issue for Yuri Gagarin, first man in space. A lovely lot....Price £14.50

SA 92 SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA A fantastic accumulation comprising of only unmounted mint stamps in part sheets, multiples, blocks and singles ranging from older engraved stamps to the more recent. Includes: Nicaragua, (Underprints noted) Chile, Columbia, Argentina, Venezuela, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico & Dominica. This hoard of unsorted unmounted mint stamps, is unchecked for catalogue value and is estimated at over one thousand five hundred, (1500) Unm. Mint stamps. For sale at the low price of only.....Price £48

M6 PRINCESS DIANA Worldwide collection. Some 10981 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



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Ten Stamps on inventions

With Royal Mail honouring British inventions on their latest set of special stamps, Adrian Keppel looks at other well- and lesser known inventions on stamps


1 British inventions have taken centre stage on quite a few stamps ever since the first set in 1967. A perfect opportunity to promote the Inventors' tale of the Millennium set once more, which includes that beautiful stamp marking Harrison's invention of the chronometer.




6 Another world-changing invention was that of paper. In 1015, Ts'ai Lun reported the invention of paper to the Chinese Emperor. Whether he was the actual inventor will forever be uncertain but he is justifiably credited with the development of paper making. The invention is included in this 2005 Hong Kong issue.




2 The Austrian Carl Auer von Welsbach invented the gas mantle, a device emitting a bright light when heated. It would be used all over the world to light street lanterns. The man and his invention can be seen on this Austrian stamp from 2012.




7 Archimedes is usually credited with having invented the water screw, a device to transport water upwards. It has been said, though, that similar devices may have been in use hundreds of years earlier. That didn't stop the Italians issuing a stamp honouring both the man and his screw in 1983.




3 The first practical dishwasher, though patented by a certain Mr Houghton in 1850, was not invented until 1886, by the American Josephine Cochrane. She was rich enough never to have to do any dishes herself but wanted a machine which could do the dishes without chipping them. We have to turn to Romania to find her and her machine on a stamp, issued in 2013.



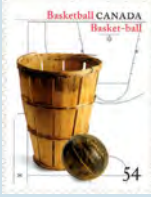
8 Did you know the phone card was invented in Brazil? Well, actually it was invented in Italy but these were of limited use and it was the Brazilian scientist Bardini who invented the inductive technology which would revolutionise the production of phone cards. The inclusion in the 2004 Brazilian inventions set is therefore a worthy one.




4 Mr Buckminster Fuller, known as Bucky, may not have been the original inventor of the structure itself but thanks to his development of the mathematics of geodesic domes he is popularly credited with the invention. In 2004, the US Post honoured him and his work on a stamp.



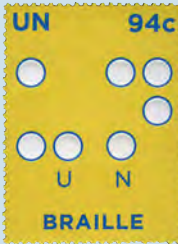
9 When a Canadian teacher was at a loss how to entertain his pupils on a rainy day, he came with this game in which you had to try to throw a ball into a peach basket nailed onto an elevated track. Retrieving the balls was a nuisance so they removed the bottom from the peach basket. And that's how basketball was invented, as can be seen on this Canadian stamp of 2009.



5 In 2012, Kyrgyzstan came up with a different angle on the inventions theme and honoured time-honoured inventions, such as bread, money, and, shown here, the wheel.



10 Some inventions are so important that they carry the name of their inventors. This is the case with the invention of a system of reading and writing for the blind, invented by Frenchman Louis Braille. His invention is cleverly incorporated in this UN stamp of 2008.



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Your quick reference guide to this month's stamp and coin collecting events

STAMP FAIRS

1 March 2015

Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Novotel, Saxon Street, Leyburn Court, Heelands; 01582 876651

7 March 2015

Basingstoke

The Costello School
01256 415699

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, Croydon Road
0208 395 9285

Billingshurst

Community Centre, Roman Way
01903 244875

Deal

The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal, Kent,
07702 270948

Kingsteignton, St Michaels Church Hall, Chudleigh Road

Leicester

The Holiday Inn. St Nicholas Circle; 0116 2350441

Middlewich

Community Centre, Civic Way, off Leadsmithy Street
01226 755069

Stourbridge

Platters Cafe Victoria Street
07813 260752

York

Wigginton Recreation Hall,
Wigginton

8 March 2015

Wokingham

St Crispins Centre, London Road
01923 674999

14 March 2015

Bilsborrow

Bilsborrow Village Hall, PR3 ORP
01226 755069

Derby

Nunsfield House Community Hall,
33 Boulton Road, Alvaston
01909 563394

Folkestone

Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road; 07702 270948

Teeside

Norton Methodist Church Hall,
High Street, Norton

Upminster

St Lawrence Church Hall,
Corbets Tey Rd; 01582 876651

Weston Super Mare

Victoria Methodist Church Hall,
Station Rd; 01749 677669

15 March 2015

Dronfield

Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, near Sheffield;
01909 563394

Ormskirk

The Guide HQ, Moorgate
01226 755069

London

Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way,
Russell Sq; 0208 946 4489

21 March 2015

Brighton

Good Shepherd Hall
272 Dyke Road; 01903 244875

Hull

St Stephen's Church Hall,
Freehold St, off Spring Bank
01909 563394

Liverpool

St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunter Cross;
01226 755069

Newcastle

St Georges UR Church Hall
Newton Road, Heaton
07948 979544

22 March 2015

Knowle

Knowle Village Hall, St Johns Close; 07765 792998

25 March 2015

Birmingham

Birmingham Nautical Club, off Broad Street; 01283 820151

26 March 2015

Leicestershire

Newbold Verdon Primary School,
Dragon Lane, Newbold Verdon
01455 613826

28 March 2015

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, Croydon Road
0208 395 9285

Bridgwater

Westfield United Reformed Church Hall, West Street
01278 691755

Broughty Ferry

St Aidan's Hall, 408 Brook Street,
Dundee DD5 2EY;
01674 832 823

Great Barr

Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey; 07765 792998

Leeds

St Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley; 01909 563394

Northampton

The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury NN4 0RZ
0115 961 4528

Wanstead

Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road; 01582 876651

29 March 2015

Doncaster

Park Social Club, Eden Grove Rd,
Edenthorpe; 01909 563394

Stevenage

Novotel, Knebworth Park, Junction 7 of A1; 01582 876651

31 March 2015

Stockport

Masonic Guildhall, Wellington Road South; 01283 820151

STAMP AUCTIONS

4 March 2015

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10-11 March 2015

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www.grosvenorauctions.com

18 March 2015

London

Spink
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Bloomsbury, WC1B 4ET
020 7563 4000

28 March 2015

Portishead

Gordano School, St Mary's Road
0207 836 2341

COIN FAIRS

7 March 2015

London

Bloomsbury Hotel, 18-22 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury
WC1B 3NN; 01694 731781

8 March 2015

Birmingham

National Motorcycle Museum,
Bickenhill B92 0EJ
01694 731781

COIN AUCTIONS

25 March 2015

Spink

69 Southampton Row,
Bloomsbury WC1B 4ET
0207 563 4000
www.spink.com

POSTCARD AUCTIONS

18 March 2015

Warwick

Warwick & Warwick
Lord Leycester Hotel, Jury Street
CV34 4EJ
01926 499031

POSTCARD FAIRS

1 March 2015

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Milton Keynes Novotel, Saxon Street, Leyburn Court, Heelands
01582 876651

Newcastle Under Lyme

Clayton Community Centre,
Northwood Lane, Clayton

7 March 2015

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, Croydon Road
0208 395 9285

14 March 2015

Colwyn Bay

Eirias High School, Eirias Park
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Upminster

St Lawrence Church Hall,
Corbets Tey Road
01582 876651

Weston Super Mare

Victoria Methodist Church Hall,
Station Rd; 01749 677669

25 March 2015

Birmingham

Birmingham Nautical Club, off Broad Street; 01283 820151

28 March 2015

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Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road; 01582 876651

29 March 2015

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Novotel, Knebworth Park,
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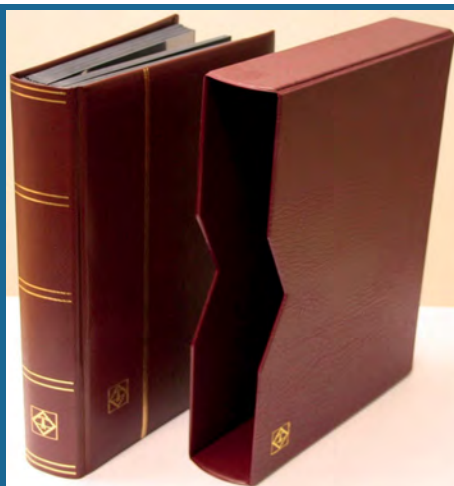
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Ref: D2 2- STRIP 147x89mm	£7.60	£32.75	£61.50
Ref: D3 3- STRIP 157x112mm	£10.50	£48.50	£92.00

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LEATHER BOUND padded & gold-banded, glass clear acrylic interleaving & strips.
A4 size (12 x 9") 32 pages, 64 sides.
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Ref	Colours	Each	3+ (each)
P16	Black; Maroon;	£43.50	£41.75

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These are simple bound albums with heavy card pages containing clear strips to hold your stamps.
All books have glassine interleaving to protect stamps from damage. All books are linen reinforced.

BLACK PAGE STOCKBOOKS

All stockbooks listed below are A4 (12 x 9") with glass clear acetate strips, 9 strips per page, glassine interleaved with linen reinforced pages.
Made by Lighthouse
Available in red; blue; green;

Ref	Pages	Sides	Strips	Each	3+ (each)	10+ (each)
P12	8B	16	144	£6.50	£6.30	£6.10
P13	16B	32	288	£10.95	£10.50	£10.25
P14	32B	64	576	£18.95	£18.70	£18.50

SPECIAL OFFER:

TOP QUALITY 60 PAGE STOCKBOOK 'A4' (12x 9")
(Ref 15B) 30 black pages; 60 sides;
(Ref 15A) 30 white pages; 60 sides;
WITH RED LEATHERETTE BINDING ONLY
540 Glass clear acetate strips & glassine interleaving,
heavy duty linen reinforcement.
Made by Lighthouse

Ref:	Pages	Sides	Each	3+ (each)	10+ (each)
P15B	30	60	£16.95	£16.50	£16.00
P15A	30	60	£14.50	£14.15	£13.90

LARGE WHITE PAGE STOCKBOOKS 'A4' (12x9")

All books have linen reinforced pages & glassine interleaving to protect stamps.
Available in red; blue; green;

Ref	Pages	Sides	Strips	Each	3+ (each)	10+ (each)
P4	8W	16	144	£5.60	£5.15	£4.75
P5	16W	32	288	£9.50	£9.25	£9.00
P6	32W	64	576	£17.25	£15.95	£15.50

WESSEX WHITE PAGE POCKET STOCKBOOKS

16 white pages, 171x120mm (6 1/2" x 4 3/4")
5 clear strips per side, various colours,
glassine interleaving leatherette binding.
Ref: P1: x1 £3.45; x3 £9.20; x10 £29.50;

WHITE PAGE STOCKBOOKS

Heavy duty material 'A4' (12x9") reinforced binding,
32 pages, 64 sides, 576 strips, red or green,

Ref	Each	3+ (each)	10+ (each)
P10	£17.95	£16.95	£16.50

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R5519-14HL	GB (hingeless)	£44.95
R5548-14	Guernsey	£25.95
R5548-14	Jersey	£24.95
R5518-14	Channel Isles	£44.95
R5521-14	Isle of Man	£23.95

DAVO*** SG Branded *** SUPPLEMENTS

Ref	Country	Pages	Price
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R5285RG-14	GB Regular	17	£39.95
R5285LXFS-14	GB Fast Stamps	3	£12.95
R5285RGFS-14	GB Fast Stamps	3	£8.95
R5292LX-14	Alderney Luxury	4	£14.95
R5292RG-14	Alderney Regular	4	£9.95
R5549LX-14	Guernsey Luxury	6	£25.95
R5549RG-14	Guernsey Regular	6	£14.95
R5550LX-14	Jersey Luxury	13	£47.95
R5550RG-14	Jersey Regular	13	£26.95
R5286LX-14	Isle of Man Luxury	8	£30.95
R5286RG-14	Isle of Man Regular	8	£17.95
R5287RG-14	Channel Isles Regular	23	£47.95

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Venue: Andover Leisure Centre, West Street, Andover, SP10 1QP

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Salisbury Stamp Show 14th/15th March 2015

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Buckingham Covers	G10
Sidney Fennemore	G4
Chas Stamps	E4
Clarendon Stamps	F10
Cover Collecting	F9
Cover Love	F4
John Curtin	A3
Mark David Stamps	G12
Edmonds & Turner	H2
Empire Collectables	G9
Dave Foster	B4
Derek Fullock	E5
Richard Gash	G2
Stanley Gibbons	B5
Frank Goldberg	E9
Henge GB Stamps	E7
Mark Grimsley	E2
Stewart Harris	F5
Chris Hockaday	B3
Martin Jenkinson	A5
Malcolm Lacey	E1
Brian Lythgoe	H6
Machin Collectors Club	E10
Midland Philatelics	A1
Mint GB Stamps	H7
Brian Morris	E8
David Mouser	H4

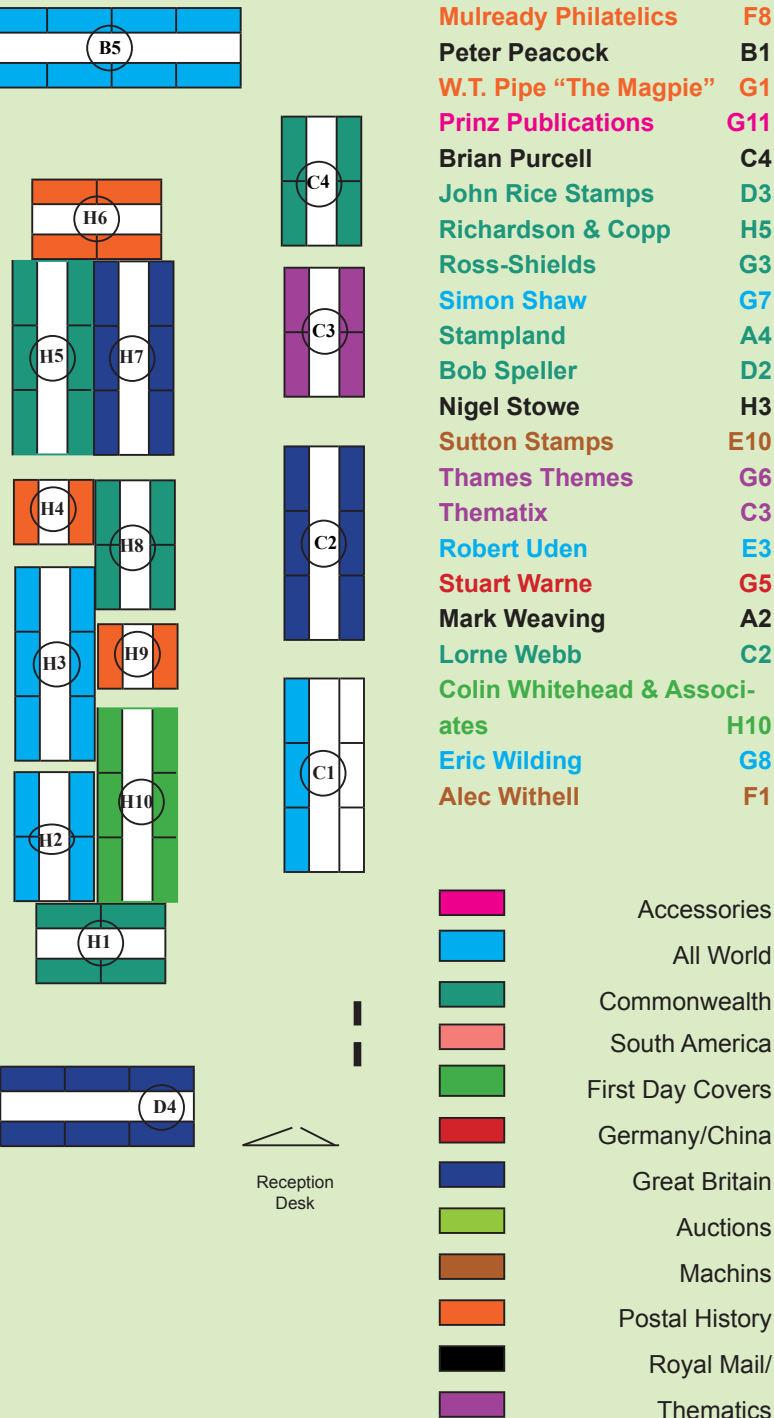


Organised jointly by the Machin Collectors Club/Sutton Stamps, Arun Stamps (Tony Hender) and Dauwalders of Salisbury, the Salisbury Stamp Show has quickly become one of the most popular events on the UK stamp collecting calendar, earning praise for its wide selection of dealers, the facilities at the venue and the organisation.

This year, due to major building works at the Five Rivers Leisure centre, the show will be held at the Andover Leisure Centre, about fifteen miles away from the usual venue. Regulars will be pleased to learn that the alternative venue will still offer free parking, free admission, easy wheelchair access, and a free programme, which includes free raffle tickets. The venue will also be AA Road signed for hassle free navigation. The fair will return to the Five Rivers Leisure centre in 2016.


For more information on the fair, visit the website: www.salisburystampshow.co.uk

Floor Plan



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138	217	596	£95
140	229	£629	£85
147	191	£764	£95
149	215	£1,505	£135
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LS4-16 32 Black page with 9 glassine strips and double glassine interleaving

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LS4-32 64 Black page with 9 glassine strips and double glassine interleaving

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L2-8 16 White page with 6 glassine strips and single glassine interleaving

● L339114 ● L339113 ● L339115 ● L339117 ● L339116 • Was ~~£8.50~~ Now **£4.50**

L2-16 32 White page with 6 glassine strips and double glassine interleaving

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LS2-8 16 Black page with 6 glassine strips and double glassine interleaving

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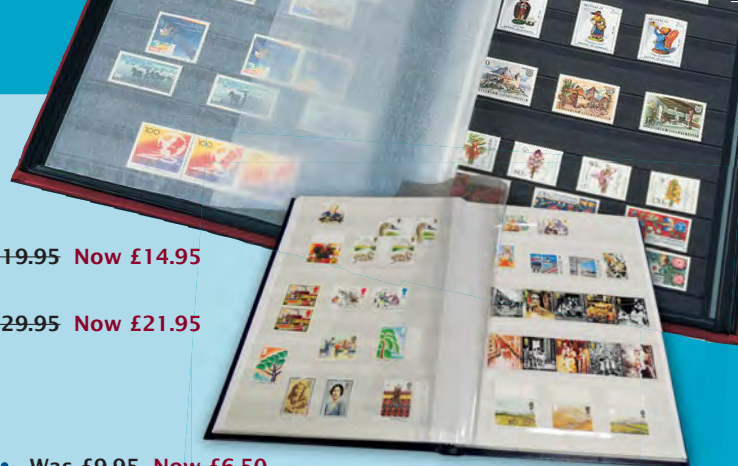
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In-depth listings

Your comprehensive guide to the latest new stamps from around the world

GREAT BRITAIN

(listed in every issue)

- 001 **British Prime Ministers**, ten non-denominated values, in two separate se-tenant strips of five designs
Issue date: October 14, 2014; Design: Together, after paintings or photographs; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 14.4 x 14.4
1st (62p) – Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister 1979-1990. Photograph by Gerald Penny
1st (62p) – Harold Wilson, Prime Minister 1964-1970, 1974-1976. Photograph by Bettmann
1st (62p) – Clement Atlee, Prime Minister 1945-1951. Photograph by Yousuf Karsh, (1944, when Atlee was Deputy Prime Minister)
1st (62p) – Winston Churchill, Prime Minister 1940-1945, 1951-1955. Photograph by Yousuf Karsh (1941)
97p – William Gladstone, Prime Minister 1868-1874, 1880-1885, 1886 and 1892-1896
97p – Robert Peel, Prime Minister 1834-1835 and 1841-1846
97p – Charles Grey, Prime Minister 1830-1834
97p – William Pitt (The Younger), Prime Minister 1783-1801 and 1804-1806

- 002 **Christmas 2014**, seven self-adhesive values in various formats, plus a gummed miniature sheet
Issue date: November 4, 2014; Designs: illustrations by Andrew Bannecker, overall design by True North; Printer: De La Rue, gravure (sheet stamps) or as stated.
(A) self-adhesive sheets of fifty. Stamp width 23.75mm x height 28mm
2nd (53p) – Parent and boy in snow bringing home a Christmas tree
1st (62p) – Robin watching posting of letters to Father Christmas in pillar box
£1.28 – Boy completing the building of a snowman
£1.47 – Three children carol singing under lamp light
£2.15 – Woman and two children ice-skating
(B) 'Large' stamps. Self-adhesive sheets of fifty, stamp width 34.25mm x height 28mm
2nd Large (73p) – Parent and two children in snow bringing home a Christmas tree
1st Large (93p) – Robin watching woman and

- two children posting letters in a pillar box
(C) self-adhesive booklets containing twelve stamps affixed to inside covers. Printed by International Security Printers, gravure. Stamps format width 23.75mm x height 28mm
Booklet (£6.36) – contains
2nd (53p) x twelve copies – Parent and boy in snow bringing home a Christmas tree
Booklet (£7.44) – contains
1st (62p) x 12 – Robin watching woman and two children posting letters to Father Christmas in pillar box
(D) Miniature sheet (gummed) – contains
2nd Large (73p); 1st Large (93p); 2nd (53p); 1st (62p); £1.28; £1.47; £2.15 – designs as (A) and (B)
Border depicts Christmas 2014 sign on a lamp post, and robins
(E) Self-adhesive 'Smiler' sheet, offset printed. Perforations: 14.5 x 15 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides
Sheetlet, sold at £15.20, contains 1st (62p) x eight copies; 2nd (53p) x eight copies; £1.28 x two copies; £1.47 x two copies, all stamps with adjacently affixed larger format label.
Illustrated border
Notes: the 'Smiler' sheet is the only source of the four values in offset-printed format, and/or with elliptical cut-outs in the perforations

BOTSWANA

(previously listed in January 2015 issue)

- 003 **Definitives. Birds**, three non-denominated and eleven denominated values
Issue date May 13, 2014; Design: Gwathie Kirby; Printer: Enschedé, offset;
Perforations 13.9 x 13.2 (horizontal format) or 13.2 x 13.9 (vertical format)
Standard A (P3.50) – Southern Red Bishops, *Euplectes orix* (nine birds in a bush)
Standard B (P5.40) – Blue Waxbill, *Uraeginthus angolensis*
Postcard Rate (P8) – Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone viridis*
10t – Harlequin Quail, *Coturnix delegouge*
20t – Burchell's Sandgrouse, *Pterocles burchelli*
50t – Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio porphyrio*
P1.00 – Pied Avocets, *Recurvirostra avocetta*
P2.00 – Kori Bustard, *Ardeotis kori*
P3.00 – African Spoonbill, *Platalea alba*
P5.00 – African Skimmer, *Rynchops flavirostris*
P10.00 – Secretary Bird, *Sagittarius*

- serpantarius*
P20.00 – Bradfield's Hornbill, *Lophoceros bradfieldi*
P30.00 – Spotted Eagle Owl, *Bubo africanus*
P50.00 – Southern Red Bishop, *Euplectes orix* (single bird on reed)
004 **'Lions of the Chobe'**, four values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: August 1, 2014; Design: Tim Wilson from illustrations by Ngoni Wilson; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations 13.4 x 13.3, or 13.9 x 13.8 (stamps in miniature sheet)
P3.50 – Lion in profile
P5.40 – Five lion cubs
P7.30 – Lioness
P8.00 – Three lionesses
Miniature sheet – Contains the four designs

- 005 **Domestic Animals**, six values
Issue date: August 1, 2014; Design: Nancy Horenburgs; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations 13.9 x 13.8
30t – Dog and puppy
40t – Goat with two kids
P3.40 – Donkey with young
P3.50 – Cow and calf
P7.30 – Hen and chick
P8 – Cat with kitten

BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

(previously listed in April 2014 issue)

- 006 **The Crest of British Indian Ocean Territory**, two values se-tenant and a miniature sheet
Issue date: June 9, 2014; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations 13.5 x 13.5
54p and 54p (composite pair) – the BIOT Crest (coat of arms flanked by two turtles)
Miniature sheet: composite design with border
£2 – Coat of arms including Union flag, flanked by two turtles, with shells at its foot
Border: palm tree and ocean wave

CAYMAN ISLANDS

(previously listed in April 2014 issue)

- 007 **Traditional Houses of the Sister Islands**, four values
Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations 13 x 13
20c – Captain Theo's Villa, on Little



024



026



027



028



029



030



035

- 25c – Cayman (c.1890)
- 25c – Carter's House, on Cayman Brac (1928)
- 75c – Captain Charlie's House, Stake Bay, Cayman Brac (1930s)
- \$1 – Taylor Foster House, on Cayman Brac (1933)

008 Glasgow 2014 XX Commonwealth Games, seven gummed values and one self-adhesive value (redrawn and rescaled)
Issue date: October 3, 2014; Designs: drawings of athletes in competition, and Scottish saltire; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13, or die-cut 11 x 11 (stamp in booklet)
(A) Sheet stamps. Format height 28mm x width 45½mm

- 20c – Cycling (road event)
- 25c – Swimming (women's butterfly stroke)
- 75c – Boxing
- 80c – Squash
- C\$1 – Shooting
- C\$1.60 – Women's gymnastics
- C\$2 – Javelin

(B) Self-adhesive booklet (C\$2): contains stamps format height 25mm x width 30mm
25c x 10 copies – Swimming (women's butterfly stroke)
Cover depicts the 25c sheet stamp design

EGYPT

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

009 Post Day, three values in a se-tenant strip
Issue date: January 2, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations: 13.25 x 13.75

- ££3 – Tutankhamun and his wife Queen Ankhesanamun (throne at right)
- ££3 – Mask of Tutankhamun, and stylised flowers
- ££3 – Tutankhamun and his wife Queen Ankhesanamun (throne at left)

010 Second anniversary of the Revolution of January 25, 2011, one value
Issue date: January 25, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations 12.75 x 13.25

- ££1 – Dove of peace, group of citizens, ancient Egyptian monuments

011 African Under-20s Football Championship, Algeria, one value

Issue date: April 24, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations: 13.25 x 12.75
££3 – Trophy, footballer with flag, mascot, outline of African continent

012 Return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egyptian control (31st anniversary), four values in se-tenant block
Issue date: April 25, 2013; Designs: map (across four values) and scenes;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations: 12.75 x 13.25

- ££2 – Upper Red Sea, and Crusader castle off Taba, near Eilat
- ££2 – Unidentified shoreline scene, map of central upper Gulf of Aquaba, mausoleum of Aga Khan
- ££2 – Map of lower Red Sea, oasis scene (unidentified)
- ££2 – Map of Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba joining Arabian sea, divers with tank over coral reef

013 World Environment Day, one value
Issue date: June 5, 2013; Printer: Post Printing House, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 12.75
££3 – UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) logo, hands supporting globe, slogan THINK-EAT-SAVE in Arabic and English

014 Celebrating the 61st anniversary of the Revolution of 1952, one value
Issue date: July 23, 2013; Printer: Post Printer, offset; Perforations: 12.75 x 13.25
££3 – Revolutionaries and Army officers, and emblem

015 Day of Nile Inundation, an imperorate miniature sheet (one value)
Issue date: August 25, 2013; Printer: Post Printing House, offset; imperorate
Miniature sheet ££4 – Map, emblems of Nilotic nations, montage of views of Nile in flood and in normal flow

016 IICDR (International Islamic Council for Da'wah and Relief), one value
Issue date: September 21, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations: 13.25 x 12.75
££2 – Emblems UNWTO plus globe and wheatears

017 World Tourism Day: 'Tourism and Water', one value
Issue date: September 27, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations: 13.25 x 12.75
££3 – Earth as a ball splashing water

018 40th anniversary of Victory in the October 1973 War, two values
Issue date: October 6, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;

Perforations: 12.75 x 13.25
££1 – Anwar Sadat and senior military commanders
££4 – Flag of Egypt raised by troops
019 Definitives. Pharaohs series, reissue with revised background colours, four values
Issue date: October 7, 2013; Designs: taken from reliefs in Egyptian museums or on monuments; Printer: Post Printing House, offset; Perforations: 11 x 11
50p – Pharaoh Thotmes III, 1480-1435 BC. Deep emerald background
££1 – Pharaoh Sesostris I, c1875 BC-1930 BC. Bluish-grey background
££3 – Pharaoh Ramses II, 1279-1213 BC. Mauve background
££4 – Pharaoh Amenophis IV Echnaton, 1354-1347 BC. Olive-bronze background

020 World Post Day, one value
Issue date: October 9, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations 14.5 x 13.25
££4 – Emblems of the UPU (from the UPU monument in Bern, and of Egypt Post)

021 Tourism, three values
Issue date: December 17, 2013;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations: 12.75 x 13.25
££4 – Hotel Madinat Makadi, Hurghada
££4 – Hurghada old town
££4 – Hotel Utopia at Marsa Alam, with horse riders on beach

Notes: these stamps are sponsored ('personalised') designs, and incorporate an advertising label. They are reported as valid only from the locations depicted. The Marsa Alam value is a redrawing of a design issued in December 2007

022 Post Day. Painting by Mohamed Sabry, an imperorate miniature sheet (one value)
Issue date: January 2, 2014;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset; imperorate
££4 – Boats (ferry and feluccas) on the Nile

023 Third anniversary of the Revolution of January 25, 2011, one value
Issue date: January 25, 2014;
Printer: Post Printing House, offset;
Perforations 12.75 x 13.25
££2 – Crowd of demonstrators, torn Egyptian flag, clenched fist against sun

FALKLAND ISLANDS

(previously listed in October 2014 issue)

- 024 **Colour in Nature (III)**, four values
Issue date: September 16, 2014; Design, from their photographs, Ian J Strange and Georgina Strange; Printer: BDT, offset;
Perforations 13.75 x 13.75
- 30p – King Penguins, *Aptenodytes p. patagonica*: bright golden orange auricular patches and steel blue of the nape and shoulders
- 30p – Flower, *Caltha sagittata*, locally known as 'marsh marigold': white and yellow-green flowers against shiny green leaves
- 75p – Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*, golden eye, orange-red eye ring and red orange-tipped bill
- 75p – Flower, Vanilla Daisy, *Leuceria suaveolens*, white flowers and dove grey to green stems

025 Centenary of the naval Battle of the Falkland Islands, December 8, 1914

- four values
Issue date: December 8, 2014; Design: Robin Carter; Printer: BDT, offset;
Perforations 13.75 x 13.75
- 30p – SMS *Scharnhorst*, armoured cruiser of the Imperial German Navy
- 75p – HMS *Invincible*, battle cruiser of the Royal Navy
- £1 – White Ensign, Reichskriegsflagge (German ensign), scarlet poppy (as symbol of remembrance)
- £1.20 – Remembrance Ceremony at the Battle of the Falkland Islands Memorial, Stanley – ensigns and Petty Officer Gunner from HMS Protector 'resting on his arms'

026 Royal Navy Type 42 Destroyers

- four values
Issue date: December 22, 2014; Design: John Batchelor, MBE; Printer: BDT, offset;
Perforations: 14.1 x 14.1
- 30p – HMS *Sheffield*
- 75p – HMS *Exeter*
- £1 – HMS *Liverpool*
- £1.20 – HMS *Edinburgh*
- Notes: the last Type 42 destroyer in service, HMS *Edinburgh* was decommissioned June 6, 2013

IRELAND

(previously listed in December 2014 issue)

- 027 **Greetings. Love**, one self-adhesive value in a booklet of ten
Issue date: July 21, 2014
Design: Kelvin Gillmor; Printer: ISSP, offset with metallic silver; Perforations: die-cut 13 x 13.25
Self-adhesive booklet (€6.80) – 68c x 10 copies – Red rose
Notes: stamp is in the same design as the 60c issue of February 13, 2014, except that it has a white frame. Pairs cut from booklet were sold philatelically

028 Thomas Davis, nationalist poet, writer, editor, philosopher and politician

- one value
Issue date: October 9, 2014;
Design: Conor & David; Printer: ISSP, offset;
Perforations: 14 x 14.75
- 68c – Portrait and signature of Davis, 1814-1845

029 Computer Game Icons

- four values in a se-tenant block
Issue date: October 16, 2014; Design: Zinc Design; Printer: ISSP, offset;
Perforations: 13.6 x 13.6
- 68c – PAC MAN, by BNGI, 1980
- 68c – Space Invaders, by Taito Corp, 1978
- 68c – Sonic the Hedgehog, by Sega, 1991
- 68c – Mario (the plumber), by Nintendo, 1981

030 Christmas 2014

- one self-adhesive booklet stamp and two SOAR (stamps on a roll vending labels)
Issue date: November 6, 2014; Design: Vermillion Design; Printer: Walsall Security Printers (nativity play) or by HP Indigo Digital Print (SOAR labels);
Perforations: die-cut 11 x 11
(A) self-adhesive booklet of 26 stamps (price €17.00)
68c x 26 copies – young girl as an angel in a nativity play
Notes: also sold as a loose pair (2 x 1) with plain backing paper. The booklet is priced to give one free stamp
(B) Stamps On A Roll - two non-denominated designs depicting stained glass windows made by Harry Clarke (late 19th century)
† – Christ Child
† – Angel playing lute
Notes: sold from machines with three lines of coding in black, printed by the machine, and sold from philatelic outlets as a pair of labels with two pre-printed lines of coding

ISLE of MAN

(previously listed in November 2014 issue)

031 70th anniversary of the Normandy Landings

- six values
Issue date: May 8, 2014; Design: EJC Design (Emma Cook) from photographs of D-Day and post D-Day operations; Printer: BDT, offset;
Perforations 14 x 14

- 42p – Tank landing on beach from vessel
- 75p – Soldiers wading in surf
- 90p – Tank and its crew, on a Normandy road
- 110p – Line of tanks, and motorcyclist, advancing inland
- 144p – Winston Churchill, veteran and his dog
- 182p – Troops parading in French town
- Notes: the above were each printed in gummed sheets of fifteen

032 70th anniversary of the Normandy Landings (II)

- sheetlet of sixteen values
Issue date: May 8, 2014; Printer: BDT, offset;
Perforations 14 x 14.

- Sheetlet (height 296mm x width 210mm, with illustrated borders) – contains
- 20p – Bernard Montgomery and troop landings
- 20p – Michael Dempsey and landing craft
- 23p – Landing craft, troops and tank going ashore
- 23p – Troops wading ashore, and tank climbing beach
- 27p – Troops leaving landing craft
- 27p – Troops wading ashore, and landing craft
- 41p – US 1st Army landings, and Omar N Bradley
- 41p – Dwight D Eisenhower and American troops, tank
- 47p – Ship *Lady of Man* (Manx ferry, part of D-Day fleet)
- 47p – Ship *Ben-My-Chree* (Manx ferry, part of D-Day fleet)
- 50p – Winston Churchill and logo of Imperial War Museum
- 50p – Troops with France guide-book
- 68p – Aircraft (B24 Liberators and Mustang)
- 68p – AS 51 Horsa gliders (troop carriers)
- 144p – Winston Churchill, veteran and his dog
- 182p – Troops parading in French town
- Notes: all stamps have imprint date 2014 and are thus new
In this sheetlet the 20p and 41p designs are as 1994 D-Day issue, the 23p, 27p, 47p and 68p are as 2004 D-Day issue, the 50p designs are



036



038



039



040



044



047

as 2004 D-Day miniature sheet, the 144p and 182p designs are as 2014 issue (above)

033 20 TT Wins for John McGuinness (racing motorcyclist),

eight stamps in a sheetlet
Issue date: May 10, 2014; Designs: photographs; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations 14.6 x 14.8, or 14 x 14 (£1.77 value)
UK (42p) x 3 copies – John McGuinness riding the TT Mountain Course

£1.77 x 5 copies – John McGuinness riding a Honda motorcycle

Notes: both the UK and £1.77 designs were previously used (in 2007 and 2009 Manx issues respectively) but have been updated to bear the 2014 date imprint. Sheetlet also contains illustrated labels and list of McGuinness wins

034 101st Tour de France Cycle Race (start in Yorkshire, England), six sheetlets each with two values

Issue date: June 24, 2014, et seq. Design: EJC Design, from historic and modern photographs; Printer: BDT, offset / digital print; Perforations: 13.2 x 13.2

Sheetlet – Première Étape / Stage One
42p x 2 copies – Mark Cavendish scoring stage victory, plus labels with views in Leeds and Harrogate

Sheetlet: Deuxième Étape / Stage 2
42p x 2 copies – Brian Robinson (British stage winner in 1958) in mountains with motorcycle escort, plus labels with views of York and Sheffield

Sheetlet : Cinquième Étape / Stage 5
108p x 2 copies - Eddie Merckx on breakaway during a stage, plus labels of Porte du Hainault at Arenberg, and peleton on cobbled section

Sheetlet: Troisième Étape / Stage 3
120p x 2 copies – Bradley Wiggins scoring stage victory, plus labels with views of Cambridge and The Mall (Westminster)

Sheetlet : Quatorzième Étape / Stage 14,
68p – Miguel Indurain, and label with view of Alps near Risoul

73p – Jacques Anquetil, and label with view of peleton in Alps

Sheetlet: l'Étape Finale / Final Stage
1p – Eugène Christophe, with label view of Evry

119p – Bernard Hinault, with label of riders in Champs Elysées (Paris)

Notes: the six sheetlets were also sold in a pack

035 Sepac issue. Winter Flora, one value

Issue date: July 13, 2014; Design: from painting by Catherine James, by EJC Design; Printer: Lowe-Martin, offset; Perforations: 12.8 x 12.8
75p – Black Hellebore, *Helleborus niger*

Stamp is inscribed 'sepac' in white at upper left, as the Manx contribution to 2014 Sepac omnibus – this inscription differentiates it from the similar design released January 6, 2014 in a miniature sheet

036 Illustrated Manx Playing Cards of the 19th century, six values

Issue date: August 8, 2014; Design: EJC Design; Printer: Lowe-Martin, offset; Perforations: 13 x 12.5

42p – Playing card (Ace of Clubs) depicting Peel Castle and Douglas Lighthouse

75p – Playing card (diamond) depicting Douglas Iron Pier and Douglas Harbour

90p – Playing card (spade) depicting Webb's Bazaar in Strand Street, Douglas

110p – Playing card (heart) depicting Bradda Head and distant view of Douglas Lighthouse

121p – Playing card (spade) depicting the Laxey Wheel and Fort Anne Hotel

182p – Playing card (diamond) depicting Peel Harbour (fishing boats) and the water wheel in Groundle Glen

Notes: Webb's Bazaar, Public Lounge, Louvre and Gallery in Strand Street, Douglas run by Samuel Webb, was the first Manx emporium to sell customised playing cards (in 1863)

ISRAEL

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

037 Pope Francis Visits The Holy Land (retrospective issue), sheetlet

Issue date: June 22, 2014
Generic personalised sheetlet (gummed): twelve non-denominated stamps and twelve labels – Writing (Hebrew) in beach sand
Labels depict scenes from the 2014 Papal Visit (photographs)
The sheetlet (print date 15.06.2014) was sold loose and contained in a commemorative pack

038 Amphibians in Israel,

four values in a sheetlet of eight stamps and four tabs, with label
Issue date: June 23, 2014; Design: Pini Hemo; Printer: Enschedé, offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.4
Sheetlet – contains two blocks of four designs separated by illustrated gutter
2sh (two copies) – Eastern Spadefoot Toad, *Pelobates syriacus*
2sh (two copies) – Southern Banded Newt, *Salamandra infraimmaculata*
2sh (two copies) – New Eastern Fire Salamander,

Ommatotriton vittatus
2sh (two copies) – Hula Painted Frog, *Latonina nigriventris*
Notes: label and illustrated border depict wetland; one of each stamp design has a basal tab – a single set of four can be collected as two tab pairs

039 Pioneer Women, two values
Issue date: June 23, 2014; Design: Mario Samoneta and Meir Eschel; Printer: Enschedé, offset; Perforations 14 x 13.4.

Sheets of fifteen + five tabs
6sh – Sara Levi-Tanai, 1910-2005, dancer, choreographer, teacher, poet. Portrait after photo by Ehud Ben Ezer

Tab depicts Dance of The Women Drawing Water, music and choreography by Levi-Tanai, 1955
10sh – Ester Raab, 1894-1981, pioneer settler of Petach Tikva (Tel Aviv), poet. Portrait
Tab depicts Petach Tikva c1900

040 Palmer Gate Street, Haifa, one value
Issue date: June 23, 2014; Design: Aharon Shevo; Printer: Enschedé, offset; Perforations 14 x 13.4. Sheets of fifteen + five tabs
9.60sh – View down street, with ship at wharf in distance, and sculpture City Fish by Zvika Cantor (2010)

Notes: Port of Haifa and entrance road Palmer Gate Street was developed by engineer Sir Frederick Palmer between 1920 and 1933

041 Gerbera (Flowers) definitive, self-adhesive, one new value

Issue date: August 27, 2014; Design: Tuvia Kurtz and Miri Nistor; Printer: not reported, flexography; Perforations: die-cut 13.3 x 13.6
2.00sh – Red Crested Gerbera
Notes: sold as a flat sheet of twenty stamps with surround rouletted between stamps, which folds to form a booklet (cover, publicity for Philatelic Service). Upper left border has single 'menorah' emblem indicating original printing of this stamp.

The gummed version of this stamp was issued February 11, 2014

Notes: the 20 agorot self-adhesive Pink Gerbera definitive was reprinted with 2-menorah emblem in upper left border, also in sheetlet / booklet of twenty, with release date reported as August 3, 2014

042 Mustelidae (Weasels and related animals), self-adhesive vending machine label
Issue date: September 9, 2014; Printed by letterpress, machine code by thermography; Perforations: imperf x perf 9

† – Eurasian badger, *Meles meles*
Notes: this is the final Mustelidae label in a series of five. The four previous were listed in the November 2014 Stamps & Coin Mart

043 Festivals. Simchat Torah Flags,

three values
 Issue date: September 9, 2014; Design: Limor Perez-Samia; Printer: Cartor, offset;
 Perforations: 13.1 x 13.4

- 2.10sh – Simchat Torah flag from the 1930s, depicting the four sacred creatures guarding the Holy Ark which is flanked by Moses and Aharon
- 3.80sh – Simchat Torah flag from the 1950s, by Vvi Livni, depicting children poring over Torah scrolls
- 5.60sh – Simchat Torah flag from the 1960s, by Arie Moskovitz, depicting members of the IDF (Israel Defence Force) circling the Holy Ark

044 50th anniversary of the first performance of the musical *Fiddler On The Roof* in New York City,

three values each in two formats
 Issue date: September 9, 2014; Designed by Miri Nistor after photographs taken by Pini Hamou of drawings by Chaim Topol (Israeli actor); Printer: Cartor, offset, or not reported (booklet stamps).

(A) gummed sheets of fifteen stamps and five tabs (stamp designs composite with tab).
 Perforations 13 x 13.5

- 3.10sh – The Fiddler on the Roof – man holding a violin standing on a tiled roof
- 3.10sh – Tevey The Dairyman leading his horse and milk-cart
- 3.10sh – Tevey and a woman ('Do You Love Me?')

(B) self-adhesive stamps, designs as (A) but in a booklet. Perforations die-cut 12.6 x 12.6

- 3.10sh – The Fiddler on the Roof
- 3.10sh – Tevey leading his horse and cart
- 3.10sh – 'Do You Love Me?'

Booklet cover: Tevey with fiddle
Notes: the booklet contains six stamps arranged in two columns of three designs. The stamps are more crudely printed (blurred) compared with the sheet stamps, and have darker / broader inscriptions

045 Tel Aviv, Global City, one value

Issue date: September 9, 2014; Design: Baruch Nae; Printer: Cartor, offset; Sheets of fifteen plus five tabs; Perforations: 13.1 x 13.4
 4.50sh – Buildings of Tel Aviv

046 Wolfgang Johannes von Weisl (Dr Benjamin Zeev), 1896-1974, Zionist, one value

Issue date: September 9, 2014; Design: Osnat Eshel; Printer: Cartor, offset;
 Perforations: 13.1 x 13.4
 9.70sh – Weisl / Zeev with binoculars, noting his role as commanding officer in Independence War of 1948; Graf Zeppelin over Tel Aviv in 1932 (Weisl was on board as physician and journalist)

JERSEY

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

047 'My Moments' greetings stamps, twelve non-denominated self-adhesive values

Issue date: November 12, 2014; Design: Andy Le Gresley; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations die-cut 14.65 x 14.65.

- (A) inscribed 'Local letter': flat panel of six
- (46p) – White Teddy Bear (blue background)
 - (46p) – Bunch of balloons
 - (46p) – Hands making heart-shape silhouette against coastal sunset
 - (46p) – Wrapped present
 - (46p) – Jersey coat of arms
 - (46p) – Firework display
- (B) inscribed 'UK letter': flat pane of six
- (56p) – White Teddy Bear (red background)
 - (56p) – 'Hello' written in beach sand, and sunset
 - (56p) – Heart-shaped stone tied with ribbon in bow
 - (56p) – Two glasses of champagne
 - (56p) – Jersey flag
 - (56p) – Jersey located on globe showing Europe

048 Christmas. The Story of Father

Christmas, eight values
 Issue date: November 27, 2014; Design: Sharif Tarabay; Printer: BDT, offset;
 Perforations: 14.25 x 14.75

- 41p – Father Christmas with child on his knee
- 46p – Father Christmas in blue coat, carrying a tree
- 51p – Father Christmas wrapping presents
- 56p – Father Christmas, carrying sack, standing on roof beside chimney
- 62p – Father Christmas, in brown coat, having a drink and a mince pie
- 70p – Father Christmas, in green coat, reading a Christmas list
- 91p – Father Christmas meets a child carrying a tree
- £1.10 – Father Christmas filling sack with presents

MALAWI

(previously listed in December 2013 issue)

049 Butterfly definitive, with 'Protect Nature' logo, one value

Issue date; 2013;
 Printer: not reported, offset, in sheets

5K – *Myrina silenus ficedula*

Notes: the butterfly motif is as on the K5 definitive of 2002 (which had no Protect Nature logo) but redrawn on smaller scale, and with latin name moved to left side

050 Lake Malawi scenes,

ten values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: April 25, 2014; Design: MacDonald Mbalule, Creative Multimedia; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 14.15 x 14.15

- 100K – MV *Mtendere* docked on the bay
- 265K – Sunset on Lake Malawi
- 420K – Otter Point in Cape Maclear
- 430K – Sunset scene, with boats
- 450K – Fish Eagle poised for a kill
- 480K – Kayak riding on Lake Malawi
- 500K – Satellite map of Lake Malawi
- 840K – Chambo fish (Cichlids) in Lake Malawi (underwater scene)
- 860K – Fish Eagle flying with fish catch
- 900K – Lizard Island

Miniature sheet: contains the ten values in two se-tenant strips of five designs

MAURITIUS

(previously listed in May 2014 issue)

051 Anniversaries and Events 2014,

three values

Issue date: May 28, 2014; Printer: BDT, offset;
 Perforations: 13.75 x 13.5

(A) 150th anniversary of the death of Père Laval (Jacques-Désiré Laval), 1803-1864

R8 – Portrait of the French missionary, emblem

(B) tenth anniversary of the Office of the Ombudsman for Children

R15 – Boy and girl standing on palms of hands (cartoon)

(C) – Jean Joseph Lebrun, London Missionary Society missionary to Mauritius, and teacher (including of children of slaves)

R15 – Portrait

(D) 25th anniversary of mobile telephones in Mauritius

R25 – Five models of mobile telephone

052 Flora and Fauna (2014 issue),

three values

Issue date: August 30, 2014; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations 13.6 x 13.6

R7 – Dragonfly (unidentified species)



047



- R14 – Rodrigues bat (endemic to Rodrigues island)
 R25 – Jatropha plant (pignon d'Inde)

NORFOLK ISLAND

(previously listed in August 2014 issue)

053 Shorelines of Norfolk Island,

second issue, five values
 Issue date: May 7, 2014; Design: Mary Pavich, after photographs; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations: 13.65 x 13.45

- 5c – Cemetery Beach
 10c – Beefsteak (beach with rock pools and boulders)
 25c – Crystal Pool, waves breaking over its wall
 70c – Cascade Bay, with cliff waterfall coming from Cockpit

- \$1.75 – Garnet Point
 \$2.60 – Duncombe Bay with 'Elephant Rock'
Notes: the first issue in this series was issued on September 30, 2013 (listed in August 2014 Stamp & Coin Mart)

054 'Artwear': models wearing clothes made from recycled materials,

five values
 Issue date: May 26, 2014; Design: Mary Pavich; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations 13.8 x 14

- 15c – Fishing for the Groom by Wayne Boniface, modelled by Mandy Gardner, 2012
 70c – Pasta Bella by Wayne Boniface, modelled by Kristie Wilson, 2014
 \$1.40 – Flora Abunda Metallica (ballgown with hoops made from cut soft drinks cans) by Tony Gazzard, modelled by Claudia Yelavich, 2013
 \$1.50 – Romeo and Julieta: wide skirt with ruffled bustle made using cigar cases and boxes by Julie Paris, modelled by Victoria-Rose Paris, 2014
 \$3.50 – Bamboo Princess Warrior, by Robyn Butterfield, modelled by Maleah Butterfield, 2013

Notes: photographs are of entries in the Norfolk Island Wearable Arts Competition in recent years

055 Centenary of Norfolk Island as an External Territory of Australia, 1914-2014,

- two values
 Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations 13.8 x 14.6
 20c – Norfolk Pines behind the pavilion on Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia
 70c – Line of Norfolk Pines beside the Norfolk Island Assembly

Notes: joint issue with Australia



048

ST LUCIA

(previously listed in November 2012 issue)

056 Definitive (reprint), Flowering Fruits series,

one value with new imprint date
 Issue date not reported (c.2013); Design: Andrew Robinson; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14. Imprint date 2013 at foot
 30c – Wezi, *Coccoloba uvifera*
Notes: design originally issued December 5, 2005, which had 2005 imprint

057 Dragonflies, eight values

- Issue date: April 8, 2013; Designs: from photographs by Adams Toussaint; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 13.25 x 13.5
 5c – Antillean Skimmer, *Orthemis macrostigma*
 20c – Spot-tailed Dasher, *Micrathyria aequalis*
 30c – 'Vermillion Saddlebags', *Tamea abdominalis*
 50c – Tawny Pennant, *Brachymesia herbida*
 75c – Great Pondhawk, *Erythemis versiculosa*
 \$1 – Band-winged Dragonlet, *Erythrodiplax umbrata*
 \$1.50 – Wandering Glider, *Pantala flavescens*
 \$2 – Rambur's Forktail, *Ischmura ramburii*

058 'Splendour Of The Isle'. Paintings by Llewellyn Xavier,

two values
 Issue date: April 8, 2013; Designed by the artist; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 13.25 x 13.5, or 13.5 x 13.25 (\$10)
 \$5 – The Pitons
 \$10 – The Spirit of Freedom: phoenix

SWEDEN

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

059 Cookies, five non-denominated values

- Issue date: May 8, 2013; Design: Johan Hörberg; Printer: Sweden Post Stamps: offset; Perforations: imperf x 12.75 with elliptical cut-outs (coil stamp) or die-cut 10 with one imperf edge (booklet stamps)
 Coil stamp (gummed):
 12kr – Four cookies (in a row)
 Self-adhesive booklet (60kr):
 contains ten stamps –
 BREV (6kr) x three copies – Jam-filled thumb-print cookies
 BREV (6kr) x three copies – Chocolate roll
 BREV (6kr) x two copies –
 Pretzel-shaped cookies
 BREV (6kr) x two copies – Battenberg cakes

TOKELAU

(previously listed in June 2014 issue)

060 Christmas 2013. The Nativity Story,

four values
 Issue date: November 20, 2013; Design: NZ Post (illustrations); Printing: digital print, Collectables and Solutions Centre, NZ Post; Perforations 13 x 13.5

- 45c – Joseph leading Mary on a donkey
 \$1.40 – Mary and Joseph with Jesus and donkey
 \$2.00 – Shepherds with their sheep
 \$3.00 – Three Wise Men with gifts
Notes: this issue replaces the (incorrect) listing for Christmas 2013 published in June 2014 Stamp & Coin Mart)

061 Weaving, four values

and a miniature sheet
 Issue date: April 28, 2014; Design: NZ Post Ltd, depicting accessories and utensils woven from kau kie (pandanus leaf) and lau hulu (brown pandanus); Printer: NZ Post Collectables, digital print; Perforations 13.33 x 13.33
 45c – Taulima (bracelets)
 \$1.40 – Pupu (water holders)
 \$2.00 – Tapili (fan)
 \$3.00 – Ato (deep rectangular-base basket)
 Miniature sheet – contains the four values in a se-tenant strip

062 The Tokelau 'Vaka' (locally built transport and fishing canoe),

four values and a miniature sheet
 Issue date: June 18, 2014; Design: NZ Post Ltd; Printer: NZ Post Collectables, digital print; Perforations: 13.33 x 13.33
 45c – Canoes berthed in bay
 \$1.40 – Men caulking a canoe on beach
 \$2.00 – Four men paddling a canoe offshore
 \$3.00 – Unloading a canoe
 Miniature sheet – contains the four values se-tenant
Notes: unlike canoes from other island groups the Tokelau vaka is made from sculpted sections of kanava tree, caulked with coconut fibre or marine glue (the use of sections rather than whole logs being mandated by the lack of larger trees)

New issues - thematic checklist

A

Aircraft: 032
Airships: 046
Ancient World: 009, 010, 019
Americana: 032, 044
Animals: 004, 005, 042, 043, 052
Archaeology: 009, 019
Architecture: 007, 012, 040, 045, 055
Art: 022, 026, 035, 036, 044, 058
Aviation: 046

B

Banking & finance: 045
Bats: 052
Battles: 018, 025, 031, 032
Beaches: 031, 032, 055
Bicycles: 008, 034
Birds: 002, 003, 024, 043, 050, 058
Boats: 022, 050, 061, 062
British history: 001, 025, 026, 031, 032, 033, 034
Butterflies & moths: 049

C

Cartoons: 029
Castles: 012, 036
Cats: 005
Children: 002, 030, 048, 051, 060
Christmas: 002, 030, 048
Churches: 037
Cities: 034, 036, 037, 039, 040, 045
Coats of arms: 006, 047
Computers: 029
Conservation: 038, 049
Costume: 054
Crafts: 030, 061, 062

D

Dance: 039
Design: 054
Diving: 012
Dogs: 005, 031, 032

E

Education: 039, 051
Environment: 013, 015, 017, 038, 054

F

Fish: 050
Fishing: 036, 061, 062
Flags: 006, 011, 018, 023, 025, 043, 047
Flowers: 024, 027, 035, 041
Folklore: 048
Food: 013, 016, 048, 059
Frogs: 038

Fruit: 056

G

Gardens: 041
Government: 006, 010, 013, 014, 023, 051, 055
Greetings: 027, 043, 047

H

H

Health: 052
Helicopters: 026
Horses: 021, 044
Hotels: 021
Hydrology: 017

I

Industry: 036
Insects: 049, 052, 057
Inventions: 029, 036

J

Judaica: 043, 044

L

Lighthouses: 036
Love: 027

M

Maps: 011, 013, 015, 017, 047, 050
Marine life: 006
Military: 018, 031, 032, 043, 046
Motorcycles: 031, 033
Motor sport: 033
Mountains: 034, 058
Museums: 009, 019
Music: 039, 044

N

National Parks: 004
Naval: 025, 026, 032

O

O

Opera: 060

P

Paintings: 043
Papacy: 037
Peace: 010
Personalities: 001, 009, 018, 019, 028, 031, 032, 033, 034, 037, 039, 046, 051
Pets: 005
Philosophy: 028
Photography: 031, 032, 053
Plants: 024, 052, 056
Politics: 001, 010, 012, 014, 015, 016, 018, 023, 028,

031, 032
Ports & harbours: 036, 040
Postal services: 002
Posts: 020, 021, 035
Power: 036
Press & publishing: 028, 029

R

Religion: 030, 037, 043, 051
Remembrance: 025
Reptiles: 038
Rivers: 015, 022
Roses: 027
Royalty: 009, 019

S

Sculpture: 010, 040
SEPAC: 035
Ships: 026, 032, 040, 050
Skies: 047, 050
Sport: 008, 011, 033, 034
Stained glass: 030

T

Telecommunications: 051
Textiles: 061
Theatre: 044
Tourism: 012, 021, 022, 050, 053
Toys & games: 029, 036, 047
Trade: 044, 045
Transport: 032, 033
Trees: 053

U

Uniforms: 025
United Nations: 013, 016, 017
UPU: 020

V

Vending machine labels: 030, 042
Views: 031, 032, 033, 034, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 045, 050, 053, 055

W

Waterfalls: 053
Weaponry: 018, 031, 032
Welfare & charities: 016, 051
Women: 001, 009, 039, 054
World War One: 025
World War Two: 001, 031, 032
Writers: 001, 039, 046

Y

Youth: 043

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Discovering the Lenborough hoard

Christmas came early for one coin enthusiast in December, when he found what was later described as an ‘unprecedented’ hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins in a field near Aylesbury. In a special report, we take a look at the contents of the hoard and ask metal detectorist Paul Coleman what it was like to unearth such an important collection of coins

Having enjoyed metal detecting since the 1970s, Paul Coleman has had his fair share of finds and likens the hobby to fishing; the thrill of the ‘catch’ prompting him to return to look for more treasures again and again. Finding a coin which has not been handled by anyone in hundreds of years, Paul explains to *Stamp & Coin Mart*, is one of the most rewarding aspects of the hobby. ‘They’re so artistically pretty,’ he says, ‘finding something like an Edward II groat would be lovely. I still enjoy it and have been out three times already since the find.’

Paul will happily continue to search the countryside for coins and antiquities with fellow members of the Weekend Wanderers Detecting Club for years to come, but he will never match the historic discovery he made on 21 December, 2014, when he dug up a hoard of more than 5,000 Anglo-Saxon coins, grabbing newspaper headlines and sending the archaeology world into a spin.

Above: some cleaned coins from the hoard (image: Portable Antiquities Scheme)

Right: a selection of the coins photographed minutes after the discovery (image: Guy Massey)



Now, with the coins being cleaned and valued by experts at the British Museum, Paul looks back on the day of the discovery for *Stamp & Coin Mart*. ‘The organisers give us a map so you can identify the field to search in,’ he recalls, ‘and they had an aerial photo showing the field. You could see the old farming strip system which was pretty much unadulterated since those times, so we chose that field.’

Paul quickly noted that the soft soil in the field meant any items

would have dropped down through the earth, and after a few hours with little success he, his son and son’s friend were ready to move on to another field. ‘We didn’t find anything apart from a single musket ball so we decided to leave the field,’ Paul says. ‘We met in the corner of the field, which had different marks on the aerial photo, suggesting that the area had been used for something different in those times. But decided to go into the next field.’



Paul and his son and friend continued to use their metal detectors as they went to leave the field, and interference with another detector prompted Paul to move. Suddenly his detector gave out a signal. 'I moved about five yards to get a bit of distance,' Paul said. 'Had I not moved over we would have walked off and never found it.'

With the detector continuing to make the signal, Paul began to dig down but initially found nothing at all. 'It went down and down and down,' Paul says. 'After digging about a foot down you usually see something. I kept going down and after about 20 inches asked a couple of detectors to double check. One said they still had a good signal and another was not sure, so I thought I might as well see it through.'

Paul's persistence paid off when, after loosening the soil around the edge of the hole with a shovel, he began to dig with his hands. 'I put my hand in and felt a scrape on the back of my hand.'

From left: members of the Weekend Wanderers Detecting Club gather around the find site; the counted coins stored in money bags ready for transfer to the Bucks County Museum (images: Guy Massey)

Then I saw a white piece of lead, it looked like aluminium or some sort of junk, but then I saw the reflection of the sky in a shiny disc and knew it was a coin. I could then see lots of little grey shapes and new at that point it was a hoard. You could just see rows and rows of coins, and everybody knew how important it was.'

Writing about the excitement of the find on the detecting club's website, Pete Welch wrote: 'A neat hole had been carefully dug and the finder had pulled out a few pieces of lead revealing what looked like coins. My first comment was, "Looks like stateres" but suggested to the finder that he take one out for me to have a proper look at. "Saxon! Wow, you've got a Saxon hoard!"'

Paul soon called over a dig marshal and the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) Ros Tyrrell and the excitement grew. The site of the discovery was cordoned off to stop other detectors searching the immediate area and a

full excavation began. It was quickly discovered that the container in which the coins were stored was shattered but soon the extent and importance of the find was apparent.

'Hoard finder Paul, FLO Ros, Mike and Sarah accompanied the farmer and his family back to the farm house for the great reckoning,' Peter wrote. 'The idea was to quickly count the coins on the farm's kitchen table so that the farmer could get off to market. Ros had bell ringing practice which could not be missed too so her time was limited.'

'It took four people one and a half hours to count the coins,' Paul remembers, 'and they were then taken by the FLO to the Bucks County Museum.' From there the coins were transported to the British Museum, where numismatic experts are eagerly assessing the treasure.

While Paul is adamant that there's more to the hobby than just finding a pot of gold, the question of value is an inevitable aspect of such a discovery. 'If I was going by what has been sold before, then the minimum price for each coin is around £200, that's £1 million. But it's impossible to say, there could easily be very rare coins within the hoard.' Meanwhile, Peter writes: 'They are flawless and unclipped. It seems like they have never been in public use and look uncirculated. As a point of interest, there was a mint at Buckingham at the time these coins were deposited. Could there be a link to the Buckingham mint?' Such questions will continue to be asked as more light is shed on the hoard, but one thing is certain, Paul will never have quite the same experience while detecting again.

AN UNPRECEDENTED ANGLO-SAXON HOARD

The 'unprecedented' hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins was discovered by Southampton-based detectorist Paul Coleman on 21 December, 2014, during the Weekend Wanderers Metal Detecting Club's annual Christmas dig in Lenborough, near Buckingham.

A total of 5,251 coins bearing the portrait of kings Aethelred the Unready and Cnut were found, making the hoard one of the largest late Anglo Saxon coin hoards found in Britain and the largest since the Treasure Act 1996. Kate Morais of the British Museum said: 'The coins were wrapped in a lead parcel, which has protected the coins, so they are in very good condition. Only a few coins have been cleaned and identified so far, but they include coins of Cnut & Aethelred, making the hoard about 1,000 years old.'

'The coins have been taken to the British Museum, as part of the legal treasure process, and will be cleaned and identified over the course of the next month. Assuming it is declared Treasure by the local coroner, then the valuations can start by the independent valuations committee, and the museums will decide if they are able to try and raise the money to acquire the hoard. Any reward would usually be split between finder and landowner.'

NEW ISSUES

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Cosmology

Denomination: €25
 Obverse: illustration of universe within the niobium core, mathematical calculations and the inscriptions in outer ring
 Reverse: European Extremely Large Telescope
 Diameter: 34 mm
 Metal: Silver ring, Niobium core
 Mint: Austrian Mint
 Website: www.muenzeoesterreich.at/eng



450th anniversary of the Spanish Riding School

Denomination: €20
 Obverse: two horses facing each other in front of school
 Reverse: horse performing jump
 Diameter: 34 mm
 Metal: Silver Ag 900
 Mint: Austrian Mint
 Website: www.muenzeoesterreich.at/eng

New Year Coin

Denomination: €5
 Obverse: masked reveller raising champagne glass
 Reverse: value in centre of patterned coat of arms
 Diameter: 28.5 mm
 Metal: Copper
 Mint: Austrian Mint
 Website: www.muenzeoesterreich.at/eng

New £20 Winston Churchill coin

The Royal Mint has issued a new limited edition United Kingdom £20 coin marking fifty years since the death of Sir Winston Churchill.

As part of the Churchill 2015 activities to commemorate the former statesman and renowned leader, Sir Winston's great grandson, Randolph Churchill, visited The Royal Mint to strike one of the solid silver coins in his honour. Randolph Churchill said: 'This year marks fifty years since the death of my great grandfather and 75 years since his "finest hour" on becoming wartime Prime Minister. It is fantastic to see so many and such varied activities taking place to celebrate everything that he achieved during his long life. We need to ensure that his legacy is sustained for the benefit of future generations. It is an honour to have the opportunity to play a part in these commemorations, and I am delighted to strike one of these special coins which will serve as a unique reminder of a great man. To do so with my young son is a special honour which encapsulates the important link between past, present and future.'



Sir Winston Churchill's great grandson pictured at the Royal Mint



The coin's reverse design has been created by figurative sculptor Etienne Millner, who took his inspiration from Yousuf Karsh's famous black and white 1941 photograph of Churchill. It bears the current portrait of Her Majesty The Queen by Ian Rank-Broadley on its obverse.

This collectable coin, which costs £20, is the third in The Royal Mint's popular £20 for £20 coin range. The first, bearing Pistrucci's classic St George and the dragon design, sold out within days on its release in 2013. Its successor was released in 2014 to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

£100 coins sold for £300 on ebay

Copies of the recently issued '£100 for £100' commemorative coin which features an image of Big Ben and contains two ounces of silver, have been sold for up to £300 on ebay.

The Royal Mint's first ever £100 for £100 coin sold out within days of its release, with just 50,000 copies being made available, prompting collectors to turn to the internet. During January copies of the £100 coin, in a special presentation pack, were fetching prices of up to £350, while more recent ebay sales saw the coin selling for around £175.

The Royal Mint's Director of Commemorative Coin and Medals, Shane Bissett said: 'We... have been thrilled with the fantastic feedback and unprecedented interest from our customers and the UK general public.'



Date revealed for new portrait unveiling

The fifth coinage portrait of the Queen is set to be revealed at a special ceremony on Monday 2 March, 2015 and will begin to appear on UK coins from that date onwards.

The fifth definitive portrait has been chosen by a closed competition commissioned by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) where a number of specialist designers were invited to submit designs under anonymous cover, before a winner was selected by the RMAC.

Precious metal coins for 2015

The Royal Mint has announced the launch of the new UK precious metal Proof coin sets containing the nation's definitive and commemorative coins for 2015, available in Gold Proof, Silver Proof or Silver Proof Piedfort editions. This will be the last chance for collectors to own a Royal Mint precious metal Proof coin set bearing the fourth definitive coinage portrait of the Queen by Ian Rank-Broadley FRBS.



Bullion and Medals at The Royal Mint, said: 'The launch of The Royal Mint's precious metal Proof sets is an eagerly anticipated annual event, but this year's release marks the beginning of a memorable year for the UK's coinage – these are the last precious metal coin sets to bear the current effigy of Elizabeth II, so are likely to be sought after by collectors and by those looking for a gift to mark a special year.'

The Royal Mint's four precious metal Proof coin sets for 2015 include the 2015 United Kingdom Gold Proof and the 2015 United Kingdom Silver Proof coin sets, which both feature precious metal renditions of the commemorative coins for the year.

To purchase the coins, visit The Royal Mint's website: www.royalmint.com

The Royal Mint's themes for 2015 include:

- The 50th anniversary of the death of Winston Churchill
- The bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo
- The 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta
- The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain

The Royal Mint's programme of commemoration marking the centenary of World War One continues with a coin that honours the Royal Navy and the role that it played during the war.

Shane Bissett, Director of Commemorative Coin,

COINS ON A BUDGET

This month's coin is a rather unusual one which I purchased from a dealer for £4, writes **Ed Archer**. It is an example of 'Kriegsgeld' which translates as 'war money' and was actually issued in 1919 shortly after the war ended. At this time the economy of Germany was in a dreadful mess and many towns and villages issued their own paper money and coinage.

The example illustrated is an aluminium 10 pfennig piece. On the reverse is the denomination 10 Pfennig and around the edge is the inscription 'Stadt Wald Rhl', which translates as 'Town of



Wald in Rhineland 1919'. However, there is no town called Wald, indeed the word means 'Wood'. The area that the coin was used in was the Rhineland Palatinate which is south western Germany, the main town in the area is 'Kaiserslauten.' This wooded



area lies in the French department of Alsace.

On the obverse is the coat of arms of the Rhineland Palatinate which has its origins in the Middle Ages, being taken from those of the Hohenstaufen family, some of whom became Holy Roman Emperors.

FIJI

Year of the Goat Yin Yang

Denomination: 2 x \$1

Obverse: male goat with horn of plenty and coins in background

Reverse: a white goat rests peacefully in the grass

Diameter: 49.90 mm

Metal: 92.5% Sterling Silver

Mint: Mint of Norway

Website: www.myntverket.no

Notes: this proof finish coin is divided into two distinct pieces, each half being a separate coin though they are joined together in the yin yang symbol

Silver Filigree Year of the Goat Coin

Denomination: \$1

Obverse: filigree depiction of goat's head

Reverse: filigree depiction of goat's head, surrounded by goat head silhouettes

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Metal: 99.9% Fine Silver

Mint: Mint of Norway

Website: www.myntverket.no

SPAIN



Felipe VI - New King of Spain

Denomination: €2

Obverse: value and Euro map

Reverse: portraits of both King Felipe VI and his abdicated father, King Juan Carlos I

Diameter: 25.75 mm

Metal: Base Metal

Mint: Royal Spanish Mint

Website: www.fnmt.es

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New Zealand's coins and tokens

In the latest part of his ongoing series on coins of the British Empire, Steve Webb examines the pre-decimal coins and tokens used in New Zealand



Throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries almost all British colonies had little to feel thankful for when it came to supplies of coins from the Royal Mint. In fact the Home Government issued none at all to early settlers in its most distant possession some 1,300 miles south of Sydney, and more than 6,000 miles from London.

New Zealand had not even achieved the status of a colony in the 1780s; but it had begun to attract European and North American whale and seal hunters who established camps and trading posts on the coast. They brought a variety of coins and tokens including ubiquitous Spanish dollars and small change coppers issued by the Dutch and the British East India Companies in Asia. The seamen needed fruit, vegetables and other supplies for their vessels; but the Maori who approached the camps to trade their produce had a far greater interest in iron and weapons than in European coins, so New Zealand's early economy thrived on barter.

In New South Wales merchants and entrepreneurs regarded New Zealand as an outpost of their own colony and a place where prime agricultural land

Left: the ravages of prolonged circulation can be seen on these British Victorian coppers which formed part of New Zealand's loose change in the 1840s – 1850s. Earlier coppers were often worn totally blank on both faces

Right: sovereigns like this began to circulate in New Zealand soon after Australian gold was taken to the Sydney mint for coining

The imagery on the reverses of New Zealand's numerous copper penny tokens ranged from personifications of Britannia to depictions of Maori dress, weaponry and other cultural markers



could be had by duping its Maori farmers or driving them inland with the aid of superior weapons. A group of Sydney speculators and businessmen formed the New Zealand Company and shortly arrived on South Island with big plans for sheep ranching, arable farming and expansion of the small but highly profitable timber exporting industry. From 1822, when the Royal Mint commenced a steady flow of Sterling coins into New South Wales, the men of the New Zealand Company were circulating them in New Zealand.

The Maori, bitterly angered by increasing numbers of settlers taking over their territory, declared war on the New Zealand Company and used guerrilla tactics including crop burning, livestock thefts and fence destruction to deter newcomers from buying farms. Small wars rumbled on until a peace treaty, signed in 1840, provided an opportunity for Britain to claim sovereign rights over New Zealand. The treaty also guaranteed Maori tenure on lands they held at that time. In turn, the New Zealand Company transferred all of its land rights to Britain in 1850 when New Zealand became a full British colony.

Foreign coins were outlawed from that date and British coinage became the colony's legal tender.

That did not, however, result in a flood of silver and copper coins. They trickled into circulation alongside – for those who could afford to own them – the new sovereigns then being minted from Australian gold in Sydney. But for workaday pennies and halfpennies New Zealanders fended for themselves with coppers usually so badly worn that size alone divided the denominations. Up to a hundred tradesmen and employers of large workforces sent orders to Birmingham for supplies of token coppers and agricultural tallies. They circulated from 1857 as freely as legal tender.

A number of businessmen broke away from traditional designs such as seated Britannias and personifications of Commerce on their tokens. Aware that Maori labourers had begun to migrate to the edges of towns and to take up employment for wages, and to use tokens when buying from retailers, the issuers made their tokens more acceptable in pay packets, and as loose change, by embellishing them with Maori artwork and depictions of Maori in traditional dress.





Today's collectors eagerly seek them; but condition is rarely better than fair due to prolonged circulation. All tokens were finally demonetized in 1897, though their use lingered as board game counters.

It seems odd that this thriving colony, which in fact became the virtually independent Dominion of New Zealand in 1907, and which prided itself on attracting honest, hard-working immigrants from Britain, had to wait until the 1930s before legal tender bearing 'NEW ZEALAND' as part of the legend jingled in the pockets and purses of its citizens.

A stumbling block halted progress in 1910 when the Commonwealth of Australia issued coinage for its entire continent. New Zealanders found all denominations flooding in from across the Tasman Sea and generally accepted as legal tender. Bearing in mind that silver 3d, 6d, 1s.0d and

2s 0d British coins also circulated in New Zealand at that time on a par with the identical denominations of Australia, difficulties emerged when these values began to slip and slide in the turbulent economics of the 1930s. The Wellington government proclaimed the Coinage Act of 1933 which decreed that British coins would cease to be legal tender on 1 February, 1935. It was time for New Zealand to have its own money.

Struck at the Royal Mint, the first silver (.500 fine) 3d, 6d, 1s 0d, 2s 0d and 2s 6d coins arrived in New Zealand in 1933. A 5s 0d piece was also expected, but delays during production intervened. The 1933 pieces were all the work of English artist George Kruger Gray, who enjoyed a high reputation for his bold coin designs. The reverse of the 3d depicted crossed patu, which were traditional Maori war clubs.

Lettering on penny tokens gives some indication of their widespread use

The sixpence reverse showed the extinct huia bird, whose feathers were once prized for headdresses by Maori chiefs. On the shilling a crouching warrior clutches a wooden spear known as a Taiha; while the florin displayed New Zealand's iconic bird, the Kiwi. The two cultures – British and Maori – came together on the halfcrown reverse which has the New Zealand shield-of-arms with a Tudor crown above and Maori motifs to left and right.

On the reverse of the delayed crown, which was issued in very small numbers in 1935, the New Zealand Lieutenant-General and a Maori paramount chief are shown shaking hands after signing the 1840 Peace Treaty. Because of the very small issue the New Zealand Treasury, aware of strong collector interest, decided to charge 7s 6d for each. The buyers did well; an uncirculated 1935 crown would sell today for at least £2,000. Incidentally, the artist was a New Zealander, Reginald Berry, who had emigrated from London in 1925. He soon found work as a freelance designer.

Another wait ensued until New Zealand's first coppers made their debut in 1940, by which time the metal had transmuted to bronze. The bronze halfpenny had on its reverse a Maori Hei-tiki with Maori ornamental scrolls on each side. Said to be a powerful good luck symbol, the Hei-tiki depicts the first man, who came to the Maori world from the stars. On the bronze penny a tui is perched on blossoms. This nectar loving bird is said to be one of very few to have thrived in New Zealand since humans arrived.

The reverse designs of New Zealand's ½d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 1s 0d, 2s 0d and 2s 6d remained unchanged until the introduction of decimal currency in 1967.



The Florin (2s 0d) and Half Crown (2s 6d) from the 1933 issue

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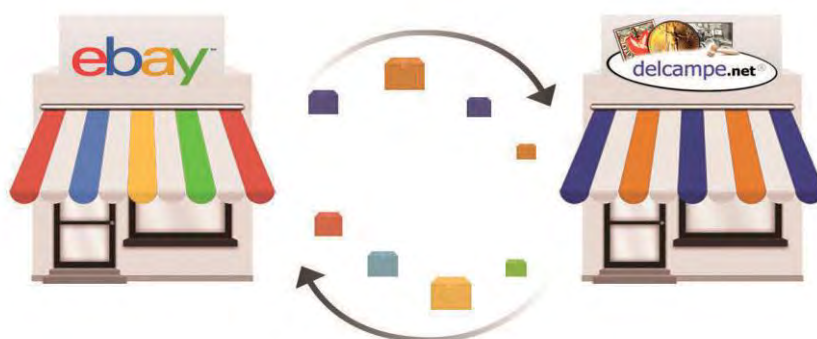
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An introduction to collecting German coins

Ed Fletcher takes a few bold steps into a numismatic labyrinth of German currency, charting the range of coins issued in the country since the formation of the country in the nineteenth century

Imagine the complexities of earning a living and paying your way in pre-decimal Britain – where we used to juggle pounds, ten-shillings, half-crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences, threepences, pennies, halfpennies and farthings in our everyday pocket and purse cash – if every county (118 before 1972) had minted its own money and often added other coin denominations to the aforementioned. Then suppose that within each county the major cities and towns, and occasionally the biggest landowners, had also insisted on having their own mints. You now have an inkling of what everyday life was like for German speakers on the Continent during many of the pre-Euro centuries.

Notice how we side-stepped using the word ‘Germany’ in the previous

sentence. That’s because no country named Germany (or Deutsches Reich for the pedantic) existed until the nineteenth century. The name Germania had featured on maps of the Roman Empire in the fourth century AD; but not long after freeing themselves from that empire a tribe from Germania, who called themselves the Frangi, dutifully following their leader, Otto the First, and became members of the Holy Roman Empire.

One of the ways in which succeeding emperors gained the support of lesser princes and city states within the empire was to grant them the right to strike their own coinage. This resulted in a profusion of denominations and values because at its height the Holy Roman Empire encompassed what we know today as Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Belgium,



Above, from top: Hamburg gold 5-mark piece dated 1877. The reverse shows the Imperial Eagle, while the obverse has Hamburg's city arms; by 1913 Hamburg was striking silver 5-mark pieces

Left, from top: another superb silver 5-mark piece, this one dated 1903; and very reasonably priced: it sold in a recent London auction for £85; commemorative coins were popular throughout the German Empire. This attractive 3-mark piece from Prussia is dated 1913. Its inscription included the date 17/3/1813, the day on which the king of Prussia (Friedrich Wilhelm III)

the Netherlands, parts of Northern Italy, Poland and areas of France. There was no agreed unit of currency across the empire until the sixteenth century when the silver thaler became the coin by which currencies of the empire were measured. The names of the other denominations, and the exchange rates that pertained and fluctuated between them, offer long hours of study and interest to any collector who embarks on the tortuous path. For the inquisitive readers yet to make up his/her mind on whether to begin the journey, a brief numismatic introduction to those German coins, with which many readers have already rubbed shoulders during extra-hobby activities, is in order.

Did you ever take a holiday in Germany in pre-Euro times when British passports were *de rigueur*? Recall how swiftly you grasped the values of marks and pfennigs vis-à-vis pounds and shillings. The mark was a unit of measure for gold and silver with many variations across medieval



Europe. In the city of Hamburg the burghers minted gold mark coins and valued them at sixteen of their silver schillings, with each schilling worth twelve miniscule silver pfennigs (q.v.). The gold marks were widely admired, with several other city states issuing their own versions. Following the seventeenth-century turmoils of the Thirty Years War (fought largely between German-speaking Protestants and German-speaking Roman Catholics); and the eighteenth and nineteenth-century Napoleonic War (much of it fought between German speakers and French speakers); the remnants of the Holy Roman Empire lay fragmented until Prussian prime minister Otto von Bismarck re-unified the Teutonic parts to form the German Empire in 1871. He adopted the mark as the imperial unit of account. Initially, the coins and banknotes of the various predecessor currencies, such as thalers, kreuzers, and guilders, continued to circulate, and were treated as fixed multiples of the new unit of account. Imperial coins denominated in gold marks appeared in 1873, and gradually replaced the old monies, though a few independent cities, including Hamburg, also issued their own currencies, now displaying the imperial emblem on their reverses.

Silver proved a more suitable minting metal for the German Empire's growing industrial regions where populations were rising rapidly and more money changed hands. Commemorative silver marks in 2, 3 and 5 denominations

Copper 1½ pfennig of Munster Stadt. The obverse has a monogrammed MS, and the denomination is in fact PFENNING, which is not an error; the same spelling occurs on a number of pre-twentieth century pfennigs



were issued by cities, regions and states during this period, with a standardized 1 mark circulated across the empire.

Following disastrous defeat in World War One the German Empire ceased to exist in 1918. Its replacement, the Weimar Republic (1919-1933), facing hyperinflation, resorted to aluminium for most of its marks, though a few silver coins were issued. When Hitler and the Third Reich swept to power in the 1930s the swastika emblem appeared on most marks. The post-war 1940s witnessed the birth of the Federal Republic of Germany and the issuing, in 1948, of the Deutche Mark, which was the coin we Brits used on our German holidays in the 1960s and 1970s. In the Russian occupied east the German Democratic Republic issued its own marks until 1990 when the Communist coinage system was abandoned and East and West Germany re-united, adopting the Deutche Mark as the national currency until the introduction of the Euro in 2002.

Charlemagne, founder of the Holy Roman Empire, declared that a pound of pure silver should be divided into 240 pfennigs. A few years later Anglo-Saxon monarchs introduced the English silver penny with a similar weight of 240 to a pound. English kings had a monopoly on currency, so pennies rarely deviated from that standard during the next several hundred years. Within the Empire, however, local princes and powerful city states frequently debased their silver and reduced the weight of their pfennigs. As a result the last pfennigs to contain traces of silver were minted in 1805; and when the German Empire issued its first coins in 1873, with 100 pfennigs to one mark, the 1 and 2 pfennigs were struck from copper; the 5 and 10 from a copper-nickel alloy. In 1917 shortages

of copper and nickel forced German mints to cease production of 1 and 2 pfennigs. The copper-nickel 5 pfennig continued as an iron coin; while the 10 pfennig was struck in zinc. All four of those unusual pfennigs featured an Imperial Eagle reverse.

In the Weimar Republic hyperinflation resulted in the introduction of an aluminium 50 pfennig to replace the silver half-mark which people hoarded as soon as it came into their possession. The Third Reich's contribution to the pfennig series included 1, 2, 5 and 10 denominations struck in bronze, aluminium and zinc during the years 1936 to 1944. All show the denomination on one face, while the other has an eagle holding a swastika

In 1948 the German Democratic Republic struck its first 1, 5 and 10 pfennigs in aluminium. Designs featured a cogwheel and an ear of grain, symbolizing a communist workers-and-farmers state. In 1950 a 50 pfennig joined the issues. Its design showed factories belching smoke and an antiquated plough. In a new series of 1, 5 and 10 pfennigs issued in 1952 the reverse design featured a compass, a hammer and ears of grain said to represent the intelligentsia directing workers and farmers towards greater production targets. The last of the Federal Republic's pfennigs (1, 2, 5 and 10) were struck from steel, with the two lower values given a copper coating and the two higher values coated in brass. The reverse design on all four displays oak foliage, an ancient Germanic symbol. Perhaps the illustrations spur you to wonder what else Germany might have in store for an enquiring coin collector prepared to take a few more bold steps.

More conventional pfennigs, the second was issued just before World War Two, a time when the Nazi party had enough copper to strike their pfennigs



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Raising the flag at Iwo Jima

In 1945, the US Post Office bowed to public demand and issued a three-cent stamp to commemorate the battle of Iwo Jima. Richard Tarrant examines the remarkable background to this iconic stamp

The Iwo Jima stamp was based on a photograph that had been taken just under five months earlier by Joe Rosenthal, a young Associated Press photographer.

Iwo Jima is a small volcanic Pacific island some 650 nautical miles south of Tokyo, its highest point being Mount Suribachi. The island was strategically important to the USA in World War Two, insofar as it had two airfields. Having access to the airfields would allow the Americans to bombard the Japanese mainland with intensity and give a platform to destroy the Japanese air and naval capability. By 1944, however, the Japanese had built its military capability on the island to over 20,000 troops and Iwo Jima became the site of one of the bloodiest battles of World War Two.

The US Marines landed on Iwo Jima on 19 February, 1945. In spite of months of prior naval bombardment and aerial bombing of the island, when they landed the Marines were met with fierce Japanese resistance and it took until 27 March before the Americans were victorious.

Four days after battle began, Joe Rosenthal shot one of the most memorable photographs of the war. On 23 February a patrol of forty men was given the mission to take the crater at the peak of Mount Suribachi and raise the American flag. This they achieved at 10.20am. Three hours later, another patrol was despatched to the peak to remove the flag and



The 3c stamp was issued in July 1945 while the memories of the war were still very fresh. The photograph was seen in many publications and is today one of the most reproduced images of all time

The famous photograph was used for a second time in September 1995 on one value in a 32-stamp sheet commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of World War Two. The sheet marked the end of a five-year series of World War Two stamps

look through the viewfinder. Unsure whether he had got the flag-raising shot, Rosenthal asked eighteen Marines to pose under the flag and wave at the camera, which they did. Rosenthal called this a 'gung ho' shot.

Rosenthal's film went by radio transmission to the USA and his flag-raising photograph appeared on the front page of Sunday newspapers on 25 February. It was an instant sensation, with the image of five Marines and one Navy corpsman becoming one of the most famous photographs ever taken. Periodically, false accusation has been made that the flag-raising picture was staged. This arose from confusion between the flag-raising photograph and Rosenthal's 'gung ho' shot.

Public demand for a stamp based on the flag-raising picture quickly grew. The US Post Office initially rejected the idea on the grounds that living persons could not appear on stamps, but the clamour was so great that Congress supported the stamp issue. The Iwo Jima stamp appeared on 11 July, 1945. On that day 2,731,482 stamps were sold and 400,729 covers cancelled, while total

The Iwo Jima stamp appeared on 11 July, 1945. On that day 2,731,482 stamps were sold... total sales exceeded 137 million

raise another, larger flag that would be visible across the whole island.

Joe Rosenthal had been making daily visits to the island on a Marine landing craft. On 23 February he heard that a flag was being raised on the summit and made his way up Mount Suribachi. On the way he heard that a flag had already been raised but continued his ascent. As he reached the summit he saw the patrol attempting to raise the second flag. Very hurriedly, Rosenthal took a snapshot without having time to

sales finally exceeded 137 million.

The image of Rosenthal's photograph has continued to resonate in the USA. In 1954 a massive monument (the Marine Corps Memorial) based on the photograph was unveiled in Virginia, and there are several other similar but smaller memorials throughout the USA. In 1995, one of a set of ten stamps commemorating US participation in World War Two was based on a retouched copy of the original photograph.

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Argyll Etkin	35	The London Coin Co.	96
Arun Stamps	79	Malcolm Sprei	74
Arrowfile (Flashfoto)	55	Michael G Read	53
ASPS Congress	69	MonacoPhil	2
Benhams Covers Ltd	91	MRM	61
Bill Barrell Ltd	39	Mrs Clifford	69
B&S Stamps	30	Murray Payne	35
Brandon Stamp Auctions	30	Pennymead Auctions & Books	71
Brian Purcell	79	Phil Index	68
Brookvale Stamps	64	Philangles Ltd	31
Candlish McCleery	71	Prinz Publications	47
Coin Craft	103	Raflet Stamp Club	71
Corbitts	18	Reg Atkinson	71
Court Philatelics	47	Robstine Stamps	71
Dauwalders	77	Rowan Baker	64
Delcampe	102	Safe Albums	42
Ducannon Partnership	61	Salisbury Stamp Fair	53
E A Beer	69	Sandafayre (Holdings) Ltd	19
Enfield Stamps	111	Stanley Gibbons	60, 80-81 & 90
Eureka Cards	71	Swan Stamps	64 & 72
Europhilex London 2015	6	Timeline Auctions	98
Fdcovers.com	13	Timeline Originals	98
G Milsom	19	Tony Lester Auctions	15
Gary J Lyon	31	Trevor Chinery	35
Guernsey Post	42	UPA	3, 25, 110 & 112
Gustamps	70	Warwick & Warwick	8 & 97
Harry Allen	82	We Sell Stamps	54
H V Johnson	71	West End Stamp Company	58
James & Sons Auctioneers	30		
Japan Philatelics	24		
Jersey Post	43		

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Over following years I found little help in understanding stamps, so much had to be learned the hard-way, which is why my company UPA publishes what I dare to hope are useful articles about collecting and buying and selling stamps. It is my hope that these prove valuable to you and that we may serve you if you decide to contact us ...

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