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Philatelic Exporter

MARCH 2021 THE WORLD STAMP TRADE JOURNAL



USA

Will face-to-face stamp shows return to America in 2021?



Europe

Dover's role as the gateway to Europe



Postcard World

The globetrotting genius of Raphael Kirchner



Australasia

Forged monograms being added to stamp margins

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Dear Reader

Welcome to the March issue of *Philatelic Exporter*, which comes out just before the second Virtual Stampex. I am sure this event will be even better than last October's show and will provide the philatelic community with another opportunity to showcase itself to a wider audience.

In this month's International Reports, Wayne provides details of plans for this year's American stamp shows and how he is hopeful that some face-to-face events will take place later in the year. In Europe, Michael looks at how Dover's role as the gateway to Europe can be traced philatelically, while in Australasia, Glen reveals some new forgeries to look out for when searching for a bargain. Elsewhere, Michael Dodd reveals a very personal 'My Favourite'.

Let's hope we can look forward to the rest of the year with increasing confidence.

Best wishes,

Alison Boyd
Editor *Philatelic Exporter*

www.thephilateliceporter.com
Editorial Office: +44 (0)1425 481047
aboyd@philateliceporter.com

Editor: Alison Boyd
Designer: Hayley Tear

Advertising sales: +44 (0)1425 481055
advertising@philateliceporter.com

Subscriptions: +44 (0)1425 472363
subscriptions@philateliceporter.com

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Contents

March 2021

76th Year • Volume 76 • Issue 11

NEWS

News Round-up.....

The latest philatelic news.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

USA 8

Wayne L Youngblood: A Face-to-face Great American Stamp Show for 2021?

Europe..... 14

Michael Burzan: Dover – Gateway to Europe.

Australasia 20

Glen Stephens: Forgers Now Creating Monograms.

SPECIAL FEATURE

My Favourite..... 24

A very personal flight cover provides Michael Dodd of cddstamps with his favourite philatelic item.

REGULAR FEATURES

Around the Rooms.....

The latest auction reports.

Postcard World..... 34

Brian Lund: The Globetrotting Genius.

New Books..... 38

David Rennie reviews new catalogues and books.

Back Stampix..... 50

Pictured in *Philatelic Exporter* in March 2011.

DIARY DATES

New Issues.....

Auction Diary 45

Major Events 46

Classified Advertisements 48

Index of Advertisers 49



page 4



page 28



page 42

News Round-up

New Features for Virtual Stampex 2021

• Children's Letter-writing Project

VIRTUAL STAMPEX RETURNS WITH EXCITING NEW FEATURES

THIS month, the Philatelic Traders' Society are once again presenting a Virtual Stampex show. As with last October's event, Virtual Stampex, which runs 25–27 March, will connect the world's philatelic community 24 hours a day for three days, with the aim of bringing together collectors from all over the globe.

Virtual Stampex is driving the philatelic revolution, capitalising on the resurgence of the hobby due to the global pandemic. The show encourages people to connect and enjoy a philatelic experience from the comfort of their own home. Visitors will enter via an interactive lobby, which will be open for the full 72 hours of the show, and will then be able to connect globally through text, audio and video with Stampex stand holders, PTS members, auction houses, philatelic societies, postal administrations, museums, experts and social influencers – completely free of charge. The organisers are also planning a range of events, including ten Virtual Stampex Talks, Stamps in the Attic, live philatelic chat rooms, a new booth hall, exhibits and a new collectors' lounge celebrating the world's leading philatelists.

There will be some exciting new additions to the format of Virtual Stampex compared to last year's show. Sponsored by Corinphila and Heinrich Kohler, the Collectors' Lounge is a space to allow collectors to meet, chat and connect. They can arrange to meet friends, join a relaxed session on collecting from one of the experts and meet the teams who are showing in the booth hall.

A Gold Membership Hall will feature PTS Gold Members, including the likes of Mark Bloxham, Brian Bayford, Stanley Gibbons and Bill Barrell.

An Exhibitors' Hub is the area for those who want to see the exhibitions run by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) and award-winning collections presented by the Museum of Philately.

Once again sponsored by Spink, the Spink Auditorium will

be home to ten talks, including ones from the NY Collectors Club, FIAP and the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Of course, the show will also have a live chat function for the full 72 hours, allowing connections to be made with PTS members, auction houses, philatelic societies, postal administrations, museums, experts and social influencers.

Stamps in the Attic, the Smiler Booth and the chance to get some great deals will also be key features of the event.

In a repeat of last October's event, Spink have been announced as the headline sponsor for Virtual Stampex 2021, as well as September's Stampex and beyond.

Chairman and CEO of Spink, Olivier D Stocker, commented: 'We are delighted to have partnered with Stampex on this five-year deal. We look forward to working with them on both the Virtual experience and the physical shows. Last year, we were pioneers in supporting the digital revolution and this year we are delighted to be not only sponsoring the virtual show but also sponsoring the Stampex brand itself.'

Registration for Virtual Stampex officially opened on 8 February and those who want to attend the show can register on the website (stampex.vfairs.com). The show will run for 72 hours from 8am (London time) on 25 March until 8am (London time) on 28 March.



THE POSTAL MUSEUM LAUNCHES CHILDREN'S LETTER-WRITING PROJECT

THE Postal Museum in London has partnered with the author P G Bell, creator of the children's book series *The Train to Impossible Places* set aboard a travelling post office, and the National Literacy Trust to create a children's letter-writing project.

Launched during Universal Letter Writing Week (10–17 January 2021), the aim of the project is to create a historical record of children's experiences in the UK during the last 12 months, and support schools and children in their literacy development.

Running until Easter this year, the Kids of 2020 Letter-writing Project invites children to write a letter to a child in 2030 about their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. A selection

of the letters will be chosen by The Postal Museum to join its collection and will be displayed in an online exhibition.

A quarter of children surveyed by the National Literacy Trust said that writing helped when they felt sad in lockdown and couldn't see family and friends, and one in three children said that letter writing specifically made them feel happy and helped them express their feelings.

P G Bell said: 'There's a little bit of magic in letter writing. It lets us share a part of ourselves – our thoughts, or feelings, our voice. That's why the train in my books is a travelling post office.'

Any scheme encouraging children to write a letter is to be applauded and children can get involved, either with their school or at home, by visiting the website (usborne.com/kidsof2020).

FEPA Awards for 2020 • Mowbray to Auction Two New Finds • Swinpex Cancelled

FEPA AWARDS FOR 2020

NOMINATIONS are now being sort for the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) Awards for 2020. These three awards are made annually and recognise outstanding contributions to European philately in different areas: exceptional service to organised philately; exceptional philatelic study and research (construed as a literary prize); and exceptional support to philately. Additionally, up to five certificates of appreciation are awarded to societies for the promotion of philately.

For more details of how to nominate a candidate, please see the FEPA website (fepanews.com). Nominations must reach the FEPA Vice President, Giancarlo Morolli, by 30 April 2021.

MOWBRAY TO AUCTION TWO NEW FINDS

AMONG the items on offer at Mowbray's auction on 13 March will be a unique New Zealand stamp. In January 1998, New Zealand issued a set of six Performing Arts stamps, but the original design for the \$1 Opera stamp was replaced at a late stage. Two sheets of the stamp with the withdrawn design are in the Post Office Archives. Now, an unaddressed Post Office f.d.c. has been discovered in a deceased's estate with the unissued stamp on it, along with rest of the set – unique in private hands. The Post Office will have prepared f.d.c.s in advance of the date of issue and then destroyed those with the unissued design. How this one escaped destruction is unknown. This intriguing item has an estimate of \$AUS5000 (£2650).

Another highlight from the sale is the earliest known use of a Republic of China issued stamp. The Imperial Government of China was overthrown and the Republic of China declared on 1 January 1912. The new republic started overprinting various Imperial Post issues but did not issue their own commemorative set of stamps until December 1912. An Express Mail stamp was also issued with its date of issue listed as January 1913 in major catalogues. However, one is known dated 27 December 1912 and now an example has been found in New Zealand with a Shanghai 6 November 1912 date. This is by far the earliest known usage of a Republic of China issued stamp. The stamp has an estimate of \$AUS2500 (£1325) in the forthcoming auction.



SWINPEX CANCELLED

FOR the second year in a row, due to coronavirus, Swindon Philatelic Society's much-loved stamp and postcard fair – Swinpex has had to be cancelled. However, they are really determined to come back with a big show in 2022. In the past, approximately 50 dealers have taken stands and a number of other dealers attend purely to purchase additional stock.

NEW USPS ISSUE ANNOUNCED

ON 26 January, the USPS announced a surprise pane of 20 stamps that did not feature on its previously announced 2021 issuing programme. This special issue, to be released later in 2021, depicts ten different droids from the Star Wars universe.

Representing more than four decades of innovation and storytelling, the droids featured in this pane are IG-11, R2-D2, K-2SO, D-O, L3-37, BB-8, C-3PO, a GNK (or Gonk) power droid, a 2-1B surgical droid and C1-10P, commonly known as 'Chopper'.

The set marks the collaboration between Star Wars: Force for Change and the global educational non-profit organisation 'FIRST' (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). These organisations have joined forces to expand access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning to more young people around the world, and to help them envision a brighter, more inclusive future. The set also marks the 50th anniversary of Lucasfilm; the studio that created the Star Wars film franchise.



NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE FOR GSM

STANLEY Gibbons unveiled a new and much-improved website for its consumer magazine, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in February. The new site not only provides the latest issue of GSM and its back numbers but also offers a faster and more user-friendly experience than the previous website. Another advantage of the new website is that it is completely mobile friendly. The new website also provides a platform from which to offer more functionality in the future. This will include greater interaction between GSM and its readers, thanks to added social media functions, and the ability to offer users various levels of subscription deals and bundles.

Finland's Most Beautiful Stamp • SG Blues Competition • Hawid Mounts Cease Production

A LITTLE DREAMER VOTED FINLAND'S MOST BEAUTIFUL STAMP

THE Finnish stamp, A Little Dreamer, designed by Netta Tiitinen, has been voted as the country's most beautiful issue of 2020 by a national vote. The stamp's illustration is based on a commissioned painting that depicts a little girl reaching upwards, reflecting the courage, enthusiasm, curiosity and spontaneity of children.

Second place went to Duet by Janne Laine. This stamp, based on Laine's nature-themed graphic art, features two birds perching on a treetop against a background of light sky and reddish clouds. Laine was also the winner of Posti's 2020 Art Award.

A stamp by Paula Salvander, featuring a lily of the



valley, the Finnish national flower, came in third place. The stamp was issued as part of the Wildflowers roll of stamps, with which Posti celebrated the UN International Year of Plant Health 2020.

Fourth place went to a stamp designed by Stiina Hovi featuring a squirrel. This was issued as part of the Norden series, a joint project of all Nordic postal services, whose theme last year was mammals.

Another Janne Laine design was voted the fifth most beautiful issue. This stamp, Sunset, depicts sturdy spruces at sunset, behind which you can see dead trees.

People could vote for the most beautiful stamp in Finland on the Posti website or by sending a postcard. A total of 29,410 votes were cast, of which nearly 10,000 were postcard votes, three times higher than in previous years. The winning stamp received 3160 votes, while second and third received 2734 and 2251 votes respectively.

**SECOND SG BLUES COMPETITION LAUNCHED**

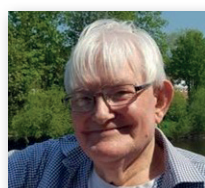
FOLLOWING on from last year's inaugural Stanley Gibbons 'SG Blues' competition, the judges for this year's competition have set the challenge of telling the story of an issue. The definition of 'issue' has been left deliberately open ended for the competition – maybe it could be the story of the iconic Machin design from beginning to date, maybe just one specific set or maybe even a type of stamp?

Bear in mind this isn't just for postage stamps, revenue, postal stationery, postal history or telegraph exhibits are just as welcome. This time, there is more space, as the maximum page size has been upped from A4 to A3. The real challenge however, will be to tell the story on a single page. The judges will be looking for completeness and quality of storytelling, beautiful presentation and, of course, the philatelic material itself.

Last year, over 75 entries were received from around the world and more than 2300 people voted for their favourite entries. This year, there will be the main competition with an overall winner, an U16s category (both judged) and a prize for the people's favourite based purely on the public vote.

PRODUCER OF HAWID MOUNTS TO CLOSE BUSINESS

HAWID Hans Widmaier GmbH, the German-based company that produces the popular Hawid mounts, has announced that it is to cease production at the end of June. The company, which was founded more than 75 years ago by engineer Hans Widmaier, announced the closure on its website at the end of January. It will close on 30 June 2021. The closure has been blamed on a 'lack of economic prospects' and the age of the current owner, 80-year-old Ms Widmaier. The company says it will continue production until 30 June and will do its best to carry out all orders during this time.

**OBITUARY: JOHN STEPHEN (1940–2021)**

SADLY, we have to announce that John Stephen, owner and founder of Rowland Hill Stamps, my father, and grandfather of Katie and Todd, passed away in January due to complications with Covid-19.

As I am sure you all know, Rowland Hill Stamps is a family run business, started by John 45 years ago from his dining room table, having previously been employed as a telephone operator. Stamps were his hobby – and that hobby turned Rowland Hill Stamps into a roaring success.

John raised four daughters with his late wife and wanted so much to pass on his legacy, so back in the 1970s began the teaching of stamp collecting to myself and my three sisters, and when the grandchildren came, they were taught too. In fact, he would discuss stamp collecting with whoever might be interested!

Over the years, Rowland Hill Stamps has expanded, however, we are still very much the family business that John hoped for back in 1975, and the company is now managed by me, my niece and my son – between us we make a fantastic team.

I am confident when I say that Dad made sure we were taught to a high standard so that we can continue Rowland Hill Stamps through to the next generation and that his legacy, as promised, will be forever there.

Lynda Woodhouse

OBITUARY: CHRISTINE EARLE (1947–2021)

CHRISTINE Earle FRPSL passed away on 28 January, aged 73. Christine was well-known in the UK and internationally for her innovative approach to thematic exhibiting, and as a judge and contributor to organised philately in many ways. She was taken to hospital on 26 December and, while there, contracted Covid-19.

Postcard Exhibition to Open at The Postal Museum • Only Fools and Horses

POSTCARD EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT THE POSTAL MUSEUM

THE Postal Museum is running a special exhibition called 'Wish You Were Here: 151 Years of the British Postcard' to celebrate and explore the iconic role the postcard has played in connecting people for more than a century and a half.

The history of the British postcard began in 1870 and 2020 marked its 150th anniversary. The exhibition was originally scheduled for last year but was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

An innovation of its time, the postcard meant new and faster correspondence through the post. Visitors to the exhibition can explore the postcard through history and reflect on its future with themes including romance, World War I correspondence, the Great British seaside, contemporary art and the postcard in a digital age.

Entry to this temporary exhibition, running 1 April 2021–2 January 2022, is included with entry to The Postal Museum.



ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES

A new eight-stamp set released by Royal Mail on 16 February celebrates the 40th anniversary of the much-loved British sitcom *Only Fools and Horses*, which was first broadcast in 1981 and is remembered for its fine writing, comic one-liners and the warmth of the characters. The title for the show comes from the idea that only fools and horses work because if you are smart you find a way to make a living without working hard.

The show, created and written by John Sullivan, follows the lives of Derek (Del Boy) Trotter, his younger brother Rodney, their Grandad and, later, Uncle Albert, who live in Nelson Mandela House in Peckham, South London. It follows the brothers as they wheel and deal trying to make themselves rich, with a frequent saying of Del Boy being 'this time next year, we'll be millionaires!' Unfortunately, most of their schemes ended up backfiring.

Over time, the show developed in a number of different ways. It went from being purely about the Trotter family, to including a host of other characters who revolve around them, including Trigger, Boycie and Del's arch enemy DCI Slater. Initial plots were self-contained but, over time, a story arc developed, with both Del Boy and Rodney finding love interests and becoming fathers. Eventually, the family did become millionaires, lost it and then gained it back. Also, the stories moved away from being purely based in south London and visited other cities around Britain and further afield, such as Benidorm and Miami.

The characters in the show were based on people Sullivan knew and the plots often reflected stories he had heard. This, combined with Sullivan's ability to blend comedy with pathos, gave the show a sense of authenticity. Most importantly for the show's success, at the heart of every episode was the relationship between the two brothers.

Only Fools and Horses ran from 1981 to 2003 and comprised over seven series of 64 episodes, along with a number of specials. At its peak, the show's 1996 Christmas special was watched by over 24 million.

Still frames and one-liners taken from some of the most memorable episodes of the show feature on each of the eight stamps (4×1st, 4×£1.70). These include Del Boy's fall through the bar in 'Yuppy Love' and the chandelier scene in 'A Touch of Glass', both frequently voted among the funniest TV moments of all time.

A miniature sheet focuses on the Trotter family and the four main characters, Del Boy (1st), Rodney (1st), Grandad (£1.70) and



Uncle Albert (£1.70), with a quote for each. The background of the miniature sheet shows Del and Rodney with the Trotter Independent Trading yellow three-wheeled 1972 Reliant Regal Supervan III.

Other products include a presentation pack full of facts, images and stories about the show, a retail stamp booklet, f.d.c.s for both the stamp set and the miniature sheet, and a 24-page prestige stamp book containing four different stamp panes – a pane of the 1st class stamps from the set, a pane of eight definitives with a label, the miniature sheet and a pane of the £1.70 denominated stamps.

A Face-to-face Great American Stamp Show for 2021?

With everyone hoping for a return to some kind of normality, Wayne Youngblood analyses the chances of the Great American Stamp Show being an in-person event this year.

All planning will continue to proceed through March when a final decision will be made

AS the Covid-19 pandemic continues to drag on for slightly more than a year now (with all evidence pointing to it turning into an endemic), more and more events scheduled for 2021 are either cancelling or becoming 'virtual events'.

It's now been more than a year since I've held a stand at a stamp show, and I don't see that changing until close to the end of this year at the earliest. Other events in which I participate, such as the American Philatelic Society's Summer Seminar on Philately (held in June each year), have again committed to a virtual-only presence this year.

But what about our country's largest annual stamp show, the Great American Stamp Show (GASS), scheduled for 15–21 August in Rosemont, IL (a Chicago suburb)? The show is planned to not only have an international presence, but it will be a collaboration of the APS, American Topical Association (ATA) and the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) (1).

As APS Executive Director Scott English put it, 'we're making plans, but life is happening', a nod to the popular Allen Saunders quote often attributed to John Lennon, 'Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans.'

Since 2018, the APS and ATA have jointly sponsored the annual show (which APS had sponsored solely for decades before), and the partnership has been an overwhelming success. Last

year was supposed to be the first year sponsored by all three organisations, but the pandemic forced the in-person show to become the Virtual Stamp Show.

According to English, 'we expect between 3000 and 5000 attendees over four days, with more than 120 dealers and 1000 exhibit frames for this show. Coordinating setup, scheduling events and all the show preparation is a significant undertaking and requires months of planning. The pandemic adds an element of uncertainty, further complicating our plans.'

'For a stamp show of this size to be successful,' stated English, 'we have to organise a financially viable show for dealers and our respective organisations. Travel restrictions, group size restrictions, slow vaccine rollout and overall confidence in attending the show all affect attendance [and, thus, financial feasibility]. By the time we decided not to hold GASS 2020 in Hartford, CT, 40% of our registered attendees had already cancelled their hotel reservations.'

English continued: 'At the time of this writing [early February], we continue to see high case rates of Covid-19 around the country. Two vaccines have been approved, and at least one more is on the horizon. Distribution has been slower than projected. Recent announcements to increase distribution show promise, but the target vaccination rate is 300 million Americans, and that will take time. There are also now confirmed cases of variants from South Africa, Brazil and the United Kingdom in the United States, and experts are not clear how that will affect vaccine success. We expect the picture will be more apparent in the coming weeks and months.'

In late January, Illinois Governor J B Pritzker extended statewide restrictions of 50 or fewer people per gathering through to early June. The state is currently under a 'Resurgence Mitigation Plan', composed of three tiers. Once each area exits Tier 1, it may return to the 'Restore Illinois' Phase 4. According to the Illinois plan, convention centres cannot operate until Phase 5 is reached. Although Donald E Stephens Convention Center staff remain hopeful, relaxed restrictions on large gatherings in time for the show are far from certain.



1 Will the Great American Stamp Show, America's largest annual show, planned for August, be possible as a face-to-face exhibition and bourse or will it become the second annual Virtual Stamp Show?



2 This year's Love stamp, released in January, was the first in nearly five years to be issued as an imperforate uncut press sheet, as well as the normal die-cut version. They sold out nearly immediately

3 The first stamps to be released as intentionally imperforate press sheets were the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Stars issue



According to English, all three organisations meet on a bi-weekly basis to plan and assess the latest updates. All planning will continue to proceed through March when a final decision will be made. 'We must be confident we can move ahead at that point for the show to be successful,' stated English, 'If we're unable to proceed with an in-person show, we will return to another Virtual Stamp Show for 2021.'

Indeed, although the 2020 show was not the same as being there in person, scores of online activities were planned, including seminars and even an online bourse! And there was international participation.

'We will continue to serve collectors safely and with great energy,' said English, 'Adversity has strengthened our collecting community's bonds, and the future is brighter than ever as a result.'

Chicagopex still planned, but...

One of the other major US shows of the year is the annual Chicagopex, sponsored by the Chicago Philatelic Society and held each November in the greater Chicago area.

Unlike the GASS, Chicagopex is planned for much later in the year, so there's a better chance the pandemic will have subsided enough to allow in-person gatherings – but even that's not certain at this point. This year's three-day show is planned for 19–21 November.

In January, the show committee polled dealers who normally set up about how they feel about attending this year. Predictably, responses ranged from those who don't believe Covid is real and 'of course' they'll come, to several who may never do shows again. But many gave thoughtful and measured responses, pointing out that – assuming larger gatherings are once again allowed by then – they would be willing to attend and follow whatever protocols are in place at that time.

Until or unless things change, Chicagopex is moving forward with its plans for a normal show.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed!

Imperforate press sheets return

I rarely completely reverse my position on a philatelic issue, but it happens occasionally. The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently acknowledged it will once again release uncut press sheets for some stamp issues with no die cuts (imperforate). The first of these in nearly five years is the Forever Love stamp that was released in January (2).

When it was announced in 2012 that the Major League Baseball All-Stars stamps would be released as four panes of individual designs, panes of four different *se-tenant* stamps and both individual and *se-tenant* imperforate press sheets, I called a foul loudly and pronounced it a 'no-hitter' (3). In fairness to my outrage, the USPS initially buried the news in a press release, simply calling the imperforates 'unfinished'.

With quantities purposely limited to create intentional rarities, I likened what I saw as a speculative issue similar to the so-called 'Farley's Follies' of the 1930s. These were a series of special printings created for stamp collectors and named after then-Postmaster General James A Farley. A number of stamps of the time were

initially presented in ungummed, imperforate press sheets to friends and dignitaries of Farley and President Franklin D Roosevelt. As a few of these items began to appear on the market at prices that offended the common collector, there arose a general outcry from the hobby. Since the original sheets could not be reclaimed, special printings of the entire 1934 National Parks issue, as well as several others, were printed in imperforate, ungummed form and sold to collectors in press sheet and souvenir sheet form, which were valid for postage.

The 2012 programme with Major League Baseball All-Stars got off to a rocky start. The USPS announced that there would be 2500 imperforate press sheets of each of the four players released, but only 1000 of the imperforate *se-tenant* press sheets (the most desirable one). The imperforate *se-tenants* were sold out before the stamps were even released, giving collectors access only through the secondary market, where some pretty stiff prices were being asked.

These really were pretty small numbers. At most, no more than 300,000 of each individual imperforate stamp could exist, with a maximum of 75,000 imperforate *se-tenant* blocks of four. Compare this with the 1930 Zeppelins (Scott C13/C15), which were released in quantities of 93,536, 72,428 and 61,296, respectively. Even the 'Baby Zeppelin' (Scott C18) was released in a quantity of 324,070, just a few thousand more than each imperforate Baseball single.

Scott made the right call, choosing not to designate a major catalogue number for the imperforates, allowing them to be an 'optional' purchase for those who fill spaces in commercial albums. Until 2016, many stamps were released as imperforate press sheets, and most collectors seemed happy (4).

Then, in 2016, the USPS suddenly pulled the plug and refused to respond to questions. The final issue released in that format was the 2016 Chinese New Year stamp released on 5 February of that year (Scott 5057).

Although the USPS has never explained exactly why it stopped producing an extremely lucrative product, there has been much speculation. After all, most of these sheets were released in quantities of 2500; most sold out. Die-cut press sheets released since 2016 have been produced in quantities of only 1000, but rarely sell out. This is largely because, other than gutter positions, nothing sets stamps from press sheets apart from the ones found in post offices. Why, then, would the cash-strapped USPS pull the plug on a successful product?

Apparently, several dealers and collectors were angry with the postal service because the imperforates were not always uniformly available – particularly at first-day events – and the USPS may have simply got tired of the complaints.

Either way, imperforate press sheets were popular with many collectors and provided a meaningful way to collect positions from press sheets. I, for one, am glad to see their return. I just hope this time the USPS will be more transparent about quantities produced.

As a side note, while the USPS was apparently trying not to produce collectable varieties in press sheets, it continued to do so unintentionally through last year. So well-kept was this secret that many collectors and dealers didn't know about them. These varieties, imperforate between and internally, were available only from press sheets. I rarely ever see them offered by dealers on their own or on commercial auction websites, except (occasionally) as errors.



4 A few of the many stamp issues released as imperforate press sheets

5 Despite the fact that the USPS discontinued selling imperforate press sheets in 2016, the postal agency continued to release uncut press sheets of booklet-format stamps that featured imperforate-between pairs and imperforate-within blocks. Quantities found on different sheets are variable. Here is a block of four imperforate internally

Beginning in 2013, two-sided booklet stamps sold in die-cut press sheet format yielded imperforate-between pairs, imperforate-internally blocks and imperforate-within stamps with booklet labels. This occurs because of the slightly different formatting of printing plates to accommodate booklets and their subsequent slitting into individual panes. Since press sheets are not processed into panes, what would normally be straight edges on booklets are transformed into these interesting partially perforated varieties.

Although not every one of these issues are alike, most are similar. Let's take a brief look at the varieties that are found on the 2017 Delicioso Forever stamps (Scott 5192/97).

The key piece from the sheet is a block of four that is imperforate internally (5). A full press sheet of 168 stamps yields only three of these blocks, each valued at \$10 by Scott. Similarly, only three pairs and two singles of the imperforate internally stamps connected to booklet labels are found in a press sheet (6). Each is also valued by Scott at \$10. Horizontal pairs, imperforate between, are more plentiful, with 54 on a press sheet (nine of these have a straight edge at top or bottom), representing eight each of three different types (7). Each of these is valued by Scott at \$4.

Finally, there are only two vertical pairs, imperforate between, one of each of two types (not shown), valued by Scott at \$6. Clearly, there is currently no correlation between relative scarcity and value for these varieties, but this will likely correct itself in the marketplace over time.

All, in my opinion, are worth purchasing and salting away.



Wayne L. Youngblood has been a professional philatelic journalist for almost 35 years. He ran a mail-order business and is now a frequent bourse dealer. A gold-medal exhibitor, he is the recipient of the APS Luff Award, a member of both the Writers Unit and Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs' Halls of Fame, and a distinguished topical philatelist.



6 Pairs can be found connected to booklet labels



7 Horizontal pairs are more plentiful



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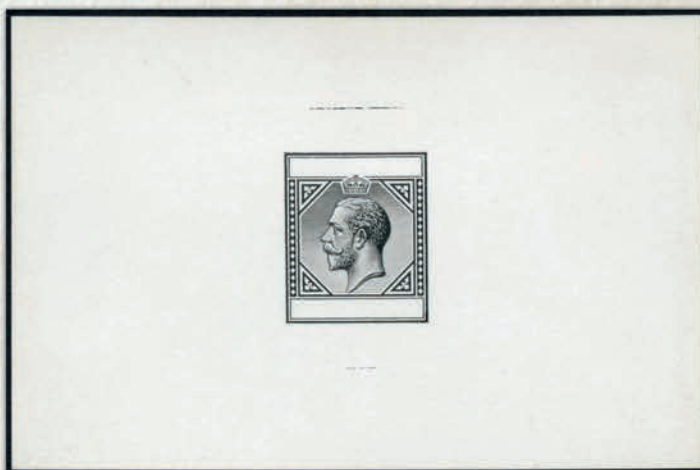
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Dover – Gateway to Europe

Following on from an earlier column focussing on London, Michael Burzan now surveys continental mail going through Dover.

AFTER my first tribute to London in 2019, then *PE* editor Graham Phillips asked me to have a look at other cities of the United Kingdom that have been depicted or mentioned on European stamps and philatelic items. Where should we start this journey? Why not Dover, since oldest times the gateway between Great Britain and the continent.

The first Channel crossing we know of is thought to be some 3500 years old. The Dover Bronze Age Boat is the world's oldest known seagoing boat, capable of carrying at least a dozen passengers. The oak hull was discovered in September 1992 during construction of the A20 road between Folkestone and Dover and is now in the Dover Museum.

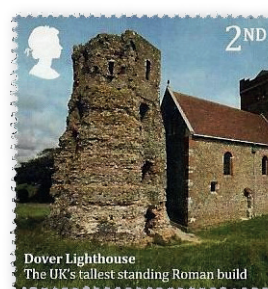
The gap in the white cliffs helped Dover secure its position as a major cross-channel port, along with the fact it is about 21 miles across the channel at this point. For the advancing Roman army, it was the most important southern port to guard their new fleet. After their invasion of Britain in 43AD, they built the lighthouse at Dover Castle, dating from around 46–50AD. On 18 June 2020, it featured on the 2nd class value in Royal Mail's Roman Britain set with a caption 'The UK's tallest standing Roman build', and was also depicted on Dover's special first-day postmark (GB Mi 4597) (1).

The Dover Harbour Board is one of the oldest corporations still in existence in Britain. It was formed by Royal Charter in 1606 by King James I. Over the past century, Dover had grown to become the world's busiest passenger port, with 16 million travellers passing through it each year. I wonder what the numbers were last year during the pandemic?

British First Day Covers had an illustrated Dover Harbour Board souvenir envelope with the Europa stamps of 15 May 1984 in stock, autographed by the Prime Minister the Rt Hon Edward Heath (1916–2005), and priced at £100 (2). Produced by Bradbury in their LFDC series (no. 33), the stamps were postmarked with a special Dover Harbour Board handstamp on the first day the stamps were issued. Signed by Sir Frederic Bolton, then chairman of the Dover Harbour Board, a Europa f.d.c. in a limited edition of 100 was also on offer at £24.

Mail via Dover

An early pre-philatelic example of a merchant's letter over the channel from Dover dates from 25 March



1 Last year's Royal Mail Roman Britain issue included an image of Dover's Roman lighthouse



2 Cover cancelled with a special 'Dover Harbour Board' handstamp on the first day of the Europa 1984 issue and signed by Sir Edward Heath (bfdc.co.uk)

1637 (3). With manuscript tax indication '2B' for a double weight to Antwerp, then in the Spanish Netherlands (1621–1713), the letter was included in a lot of two, with the other item a 1644 letter from London with a '1B' taxation mark for a simple letter (Karl Pfankuch & Co, asking €140).

AB Philea offered an early pre-philatelic transatlantic letter, dated 16 March 1767, from Philadelphia, USA, and sent to London via Dover by private ship with the cancellation 'DOVER SHIP LRE' and a 7/MA Bishop mark (€145). Schuyler Rumsey Auctions had two incoming overseas letters to London, sent by private ship, with the two-line handstamp 'DOVER SHIP LRE'. One was dated 'Grenade Corinthe, 8 May 1774' with a manuscript '7' rating and a Bishop receiving mark of 30 June (\$180, estimate \$250–\$350). The other, a folded letter, travelled on the same line from St George to the Jamaica Coffee House in London. It was dated 'Grenada 26 April 1776' and with a manuscript '4' rating, manuscript 'P Capt Marin, W.G.P.' endorsement and a Bishop receiving mark of 3 June (estimate \$300–\$400) (4).

The first Channel crossing we know of is thought to be some 3500 years old



3 Pre-philatelic letter of 1637 from Dover to Antwerp



4 Sent by private ship from Grenada in 1776 to a London coffee house with a two-line 'DOVER SHIP LRE' handstamp (Schuyler Rumsey)



5 Dover was one of the many transit points of a letter sent from Constantinople to London

A fine missionary entire of 1828 was transported from Tonga via Dover to the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, London. On the reverse, a stepped 'SHIP LETTER/ DOVER' cancel was applied on entry into England (Cover Story, £995).

An 1840 letter from Constantinople in the Ottoman Empire, disinfected by slitting in Malta, went by French packet boat to Marseille, via Malta, then on to Paris and Calais, and by packet to Dover and by inland post to London (Fischer Shop, €120) (5).

The first day of use of the widespread Dover black Maltese cross cancellation on 15 February 1841 is documented on a mourning envelope, with minor repairs, to London (6). Franked with a four-margin Queen Victoria 1d. black (PJ) from plate 1b, it had been lightly cancelled with a black Maltese Cross and with a Dover and London c.d.s. on the flap. The manuscript 'Anglitterre' had been crossed through, suggesting a French origin privately carried to Kent (Cavendish, sold £120).

While Great Britain had already entered its philatelic period, most other countries were still missing stamps for pre-franking their mail. With the introduction of the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843, it became possible for letters to Germany to be paid as far as the incoming boundary to France, that is to Calais, and on such letters, a two-line transit handstamp bearing the words 'AUS ENGLAND/PORTO v. [via] CALAIS' was struck at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle). This is clearly shown on a folded letter written on 24 May 1844 from the French Consulate at Dover, which also has the crowned handstamp 'Agence Consulaire de France a Douvres' (7). It had a charge of 9½ silver groschen applied in Cologne for transit postage through France, Belgium and Prussia (Thomas Fischer, €200). The addressee was Jean Marie Farina 'Le Grand' (1809–80), who was a famous entrepreneur and a producer of eau de cologne.

A Swiss watchmaker in Geneva was the recipient of an unfranked letter from Scotland, cancelled with a straight-line 'Moorgate St' and '1/2' (shilling), which was used for mail from Scotland as a so-called 'Cross Border Carriage Due Fee' (8). In the General Post Office London, the letter was stamped in black, then sent by stagecoach to Dover and by ship to Calais, then via Paris to Geneva, where the letter was charged with 60 centimes according to the postal agreement between Switzerland and France. This attractive and interesting letter in good condition was sold at Heuberger Auctions for CHF200.

A longer journey was completed by an envelope from the British Post Office Alexandria in Egypt (9). Endorsed 'Via Marseilles' and sent to Dover, England, the envelope bore a blue 'ALEXANDRIA/DE.5.1855' c.d.s. (Smith Type D1), with a very fine and clear red 'Crowned Circle' 'PAID AT ALEXANDRIA' marking alongside and a red circled 'PAID' handstamp (David Feldman, €1000).

The journey of an unstamped entire from Santiago de Cuba via Transatlantic Steam Packet Mail to Burdeos, now Bordeaux, France,

6 Cover of 15 February 1841 sent from Dover to London, which may have originated in France (Cavendish)



7 1844 letter from the French Consulate in Dover to Cologne, Germany



8 A letter sent from Scotland via Dover to a Geneva watchmaker



9 Envelope sent to Dover from Alexandria in Egypt

was about 8000km in distance. The letter was written on 19 January 1856 and sent via Havana to New York. Then it was forwarded by the Agents 'PESANT, HERMANOS' to Paris. It left New York on 2 February (red New York c.d.s.) via the Calais Steam Packet. On arrival at Calais (circular black c.d.s.) via Dover (red cancel of 14 February 1856 on the reverse), it was then forwarded to Bordeaux where it was backstamped with a black circle dated '16 Fevr. 56' as an arrival mark. A manuscript '8' shows the rate charged (estimate £120, Cavendish).

Another transatlantic route is seen on a letter from 1866, which was transported according to the endorsement with the steamer *Asia* on the Cunard Line from New York to Queenstown, Ireland, and from there, it went via Liverpool to London, Dover and then to Calais (10). Here, the landing cancel 'ETATS UNIS SERV. AM CALAIS' was added and the letter travelled further by railway via Paris to Bordeaux (Schlegel, €65).

Channel crossing by air

The Smithsonian National Space and Air Museum remembered the first Channel crossing by air in a webpost titled 'Crossing the Channel in a Balloon'. Tom Crouch explained that the arrival of pioneering French exhibition balloonist Jean-Pierre Blanchard (1753–1809) to England in 1784 sparked excitement over ballooning. Boston-born John Jeffries MD, an American loyalist living in England, supported Blanchard's plan to fly across the English Channel. On 7 January 1785, Blanchard and Jeffries made the first aerial crossing of the Channel, flying from Dover to Calais. Poland dedicated a 2z. value of the Balloon set for the Gordon Bennett Trophy of 25 March 1981 (Mi 2730) to these pioneers (11).

Other lengthy flights were less successful. On 15 June 1785, five months after Blanchard and Jeffries, Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier, one of the first two men to fly, and Jules Romaine attempted the first crossing from France to England. They were flying using a mixed hot-air and hydrogen balloon; a type known as a Rozier. A valve rope whipping over the upper part of the balloon holding the hydrogen generated static electricity, which ignited the balloon. The two men became the first balloonists to die in a crash. France honoured Pilâtre de Rozier on the 150th anniversary of his death with a 75c. green-blue commemorative stamp on 4 June 1936 (Mi 318) (12). Single mint unhinged examples are on offer up to €25, while blocks of four with the printing date in the margin are priced €33–€72. Maximum cards of this issue demand €20–€100.

The first man who crossed the Channel in an aeroplane was the French aviator, inventor and engineer Louis Charles Joseph Blériot (1872–1936). When *The Daily Mail* newspaper announced a prize of £1000 being offered for such a flight made before the end of 1909, Blériot intended to fly across the Channel in his Type XI monoplane. After sunrise in the morning of 25 July, he took off at 4.41am, flying at approximately 45mph and an altitude of about 250ft (76m). After 36 minutes and 30 seconds, without the help of a compass, he reached a suitable spot to crash-land close to Dover Castle. The Blériot Memorial today marks this landing spot above the cliffs. The Musée des Arts et Métiers in Paris has preserved the aircraft that made him world famous. Cavendish achieved £90 for a 22 August 1909 Reims Aviation Week picture postcard to Germany marking the first crossing of the English Channel by Louis Blériot on 25 July (13). It had been franked by a 5c. Sower tied by a c.d.s. from the Reims Air Show (22–29 August) and had a vignette on the bottom right of the picture side. (The lot also included a 10 December 1918 flown Mulready design reproduction card with printed 'STAMP COLLECTING AERIAL SOUVENIR'.)

Many stamp issues pay tribute to Blériot's 1909 venture (15). From Europe, I would like to mention the 40l. value from Albania's eight-stamp set on the History of Aviation from 20 June 2001 (Mi 2823); Belgium's *se-tenant* strip of five of 6 June 2009 (Mi 3966); the Serb Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina on the centenary of International Aviation Organisation (IAO) in sheetlets of eight plus



10 This 1866 letter was sent from New York to Bordeaux and went via Ireland, Liverpool, London, Dover and Calais



11 2z. Polish stamp depicting Blanchard and Jeffries, who made the first aerial crossing of the English Channel on 7 January 1785



12 Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier was unsuccessful in crossing the channel in June 1785



13 Postcard marking the first crossing of the English Channel in an aeroplane

tab from 14 October 2005 (Mi 352); and Germany's surcharged 50pf.+25pf. in a quartet of 13 April 1978 (Mi 966). France issued a violet 2f.25 airmail stamp on the 25th anniversary of the event on 1 September 1934, with his monoplane over a map (Mi 294, Yvert PA 7), followed by a 50c.+10c. surcharged portrait on 1 July 1972 (Mi 1800, Yvert 1709) and a 2f. airmail for the centenary on 25 July 2009 (Mi 4711, Yvert PA 72).

Propaganda and Zeppelins in World War I

World War I led to a substantial number of propaganda postcards illustrating the aim of the Germans to attack England via the channel between Calais, Ostende and Dover. For example, a multi-coloured painted scene gives an impression of the attack on Dover by German submarines in the night of 12 January 1915 (Veuskens, €15) (15).

The German military also used more than 100 airships for their campaigns, mostly Zeppelins. But only a few of them survived the war. The first squadron attack on England had taken place on 10 August 1915, with the naval airships L 10, L 11, L 12 and L 13 taking part. An original photo postcard shows the wreck of Marine Airship L 12 (LZ 43), as it was towed into the port of Ostende on 10 August 1915 (Christ, unused €18) (16). Another postcard carries the photo of the wreck of the Zeppelin naval airship L 49 (LZ 96) that crash-landed near Bourbonne-les-Bains in France after an attack of about 11 airships on England from 19 to 21 October 1917 (17). The French title on the postcard says: 'A nice debacle of Zeppelins' (Lippolds, sold €21). The Allies took the opportunity to copy the construction of L 49/LZ 96 and built the first large US American airship – USS *Shenandoah* (ZR 1).

Way to Belgium

An important and historical ferryline operated for 151 years between Dover and Ostend, Belgium. The first official crossing ever under the Belgian State Service was inaugurated on 4 March 1846 by the paddle steamer *Chemin de Fer*, which was later renamed



14 Three of the many stamps issued to mark Blériot's 1909 flight across the Channel



15 Propaganda postcards showing Germany's desire to attack England via Dover in World War I



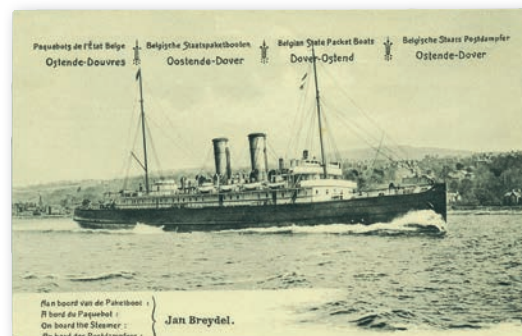
16 The airship L 12 being towed into Ostend on 10 August 1915 after crossing the channel to attack England



17 Wreck of the Zeppelin Naval Airship L 49 (LZ 96) after an attack on England in 1917



18 Belgian postcards celebrating the Dover-Oostende line



19 Postal stationary cards from Christoph Gärtner

Diamant. After the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994 and new high-speed Eurostar services running directly between London and Brussels, the Belgian government took the decision to close the company on 28 February 1997.

A nice selection of Belgian stamps and illustrated stationary postcards are reminders of the great times of the Dover-Oostende line (18). A popular and widespread photogravure set of three ship designs celebrated the centenary of the ferry connection on 15 June 1946 (Mi 755/57). Christoph Gärtner offered a lot with 34 unused postal stationary cards in very good condition with different value stamps and illustrations, partly in complete sets (19).



20 A rare piece of shipwreck mail from the steamer *Princess Astrid*, which operated between Ostend and Dover

An interesting historic post-World War II cover, a rare shipwreck item from the *Princess Astrid*, was offered by David Morrison for £425 (20). The *Princess Astrid* was a Belgium government owned cross-Channel steamer between Ostend and Dover. It struck a mine three miles off the coast at Dunkirk on 21 June 1949. Five crew members were killed in the explosion. The captain of the *Princess Astrid* managed to beach the ship on a sandbank and the passengers and surviving crew were rescued. Some mail was recovered, all emanating from Germany, but it is rare, with less than ten covers recorded in total. Three different labels are known, with only one in English and the other two in German, suggesting the mail was returned to Germany. This cover, one of only four known with the English label, also still had the original contents.



21 The first stamp to depict the white cliffs of Dover



22 A joint 1991 issue between Belgium and Finland illustrated an artist's impression of the white cliffs of Dover



23 Two recent issues, of 2012 and 2014, from Royal Mail illustrating the White Cliffs of Dover

The white cliffs of Dover

The landmark view of the world-famous white cliffs of Dover has become the subject of several impressive issues. These started on 3 May 1951, under George VI, with the British 5s. brown-red definitive (Mi 252) (21). One of the nicest artistic views of the unforgettable chalky cliffs on stamps appears on a joint issue between Belgium and Finland on 7 September 1991 (22). This was an impression by the Belgian painter Alfred Wilhelm Finch (1854–1930) who moved to Finland in 1897 to develop Art Nouveau in the ceramic industry (Mi 1147 Finland, Mi 2469 Belgium). More recent issues were released by Royal Mail in 2012 and 2015 (23).



Originally from Stuttgart, Michael Burzan formerly traded in stamps and philatelic literature. During his career, he has been the press officer for the German Philatelic Dealers' Association and a member of the art council for new German issues but is now an established philatelic author, as well as a columnist and editor.

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Forgers Now Creating Monograms

Glen Stephens reports on attempts to fake the monograms found in stamp margins, before wondering how one item deemed virtually worthless to one person can be highly treasured by another.

Buyers should always check the seller, their other offerings and past sales

NOTHING surprises me with what the scammers dream up. Vigilant Stampboarders recently reported that the most active Sydney forger on eBay has recently turned to faking margin stamp monograms on stamps from Australasia.

As most readers know, these sheet marginal monograms from Australia are super popular and can literally add \$AUS150,000 on top of the value of the same stamp with no monogram – hence these scammers turn to faking them.

What many beginners don't know is that printer monograms were, of course, part of the original plate and printed at the same time as the stamp. The circle lines are clear and sharp and even, and are in the exact same colour of the issued stamp of course.

Nearby is a Large Multiple watermark King George V, with the rather unusual 'CA' monogram being a substitute for 'JBC', and it seems like it is on very thin paper. The image shows the design crispness of a real monogram and the colour matches exactly (1).

Water-based ink pad used

One of the current forgeries being sold on eBay has a rather fuzzy detail, metal handstamp image made of the 'CA' monogram design and then a water-based ink pad was used, in a totally wrong green colour, which makes this total fake nonsense (2).

Such a joke would not fool anyone experienced of course, especially when being sold on eBay by a known stamps forger, but sadly many see a 'bargain' and off they spend. Buyers should always check the seller, their other offerings and past sales.

Monograms from this region have got super popular in the past year, with many new deep-pocket buyers emerging, so the scammers are keen to cash in on this new increase in demand, and this is their newest money spinner. Who would have thought to check if a monogram itself was faked?

Stampboards members have had over 100 eBay accounts of this one Sydney faker alone closed down, by persisting with eBay and getting endless detailed reports to them from vigilant and concerned collectors.

On Stampboards, there are details and images of all these recent swathes of fakes – totally forged Tasmania early imperfs and forged South Australia Departmentals that the unknowing pay \$500 each



1 A real deal 'CA' monogram

2 The wrong ink colour has been used to create this 'CA' monogram on a Tasmania 1/2d. value

for, and anything overprinted or perfined that you can dream of is on offer, until the accounts are closed down by eBay (tinyurl.com/FakesBay).

Buying anything Australian over \$100 off eBay, except off a respected high-feedback seller, is super dangerous – more than even generally savvy buyers realise. Google the eBay seller name first, and for the scammers, the first match will often be right to the Stampboards discussions. Try it out! The power of Google!

Common looking Queen Elizabeth II f.d.c. worth \$US175?

THE thing I love about this hobby is that the most unremarkable looking things have great value quite often. As a dealer, knowing what those pieces are is the very tricky part! One learns something new and important every day in this hobby, which is why I love it.

Take a look at the 1955 Penang f.d.c. illustrated nearby, with three Queen Elizabeth II low values upon it (3). Excuse the poor image, but it is the best eBay can offer. It is grubby and has just a few no-



3 What you would value this Penang f.d.c.?

account low values, worth a few cents on- or-off cover generally. A Stampboards member was offering \$US175 to buy one (tinyurl.com/PenangFDC). You can buy a superb c.t.o. 1932 5s. Sydney Harbour Bridge for \$US175! That is very serious money for a nothing-looking f.d.c. From the original post in 1915, there were no takers for a long time, but in February this year, the cover was finally tracked down!

It simply goes to prove that ordinary items to some are real gems to others. If one of these turned up in an estate lot here, it would have gone right into my monthly \$100 junk carton. Anyway, it is good to see that well-known Melbourne f.d.c. collector Noel Almeida finally prevailed and found his f.d.c.!

Penny Black coronavirus face masks

ALL around the planet, we need to wear face masks – we flew to Adelaide this week, and needed by law to wear them in the taxi both ways, into both airports at all times, in all areas, and on the plane – four hours of face masks. And then we got Covid-19 tested on arrival and had to self-quarantine.

I do not like the dinky blue ones, which are small and fall off, and as I wear glasses, they fog up, so I was keen to find something more robust and larger, and that also created a talking point now and again. The question was – what design was best to use?

For a stamp dealer there is, of course, only one obvious choice – the Penny Black! Stampboards member Greg Allen is a graphics whizz and kindly created artwork for some face masks using repeated images of Queen Victoria – each alternating one wearing a blue face mask (4)! FRPSL member, Kapil Gogri, who is a leading figure in organised philately in India, runs a fabric company there and organised the production of a small supply of these Penny Black masks. The genesis of this mask, the different designs considered and all order details can be found on Stampboards (tinyurl.com/1dCovid).

These looked pretty good and if we need to wear one by law, we may as well wear a stamp-related one! It all promotes stamp collecting to a wider audience, and that is a very good thing that we all should do where possible.



4 Penny Black face mask



Sydney-based philatelic journalist Glen Stephens has been a full-time stamp dealer and writer for over 40 years. Life Member of ASDA (New York), PTS (London) and IFSDA. He owns stamboards.com, the world's largest stamp bulletin board with nearly seven million messages, and has had 100 million visits to his sales site (tinyurl.com/GlenRare).

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1 This cover was produced by Michael on the first commercial passenger flight of the A380

My Favourite

A personally designed flight cover provides Michael Dodd with some treasured memories and his favourite philatelic item.

WHAT is the one thing that most of us – I expect – have not done for the past year? Well for me it is fly. In fact, this past year is the first time in 52 years I have not flown during a given year. All this of course because of coronavirus. So when I was invited to write about 'My Favourite', I was torn between writing about one of the varieties I have in my GB George V Downey Head collection or something from my aviation collection.

Aviation won out. My collection is quite much of a muchness I think, except for my own designed and personally flown first-flight covers on the Airbus A380 aircraft. An aircraft that for many airlines has at least probably reached its end of life because of the impact coronavirus has had on the commercial aviation industry worldwide. An aircraft I doubt very much I will fly on again, let alone do a first flight.

I spent a large part of my career in the aviation industry in various countries and when the A380 was announced as the A3XX back in 1994 I was intrigued by it. I followed it during the years and even more closely once the programme was officially launched in 2000. I was in Sydney at Kingsford Smith Airport, named in honour of the pioneering Australian aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith on 14 August 1936, to see the first test flight arrive in 2005 and I produced my first A380 covers to commemorate that flight.

The world's first commercial passenger flight of the aircraft was by Singapore Airlines from Singapore to Sydney on 25 October 2007. Seats were sold on eBay at auction to raise money for children's charities and I managed to get an economy seat. In fact, I went one better and got a seat on the return flight, the first flight from Sydney to Singapore, after a few hours turnaround in Sydney.

So, this cover is 'My Favourite', from an experience I shall always remember (1).

As you can see, I was able to get crew signatures and I also have many memorable photographs of the crew signing the covers. As the reverse shows, I only produced a limited number. I was expecting a very busy flight for the crew and was, therefore, careful not to be asking too much of them when it came to getting photographs and signatures.

As with all my flown covers, I made special arrangement to get local cancels – in this case with Singapore Post at their main office in Singapore and at the Australia Post counter at Kingsford Smith, whose handstamp featured an image of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and his plane *Southern Cross*.

One small achievement from 'My Favourite' was that I sold a cover signed by the captain and various crew members, with the winning bid of US\$600 being donated to one of Singapore Airlines' designated children's charities.

One big thing learned from the experience was that I always show material to prove authenticity of the covers being flown. I say this because over the years many covers and postcards were produced for aviation collectors, which had little to nothing to do with an actual flight. All my covers have a certificate signed by me and photographs of me and the crew on board the aircraft signing the covers. As well as providing some authenticity, I believe this also adds to the interest of owning the cover.

Michael Dodd is the owner of an online store (cddstamps.com), which sells Great Britain and British Commonwealth stamps from Queen Victoria through to the early Queen Elizabeth II years. He is the author of *Caveat emptor and other advice for philatelists*, is a regular contributing writer to various UK and USA stamp journals, and the General Secretary of the Internet Philatelic Dealers Association. He can be contacted at cddstamps@gmail.com

If you would like to contribute your 'My Favourite', please email the editor (aboyd@philatelicexporter.com).

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Definitives								
SG. No's/range	Year	Description	Values	U/M	L/M/M	AV/M/M	FU/VFU	GU
164-169	1880	INDIGO	set 5v.	850.00	325.00	200.00	30.00	20.00
178-183	1883	2/6- 10/-	set 3v.	2000.00	1000.00	650.00	150.00	80.00
187-196	1883	Q.V. Lilac & Green	set 10v.	POR	1100.00	850.00	230.00	150.00
197-214	1887	Q. Victoria Jubilee	set 14v.	480.00	160.00	135.00	62.00	45.00
215-314	1902-13	Edward 7th simplified	set 15v.	350.00	135.00	110.00	45.00	26.00
215-257	1902	DLT Ordinary paper	set 15v.	550.00	135.00	110.00	40.00	25.00
223-259	1906	DLR Chalky paper	set 9v.	450.00	120.00	95.00	45.00	25.00
267-278	1911	Harrison perf.14	set 5v.	225.00	110.00	95.00	90.00	POR
279-286	1911	Harrison perf. 15x14	set 5v.	120.00	45.00	35.00	20.00	11.00
287-314	1911	Somerset House	set 8v.	270.00	110.00	85.00	40.00	25.00
321-350	1911-13	GEO. 5th Downey Head	set 10v.	85.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	12.00
351-396	1912-22	Royal Cypher wmk.	set 15v.	220.00	70.00	58.00	22.00	12.00
397-8	1913	Multiple-cypher wmk.	set 2v.	340.00	180.00	-	175.00	135.00
413a-417	1918	Bradbury seahorses	set 3v.	650.00	235.00	POR	65.00	36.00
418-429	1924	Block cypher wmk.	set 12v.	125.00	38.00	30.00	9.00	6.00
418a-421b	1924	Block cypher sideways wmk.	set 4v.	130.00	38.00	30.00	35.00	18.00
439-449	1934	Photogravure	set 11v.	42.00	18.00	15.00	6.00	3.50
439a-442b	1934	Photogravure sideways wmk.	set 4v.	140.00	38.00	32.00	35.00	12.00
439wi-441wi	1934	Photogravure inverted wmk.	set 3v.	15.00	6.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
450-452	1934	Re-engraved seahorses	set 3v.	560.00	230.00	180.00	35.00	20.00
457-460	1936	Edward 8th	set 4v.	0.40	0.30	-	0.40	0.20
457wi-459wi	1936	Edward 8th inverted wmk.	set 3v.	8.00	3.00	-	3.00	1.50
462-475	1937	George 6th Dark colours	set 15v.	18.00	8.00	-	1.90	0.80
462a-466a	1937	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 5v.	70.00	22.00	-	22.00	12.00
462wi-466wi	1937	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 5v.	70.00	25.00	20.00	6.00	3.00
476-478b	1939-48	Square' High Values	set 6v.	180.00	95.00	80.00	20.00	12.00
485-490	1941	Light colours	set 6v.	1.00	0.40	-	0.45	0.25
486a-489a	1941	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 3v.	13.00	7.00	-	6.50	3.50
485wi-489wi	1941	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 3v.	3.00	1.50	-	0.40	0.10
503-508	1950	New Colours	set 6v.	1.50	-	-	0.60	0.30
504a-507a	1950	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 4v.	1.25	-	-	1.75	0.80
503wi-507wi	1950	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 5v.	7.00	4.00	-	5.00	2.50
509-12	1951	Festival High values	set 4v.	42.00	19.00	17.00	7.50	4.00
515-531	1952	QE2 Tudor Watermark	set 17v.	42.00	17.00	14.00	11.00	6.00
517a-519a	1952	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 3v.	2.00	-	-	2.50	1.75
515wi-519bwi	1952	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 5v.	17.00	-	-	10.00	6.00
536-539	1955	Waterlow High values	set 4v.	115.00	45.00	36.00	18.00	6.00
540-556	1955	Edward Crown wmk.	set 18v.	65.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	5.00
542a-545b	1955	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 5v.	9.50	6.00	-	6.00	2.75
540wi-545wi	1955	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 7v.	9.00	-	-	6.00	3.00
561-566	1957	Graphite lines	set 6v.	4.00	3.00	-	3.50	2.00
536a-539a	1958	1st De La Rue Castles	set 4v.	350.00	175.00	-	30.00	12.00
570-586	1958	Multi-Crown wmk.	set 17v.	5.00	-	-	1.00	-
570a-576ab	1958	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 8v.	3.75	-	-	3.50	1.30
570wi-576awi	1958	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 9v.	65.00	-	-	30.00	16.00
587-594	1958	Graphite lines	set 8v.	55.00	40.00	-	40.00	25.00
587wi-592wi	1958	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 5v.	45.00	-	-	30.00	18.00
595-598	1959	2nd De La Rue Castles	set 4v.	70.00	35.00	30.00	5.00	2.00
599-609	1959	Phosphor-Graphites	set 8v.	35.00	27.00	-	30.00	24.00
610-618a	1960	Phosphor crowns	set 17v.	4.50	-	-	2.50	-
610a-616ab	1960	ditto.....sideways wmk.	set 9v.	10.00	-	-	10.00	6.00
610wi-616awi	1960	ditto.....inverted wmk.	set 10v.	140.00	-	-	120.00	POR
595a-598a	1963	Bradbury wmk. castles	set 4v.	7.50	-	-	5.00	1.50
759-762	1967	Bradbury no wmk. Castles	set 4v.	7.00	-	-	5.00	1.75
723-744	1967	Machin Head	set 16v.	1.00	-	-	0.90	-
787-790	1969	Machin Head High Values	set 4v.	5.00	-	-	3.00	2.00
829-831b	1970/1	Machin Head 10p to £1	set 4v.	2.50	-	-	0.40	0.20
1026-1028	1977	Machin Head £1-£5	set 3v.	8.50	-	-	1.40	0.75
1026b-1026f	1983/7	Machin Head £1.30-£1.60	set 5v.	13.00	-	-	10.80	6.00
1410-1413	1988	Castles High Values	set 4v.	11.50	-	-	1.50	0.75
1611-1614	1992	Gold-head Castles High vals.	set 5v.	20.00	-	-	2.75	1.50
1658	1993	£10 Britannia	1 value	14.00	-	-	4.50	2.50
(1611-14)	1994	Gold-head Castles Re-engraved	set 4v.	14.00	-	-	3.20	-
1993-1996	1997	Enschede Castles High vals.	set 4v.	25.00	-	-	7.00	-
Y1800-3	1999	ditto....Small format High vals	set 4v.	15.00	-	-	3.00	-
Y1800-3	2000	DLR Small format High values	set 4v.	15.00	-	-	3.00	-
Y1726-1729	2003	DLR Small format High values	set 4v.	15.00	-	-	12.00	-
S2917-2920	2009	DLR Self-ad, with security slits	set 4v.	13.50	-	-	13.50	-

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D1-D8	1914	Royal Cypher	Set 8v	275.00	75-00	55-00	10-00	6-00
D10-D18	1924-31	Block Cypher	Set 9v	380.00	90-00	70-00	25-00	16-00
D19-D26	1936-7	Edward VIII	Set 8v	260.00	90-00	70-00	45-00	35-00
D27- D34	1937-8	George VI	Set 8v	130.00	45-00	30-00	6-00	4-00
D35- D39	1951-2	Colour change	Set 5v	40.00	15-00	10-00	7-50	5-00
D40- D45	1954-5	Tudor wmk	Set 6v	130.00	65-00	—	55-00	40-00
D46-D55	1955	Edward wmk	Set 10v	175.00	65-00	55-00	20-00	15-00
D56-D68	1959-63	Multiple crowns	Set 13v	22.00	12-00	—	5-50	4-00
D69 - D76	1968-69	No wmk	Set 8v	6.00	—	—	5-00	—
D77 - D89	1970	Decimal	Set 13v	12.00	—	—	2-75	—
D90 - 101	1982	Decimal	Set 12v	8.00	—	—	3-50	—
D102 - D110	1994	Elliptical	Set 9v	18.00	—	—	18-00	—

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76	80.00	108	80.00	143	220.00	185	80.00
78	80.00	109	90.00	144	220.00	186	80.00
79	80.00	110	90.00	145	80.00	189	80.00
80	80.00	111	80.00	146	80.00	190	80.00
81	80.00	112	80.00	147	80.00	191	80.00
82	120.00	113	125.00	149	80.00	192	80.00
83	140.00	114	125.00	150	80.00	193	80.00
84	80.00	115	100.00	151	100.00	197	90.00
85	80.00	116	100.00	152	90.00	198	80.00
87	80.00	117	80.00	153	150.00	199	80.00
88	150.00	118	80.00	154	80.00	202	90.00
89	80.00	119	80.00	155	80.00	203	120.00
90	80.00	120	80.00	156	80.00	206	140.00
91	80.00	122	80.00	157	80.00	207	140.00
92	80.00	123	80.00	158	80.00	208	150.00
93	80.00	124	80.00	159	80.00	209	150.00
95	80.00	125	80.00	160	80.00	214	200.00
96	80.00	127	80.00	161	150.00	215	200.00
97	80.00	129	80.00	168	80.00	216	200.00
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Around the Rooms

This month's report features sales offering a variety of material from around the globe, demonstrating the wide range of current philatelic interests.

Corinphila

A series of sales was held by Corinthphila in Switzerland on 25–30 January. Despite the Covid-19 situation, six days in the auction room were enlivened by numerous bidders who participated with written, telephone or online bids. The prices shown exclude buyers' premium



The second part of Corinthila's sale of the 'Erivan Collection – Swiss Cantonal and Federal Stamps' took place on 30 January, where the 42 selected rare stamps and covers achieved a total hammer price of more than 1.5 million Swiss francs (including buyers' premium). The legendary Greifensee cover, an icon of Swiss philately, was the highlight (lot 7003). This registered letter, sent by the Greifensee notary's office and addressed to the Gemeindeammann office in Wildberg, combined the two first stamps of Switzerland, one of only two covers with a combination franking. It was franked with a Zurich 4r. and two Zurich 6r. values of 1843 handstamped with two black Zurich rosettes. The letter informs the addressee of the bankruptcy of a cotton spinning mill at Zell im Tösstal and its court hearing. The hammer price on this cover, bought by an anonymous bidder, was CHF540,000.



The second Erivan highlight was the Winterthur block of four cover, which can be dated to the period from the Zurich cantonal post office issues to the first federal stamps in 1850 (lot 7010). Franked with four copies of the local 'Winterthur' 2½r. stamp and cancelled with two blue-green Zurich rosettes instead of the more usual black, the cover went from the Zurich municipality of Stäfa to

Frauenfeld in 1850. Addressed to the well-known Thurgau physician and politician Johannes Keller, the letter, which was from another doctor and dealt with medical problems, went under the hammer for CHF230,000.

Elsewhere in the sale, a number of key items were on offer. From the Switzerland and Liechtenstein catalogue, a used 1850 Rayon II 10r. was of the extremely rare inverted yellow variety, with the white area under the post horn and the yellow spot in the lower leg of the Swiss cross clearly visible, unlike the majority of the few existing examples (lot 8163). With a double-framed black 'FRANCO' from Basel (AW440), it sold for CHF60,000.



The auction series also included the third part of the Brian Moorehouse collection of South and Central America. A particular highlight from the Guatemala section was a horizontal pair and a horizontal strip of four of the 1871 1c. ochre on buff used on a 1875 entire letter from Guatemala City to Coban, at a time when stocks of the 1c. had run out (lot 3481). Tied by an extremely rare usage of the 'GUATEMALA' c.d.s. (6 March) in black, with a 'Correos de Guatemala/Paquetes' c.d.s. in red below (10 March), it had a hammer price of CHF28,000.



From the Italy, France and European Countries catalogue, the Ing. Pietro Provera Collection included a Papal States 1856 1s. carmine and a pair of 5b. pale rose on a cover to Lisbon, which went under the hammer for CHF29,000 (lot 5581).

A very rare 21 July 1858 81p. deep blue Bull's Head on blue wove paper from Romania was cancelled by a 'FOKSCHANI 91.' c.d.s. in blue and featured a trace of the red crayon characteristic of Fokschani (lot 1251). So far, only 26 used examples of this classic rarity are recorded, seven of them from Fokschani. This example sold for Cl



The sale of Stamp Issuing Steamship Companies featured a rare Lady McLeod 1847 5c. blue from Trinidad on a cover from San Fernando to the Port of Spain, which had a hammer price of CHF16,000 (lot 6279).

Mayfair

DURING the latest lockdown restrictions, Mayfair held a postal auction on 21 January featuring a mixture of GB, Commonwealth and worldwide material, with realisations reaching a total of £110,027. The prices shown include buyers' premium.

The Seahorse section included a superb and well-centered 1915 De La Rue 10s. blue that exceeded its estimate of £2000 to sell for £2450 (lot 606). Meanwhile, a lovely marginal example of the 1913 £1 green printed by Waterlow sold for £2000, from an estimate of £1500 (lot 596).

A 1911 10s. blue from the Somerset House printing was an unmounted example and sold for its estimate of £1100 (lot 541).

From the 1912 Royal Cypher issue, a very fresh example of a lower marginal 2½d. dull Prussian blue made £1025, from an estimate of £850 (lot 575).

A mint set of all ten values of the 1883 issue in a very fresh colour sold for £925, just above its £800 estimate (lot 461).

An 1887 1½d. dull purple and pale green from the Jubilee issue was a scarce upper-left corner marginal missing ink due to a paper fold, but with the missing portion printed on the reverse (lot



478). The £775 selling price of this striking item was just over its estimate of £750.

A fine mint example of the scarce 1867 2s. dull blue (OD) with wing margin reached its estimate of £750 (lot 385).

An example of the difficult to find 1856 Large Crown 1d. rose-red (perf. 16) in mint condition sold for £675, from an estimate of £450 (lot 204).

Outside of GB, there were a couple of highlights. An important rarity from Fiji was a marginal horizontal pair of the 1915 1d. carmine War Stamp that had the overprint omitted on the right-hand stamp (lot 2194). This mint pair was a fine example and sold for £2400, just below its estimate of £2500.

From Australia, a 1915 £1 chestnut and dull blue Roo had a part 'Sydney' cancel. Centred slightly to the right, this sound example sold for £500, from an estimate of £360 (lot 981).



Brian Reeve

ON 27–29 January, Brian Reeve held an all-world public auction of stamps. The prices shown exclude buyers' premium.

A fine and rare f.d.c. of the 1880 1d. venetian red, with a 1 January 'LONDON S.W.' cancel, sold for £2300, from an estimate of £1950 (lot 1084).



The only known 1925 Wembley illustrated first day pictorial letter card with the full set cancelled by the Empire Exhibition Wembley special handstamp went for £1100, just over its estimate of £950 (lot 1101).

From the reign of King Edward VII, a rare used 1905 2s.6d. pale dull purple on chalky paper with inverted watermark fetched £650 (lot 933).

Each stamp of a top-left corner block of four of the 22 May 1872 6d. chestnut (plate



11) had been cancelled with a Whitstable c.d.s. Unknown on cover, these cancelled examples, with no reserve, reached £250 (lot 1083).

From Tristan da Cunha, a Great Britain 2d. pair from the 1922 Shackleton Expedition had been cancelled by a 25 May 1922 boxed 'Gough Island' handstamp and an 'S R Atlantic Expedition' c.d.s. in black (lot 891). It is stated that only 984 2d. stamps were used by the expedition and this pair, estimated at £90, sold for £150.

Finally, two Churchill items were of interest. A fine 1965 Churchill f.d.c. with a 'R.A.F. P.O. BICESTER' c.d.s. was unaddressed and sold for £130 (lot 1161). Meanwhile, a rare 1974 Churchill PHQ card missing the silver colour so that the Queen's head was missing was in a fine mint condition and sold for £170, more than double its estimate of £75 (lot 1340).



Spink

THE sale of part XIV of the 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire was held on 20 January at Spink's London offices. The prices shown exclude buyers' premium.

An important multiple from Gibraltar was included in the sale (lot 113). From the right of the sheet, this was a unique block of four of the 1889–96 10c. carmine but with the value omitted. Incredibly fresh and fine, this spectacular multiple sold for £42,000.



The elusive Cape of Good Hope 4d. triangular in black instead of deep blue, of which there are only 12 known copies, was a particular highlight (lot 61). Printed by Perkins Bacon, it had two good margins at its foot and to the left, while a light cancellation left the design clear. Believed to be from proof sheets possibly pressed into service during a shortage of stamps in 1861, this great rarity went under the hammer for £24,000.

From Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, a very fresh and fine example of the rare 1922–27 £25 black and red high value (Multiple Script CA watermark) reached £19,500 (lot 146).

One of only 87 unused examples known of the 1919 'Hawker' 3c. brown from Newfoundland had been signed 'J.A.R.' by J A Robinson, the postmaster, on the reverse (lot 225). Fresh and fine, its hammer price was £8500.

From the Sherwin re-engraving of the Mauritius 1859 2d. deep blue on bluish paper, there was a used example from the top of the sheet cancelled by a crisp barred oval that left the profile clear (lot 195). The selling price of this superb example, seldom found in such fine condition, was £7500.



A British Columbia 1860 2½d. pale dull-red imperforate plate proof from the left of the sheet had large, even margins on the remaining three sides (lot 39). Rare in this fine condition, it had a hammer price of £7000.

Signed 'J. B. S'(mith) and cut square, a British Guiana 1850–51 'Cotton Reel' 12c. blue was a sound example. Used with a Demerara c.d.s., it reached £7000 (lot 40). Also from British Guiana, a rare 1856 4c. black on magenta, initialled 'E. D. W' by Post Clerk E D Wight, had been cut to an octagonal shape. This very fine example had been cancelled by a central strike of the 'demerara' datestamp for 12 February 1856 and had a hammer price of £6000 (lot 43).



A Barbados 1861–70 1s. in blue, the colour of the 1d., instead of black was an attractive example of this popular rarity, of which only nine are believed to exist (lot 26). Bright and with an even colour, it went for £6500.

The previous day, the sale of the Important Stamps and Covers of the British Commonwealth had been held by Spink.

From the 1932 Large Falls issue of Southern Rhodesia, there was a very rare upper-right corner block of four of the 3d. deep ultramarine (lot 3197). From sheet number '478', this mint block was of the imperforate horizontally variety and showed a vertical guillotine guide mark at the upper-right corner. Considered one

of the most important multiples from the one sheet of this extraordinary variety recorded, which was discovered in Salisbury in July 1937, it sold for £19,000.



A positional block of 12 from the lower-right corner of the 1960 Kariba Gorge 3d. blackish green and red-orange of Rhodesia and Nyasaland had the red-orange omitted on vertical rows two and three and partially omitted from row four (lot 3174). One of only 24 known examples of an error not discovered until many years after its release, this block sold for £17,000.

Included in the auction were a number of triangular stamps from the Cape of Good Hope. The highlight was a scarce unused block of eight of the 1863–64 De La Rue 6d. bright mauve (lot 3054). With good to large margins, this attractive multiple went under the hammer for £14,000.

A marginal strip of ten of the 2½c. on 2d. red-brown (type II) from the 1961 decimal surcharges from Bechuanaland had the surcharge grossly misplaced, the rarest of all the surcharge varieties, resulting in the top stamp being without the surcharge, while the others had the surcharge at the top (lot 3035). This fine mint strip sold for £9500.

From India, a 9½ arches essay for the 1854 ½a. vermilion was in a lower-margin block of four (lot 3068). Showing some of the margin inscription and without gum as issued, this very desirable positional block of this popular issue sold for £8000.

A Straits Settlements 1921–33 \$500 purple and orange-brown (Script watermark) was a superb example of this important world rarity, selling for £17,000 (lot 3096). Also from the Straits Settlements, a fine 1904–10 MCA \$100 purple and green on yellow reached £8000 (lot 3093).

A British Guiana envelope of 24 March 1856 from Demerara to Mahaicony bore an example of the very rare 1856 surfaced-coloured paper 4c. black on magenta initialled 'CAW' (C A Watson) that had been cut octagonally leaving the design intact (lot 3049). Neatly cancelled with a double-arc datestamp, it sold for £7500.

From Northern Rhodesia, a unique 1948 20s. brown-lake Silver Wedding issue perforated 'SPECIMEN' achieved £7500 (lot 3112).



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Grosvenor

AT Grosvenor's British Empire and Foreign Countries auction on 22–23 January, pre-sale estimates were exceeded as the sale reached a total of £699,001 (prices shown exclude buyers' premium). The main focus of the auction was on the stamps and postal history of India and its states, with an extensive collection compiled over a lifetime by the late Ken Carter.

Among the Officials in the collection, one of only 96 known examples of the 1925 2r. on a 1912 10r. green and scarlet was a mint example and sold for £2500, from an estimate of £1800–£2000 (lot 365).

Despite minor imperfections, an unused ½a. vermilion from the East Indian Company issue of April 1854, with 9½ arches to the side border, went for £2300, three times its estimate of £700–£800 (lot 254).



From the Crown Colony section, a scarce used set of the 1948 Gandhi issue (1½a.–10r.) on an f.d.c. cancelled with 'BOMBAY G.P.O./15 AUG. 48' datestamps sold for £1450, approximately three times its £400–£500 estimate (lot 346). Meanwhile, a fine used 'SERVICE' overprint on a 1948 1½a. Gandhi value on piece sold for £1550, from an estimate of £700–£900 (lot 366). From earlier in India's history as a Crown Colony, an unused 1865 8p.

mauve with an unofficial 'NINE' handstamp administered by the local postmaster sold for £1100, which was considerably more than its £200–£250 estimate (lot 305).

A fine upper-marginal block of nine of the October 1854–55 ½a. blue (die II), with part inscription, sold for £1450, from an estimate of £800–£1000 (lot 261). Among the ½a. indigo (die I) values from October 1854–55, there was a vertical pair from the foot of the sheet (lot 260). Showing part of the inscription, this unused pair sold for £1150, double its £500–£600 estimate.

From the second printing of the October 1854–55 4a. (head die II, frame die I), a blue and red used pair sold for £1250, more than double its estimate of £400–£500 (lot 275).



The collection's section of 1854 essays, proofs and reprints included a fine and rare impression from the die of the issued 2a. stamp, in indigo on wove paper, which had an estimate of £700–£900 but went for £1150 (lot 239). A left-hand marginal example of a ½a. vermilion on yellowish paper with Arms watermark reached £650, more than three times its estimate of £150–£200 (lot 232).

In a large selection from the Indian Feudatory States, there were a number of highlights. From Cochin, a very rare 1942–43 2¼a. green Official (type O10) in a fine condition reached £2000, which was at the top of its £1800–£2000 estimate (lot 689). Additionally, there was an unused vertical pair of the 1898–1905 3p. blue that was of the imperforate between variety (lot 656). From an estimate of £200–£250, it eventually went for £1400. Also from Cochin, a mint 1943 Maharaja Kerala Varma II 4p. green sold for £1200, from an estimate of £700–£900 (lot 667). From Jammu and Kashmir, an 1866 4a. ultramarine with some thinning achieved £1450, three times its estimate of £400–£500 (lot 736).

Highlights from the rest of the auction included a rare 1859 8d. brown from Ceylon with four good to large margins. Its selling price of £1500 was at the lower end of its £1500–£2000 estimate (lot 969). Elsewhere, Egypt remained in strong demand, especially items once in King Farouk's 'Royal' collection. A 'Cancelled' block of ten of the 1947 Air issue comprising two lower rows of the 100m. olive with renumbered control realised £2400 (lot 1032), while the similar 200m. grey block went for £3000 (lot 1033) – both at the top of their estimates. A matched pair of plain f.d.c.s bearing the New Zealand 1931 'Smiling Boys' had an estimate of £150–£200 but reached a surprising £1160 (lot 1214).



Warwick & Warwick

DUE to coronavirus restrictions, Warwick & Warwick's first philatelic sale of 2021, held on 13 January, was conducted behind closed doors. The prices shown exclude buyers' premium.

Despite being cleaned and regummed, an 1840 1d. black (IE) VR Official sold for £2900, almost three times its estimate of £1000 (lot 445).

The GB decimal issues included a mint example of the 1998 Comedians 30p error of value, showing 30p instead of 37p (lot 521). This scarce variety, of which Pierron records just 30 mint examples, almost reached its estimate of £600 to go under the hammer for £550.

In the GB Officials, the £575 selling price of an 1890 Inland Revenue 5s. rose with gum but some soiling was just over its estimate of £500 (lot 549).

An Inland Revenue 1890 10s. ultramarine with an 'ACCOUNTS PO GLASGOW' c.d.s. sold for £925, from an estimate of £800 (lot 551). Meanwhile, an Inland Revenue 1892 £1 green with the same c.d.s. had an estimate of £350 but sold for £450 (lot 553).



From Gibraltar, a mint 1925–32 £5 violet and black reached £550, which was just over its estimate of £500 (lot 208).

Invitation to auction houses

If you would like your auction results to be considered for inclusion in this monthly feature, please send a brief illustrated report of your sale's highlights to the editor (aboyd@philatelicexporter.com).



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The Globetrotting Genius

Considered right at the top in class and price are the postcards of the artist Raphael Kirchner. As Brian Lund explains, although Kirchner was originally from Vienna, he moved to Paris in 1900 and then went on to London and New York.

...just one Kirchner in your eclectic collection of all things postcards would be fine

WHAT are picture postcards all about? Crowded streets, scenic lakes, innuendo-laden comics, pretty girls, advertising or images of conflict? The answer, of course, is *everything*. All human life is there. And you can choose to collect (within budgets!) any of those things.

At the top end of the class and price scale are the postcards of the iconic artist Raphael Kirchner (1–3). I'm prompted to do this by the publication of the second edition of Pia and Antonio Dell'Aquila's catalogue of the artist, a 276-page (quarto size) spectacular, full of lavish illustrations of most of Kirchner's 800-plus postcard creations. You don't start collecting these seriously unless you have a spare shedload of cash. The authors suggested valuations range from £27 for the commonest examples to £1800 for the rarest, with a median range of maybe £90 to £135. Do the maths and that's an eye-watering investment for a collection of picture postcards. You could probably pick up

a million Bamforth comics for the same price. But then you don't have to find 800 Kirchners – just one Kirchner in your eclectic collection of all things postcards would be fine.

Raphael Kirchner made a living from postcards, posters, and magazine and book illustrations. Born in Vienna in 1875, his comfortably off parents wanted him to be a musician, but his talents took him in a different direction and to other places. He first moved to Paris in 1900, the year of the Universal Exhibition there, where the atmosphere and sights of the Moulin Rouge era inspired him to design glamour-dominated images, alluring representations of the female body that veered from the discreet to the full exposé. He was fully at home in Paris, producing beautiful pictures, maybe modelled on his wife Nina (though the Aquilas catalogue plays this down), and stayed till 1915, by which time he was becoming targeted because of his Austrian birth – the two countries



1 Card from the *Fleurs d'Amour* series, rated by the catalogue at £135 in top condition (far left)



2 A later Kirchner published by Robert Boss's Bruton Galleries in London c.1917. You're looking at around £30 for this one (left)



were on opposing sides in the war. An encounter with London art dealer Robert Boss led to his moving across the Channel and quickly on to New York. Boss had galleries in both cities and Kirchner became a major star at these. He'd found fame, but he didn't live much longer to enjoy it because he died of appendicitis in 1917.

What a legacy he left though! You can enjoy it through the illustrations in the Aquila catalogue, which is priced at €50 – hardly more than one of Kirchner's commonest postcards!

Interestingly, the Aquilas catalogue says sternly: 'The (Kirchner) postcard, used or not, must not have written words or traces of stamp on the front, nor evident signs of album or cuts' if it is to be worth its catalogue price. Fair enough – any defect reduces the price of any postcard.

Moonlight and postcards

IN the massively competitive world of postcard retailing in the early-20th century, publishers were always looking for new angles to gain an advantage over rivals. Inevitably, this might be short-lived as new ideas would be copied pretty quickly. One genre that took off speedily was that of moonlight effects, pioneered by Blum & Degen in 1899, adapting standard daytime views artistically (4–10).

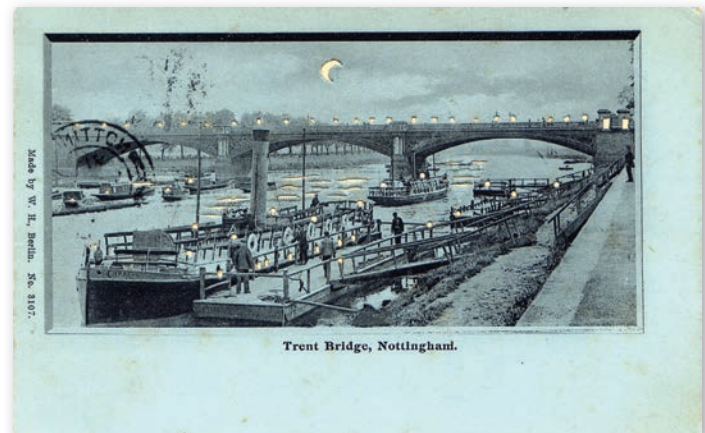
The German firm Hagelberg of Berlin soon followed with another innovation, adding an extra layer of card with judiciously cut-out parts to create an illuminated effect when the postcard was held to the light. This technique was too costly for the British firms aiming for a mass postcard market, so most opted for the Blum & Degen method of adding moonlight effects to existing designs. In some cases, the results appeared realistic and attractive, though in others they looked oddly contrived, in particular when mid-day scenes of busy urban streets thronged with pedestrians and traffic were translated into midnight settings!

The most prolific of British publishers with moonlight views was the long-established firm of Valentine of Dundee, established in 1825. A multitude of doctored scenes presented romanticised views of the sea, lakes, mountains, castles, cathedrals and other historic buildings, along with perhaps more interesting townscape. Other publishers to major in the style included Raphael Tuck, Delittle Fenwick & Co. of York and the Pictorial Stationery Co.

These cards are moderately priced at around £1 each (cut-outs more like a fiver) and present a fertile area of collecting. And then we come to the more eccentric moonlight postcards, often associated with romantic encounters, which give an opportunity to include a range of artists within the theme.

One of the common comic scenes, oft-repeated, was to have a couple sat by the sea in the moonlight, with a reflected 'liar' in the water interpreting the chat-up line of a suitor. Cynicus featured moon caricatures in his Leap Year series and lots of artists had the moon overlooking a romantic encounter in the country. Again, such cards are inexpensive, underlining the possibilities that picture postcards offer for all pockets.

3 This one would certainly not meet with the approval of Dell'Aquilas! But personally I quite like it. I like the fact it was posted at Uccle (Belgium) on 19 July 1902 and that it has a clear receiving cancellation at Bas-Oha the day after. I like the fact that it carries a message (the primary purpose of a picture postcard), which has been tastefully written so it does not obscure the illustration in any way. After all, this is an undivided back postcard – you were supposed to write on the front! Valuation in top condition £70 (left)



4 A cut-out postcard published by W Hagelburg, Berlin. When held to the light the cut-out bits, including the moon, appear as night illuminations. Card posted at Nottingham in September 1903



5 The moon makes a cameo appearance on Lance Thackeray's comic design published by Raphael Tuck and posted at Brighton in December 1905. Three other possibilities for thematic collectors on this card – theatrical, policemen and cycling



6 The legend of villagers trying to rake a reflected moon out of the village pond pops up in several places, including perhaps most famously in Wiltshire. The process is shown here on a postcard published by R H Edwards of Salisbury



7 I haven't seen any other postcards published by the *Daily Express*, but here's an impressive one, a cartoon lampooning government taxation policy



8 A 'moonlight effect' postcard from Valentine of Dundee. This has been achieved by handpainting a normal daytime photograph, which can also be found on a postcard. This example was posted from London in August 1906



9 A moonlight romance, complete with a serenading guitarist, on a card posted at Plymouth in September 1908



10 This is an often-used design casting aspersions on the intention of male romantics. The couple sat by the sea, he protesting love, she wondering whether to believe him. This one was published by James Bamforth & Co. and posted at Blackpool in August 1917



11 One of Jotter's Irish postcard designs, Ross's Hotel at Kingstown, Co. Dublin, published by Arthur Burkart of London, as were virtually all the Jotter hotel cards

Definitely wish I was there!

IF you want a specifically defined area of postcard collecting in a low-to-medium budget area, you could do a lot worse than home in on a wonderfully evocative series published by Arthur Burkart of London (11–15). Around 1908–13, the firm produced over 100 postcards featuring designs by the renowned artist Walter Hayward Young, who signed himself 'Jotter' on most of the cards he designed.

The Burkart series promoted the opulent world of upmarket British hotels, many in seaside locations. Jotter portrayed exterior views, as well as some stunning interior scene of dining rooms and lounges crammed full of well-to-do guests enjoying a fine experience. Jotter featured establishments in England, Scotland and Ireland, some of the latter were used by railway companies as official cards.

Invariably, the guests are dressed in their finest attire, sipping cups of tea in lounges – one of the Durley Dean Hydro at Bournemouth has a female musical trio (piano, violin and cello) entertaining the room. One of the Grand at Scarborough shows the still-extant impressive staircase in the entrance lounge. A few show views looking out from the hotels, as enticements to potential visitors. Burkart put the cards on sale locally relevant to each hotel, and they made for attractive postcard souvenirs to keep or send to friends.

These Jotter-designed postcards are generally not so easy to find, with exceptions such as the Regent Hotel in Leamington Spa and the Lakes Hotel at Killarney, which seem to turn up in every dealer's stock and should be £2 tops. Going rate for the others is £4–£12 each. Recent highest sale price on eBay is £14 for a card of the Buckingham Palace Hotel.



12 The tennis interest is a bonus on this postcard of the Hotel Imperial at Hythe, Kent, posted from there in September 1912



14 The iconic Grand Hotel in Scarborough's South Bay. The postcard was posted on 23 August 1914, three weeks into World War I, although the message is just a normal holiday comment

Missing postcard socials

THE first Nottingham postcard fair of the year should have been on 6 February, but alas, like all other such events, it's a complete no-no at the moment. In fact, it is really tough to see when fairs might return, such is the scale of Covid-19 transmission currently. Even if every dealer and every customer has been vaccinated, there are still lots of other people at venues who might be at potential risk of infection. So I'm looking at all the fairs listed in *Picture Postcard Annual* and feeling ... well, sad. It's over a year since I was last at a postcard fair and it may be six more months before I hit another! How about Llandudno in August?

In normal circumstances, we'd have been anxiously scanning the weather forecasts over the past few days. Would the projected re-run of the Beast from the East kindly hang on until Sunday at least, please? One time it snowed in the night before a fair at Nottingham's Harvey Hadden Sports Centre and by 7am the roads in the venue were impossible to access. We scrambled to let people know but many dealers had already arrived at the gate! Another time I drove to Sheffield's Concorde Centre through gradually worsening snow. I even had to get a scary tow up a hill to reach it. When I arrived, it was obvious nothing was going to happen, and the only other person there was one other dealer. We gave up!

The postcard that didn't escape

RECENT standout postcard sales on eBay included a real photo of Harry Houdini in chains, which sold for £598, an Uncle Sam American patriotic design (£582) and a card of the baseball ground in Cincinnati (£402). USA suffragette Viola Wilson netted £311, while two from the Rotary Photographic Co. 'London



13 What amazing detail is in this design showing the Tudor Dining Hall at Cliftonville's Queen's Highcliffe Hotel. Edwardian high-society fashion and manners personified



15 A delightful view of the Branksome Tower Hotel at Bournemouth. The text on the reverse claims 'the only Bournemouth hotel with grounds extending to the seashore'. Card posted at Bournemouth in December 1912

Life' series, 'Arrest of a Militant Suffragette' and 'Votes for Women' sold for £185 and £143 respectively. A German 1936 Third Reich poster made £260 and a postcard of the military college in Bangkok £230. Chinese postally used cards attracted high prices as usual – many examples are well over £100 – and a real photo of prisoners at Ohio State Penitentiary realised £222. British topographical £100-plus results were fewer than usual, but noteworthy were Framlingham post office (£100), a pub at Surfleet, Lincolnshire (£129), an aeroplane accident in a Leicester park (£113) and a pair of cards showing a bus trip starting from Sutton-in-Craven, Yorkshire, at £251.



Brian Lund has over 40 years' experience in the postcard hobby. He edited and published (along with his wife Mary) *Picture Postcard Monthly* from 1980–2015. The duo, as *Reflections of a Bygone Age*, have also published many postcard-based books and organised postcard fairs in Nottingham since 1982. Brian currently does a daily blog on the *Reflections of a Bygone Age* Facebook page.

New Books

Philatelic Exporter's book reviewer, David Rennie, takes a look at the latest books and catalogues from leading publishers.



In all, some 640 pages make up this fine hardcover

MICHEL BRIEF DEUTSCHLAND 2020/21: VOLUME 1 1849-1945 GERMAN COVERS (20TH EDITION)

Publisher: Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH
Address: Industriestraße 1, 82110 Germering, Germany
www.michel.de
ISBN: 978-3-95402-321-9
Price: €79.80/£79.80

THIS new edition (the last was in 2016, see *PE* February 2017) sees the split of the previous 1300-page volume in two parts, thus matching the German specialised stamps' volumes. It includes the states and colonies, the Reich, the wartime and occupation issues, as well as Danzig, Memel, Eupen and Malmédy, and the Belgian Military Post in the Rhineland.

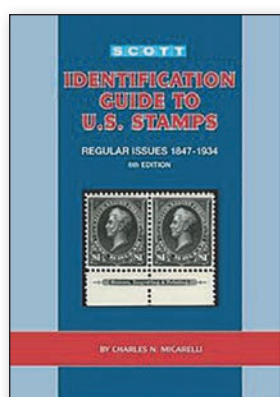
The states' section includes many postmark illustrations, going back to the early 1700s. As before, valuations, with many increases, are provided for the basic stamps used at the correct rate, multiples of the same issue to make up a

correct rate and mixed frankings, and take into account dealer price lists and auction realisations.

Of particular note in this respect is the rare Baden 1867 3k. imperforate issue featured on the front cover (Baden Mi 18u); the so-called 'Stockach-Provisorium'. This was hammered recently at €300,000 in the Erivan Haub collection auction, and, therefore, shoots up from €100,000 to €400,000 allowing for buyers' premium and other costs.

There are useful tables of postal rates throughout, including the difficult inflation period. Shades and particular stamp combinations are also included when relevant, and there are many useful notes throughout. Many chapters have been revised, in particular, the German ships-post abroad, World War II occupation issues and Feldpostmarken.

There are about 5000 colour illustrations and 30,000 valuations. The introduction has been extended to include cover evaluations and important additional information on working with the volume, including a list of experts. In all, some 640 pages make up this fine hardcover, which includes two place-marker tapes.



This is a must-have title for the serious collector of early USA and also for the general collector

SCOTT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO US STAMPS: REGULAR ISSUES 1847-1934 (6TH EDITION)

Author: Charles Micarelli
Publisher: Scott Publications Amos Media
Address: 1660 A Campbell Road, Sidney, Ohio 45365 USA
www.amosadvantage.com
ISBN: 0-89487-478-9
Price: \$24.99 online/\$39.95 bound copy

AS I have not seen this before, it was a pleasure to see it available online. The book is divided into nine chapters dealing first with the 1847 issue and the 1875 reproductions; then individual chapters for the 1851, 1861, 1869, 1870-71, 1875, 1882-83, 1904, 1908-21 and 1922 issues.

There is a short but useful introduction and guide to the entries.

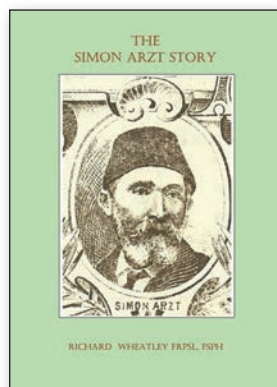
Each issue has some opening commentary about the issue, its design, the printers, the papers and perforation, etc., and the circumstances concerning its issue. The various 'grills' are well covered, each in its context as well as generally. The layout is

simple and effective; there is a fine illustration of each value, with commentary about the reason for its issue and changes in colour, etc. This is then presented in tabular form, giving the collector a clear guide to identifying any example.

The quality of the illustrations and enlargements of relevant parts of the design and 'secret marks' to aid identification are excellent. This is further enhanced by the ability to enlarge any item on screen to suit the user. A sensible and very readable font has been used throughout, making it easy on the eye.

There is an extensive appendix, which deals with 'The Falsification of Stamps' (forgeries), the raison d'être for each whether aimed at the collector or to defraud the Post Office and their creators where known. This includes modern items such as the House of Philately's replicas produced by ProPhil Forum, as well as the earlier 'Chicago' and 'Boston' forgeries used to defraud the Post Office.

This is a must-have title for the serious collector of early USA and also for the general collector to avoid mistakes and perhaps discover some gems. There are 162 pages with the usual go-to list of chapters making it easy to use.



...a lucid and informative, nicely produced, 48-page A4 booklet

THE SIMON ARZT STORY

Author and publisher: Richard Wheatley
FRPSL, FSPH
arewhyuu@outlook.com
ISBN: N/A
Price: £7.50+p&p (£975 UK, £13 overseas)

THE Suez Canal was just opening when Simon Arzt arrived in Port Said at its northern end and set up a business making cigarettes. Quick to spot a business opportunity, he was soon supplying tourists from his first store in Main Street, with its distinctive semaphore sign visible from the quayside. It sold a wide range of tourist-attracting products from watches, jewellery, perfume, cameras and clothing to picture postcards, and the store was enlarged several times along the street. The motto of 'Prices are Fixed – No Hagglng' appealed to tourists.

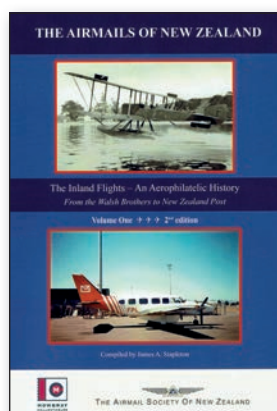
In 1916, he went into partnership with his nephew, Max Mouchly, who was later the Czechoslovakian Consul in Port Said. In 1923, the

decision was taken to open a new store on the quayside itself, strategically located next to Thomas Cook & Son, and near the Savoy Hotel, later being taken over by Simon Benderli. The Simon Arzt name was always prominent.

Never one to miss an opportunity to promote the business, Arzt produced trade cards and imprinted advertising stationery, with a post office located within the store having its own postmark. Egyptian cigarettes were popular and Simon Arzt's imprint appears on the Egyptian Cigarette Tax stamps of the 1890s. Various cachets promoting the Arzt store are found on postcards.

Inevitably, it had received the Royal Warrant by the 1890s and proudly proclaimed 'PURVEYOR TO H. H. THE KHEDIVE' whenever possible.

All of this, plus many covers, cards and other colour illustrations, with many items from the author's collection, are to be found in what is a lucid and informative, nicely produced, 48-page A4 booklet. The various postmarks and cachets, etc., are suitably tabulated for ease of reference.



...it should grace the shelves of those interested in aerophilately for many years to come

THE AIRMAILS OF NEW ZEALAND – THE INLAND FLIGHTS – AN AEROPHILATELIC HISTORY

Publisher: Airmail Society of New Zealand/
Mowbray Collectables
Address: Private Bag 63000, Wellington, NZ 6140
auctions@mowbrays.co.nz
Price: NZ\$60 (post-paid within NZ. Contact Mowbray for postage cost to countries outside New Zealand)

ONE of the main objectives of the Airmail Society of New Zealand is to record the airmail history of New Zealand as a handy reference for collectors and for future generations. The initial publication was in 1931 of the handbook *The Air Mails and Pigeon Posts of New Zealand*, compiled and edited by Ray Collins. In 1955, the *Airmails of New Zealand Volume One: The Internal Flights* was published, largely through the efforts of Douglas Walker. Then, in 1986, the Society's third publication appeared, the *Airmails of New Zealand Volume Two: Overseas Flights 1928–1940* by Douglas Walker. This was supplemented in 1997 with Robin Startup's *Airmails of New Zealand Volume Three: International Airmails 1940–1970*.

In 2000, the Society decided that Volume One on internal flights, which described the airmails in chronological order, from the 1897 pigeon-gram mails through to the latest domestic airline services at the time, needed to be brought up to date, the older text revised and illustrations, not possible all those years ago, to be included. Appreciating that a revised handbook required a large amount of work, the go-ahead for research was given.

Jim Stapleton produced the typescript of a fascinating story of New Zealand's inland airmails in 1994, an extensive look at the flights and services behind flown covers arranged by airlines. From this typescript came the manuscript entitled *The Inland Flights – An Aerophilatelic History*, covering the background to the development of aviation for the carriage of mails in New Zealand.

The book has been jointly published by the Airmail Society and Mowbray Collectables. At 150 pages, it includes 18 chapters on airlines ranging from the Walsh Brothers (1919–22) through to Cook Strait Airways and Mount Cook Airlines in the 1930s to 1970s, and NAC and Air New Zealand to 1994. Each chapter focuses on the services provided, and much effort has gone into obtaining colour scans of the original illustrations, which were all mono-coloured. There are also substantial chapters on special event airmails to 1994 and a checklist of events and flights, as well as an index and bibliography. The monograph is 150 pages, perfect bound, with many excellent illustrations, most in full colour and is very readable.

As the foreword notes, major contributors to the publication of this monograph other than Jim Stapleton, include Robin Startup RDP, FRSP, FRPSNZ, who spent many hours on detailed editing work, Mike Shand, Keith Griffiths, Alan Tunncliffe, Bill Mitchell and many other fellow collectors, plus David Smitham who brought the manuscript to publication stage. Mowbray Collectables agreed to arrange for the printing and publishing of the new book, and it should grace the shelves of those interested in aerophilately for many years to come.

Reviewed by Jeff Long, President of the Airmail Society of New Zealand



...this superb volume has been updated and improved with numerous value changes and editorial enhancements

SCOTT CLASSIC SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF STAMPS & COVERS 1840-1940 (27TH EDITION)

Publisher: Scott Online
Address: Amos Media, 1660 Campbell Road, Sidney, OH 45365, USA
www.amosadvantage.com
ISBN: 978-0-89487-599-1
Price: \$124.99

As usual, this superb volume has been updated and improved with numerous value changes and editorial enhancements. The Local stamps of French Morocco are now listed, as are those of Central Albania from 1914-16. On-cover items have been added for Alexandretta, Bahrain and Lebanon. In Guatemala, the perfined Officials account for about 50 new numbers. Romanian Postal Tax stamps have also been added.

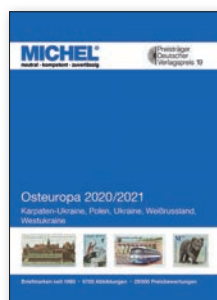
British India has received special attention, especially for the early Queen Victoria issues, which have been rewritten and clarified with new illustrations of the different dies, etc. This has resulted in those used with Aden postmarks also being

revised, and also Ceylon issues used there as well. A feature article by Sergio Sismondo explains this in more detail.

Portuguese India has received extensive revision (1000 new main numbers and 250 minor numbers), as have all the Portuguese Colonies, where the total number of additional items across all of them totals over 3700; for example, Portuguese Guinea (700) and St Thomas and Prince (850).

Turks and Caicos early issues have been reviewed, with some new items listed and value increases. Turkey in Asia also shows about 150 increases.

On-cover and unmounted mint prices have been reviewed throughout the volume and more added. There are three pages of new numbers in the familiar four-column format. The extensive introductory pages and over 1350 catalogue pages, plus the reference pages and yellow pages section at the back, bring the total extent to well over 1400 pages. Generally, the period covered is 1840-1940, with British Colonies extended to 1952, and there are some pre-stamp postmarks included where relevant. Buying the digital volume means all this information can be carried in the pocket and accessed from a mobile phone.



Both are fine lie-flat hard-covers

MICHEL EUROPE KATALOG, VOLUME 15, EASTERN EUROPE 2020/2021 (105TH EDITION)/MICHEL EUROPE KATALOG, VOLUME 16, RUSSIA AND SOVIET UNION 2020/2021 (105TH EDITION)

Publisher: Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH
Address: Industriestraße 1, 82110 Germering, Germany
www.michel.de
ISBN: 978-3-95402-345-5 (Volume 15)/978-3-95402-346-2 (Volume 16)
Price: €49.80/£49.80

VOLUME 15 contains Poland to June 2020, Ukraine to July 2020 and Weißrussland (Belarus or White Russia) to May 2020. The publisher comments that Poland has become an extremely popular collection area in recent years. This is reflected by numerous price increases, mainly for mint copies of commemoratives and popular thematics from the 1930s to 1950s and occasional others but very few for used stamps. Some popular thematics on Ukrainian issues also show increases.

However, modern Belarus stamps with a code letter for transport rather than a nominated face value, issued in 2002, have gone up considerably, especially the booklets. More recent issues have also risen, probably reflecting increases in postal rates as well as demand.

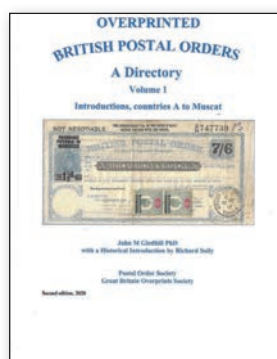
Volume 16 completes the split of the Europe volumes, with modern Russian issues listed up to August 2020. Moldavia was, of course, included in the new Volume 8 with Romania.

The publisher states that many appraisals have been rechecked and updated, with price increases among mint stamps of the Russian Empire and RSFSR, and numerous sought-after stamps issued by the Soviet Union, together with limited blocks and *se-tenant* units from the Russian Federation. Seven newly discovered perforation variations found among issues from the Soviet Union have been added to the catalogue, but it does not identify these.

All the areas where Russian stamps were overprinted for use are included with new information linking to these overprints from the basic stamp, making it easier for the collector.

There are additional details regarding forgeries of expensive Soviet Union type variations to assist collectors, offering even more effective protection from fraud.

Both are fine lie-flat hard-covers of 630 pages and 720 pages respectively, with the usual introduction, map and information pages, including expertisation and an all-Europe index. Between the two catalogues, Volume 15 has 6700 colour illustrations and 29,000 appraisals, while Volume 16 has more than 7700 colour illustrations and approximately 33,500 appraisals.



...this new edition now has over 2300 entries

OVERPRINTED BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS: A DIRECTORY (2ND EDITION)

Author: Dr John Gledhill
Publisher: Great Britain Overprints Society
www.gbos.org.uk
ISBN: 978-0-9931878-2-7
Price: £67 plus p&p

TEN years have passed since the first edition, which recorded just over 700 entries. So many more have been discovered and recorded that this new edition now has over 2300 entries, with every item verified by an image in the author's collection and over 650 of these are included here in colour.

Postal Orders by their very nature have a very low survival rate in the public forum, having to be handed back to the post office when cashed. They were ideal for small payments for people who did not have bank accounts; for small gifts to younger members of a family; for paying Football Pools stakes; buying items on mail order; and especially stamp approval payments for collectors of all ages.

In addition to the informative preface, a long introduction by the author, which also comments upon forgeries, there is an extensive 'Historical Introduction' by Richard Solly, a noted collector and winner of many medals at national and international level. This all sets the scene for the book, which takes each country in alphabetical order and records not only the different postal orders with descriptions and face values, poundage and other information, but it also records as far as possible all the known examples of each in tabular form.

Two other sections deal with British postal orders overprinted for use in the United Kingdom and pension orders. The appendices record The Postal Museum registration copies and essays; postal order types' country usage; overprint types' country usage; and denomination frequency, usually in tabular form. There is a summary of the Brill catalogue numbers. Finally, a useful list of the gems and important items are listed in these volumes.

Both volumes are limp bound, with 294 pages and 272 pages respectively, in an A4 size housed in a fine board slipcase.

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Grey Bright
Aniline Pink



White T14bb

Switzerland Specialised



Set SG: 447-459

Great Britain Specialised Circular Date Stamps & FDC's



Set 1-12
Numbers in
Cross



2/6 Blued
Paper



2 1/2d Dull
Prussian Blue



2s6d Cinnamon



Australia SG 060

Wednesday 28th April (600 Lots) World Stamps & Postal History

New Issues

New and recent stamp issues based on information received from postal authorities and/or their agents. In the light of the current situation, some release dates are liable to change.

ANDORRA (FRENCH)

4 Jan, Landscapes and Mountain Passes – Collada Beixalis, €4.40.

ANDORRA (SPANISH)

1 Jan, Flag and Shield, 70c.
19 Jan, Tribute to Efforts of All in Front of Covid-19, miniature sheet €4.15.

ARGENTINA

30 Nov, 400th Anniversary of Apparition of Virgin of Catamarca Valley, \$90.
9 Dec, Christmas, miniature sheet 2×\$55; 70 Years of Argentinian Airlines, miniature sheet \$55.

ARMENIA

8 Dec, Laureates of 'Aurora' Prize – Mirza Dinnayi, 350d.+150d.
11 Dec, Definitives – Van Kingdom, 220d., 280d.
22 Dec, Insurance Foundation for Servicemen, 120d., 220d., 230d., 280d., 330d., 380., 500d., miniature sheet 2060d.+5000d.
24 Dec, Means of Transport – Bicycle, 220d; Children's Philately – Armenian Cartoons, 120d.
25 Dec, Arshile Gorky, miniature sheet 220d., 230d, 350d., 650d.
28 Dec, 250th Anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven, miniature sheet 870d.; Flora and Fauna, 230d, 330d.
29 Dec, 125th Anniversary of Hrachya Nersisian, 330d.; New Year and Christmas, 240d.

AUSTRALIA

25 Jan, Memorable Moments, \$1.10, \$2.20.

Christmas Island

8 Jan, Year of the Ox, \$1.10, \$2.20, \$3.30.

AUSTRIA

20 Jan, Fitted Kitchen – Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky, €1; Gräf and Stift SP 8 Pullman, €2.75.

BELARUS

12 Jan, Wild Baby Animals, 60k., 1r.50, 1r.74, 1r.86, miniature sheet 2×60k., 2×1r.50, 2×1r.74, 2×1r.86.

BELGIUM

25 Jan, Leading Ladies in Comic Books, miniature sheet €10.70; Roger Raveel 100, miniature sheet €9.25; Geometry in Nature, miniature sheet €10.70.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (REPUBLIKA SRPSKA)

29 Jan, 150th Anniversary Birth of Orville Wright, 7m.60.

BRAZIL

8 Dec, Centenary of First Brazilian Gold Medal in Olympic Games, 5r.
15 Dec, Chess, sheet 2×1st.
22 Dec, Viticulture, sheet 15×1st.
29 Dec, Brazilian Fashion, sheet 3×1st.

BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

8 Dec, Butterfly Fish, sheet 2× 60p, 2×£1.50, 2×£3.

BULGARIA

10 Nov, 100th Birth Anniversary of World Notable Writers – Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Arthur Hailey and Gianni Rodari, 65st., 11.10, 11.70, 21.30.; 100th Birth Anniversary Valeri Petrov, miniature sheet 3l.; 85th Birth Anniversary Hristo Yavashev (Christo), miniature sheet 2l.80.

11 Nov, 25 Years of National Social Security Institute, 65st.; Gabrovo Carnival, miniature sheet, 3l.; 75 Years Agricultural University, Plovdiv, 65st.
19 Nov, Friendship with Kazakhstan, miniature sheet 2×65st.
20 Nov, Christmas, 11.70.
25 Nov, 125 Years of Bulgarian Chamber Commerce and Industry, 65st.
1 Dec, 140 Years Bulgarian Lev and 135 Years Bulgarian Banknotes, 1l.
10 Dec, 85 Years Emergency Medical Care, 65st.

CANADA

15 Jan, Lunar New Year, booklet 12×Permanent.
22 Jan, Black History Month, 2×Permanent.

CHINA (TAIWAN)

20 Jan, South Penghu Marine National Park, 2×\$8, \$9, \$15.

COLOMBIA

20 Jan, National Natural Parks of Colombia (Eighth Series), sheet 8×2000p.

CROATIA

22 Jan, Bridges and Viaducts, miniature sheet 10k.
28 Jan, 150th Anniversary of Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, 3k.30.

CZECH REPUBLIC

20 Jan, Czech Stamp Design – Václav Zapadlík, 19k.; Census, 19k.; Carnival, 19k.

FAROE ISLANDS

7 Jan, Postal History 150 Years, miniature sheet 51k.

FRANCE

6 Jan, Landscapes, booklet 12×97c.

11 Jan, Island Birds, €1.08, miniature sheet €4.32.
18 Jan, Madeleine Brès, €1.08.
25 Jan, Chanel, €1.08, €2.16, miniature sheet €5.40.

FRENCH SOUTHERN & ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES

1 Jan, Crabs, miniature sheet €5; Marion Dufresne in a Bottle, €1.05.
2 Jan, Southern Ocean Jellyfish, miniature sheet, €2; Crozet Islands of the Apostles, miniature sheet €1.50; Flora of Kerguelen, miniature sheet €6; Cormorants of Kerguelen and Crozet, miniature sheet €1; Kerguelen Maintenance Relay 26, €1.20; Coral Reefs, miniature sheet €4; Aviso Transport – La Meurthe, €1.20; Captain Pierre-François Peron at Ile Saint Paul, €1.05; Amsterdam – Sea Lions and Nivôse, miniature sheet €5; Crozet – Low Point Hut, €1.10; Basler BT67 Planes at Concoridia, miniature sheet €3; André Lebeau Geophysicist, €1.20; Chalcedony Mineral, 50c.
12 Jan, TAAF at 65, €7.50 (from 15 Dec); Southern Lands and Seas, booklet, €26; Paul-Emile Victor, miniature sheet €1.50.

GERMANY

7 Jan, 175 Years of Children's Mission, 80c.; Settlement in Lübeck, 60c.

GREAT BRITAIN

16 Feb, *Only Fools and Horses*, 4×1st, 4×£1.70, miniature sheet 2×1st, 2×£1.70.

GREECE

28 Jan, Greece 2021 – 200 Years After Revolution, 90c., €1.

GUERNSEY

26 Jan, Year of the Ox, 50p, 68p, 70p, 85p, 95p, £1.02.
17 Feb, Guernsey Birds (definitives), 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7p, 8p, 9p, 10p, 20p, 30p, 40p, 50p, £1, £2, £4.

IRELAND

1 Jan, Disestablishment of Church of Ireland, €1.
21 Jan, Centenary of Birth of Patrick Scott, miniature sheet €7.
28 Jan, Love and Marriage, booklet 10×€1.

ISLE OF MAN

7 Jan, Chinese Year of the Ox, 62p, £1.58, £2.44, £3.22.
9 Feb, Show Birds, 1st, EU, L, RoW, £1.82, USA.
26 Feb, Devoted to Your Service, 2×62p, L, £1.82, £2.17, £2.37.

ITALY

15 Jan, 40th Anniversary Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces, €1.10.
21 Jan, Livorno Congress – Centenary of Socialist Party Congress, €1.10.

JAPAN

12 Jan, Natural Landscapes, 10×63y., 10×84y.
15 Jan, Moomin Greetings, 10×84y.
22 Jan, Record Nature Series No. 1, 10×63y., 10×84y.

JERSEY

5 Jan, Year of the Ox, 54p, miniature sheet £1.

KOREA (SOUTH)

26 Jan, Geostationary Korea Multi-purpose Satellite, 3×380w.

KYRGYZSTAN

11 Dec, Issyk-Kul Fish, 56s., 66s., 118s.
18 Dec, Spiders, 56s., 66s., 118s.

LATVIA

8 Jan, Coats of Arms, 62c., 89c., €1; Flowers, 4c., 7c., 25c.
26 Jan, Latvia 100, €1.

LITHUANIA

8 Jan, 100 Years Lithuanian State Archive, 49c.
22 Jan, B M Alseikaitė-Gimbutienė, 49c.

MACAO

5 Jan, Lunar Year of the Ox, 2p.50, 4p., 4p.50, 6p.

MALAYSIA

31 Dec, 125th Anniversary of Johor's Constitution, sheet 20x1r., miniature sheet 5r.

MALTA

29 Jan, Malta Healthcare Heroes, 3x30c.

MONACO

7 Jan, Centenary of Clown Yuri Nikulin, miniature sheet €4; 125th Anniversary of Clown Charlie Rivel, miniature sheet €4.
25 Jan, Opera Singers, €2.56, €3.86.

NEW ZEALAND

2 Dec, Year of the Ox, \$1.40, \$2.70, \$3.50, \$4.

PAKISTAN

25 Dec, New Political Map of Pakistan, 20r.

POLAND

22 Jan, K K Baczyński, 4z.10.

PHILIPPINES

11 Dec, Chinabank 100, 2x12p.
12 Dec, Birth Centenary of Salinta Monon, 12p.
18 Dec, Save Our Shores, Save Our Oceans, 1p., 5p., 12p., 35p.
6 Jan, Save Our Shores, Save Our Oceans 17p., 45p.

13 Jan, Save Our Shores, Save Our Oceans, 14p., 1000p.

ROMANIA

8 Jan, Collections of Lost Museums, 3l.30, 5l., 8l.50, 10l.50.
15 Jan, National Culture Day, 2l.70, 8l.50, 10l.50.
22 Jan, Passions of Kings of Romania (I), 1l.40, 1l.70, 10l.50, 19l.

RUSSIA

14 Jan, Trinity-Hodigitria Stavropegial Zosima Hermitage Convent, 50r.
20 Jan, National Endangered Wildlife (Europa), 52r.
22 Jan, 30 Years Regional Commonwealth in Field of Communications, 23r.
26 Jan, 300th Anniversary of Kuzbass, 56r.
28 Jan, Nobel Prize Winners – Nikolai N. Semenov, 50r.
29 Jan, 100th Anniversary Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics, 45r.

SAINT-PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON

12 Jan, The Shorebird, 60c.; Peck's Red Russula, €1.28.

SAN MARINO

10 Nov, Institute for Social Security, €5; Christmas, sheet €3.50; 250th Anniversary Death of Giambattista Tiepolo, €2.80; Stamp and Coin Museum, 70c.; International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, €1.15; 75th Anniversary National Association of Industry of San Marino (ANIS), 70c.; Juventus Italian Champions 2019–20, €2.

SINGAPORE

8 Jan, Year of the Ox, 1st Local, \$1.40.

SLOVAKIA

4 Jan, Slovak Applied Arts, 5c., 10c., 20c.
29 Jan, Ladislav Grosman (1921–81), €1.

SLOVENIA

28 Jan, Year of the Ox, €1.86; Meksika Building, miniature sheet, €1.85; Contemporary Lacemaking, €1.37; 200th Anniversary Birth of Blasius Kozenn, 82c.; Greetings Stamp, 69c.; 200th Anniversary of Congress of Laibach, 55c.

SPAIN

18 Jan, Tourism, €1.50, €1.60.
19 Jan, 125 Years Madrid Press Association, €1.50.
20 Jan, Centenary of Club Atlético Osasuna, 70c.
21 Jan, Wonders of the Modern World – Roman Coliseum, sheet 9x€1.60.
25 Jan, Centenary Sports Alavés, 70c.

THAILAND

4 Jan, Zodiac 2021 (Year of the Ox), 3b.
9 Jan, National Children's Day, 2x3b., 2x5b.
22 Jan, 150th Anniversary of Wat Ratchabophit Sathitmahasimaram, 5x5b.

TUNISIA

12 Jan, 60th Anniversary TAP News Agency, 75m.
23 Jan, Abolition of Slavery and Servitude in Tunisia 23 January 1846, 2d.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

30 Nov, Wahat Al Karama, sheet 8x3aed., miniature sheet 3aed.
2 Dec, National Day 49, sheet 6x3aed.

UNITED NATIONS

5 Dec, World Soil Day, sheet 10x\$1.20.
22 Jan, Chinese Lunar Calendar – Year of the Ox, sheet 10x\$1.20.

USA

14 Jan, Love, 55c.
24 Jan, Castillo de San Marcos, \$7.95; Barns, 4x36c.; Brush Rabbit, 20c.
28 Jan, August Wilson, 55c.



Brazil: Centenary of First Brazilian Gold Medal in Olympic Games

China (Taiwan): South Penghu Marine National Park



Faroe Islands: Postal History 150 Years



Ireland: Disestablishment of Church of Ireland

Isle of Man: Show Birds



Monaco: Opera Singers

USA: August Wilson



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Auction Diary

Auction dates have been compiled from information supplied by event organisers. *Philatelic Exporter* cannot be held responsible for any errors, changes or omissions. During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, please check every event carefully to confirm its current status. For inclusion in future listings, please email aboyd@philatelicexporter.com

MARCH

1 PHILANGLES

Carson House, 44 Legh Street, Warrington WA1 1UJ

2/5 DANIEL F KELLEHER

22 Shelter Rock Lane, Unit 53, Danbury, CT 06810, USA

3 WARWICK & WARWICK

Court House, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW

6 FERRARIO ASTE

Via Vallazze 78 20131 Milan, Italy

9/11 LODDON

Ducks Nest Farm, Eversley Road, Arborfield Cross, Reading RG2 9PJ

10 AJH

Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors BB5 5JP

10 EASTERN

130 Main Street, Bathurst, New Brunswick E2A 1A4, Canada (postal)

10/11 CAVENDISH

Cavendish House, 153–57 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY

11 KELLEHER & ROGERS

35/F Central Plaza 18 Harbour Road Wan Chai, Hong Kong

13 CHESHIRE STAMP AUCTIONS

Egerton Court, Haig Road, Parkgate, Knutsford WA16 8DX (online)

13 MOWBRAY

West Plaze Hotel, 110 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6142, New Zealand

13/14 TONY LESTER

Unit 2 The Sidings, Birdingbury Road, Marton, Rugby CV23 9RX

17 GROSVENOR

399–401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT

18/19 ARGYLL ETKIN

W Hotel, 10 Wardour Street, West End, London W1D 6QF

18/20 FELZMANN

Immermannstraße 51 40210 Düsseldorf, Germany

25/26 ABACUS

29 Hardner Road, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia

25/27 POSTILJONEN

Box 537, SE-201 25 Malmö, Sweden

26 MARTELLO

Old Auction Rooms, Marine Walk Street, Hythe CT21 5NW (online)

26 NPV

Leeuwenveldseweg 14, NL-1382 LX Weesp, Holland

27 PLUMRIDGE

PO Box 7831, Northants NN17 9HL

28 ACE

Exhibition Centre, Corner Albany Highway & Station Street, Cannington, WA 6107, Australia

28 MAYFAIR

Vintage House, 37 Albert Embankment, Lambeth, London SE1 7TL

29 PHILANGLES

Carson House, 44 Legh Street, Warrington WA1 1UJ

29/14 SPINK

67–69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET (online)

30/31 STANLEY GIBBONS

399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX

31 DAVID FELDMAN

59 Route de Chancy, 1213 Petit-lancy, Switzerland

APRIL

7 VANCE

PO Box 267, Smithville, Ontario, Canada L0R 2A0 (online)

7 WARWICK & WARWICK

Court House, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW

8/11 CORINPHILA

NETHERLANDS
Mortelmolen 3, 1185 XV Amstelveen, Netherlands

10 BIL

Washingborough Community Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough LN4 1AB

10 SOMERSET

Hill Farm, Hemyock, Cullompton EX15 3UZ

10 SOUTH WEST

The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ (postal)

12/14 H R HARMER

45 Rockefeller Plaza, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10111, USA

13 UNIVERSAL

4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach GL54 3HE

14 AJH

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19/24 HEINRICH KÖHLER

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24 ZANARIA

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26 PHILANGLES

Carson House, 44 Legh Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 1UJ

26/27 LODDON

Unit 3, Ducks Nest Farm, Eversley Road, Arborfield Cross, Reading RG2 9PJ

27/28 JAMES

5 Norwich Street, Fakenham NR21 9AF

28 BRIAN REEVE

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FORTHCOMING

ACE

Ace Stamp Auctions in Australia are putting the finishing touches to their dedicated West Australian Auction, featuring the stamps, postmarks, postcards and postal history from the pre-Federation period, which will be offered on Sunday 28 March.

The sale includes the scarce 1879 2d. mauve error of colour (SG 55b, catalogue £15,000) printed in the colour of the 6d. value. It is a fine used one with a light Perth grid cancel that is clear of the value wording. This example has not been offered since selling at auction

in 2006 for \$17,600. Used examples are scarcer than mint and this is one of the finest seen.

Other highlights include the Queen Victoria high values and large multiples that were originally sold in the Australia Post archive sales and have not been offered since. The highlight is a Western Australia 1902 £1 orange-brown in a marginal block of ten perfined 'OS'. Thought to be the largest block in existence, it has a reserve of \$15,000. A superb exhibition item and listed in the Australian Specialist Stamp Catalogue.



Major Events

During the current coronavirus crisis, before travelling, readers are strongly advised to confirm with organisers that events are still being held. Please email aboyd@philatelicexporter.com with details of future events.

2021 MARCH

18/20 HERTOPOST 2021

Brabanthallen, Diezekade 2,
's-Hertogenbosch, 5222 AK,
Netherlands

hertogpost-event.nl

25/27 VIRTUAL STAMPEX

PTS, PO Box 919, East Grinstead
RH19 9PH

thephilatelictaderssociety.co.uk

2021 MAY

14/15 SPRING SOUTH OF ENGLAND POSTCARD FAIR

Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road,
Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA

postcard.co.uk

2021 JUNE

10/13 ALPE ADRIA TARVISIO 2021

Palazzetto dello Sport, via Degli
Atleti Azzurri, Tarvisio (UD),
33018 Italy

alpeadria.eu

2021 JULY

16/17 YORK STAMP AND COIN FAIR

York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX

stampshows.net

2021 AUGUST

12/15 GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW

Donald E Stephens Convention
Center, 5555 N River Road,
Rosemont, IL 60018, USA

stamps.org

13/15 NORDIA 2021

Musiikkikeskus, Kuopionlahdenkatu
23, 70100 Kuopio, Finland

postimerkkikerho.fi

25/30 PHILANIPPON 2021

Pacifico Yokohama Exhibition Hall,
Yokohama, Japan

japan2021.jp

2021 SEPTEMBER

17/18 AUTUMN SOUTH OF ENGLAND POSTCARD FAIR

Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road,
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postcard.co.uk

24/26 MULTILATERALE 2021

St Pölten, Austria

24/26 ÖVEBRIA 2021

Jahrturnhalle, Jahrtturnstrasse 15,
3100 St Pölten, Austria

voeph.at

29/2 AUTUMN STAMPEX

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper
Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

thephilatelictaderssociety.co.uk

29/4 BALKANFILA 2021

Bucharest, Romania

balkanfila.org

2021 OCTOBER

15/16 SALISBURY STAMP AND POSTCARD SHOW

Five Rivers Leisure Centre, Hulse
Road, Salisbury SP1 3NR

machins.org

15/17 NOJEX-ASDA POSTAGE STAMP EXPO

Hilton Meadowlands, 2
Meadowlands Plaza, East
Rutherford, NJ 07073, USA

americanstampdealer.com

15/17 STAMPA 2021

Griffith College, South Circular
Road, Dublin 8

stampa.ie

2021 NOVEMBER

9/13 CAPE TOWN 2021

International Convention Centre,
Convention Square, 1 Lower Long
Street, Cape Town, South Africa

capetown2021.org

19/22 NOTOS 2021

Peristeri Exhibition Centre,
Athens, Greece

hps.gr/notos2021

2021 DECEMBER

9/11 MONACOPHIL

Musée des Timbres et des
Monnaies, Terrasses de Fontvieille,
Monaco

mtm-monaco.mc

2022 FEBRUARY

19/26 LONDON 2022

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper
Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

london2022.co

2022 MARCH

31/3 HUNFILEX 2022

Budapest, Fővám tér 11–12,
Budapest, 1093 Hungary

hunfilex2022.com

2022 MAY

6/10 TAIPEI 2022

Taipei World Trade Center, Xinyi
Roadm Xinyi District, Taipei City,
Taiwan

taipei2020.post.gov.tw

18/22 HELVETICA 2022

Padiglione Conza, Lugano,
Switzerland

helvetia2022.ch

2022 JUNE

9/12 CAPEX 2022

Metro Toronto Convention
Centre, 255 Front Street West,
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2W6,
Canada

2022 AUGUST

4/9 INDONESIA 2022

Jakarta, Indonesia

indonesia2020.com

25/28 GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW

Sacramento, CA, USA

stamps.org

2022 SEPTEMBER

8/11 MELBOURNE 2022

Caulfield Racecourse, Caulfield
East, Victoria 3145, Australia

melbourne2022.com.au

2022 OCTOBER

14/16 NOJEX-ASDA POSTAGE STAMP EXPO

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Index of Advertisers

March 2021

Ace Stamp Auctions	19
AJH Stamps Ltd	23
Argyll Etkin Limited	18
BB Stamps Ltd	51
Beckett Philatelics Ltd	26, 27
Brian Reeve Stamp Auctions	44
Chaucer Covers & Auctions	47
Eastern Auctions Ltd	2
James & Sons	41
John Curtin Limited	25
MacDonnell Whyte Ltd	44
Mark Bloxham Stamps Ltd	12, 13
Mayfair Philatelic Auctions	31
Philatelink Ltd	21
Postiljonen	22
Rijnmond	33
Sandafayre	11
Stamp Insurance Services	44
Stanley Gibbons	49
Tony Lester Auctions Ltd	44
Universal Philatelic Auctions	52

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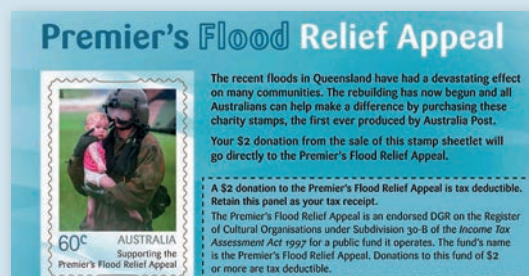
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Regular Feature: Back Stampix

Graham Phillips recalls what was pictured in *Philatelic Exporter* in...

MARCH 2011



Glen Stephens reported that Australia Post had issued at short notice five Queensland Flood Relief stamps in sheetlets containing two each of the different 60c. stamps. The price of the sheetlet was \$8, with the \$2 surcharge going to the appeal fund.

Whilst Hardy's 'Stamp' range of Australian wines has been around for many years, your editor spotted 'The Post', a philatelic offering from New Zealand at his local wine merchant. The label is based on the 1898 2½d. blue Lake Wakitipu (SG SG249a) stamp (catalogue £11 mint, £38 used), as opposed to the bottle's price of £10 (£5 on special offer unused, £0 used). Intriguingly, one of the winemakers is named as 'Jonathan Butt', surely not he of Prinz UK in Cornwall?



The Cook Islands (and Aitutaki and Penrhyn), was one of the latest countries to issue Royal Engagement stamps to commemorate the 29 April 2011 wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

Pictured is what is probably the final passing of the remaining two ships entitled to be prefixed 'RMS' – Royal Mail Ship. On 1 February, during her 2011 world voyage, RMS Queen Mary 2 sailed past St Helena in the South Atlantic on her way to Cape Town just as RMS St Helena was approaching the island. The future of the St Helena was under threat as a proposed aircraft runway on the island was due to replace the ship's mail-carrying service.





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Thank you for reading. If you have higher value material and would like to try selling profitably through UPA's quarterly auctions, please contact Andrew to discuss.

To our mutual success, sincerely,

Andrew McGavin, Managing Director

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