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CANBERRA

1927

AUSTRALIA

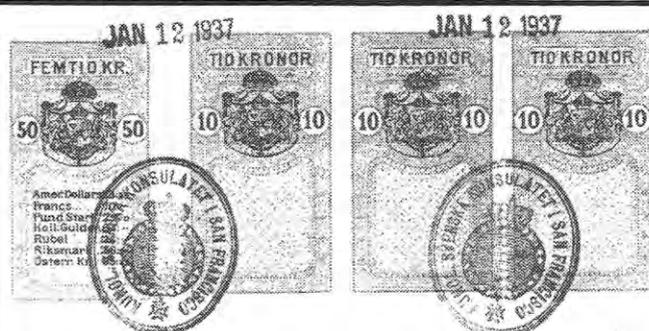
Capital Philately

Incorporating PASTCARDS and Machinations
Published by the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

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Celebrating our 21st Volume!

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Philatelic
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The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

November 2002 – VOL. 21, NO. 1.

Capital Philately

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EDITORIAL

November 2002 is notable for marking two anniversaries in the history of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. The society was founded in November 1932, and that event was reported in the Australian Stamp Monthly, Volume 3, December 1st issue, on page 513. This report told us that “At an enthusiastic meeting of stamp collectors from Canberra and Queanbeyan, another society was formed in the National Capital early this month (i.e. November)... From present indications, the Canberra Society promises to grow into a healthy body.” The early history of the society, and its leading personalities, were described in detail in the issue of Capital Philately for November 1992, Vol. 11 No. 1, which was a special issue to celebrate the 60th anniversary, as a tribute to the society's Diamond Jubilee. That issue can be consulted in our library's bound volumes.

So now we have reached 70 years and the 21st year of Capital Philately, both achievements worthy of some celebration and modest self-congratulation. As the history of the gradual evolution of the society, its waxings and wanings with prevailing economic circumstances, and its numerous moves to find a firm location for its meetings and its library, have been well documented by those personalities who were and still are themselves part of the story, they need not be repeated until hopefully we reach our 75th anniversary. Instead, we might use that old volume of ASM to try and glimpse what philately was like 70 years ago, how in some ways it does differ from how and what collectors might typically do today.

The Australian Stamp Monthly was in some ways different from its modern descendents, it served both as a national magazine and as the club magazine for subscribing societies, so that every issue contained quite lengthy reviews of recent activities, conditions for membership, and so on. Some of those societies still survive, many do not, or have amalgamated under new names. We learn what people actually collected then both from those society reports and the dealers' advertisements, and though there was the strong, even patriotic, focus on the British Empire there was also a following for European issues. For example at the first meeting of the newly-founded Canberra Society "Mr Weale on December 20th consented to show his collection of British Colonials and Balkan States". The style of the magazine reflected both the social courtesies and political attitudes the time. What today seems a bit xenophobic if not merely politically incorrect was then humour or confident disparagement of odd foreign ways.

An interesting feature, which already showed the strength of its international connections with the editorship of the ASM was its monthly listing and coverage of new issues and foreign philatelic publications. That was information received in good faith, and I noted some cases where essays for issues that did not appear until much later were presented with pictures as a new issue. The modern practice of printing a catalogue supplement was not then operating. This networking was also reflected in the rapidly increasing subscribership and circulation figures for a journal only into its third year, and proudly claiming that it was beginning to rival Gibbons' Stamp Monthly and present more interesting and less ponderous content. The number of contributors who wrote under pseudonyms such as 'Cynic' or 'Pelure' was perhaps usual for the time, as stamp collecting was seen as a bit eccentric so some sought peace in anonymity, even though the year had been marked by the Fifth Australasian Philatelic Exhibition in March, held in Sydney under the patronage of His Majesty the King. In those days one made much of the saying that philately was 'the King of Hobbies and the Hobby of Kings'. But the Commonwealth Government was supportive, the PMG the Hon. J. E. Fenton has opened the exhibition, and there were Special Government Exhibits and a Special Cancellation.

A big issue which was eventually resolved was the imposition of customs duty on stamp imports; a law that after intense lobbying, led in part by ASM was repealed towards the end of the year, resulting both in a drop in the cost of new issues from abroad and a triumphant editorial in the November issue, headed 'Success Crowns the A.S.M.'s Campaign'. The imposition of customs primage duty on all stamp imports was dropped on October 13th and the law change came into force immediately. It was an imposition that obviously had impacted on dealers more than on individual collectors quietly bringing in very small quantities of stamps sent by friends overseas.

Dealers' advertisements was plentiful and mostly from Sydney and Melbourne, the names of Baker and Co, Wm. Ackland, Orlo-Smith and Co., Kelson and Co., an auctioneer called Butcher, A. C. Campe ("clients are advised that Mr A. C. Campe will arrive in Sydney by the "Orontes" on February 10, 1932"), Wilcox Smith and Co., A. A. Rosenblum (who also contributed articles), F. F. Lamb, J. C. Wood, and Harris Publications, appear regularly. What was interesting in the small advertisements were those from dealers in India, and even one from Iceland. But that great producer of sponsored or bogus material, Geza Sekular in Switzerland, had endless dubious offers. Sekular was the man who promoted strange issues from Ethiopia, and many covers that purported to be from Tannu Tuva but were in fact cancelled to order in a Soviet philatelic agency in Moscow with duplicate cancellers. In those days they sold for about 6/- or less but now if you can get one it will cost you around Aust\$100.- He also seemed to have stocks of 'prepared for use but never issued' from Indian Native States and places like Paraguay, that he called 'known and unknown rarities'. The legacy of his nasty ways still lingers and confuses the issues of postal legitimacy. It appears that material from exotic places such as Liberia was frequently offered and there was little discussion of what was bogus, though the local issues of Yemen, which are legitimate and now specialist's items, were then disparaged for having a bizarre currency. In fairness, someone who could read Arabic did a translation for the commentator.

It is interesting to contrast two sorts of advertisements, those with long lists of packets such as 25 Bulgaria for 6d, or 200 French Colonies for 6/-, and those with much dearer material from British Colonies, such as 12 St Kitts 1923 centenary issue for 160/-.

When an average weekly wage was around £5, and Australia was still coming out of the economic depression, Orlo Smith offering four Cape of Good Hope triangulars in good condition for 90/- (about half catalogue) was catering to a limited market.

The offers of packet material obviously catered for collectors who wanted a bit of everywhere and everything. If they bought a packet of 100 Germany for 1/- then they got a lot that had almost no complete sets and no scarce items, inevitably. They did not know what was missing unless they had access to Stanley Gibbons or Whitfield King catalogues, though specialist catalogues of Australia were already making an appearance.

Unlike today, I saw no mention of Scott or Michel, but Yvert was reviewed in one place. The result is seen on old collections which dealers now today offer as 'World, countries from G to M', in a printed album. The collector of 1932 with limited means and no personal overseas contacts had no chance of filling the gaps, if he or she wanted to, unless a club membership offered exchange books. Some clubs advertised that they were doing so, and a large number of both dealers and clubs wanted references. There was repeated discussion in the correspondence section of ASM of the unpleasant folk who carefully substituted poor copies of good stamps in circuit books and didn't buy anything much. One was actually interrogated by the police and made to make restitution.

Today we have many dealers specialising in postal history, and even postal stationery. Neither of these seemed to get any mention, with the exception of first flight airmail covers which were coming out in profusion as new routes in Australia and New Zealand were opened, and actively predicted and promoted in the case of the route from England to Australia. There was a regular column about airmails by a man who called himself Pilot: C. Mee. He also enthusiastically offered flawed translations of foreign languages, but unfortunately seemed to have difficulty in spelling even in English. His other activity was admonishing correspondents who did not send him a stamped addressed envelope for replies. There were many articles that today we might call thematic, about topics such as the history of Italian literature, or the lives of USA presidents. Any new Australian issue was examined in detail and criticised, particularly the surface-printed 2d of the Harbour Bridge issue. The 5/- was of course condemned as *excessively expensive* and relief expressed that the plan for a £1 denomination had not been implemented. One columnist did a stamp market review and gave advice on what was a good investment; fortunately one cannot live long enough to realise on the advice of 70 years ago, I suspect that correcting for inflation one would now have lost.

I suppose the biggest change between 1932 and now is that the number of dealers in retail premises is perhaps fewer, many more stamps are sold by auction, and the available literature on stamps and postal history has expanded. The impact of the internet, and auctions on the world wide web may perhaps bring us back a little towards the scene of the 1930s, at least in terms of the diversity of material on offer. The huge price gap between packet material and specialist offers still exists and if conjecturally converted to currency equivalents for 1932 and 2002 has perhaps even widened.

Capital Philately does not aim to do quite the same job as ASM did then, though there is some overlap. As Ed Druce observed, ours is 'a journal of quality for the learning and learned philatelist'. Unlike the ASM, I don't think that Britain would ever ban us as in 1932 the British Postal Authorities did, they would not admit the ASM because it had a coloured cover depicting lots of stamps in their (approximately) original colours. This did not distress the Australian Post Office at the time, but the British seem to have been paranoid about the possibility of forgeries. Today there are so many ephemeral stamp designs in circulation the possibility of authorities noticing and deciding in time what is a forgery has about vanished.

MELBOURNE 2002 AND THE NATIONAL SHOWS FOR 2003

Dingle Smith

Stampshow Melbourne 02, the competitive annual Australian National Philatelic Exhibition for the year 2002, was held on 4-6 October at National Tennis Centre at Melbourne Park. The venue, organisation and associated program of society meetings were all excellent. A total of nine separate exhibits were entered by Canberra-based members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. The details and results are listed below.

In addition, Tom Frommer and Darryl Fuller were members of the Jury. Most of the exhibitors attended and there was also a very good turnout by other Canberra members.

Andrew Alwast:	<i>Poland's pre-war airmails.</i>	Aerophilately.	Large Vermeil
Dingle Smith:	<i>The revenue stamps of Tasmania.</i>	Revenue.	Large Vermeil
Paul Barsdell:	<i>Indo-China.</i>	Traditional.	Vermeil.
Sheryll Oswald:	<i>New Hebrides/Nouvelles Hebrides.</i>	Traditional.	Vermeil.
Dingle Smith:	<i>Water; the resource, its development and use.</i>	Maximaphily.	Large Silver
Ian McMahon:	<i>Guelph: the royal city.</i>	Social.	Large Silver.
Ian McMahon:	<i>Queen Elizabeth II postal stationery cards of Canada.</i>	Postal Stationery.	Large Silver.
Hans Dahl:	<i>Road to Melbourne.</i>	Social.	Large Silver.
Hans Karman:	<i>Postcards of the Netherlands; the years after World War II.</i>	Postal Stationery.	Large Silver.



Ian McMahon also contributed one of eight entries submitted for the Australia Post Cup. His exhibit was entitled "*The development of 'postage paid' stationery*" and achieved a mark of 78. (See photo left.)

The recent exhibition at Swanpex also saw Ian McMahon representing our society in the One Frame Class with *Lettercards of Canada*, for which he received an Emerald Award.

For 2003 the competitive exhibits that form the core of the annual Australian National Philatelic Exhibition will be divided between Tasmania 2003 and Newcastle Stampshow 2003. The former will be held in Hobart from 11-13 April and the latter from 2-4 October. The 'half' national in Hobart

will cater for traditional, revenue, and postal stationery classes plus two Challenge classes. The Challenge classes are a re-run of the French Challenge, initially shown in Canberra in March 2000, and the new Dot.com Challenge. The remaining national classes will be available at Newcastle.

Bulletin No. 1 and the prospectus for Tasmania 2003 are available and can be obtained either from Ian McMahon or Dingle Smith; the Canberra contact for Newcastle is Tom Frommer. The closing date for Tasmania 2003 is 30 November and it would good to see as many exhibits as possible from Canberra.

PETE'S POST AND THE DEREGULATION OF NEW ZEALAND'S POSTAL SERVICE (PART 2)

Ian McMahon

(This is the second part of this Article on the deregulation of postal services in New Zealand. The first part appeared in Capital Philately Vol 20, No. 4. The first Cover is the final Pete's Post Illustration.)

Figure 7



Kiwi Mail

Kiwi Mail is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Zealand Post. Their first stamps and a first day cover were sold by the New Zealand Post Philatelic Bureau. Figures 8 and 9 show a pre-stamped envelope and a cover with a non-denominated stamp both used from Taranaki.

Figure 8



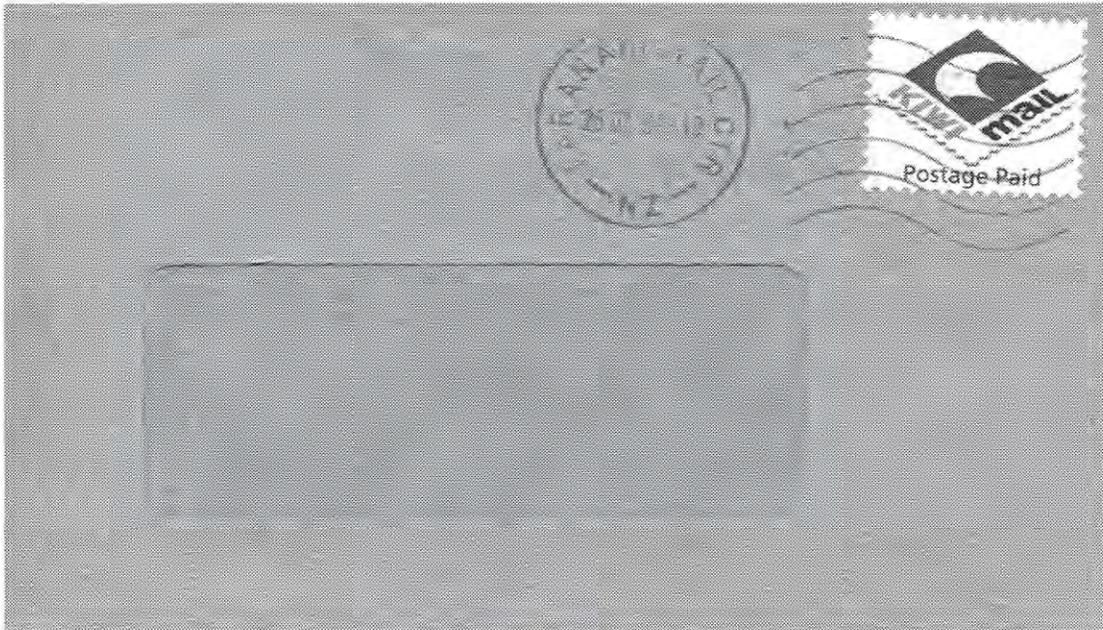


Figure 9

Fastways

Fastways Post New Zealand Ltd, based in Napier (Chief Executive Peter Barr, see www.fastwaypost.com), began nation-wide postal deliveries on 31 August 1998. Figure 10 shows a pre-stamped envelope used from Wanganui to New Plymouth, Figure 11 a non-denominated stamp on a window cover used from Taranaki in 1999, Figure 12 a 40c stamp used from Taranaki to Hawera in 2001 and Figure 13 a 40c Christmas stamp used from Stratford to Hawera in 2002. Note that the stamps all bear the stylised postman design which is Fastways registered postal identifier.

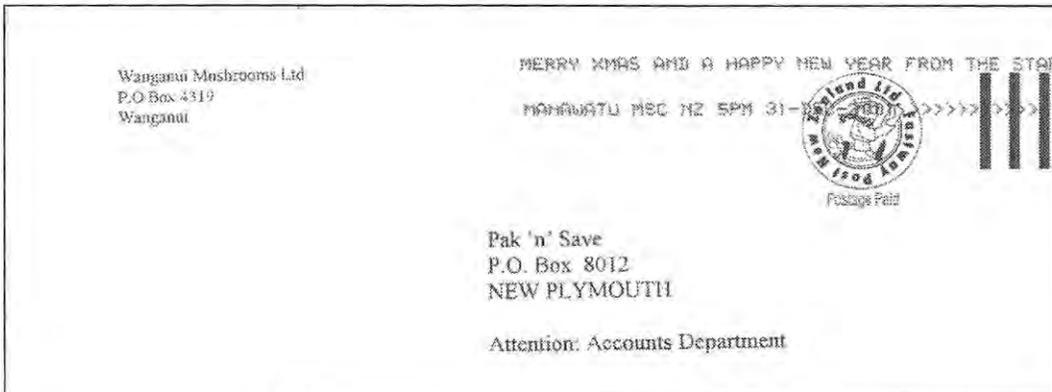
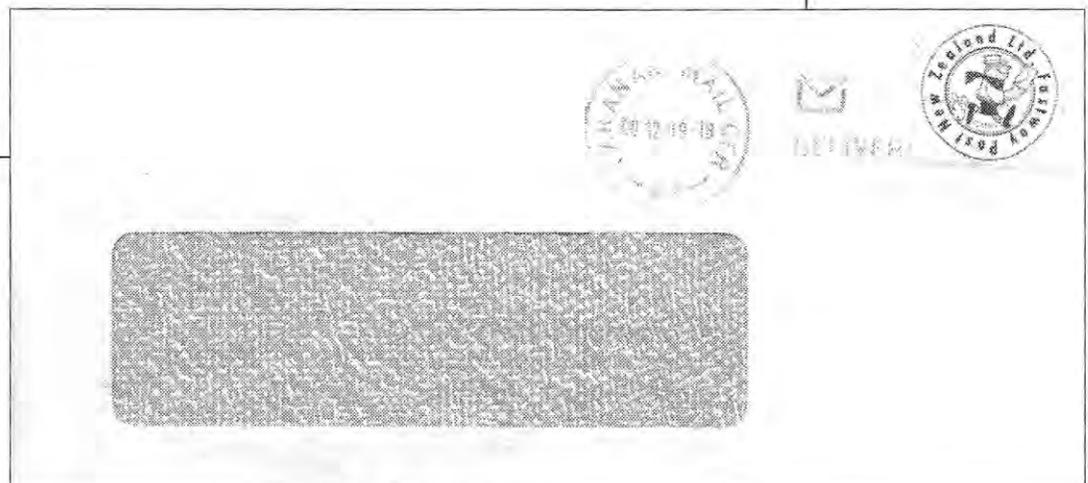


Figure 10

Figure 11



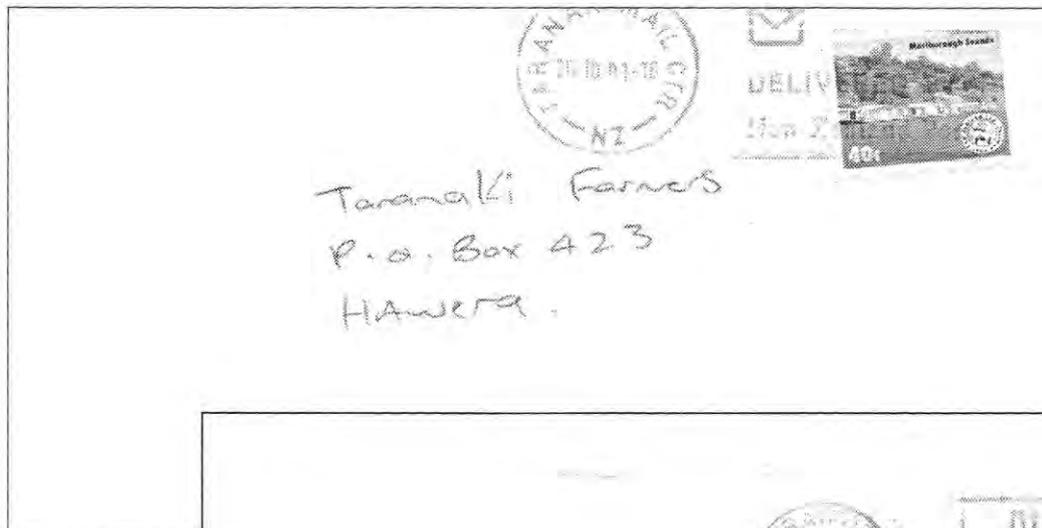


Figure 12



Figure 13

National Mail Services

National began mail services on 18 November 1998. They ceased national mail services on 2 February 1999, citing the market dominance of New Zealand Post as a contributing factor. Attempts to resurrect the service have not been successful. Figure 14 show a National Mail stamp on cover used in Auckland in 1998. The cover has a New Zealand Post postmark "Delivered To You By New Zealand Post". Figure 15 shows a National Post posting box.

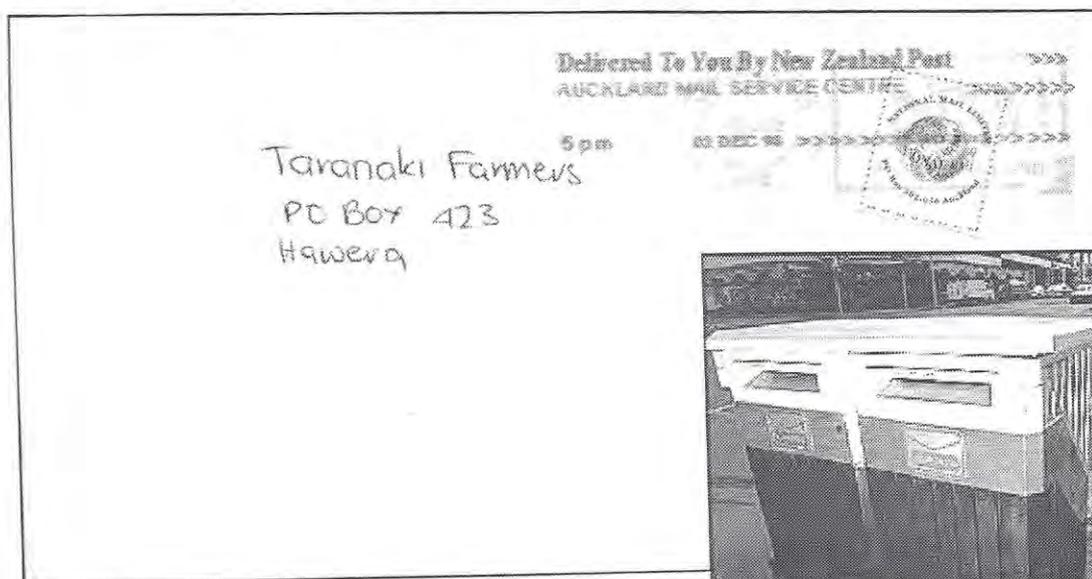


Figure 14



Figure 15

Postie's Choice

Postie's Choice was registered on 17 July 1998 and issued its first stamps on 23 September 1998 with Richard Wooders as Managing Director. Their stamp issues seem mainly to be aimed at collectors. Figure 16 shows a 40c stamp used at Taranaki. The stamp shows their postal identifier of a sheep and the letters 'PC'.

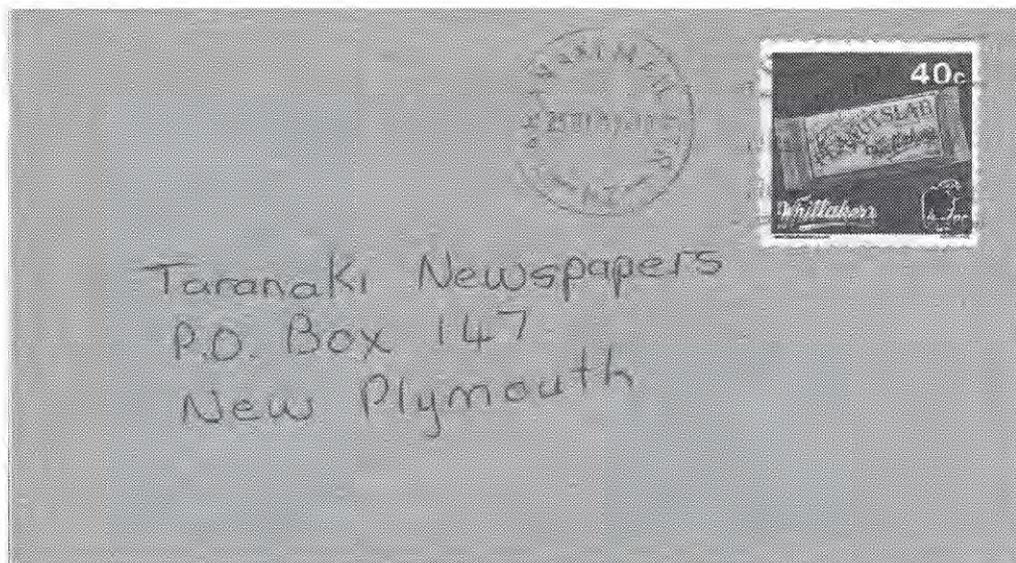


Figure 16

Universal Mail

Universal Mail was registered on 31 August 2001 and established blue mailing boxes in a range of locations in Auckland. Following their deregulation as a postal operator, their service has now been limited to international tourist mail with their distinctive blue posting boxes located in major tourist areas. Mailing boxes outside these areas have been boarded up. International mail is delivered by TNT. Figure 17 shows a cover with a Universal Mail stamp posted in one of their posting boxes. It has been put into the Australia Post mail system in Sydney. This service is similar to that provided by TNT to many organisations in Australia and the rest of the world.



Figure 17

New Zealand Document Exchange Limited (DX Mail)

DX Mail is an established courier company which became a postal operator on 29 April 1998. Its focus has remained on servicing the needs of business rather than the individual.

ALTERED U.S. STAMPS ON EBAY – EXPOSED!

By Sheryll Oswald

“If it sounds too good to be true..... it probably is!!” This is what I often hear from fellow bidders of classic U.S. stamps on eBay when they find out that the “elusive bargain” they have won is nothing more than a cheap stamp misrepresented as its more expensive variety, or has even been altered to look like it.

As a stamp collector, I must confess to being a bit of a bargain hunter myself. And there are times when I have bought what looked like the rarer variety of pre-1930 U.S. stamps, only to find that an extra bit of artwork has been added to the design, or there are signs of a pen cancel on what I thought was an “unused” stamp.

But the more likely case is that I am happy with my bargain buy because I don’t even know that it has been altered in some way! Let me tell you a tale ...

The practice of altering U.S. stamps is not a new one. It has gone on long before online auction venues such as eBay were established. Altered stamps have been and still are found at stamp shows, bourses, bricks-and-mortar auctions and mail-bid sales. Thus the phrase “caveat emptor” should be the refrain of any collector of early U.S. stamps, and careful study of the Scott catalogue and the extensive literature available a must before any major purchases are contemplated.

However, before the advent of the Internet, and the phenomenal success of eBay, only a limited number of altered stamps could be sold, because the seller had to actively reach out to the few buyers in his proximity, and in most cases allow them to “kick the tires” before purchasing. Nowadays, any seller can put his wares in front of tens of thousands of collectors instantaneously, show only pictures, and sell them without the option to return.

Why are the 1851-1930 U.S. stamps prime targets for alteration by unethical sellers?

The printing companies experimented with many of the attributes of stamps during those early years, in order to produce a better product and also to prevent counterfeiting. Because of this, many varieties, some of which are rare, can be “made” from stamps with the same basic design. They may include a fully perforated variety; an imperf; a coil, either horizontal or vertical; different perforation sizes, sometimes varying between top and bottom or between the vertical and horizontal edges; and a variety of watermarks and papers. It may or may not have a “grill”, and there may be subtle differences in the design itself.

Back then, stamps were often cancelled with pens, and a pen-cancelled stamp is generally worth less than half as much of one hand-stamped with a canceller. Pen cancels are easily removed by cleaning (creating a fake unused stamp) or by covering them with a hand-cancel, more than doubling the value automatically.

Unsophisticated production methods meant that the sizes of stamps varied widely, with the stamps on the edge of a sheet usually having the (less desirable) straight edges, and ragged perforations were common. All of these factors are an invitation for unethical sellers to re-perforate stamps to improve centring and eye appeal.

Why are collectors being duped into buying altered stamps?

Scott is regarded as the bible for the majority of collectors of U.S. stamps, and many collectors mount their collections in albums or printed album pages organised by Scott catalogue number.

A number of stamps issued prior to 1869 are really only recuttings, plate positions and/or different printings of the same issue, and specialised knowledge is required to distinguish between them. However, Scott has complicated collectors’ lives by allocating major catalogue numbers to them.

In-depth studies and a wealth of other information on these issues has been published in a wide range of books, articles and websites, but collectors often tend to “wing it” with only the inadequate Scott Specialized catalogue at hand.

Collections organised by major Scott catalogue numbers will have many gaps for the more expensive varieties. These holes can be filled where possible by acquiring cheaper copies in average to poor condition till better copies are found. The temptation is also there to add items purported to be the scarcer varieties. These are not usually certifiable, because they lack the attributes (such as complete grills or large margins) to make a definite determination.

Unlike other catalogues, Scott uses centring (together with cancellation for used stamps) to grade stamps. This is combined with condition to arrive at a stamp’s final grade, which determines its catalogue value. Collectors who take these criteria into account are fussy about appearance, and are turned off by poor centring and even the slightest fault (such as a stain, toning, thins, minute tears, a hinge mark, pulled or clipped perforations, or even a natural paper inclusion).

Toning, stains, and general dinginess disappear with a bit of cleaning. Minute tears, and clipped and pulled perfs can be reperfed away. Adding additional cancels can make damage difficult to see, particularly on a scan. Pasting the stamp to a piece of an old envelope can hide really serious damage and back faults...

What is all this about an alteration group on eBay?

From September 2001, and probably since more than a year earlier, a group of buyers and sellers located in upstate New York has been involved in the purchase on eBay, alteration, then sale on eBay of U.S. stamps issued prior to the 1930s. They have used the selling IDs “schuylerac” and “pcheltenham”, and the buying IDs “chickfrdstk”, “stazy4” and “tremor111”.

The eBay seller “schuylerac” was reported in *Linn's Stamp News* in November 1999 for listing items with Gregory Stolow’s disreputable SIGCC certificates of authenticity, and was linked to the skill-bidding user ID “chickfrdstk”, who was supposedly Stolow’s sister. [1]

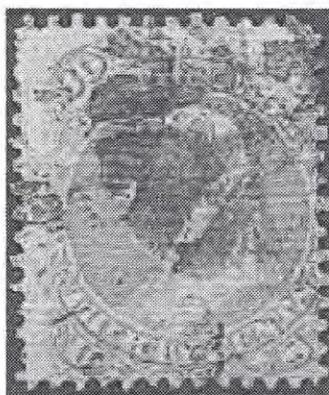
Then from 2000 till May 2002, “schuylerac” offered faulty and low-end altered material as “rarities” in quantities unheard of in philately, usually with a long uppercase “as is” caveat.

How were the alterations discovered?

It had long been suspected by eBay Stamps chat board members that the faulty and inexpensive stamps bought by “chickfrdstk” were being altered and resold by “schuylerac” as the more expensive varieties. The first definite proof was found in September 2001, when a stamp known not to have a grill was purchased by “chickfrdstk”, then weeks later offered with a grill by “schuylerac”.



Figure 1



The 1862 30c Franklin (Scott #71) at left was bought by “chickfrdstk” for \$10.51 on 22 February. In April, “schuylerac” offered the right stamp as its grilled counterpart (#81) with CV \$60,000, selling it for \$36.55. Note the added cancels; are they perhaps to disguise the original? (Only 8 genuine examples of the #81 are known to exist.)

Now, not only is the “all-over” grill extremely rare, but it is also one of the most easily recognizable stamps in the U.S. classics. What are the odds that a seller would mistakenly sell one as a common #71 for 10 bucks? But just as interestingly, why would any collector of U.S. classics think you could buy a real one for \$36?

However, it was not till early March this year that eBay user and stamp collector George Kopecky correlated many of the purchases of "chickfrdstk" with the sales of altered "rarities" by "schuylrac" (see Figure 1). He also found links to stamps which were purchased but found not amenable to alteration, or on which the alterations were not sufficiently believable, in the "Treasures Waiting to be Discovered" groupings "schuylrac" regularly offered.

To date, he has positively identified nearly **300** examples of altered stamps. These do not include items sold before March 2002, as scans are no longer available for those items.

The alterations are of every form imaginable, and many examples show a combination of alterations are used on the same stamp. Perforations are clipped off to make coils and imperfs, imperforate stamps are perforated, designs are drawn in, cancels are removed or added (sometimes both), straight edges and existing perforations are re-perforated, repairs and faults are covered with new cancels, and most items are cleaned. New methods of alteration are regularly being discovered.

In addition, many of the other items sold by the group which have not been definitively identified as altered show the same symptoms as those which have. These include bright white paper with no stains or toning (cleaned), small size stamp for the issue (re-perforated), and unused no gum (pen cancels removed).

What did collectors do?

George's comparisons illustrated only too well the alterations that had been performed on the stamps, and their presentation on eBay's chat and discussion boards opened the eyes of many in the eBay collecting community. Bidders who were sent links to the comparisons were motivated to cancel the sales. George and other concerned collectors banded together to establish SCADS (Stamp Collectors Against Dodgy Sellers), and this team began to co-ordinate their efforts to oust the seller from eBay.

What did the sellers do?

In response to emails complaining about the alterations, "schuylrac" added even longer disclaimers to the descriptions, then in mid-May wound up his operations on eBay. But the problem did not stop there.

At the end of April, a new seller "**pcheltenham**" began listing the same sort of material under the guise of an "estate collection" with a "what you see is what you get" caveat. And a new buyer "**stazy4**" had joined "chickfrdstk" in acquiring material later found in amongst this "handed down" collection of over 20 boxes. (See Figures 2 and 3).



Figure 2

The pen-cancelled 1869 15c (Scott #119) at left was bought by "chickfrdstk" for \$24.95 on 16 April. In May, "pcheltenham" sold the cleaned stamp, centre, for \$239.50. At right, the cancellation is faintly visible in the gridded area on the back.

In those early years, 15 cents was quite a bit of money, and there was a major problem with cancels being removed so the stamp could be re-used. Grills of various sizes and types were experimented with to prevent this. The grill points cut into the paper fibres, allowing them to soak up the ink better and prevent its complete removal. On this one anyway - it WORKED.

Some of the material offered by "pcheltenham" has been traced directly to lots originally offered by "schuylerac", and which apparently were unsold or returned. A number of these were described as very rare varieties when offered by "schuylerac", but were sold by "pcheltenham" in unidentified bulk lots of up to six stamps.

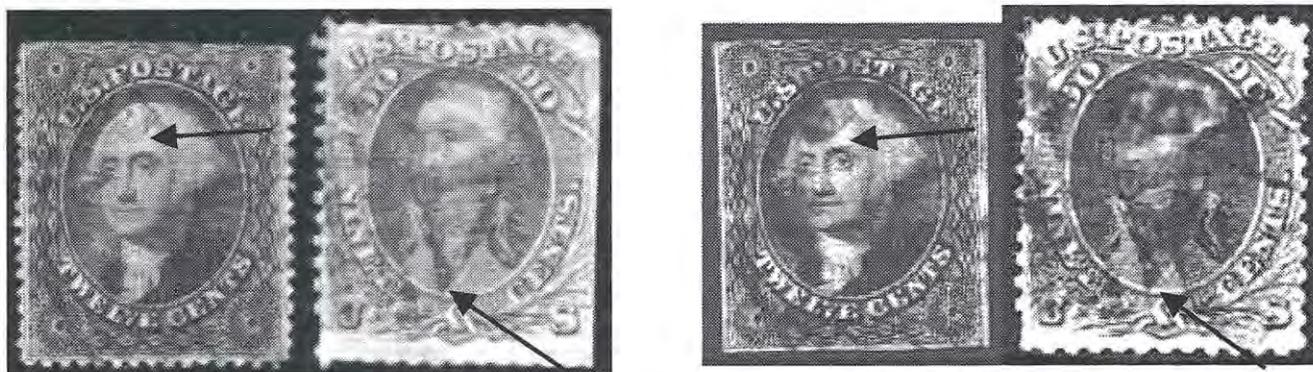


Figure 3

"The 1857-16 12c Washington Scott #36) and 1861-62 90c Washington (Scott #72) at left were bought as one lot by "stazy4" for \$49.00 on 7 April.

The #36 was trimmed to look like its imperforate counterpart (#17) and given an extra cancel, probably to cover existing faults. The #72 was reperforated on 3 sides, and an extra cancel added, most likely to cover the reperforation job.

On 8 May, "pcheltenahm sold both of these in separate lots, selling the supposed #17 (centre right) for \$20.75 and the #72 (right), for \$63.00. The #72 was reported to SCADS by the eventual buyer who, having read the web pages on this seller's activities, searched through "stazy4"'s purchases till he found his unaltered stamp!

What did eBay do when the alterations were reported?

Chat board members who reported auctions illustrating the connection between the buyers and sellers of these auctions to eBay SafeHarbor received the standard response that eBay was only a venue, and had no control over the truth and accuracy of the listings. Even in May, when George offered to present his many comparisons of the alterations as evidence, eBay was still not interested, saying, "There is absolutely no way that you can prove, with just pictures, that the items this person is selling are altered items."

In April, eBay tightened its discussion board usage policy to prevent discussion of suspect auctions and sellers on its boards, and sporadically censored postings in the months that followed. Some concerned collectors received 30-day board sanctions for their efforts to educate the eBay stamp collecting community, especially unsuspecting bidders, about the alterations.

The Stamps threaded discussion board was discontinued in July, purportedly for "lack of use". However, the fact that this forum was often used to update other users on the latest activities of dodgy sellers lent credence to the general feelings of chat board members that eBay preferred to sweep the problems under the carpet.

What publicity has there been about the alteration group?

As every stamp collector knows, the perforations and cancellations of a stamp make them uniquely identifiable. In June, without any forthcoming support from eBay, SCADS decided to publish the comparisons online so collectors could see for themselves that the pictures did indeed prove that alterations had been made. [2]

TV coverage in August gave prominence to the problems with authenticity and dodgy sellers in the Stamps category, when the PBS *Jim Lehrer NewsHour* [3], as part of a story on eBay, aired an

interview with SCADS member Richard Doporto. He prepared the online “before”/“after” comparisons of stamps matched by George, and his website contains detailed exposés of the alterations performed on some of the stamps. [4].

At the same time, the U.S. postal history dealer Richard Frajola sent eBay a petition endorsed by over 200 users, pleading for the cleaning up of fraudulently misdescribed listings in the Stamps category. [5] This was followed up by an article in *Linn's Stamp News* in September. [6]

MSNBC reporters took an interest in the work done by SCADS in exposing the alterations in the face of eBay's complacency. The October article *eBay's tough talk on fraud doesn't withstand scrutiny* [7] and its follow-up *Cautionary tales of two auctions* [8], highlight eBay's lack of reaction to documented cases of fraud on the site.

SCADS used this opportunity to publish the detailed article *The Saratoga Fakes* on this group. [9] It is there that you will find an in-depth analysis of the scope of the fraud, legal issues, eBay features that have promoted it, and possible courses of action by collectors and law enforcement authorities.

What have philatelic associations and law enforcement authorities done?

The American Philatelic Society, though notified of the operation of this alteration group, appears to have taken no steps to investigate their activities.

A class action suit against the sellers by disgruntled bidders was considered, but because of the cost and amount of work involved in co-ordination and preparation, this avenue has not been pursued.

As the operation constitutes mail fraud (using the mails for any “scheme or artifice to defraud”), SCADS sent a mail fraud complaint to the U.S. Postal Service inspectors in late August, and awaits developments.

What are the sellers doing about it?

The group has shown a noticeable reaction to the above attempts at publicising the operation. The seller “pcheltenham” added lengthy disclaimers to auctions, changed to listing private auctions so that bidders cannot be contacted, and blocked bidders who were suspected of bidding in order to leave negative feedback.

The buyer “stazy4” stopped activity in August. However, the recently discovered buying ID “**tremor111**” (who has been bidding since April) continues, as does “chickfrdstk”, to purchase low-end material for alteration (see Figure 4).



Figure 4



The pen cancelled 1893 50c Columbian (Scott #240) at left (which the original seller clearly stated was “...USED...”), was purchased by “tremor111” for \$13.00 on 21 July. The seller also described the stamp as having a crease and face scuff.

In September, “pcheltenham” sold the cleaned stamp at right for \$31.00. The faint remains of the bleached/washed cancel can be seen, and the face scuff in the lower left has been touched up.

New eBay IDs have been created since reporters attempted to contact group members prior to the release of the MSNBC articles. SCADS awaits the listings of “**crustaceans**” (formerly “schuylerac”) with interest, whilst “**booksnbooks4u**” (formerly “stazy4”) seems keen to hide from the limelight.

What effect do the alterations have on the value of the stamps?

Soundness is one of the major criteria for grading stamps. As part of its single number grading system, the PSE (Professional Stamp Experts) lists a faultless stamp as graded at 100 for soundness, a reperf as a major fault (only 25% sound), and any alteration as damaged/restored and only 10% sound. [10] So the added “grills”, for example, instead of adding value, actually reduce the value to even less than that of the original item.

And why are the large margins of stamps being reperfed? According to the PSE, the most important thing about centring is even margins on all sides. This increases eye-appeal. So the larger margins of stamps are reperfed to increase their apparent attractiveness. Even a jumbo stamp, with the picture off-centre, is apparently not as attractive as a smaller one with even margins.

But the irony is that the act of achieving this centring by reperfing lowers the value as much or more than the new, phony centring increases it. If the reperfing is discovered, that is.

How does this affect you?

If you collect early U.S. material and do not have detailed knowledge of what you are buying, chances are that you have already bought something that has been altered, especially if it is from one of the above sellers.

But even if you haven't, the altered material is going into the collections of unsuspecting buyers, and so is likely to be sold down the track without its provenance being known. This material has already been bought and re-offered on eBay, most often with an “as is” caveat, but sometimes as genuine.

The effects on the future of the hobby are many-fold. They range from collectors becoming disillusioned with the amount of faked and altered stamps in their collections and giving up on the hobby, to newer collectors being put off, to affordable genuine material becoming scarcer as it is removed from the market by being altered.

I'm off to check over my bargain buy again. How exactly **do** you spot a good reperf job, I wonder...

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CONSULAR FEE STAMPS OF SWEDEN

Robert A. M. Gregson

Various countries have issued revenue stamps specifically for recording the payment of consular fees imposed outside the issuing country, but in its embassies or consulates. They are interesting because they were obviously not prepared for collectors, they are rarely found unused, and their denominations run up to a much higher limit than the postage stamps that are contemporary with their use. A block of four £50 British stamps of 1921 used at Alexandria in Egypt is shown in Figure 1; it makes the obvious point that consular fee stamps fall into the general class of stamps used abroad.

British consular fee stamps in basically the same key type were issued in various reigns from Victoria; the range of denominations for Victoria was 1d to £5, for Edward VII and for George V 1d to £50, and for George VI 6d to £3. Issues were also overprinted in Dollars and Cents to use in China and Japan during the reigns of Victoria and Edward VII, and in Rupees to use in India for all reigns up to George V. We will see that Sweden handled the problem of local currency exchange rates differently. The obvious reason was that Kronor were never a currency of international usage, unlike the Pound sterling.

Figure 1: 1921 King George V block



Sweden issued and used consular fee stamps from 1889 to at least the mid 1930s. There were three distinguishable issues, and at least one provisional surcharge. The interesting feature of these stamps was that the first two issues listed their face values in six other European currencies, and that of the United States of America, so unlike the British example shown, the embassy or consulate was prepared to complete transactions in the local currency, not just in its own domestic currency. This was a feasible thing to do in a time of exchange rate stability, tied to metallic standards, but became meaningless after the economic crises following the First World War. Almost the same design, with a necessary change of coat of arms, was matched by two issues from Norway after the break with Sweden in 1905. Consular Fee stamps of both countries may be found used together on a single document, if it involved an international contract.

The 1889 issue had denominations of 50 öre, 75 öre, Kr. 1, 1.50, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10, these are inscribed with the denomination in words in Swedish, and in numbers, and then

in seven lines; for example the 75 öre value is inscribed

SJUTTIOFEM ÖRE

0,75 0.75

Guld Dollar 0,20

Francs 1,-

Pund Sterl 0.0^s.10^d

Holl. Gulden 0,50

Port Reis 175

Riksmark 0,85

Silf. Rubel 0,40

The commonest denomination of this issue found used seems to be the Kr. 4.-, the date of use is sometimes written on in pen, and a consulate cancellation in purple applied. The lettering is black on a background ranging from blue green to yellow green, and one margin may be imperforate, three or four margins being perf, 11½. There is no watermark. Stamps are found with one side imperforate from a sheet edge position.



Figure 2: The 1889 issue with Gold Dollars

The 1919 issue is a longer series with denominations of 50 öre, and Kr 1.50, 2, 4, 5, 10, 50, 100, 200, and 500. There may be other denominations of both issues, the catalogue listings for Scandinavian revenues published by Barefoot in England, and compiled by Andrew Hall, are very useful but are not yet exhaustively accurate. The currency inscriptions are altered, for example the Kr. 4.- is inscribed

FYRA KRONOR

4 4

Amer. Dollars 1.-

Francs 5.50

Pund Sterl. 0.4.5

Holl. Gulden 2.70

Rubel 2.10

Riksmark 4.50

Österr. Kr 5.25

The perforations are the same as for the previous issue, the colour is more consistently yellow-green. The exchange rates cannot have been very useful for long, as soon after 1919 the German Mark and the Rouble collapsed progressively into hyperinflation. However, this issue continued in use, at least for the higher and less used denominations, into the 1930s. The third issue, with only Swedish currency denominations, appears to have emerged about 1919, and the panel in the design which was previously occupied by the seven foreign currency equivalents is now blank. However, I have an example of the Kr. 4.- denomination handstamped in purple 5 Apr. 1921 40 marks and bearing part of the cancellation of a consulate in Germany.



Figure 3: The 1919 issue with American Dollars and the later blank issue used during the German inflation

Documents with both the second and third issues used together exist; an example with three copies of the Kr. 10.- third issue and the Kr. 50.- of the second issue, cancelled at the consulate in San Francisco on Jan 12 1937 is shown.



Figure 4: Some values used in San Francisco

This example is part of a correspondence about a legacy from a man who died in the USA and left a bequest to relatives in Sweden. Martin Larsson died in Seattle in 1936 and left his small estate of US\$ 2008.97 to be split equally between married sister Gerda, and Karl Larsson. The Swedish consulate in San Francisco handled the matter, and charged Kr. 80 as a handling charge authorised by a law of May 1920, receipted by four consular fee stamps, the Kr 50.- of the 1919 issue and three Kr 10 stamps of the last issue. The consulate forwarded the money from the estate to The National City Bank of New York, where the Swedish government had an account. The bank took another US\$20.09 as charges but gave no sign of a receipt. The funds were then transferred to Stockholm, and the Foreign Affairs Department split the estate into two equal parts, after tax, of Kr. 3855.01. There is therefore a second related document, with the 1895-1960s revenue stamps of Sweden, issued in Stockholm by the Foreign Affairs Department, to complete the paper work to the beneficiary, for

which Gerda had to pay a further Kr.156.- Gerda's papers and inheritance was posted to Runna, (a tiny place without a post office) near Rävlanda, in an official envelope. Importantly this was endorsed 'Rek. med mottagningsbevis' which means registered and recorded delivery required. That provision is nowadays indicated by colourful multiple response labels. By then the use of official stamps (Tjänstefrimärken) had ceased, but printed postal stationary had not come into use, so a handstamped registered letter was used. If Martin had died before 1920 then three types of stamps would have appeared on the documents settling his estate.

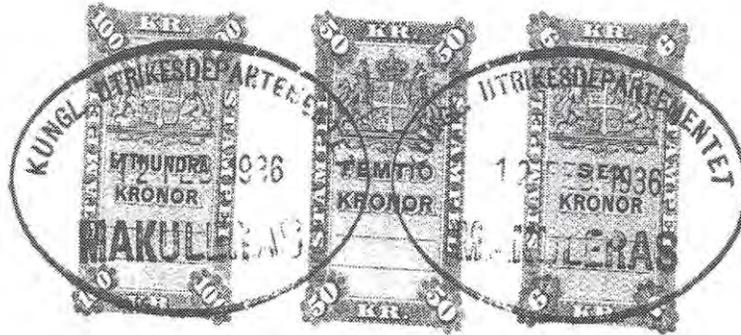


Figure 5: Revenues on the Stockholm document, wrongly cancelled 1936

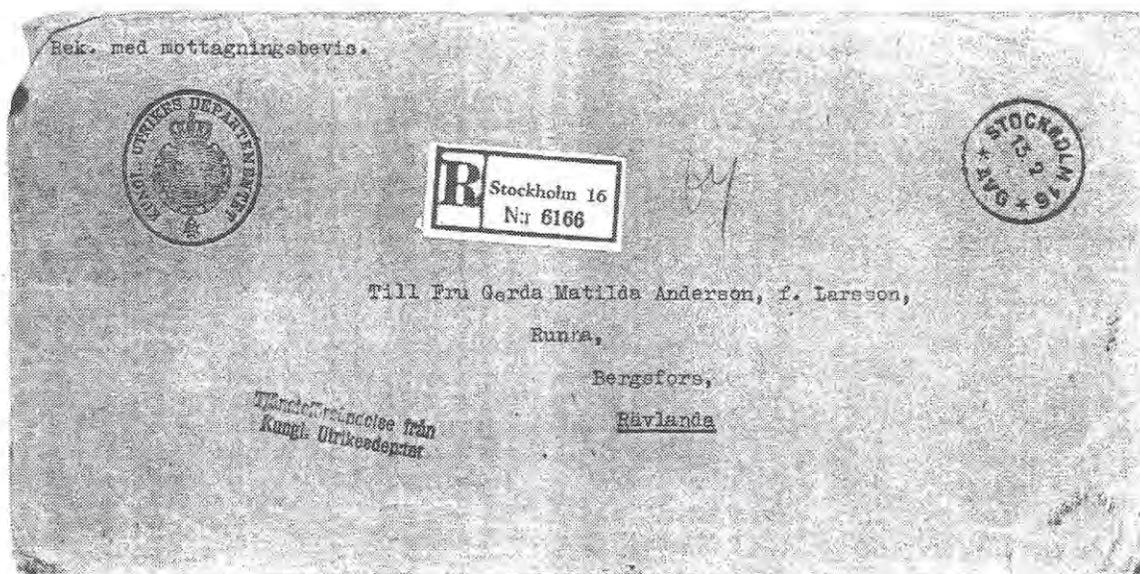


Figure 6: The envelope for the final delivery to the inheritrix

These issues are better collected on documents, to illustrate their legal uses and the reasons for the higher denominations, though that can involve some very bulky objects which are not readily mounted or displayed. Apart from legal and business contracts, the stamps were used for passport visa charges until replaced by the standard revenue issue of Sweden around the 1960s. Another complication is that documents often bear the revenue stamps of two or more countries simultaneously.

The use of both Swedish and Norwegian consular fee stamps together arose on a document drawn up, written in Swedish, in London in 1908. It has also had one small format stamp removed, that might have been a British 6d. definitive for postage and revenue. The document is about a contract authorising two men to act as directors in a company, The British Electric Transformer Company Ltd., that had business in both London and Scandinavia. The Swedish consulate imposed a charge of Kr 4.-, that translated into 4sh and 5d, but the Norwegians wanted a bit more, and imposed Kr 5.- and charged 5/6. The document was drawn up by John Venn and Sons, a company with offices in

Cornhill, London, who acted as Public Notaries and Translators, and countersigned by the Swedish general consul and on behalf of the Norwegian general consul.



Figure 7: Part of the London contract

A passport issued in Stockholm in December 1919 bears three Kr 1.- Swedish revenue stamps and consular fee stamps from Sweden, Russia, Great Britain, and Switzerland, and chops from Japan. In those days a passport was not a booklet, but a very large sheet of paper which in this case folded into 36 sides each about the same size as a modern passport page. When a country issued a visa for the bearer to enter that state its consulate in the issuing country might put its own consular fee stamps on the passport. If the passport was renewed while the holder was overseas the issuing country would use its own consular fee stamps, and not its revenue stamps. The bearer before beginning a trip had to collect a number of these.

Britain gave authority for entry to Egypt and to its colonies. The British consular fee stamp for 5/- applied in Stockholm was used before the 1921 date of issue suggested in the Barefoot catalogue. The bearer, Eric Oscar Gunnar Hultèn, got all the necessary documents to go to Japan via Suez and then on to Sakhalin in Siberia, where he stayed for some time. He didn't need consular fee stamps for entry and exit in transit across Europe, but he got stamped and annotated at frontiers.

We can trace parts of his route out and back. He went south across the Baltic and entered Germany at Sassnitz on 20.2.1920. He was in Basel on 20.2.1920 where he got a curious revenue stamp added, then to Como in Italy on 21.2.1920, Rome on 24.2.1920, Taranto undated, Alexandria on 4.3.1920, Hong Kong on 26.4.1920, and in Tokyo was issued a permit by the Russian consulate on 2.6.1920 to enter Petropavlovsk in Sakhalin. The consular fee stamp used there was the same design as the rare overprinted airmail stamps for the Moscow-Berlin Service which were used around 1922. He was in Siberia with almost illegible Russian entry and exit markings from June 30 1920 until March 31 1922.

What he did in that period when Russia was in a state of civil war (which presumably stopped him crossing Siberia by train) is not clear.

When he got back to Tokyo he had to have his passport renewed and at that point the Swedish consulate put on the fee stamps of 1, 2 and 5 kronor. It is clear that consular fee stamps did the same work as ordinary revenue stamps did in the home country, so far as issuing passports was concerned.

Hr Hultèn came back home via Paris on 3.1.1923 and Germany on 8.1.1923. We know from the passport that he was 27 year old in 1919 and had a university degree, but what he did for a living in not stated. There are mines for gold and other minerals in Sakhalin.

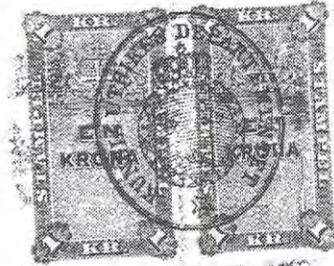


Figure 8: The original Swedish revenue stamps affixed at issue of the original passport and a Russian stamp used on 16 Jan 1920

Gäller för resa och återresa intill 1/12 1920
Rese och Stämpel 7 kronor



Figure 9: A GB consular service stamp for 5/- used at Stockholm on 6 Feb 1920

Good for the journey to Japan via Egypt.



C. H. Davidson
Consular Officer
Stockholm
6/2/20

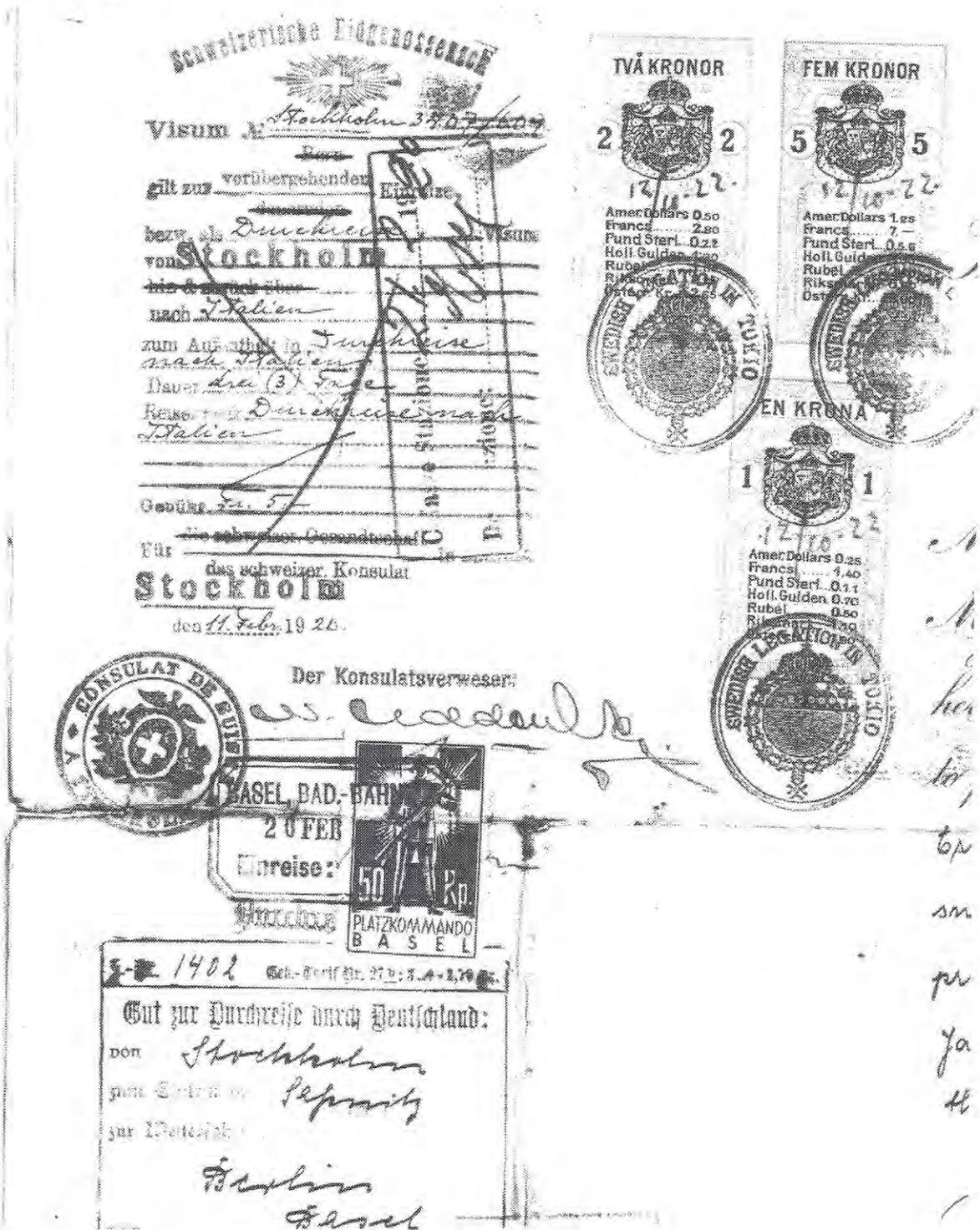


Figure 10: The consular fee stamps used in Tokyo on revalidation of the passport and a Swiss revenue stamp used at entry to Basel

This brief review covers the major uses of consular fee stamps, and indicates that when they were in existence, they performed the same task as domestic revenue stamps of the issuing country and for taxation purposes were virtually interchangeable. For that reason many countries managed without them altogether. On documents they help to provide a picture of social and economic history in a slower and in some ways a simpler world. The revival of interest in revenue stamps means that they appear now on the philatelic market but are in my experience very scarce.

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THE LONDON GPO IN 1850 AND 1872

Walter Thornbury

These passages are drawn from a book published in the 1870s, called **Old and New London, vol II.** by **Walter Thornbury**, on pages 212-213. The exact original style and punctuation have been retained.

In 1839 under the old system, the number of letters which passed through the post was 76,000,000. In 1840 came the uniform penny post and for that year the number was 162,000,000. But in 1849 337,500,000 epistles passed through the office.

In 1850 it was estimated that upon an average 300 letters per day passed through the General Post Office totally unfastened. Many were virgin ones, without either seal or direction; and not a few contained money. In Sir Francis Freeling's time the sum of £5000 in bank notes was found in a "blank". It was not till after some trouble that the sender was traced, and the cash restored to him. Not long since, an humble post-mistress of an obscure Welsh post town, unable to decipher the address on a letter, perceived, on examining it, the folds of several bank notes protruding from a torn edge of the envelope. She securely re-enclosed it to the secretary of the Post Office in St. Martins-le-Grand, who found the contents to be 1,500 and the superscription too much even for the hieroglyphic powers of the "blind clerk". Eventually the enclosures found their true destination.

The dead letters of one year alone contained, stowed among other articles, tooth-picks, tooth-files, fishing-flies, an eye-glass, bradawls, portraits, miniatures, a whistle, corkscrews, a silver watch, a pair of spurs, a bridle, a soldier's discharge and sailor's register tickets, samples of hops and corn, a Greek MS., silver spoons, gold thread, dinner, theatre and pawn tickets, boxes of pills, shirts, nightcaps, razors, all sorts of knitting and lace, "doll's things", and a vast variety of other articles.

The letters formerly were ranged, for stamping the date and hour of despatch, in a long row, like a pack of cards thrown across a table, and so fast did the stamper's hand move, that he could mark 6,000 in an hour. While defacing the Queen's heads, he counted as he thumped, till he enumerated fifty, when he dodged his stamp on one side to put his black mark on a piece of plain paper. All these memoranda were afterwards collected by the president, who, reckoning fifty letters to every black mark, got a near approximation to the number that had passed through the office. This work is now performed by machinery. The total number of letters which passed through the Post Office on Valentine's Day, 1850, was 187,037. To this total are to be added others which passed from office to office without reaching the main office, and 100,000 destined for the provinces and places beyond sea, which were transferred to the Inland Department. The grand total for the day, therefore, rose to nearly 300,000. The entire correspondence of the three kingdoms it was calculated in 1850 was augmented on each St. Valentine's Day to the extent of about 400,000 letters.

The extraordinary addresses of many of the dead letters are worth noting. Among them we find the following:-

- To George Miller, boy on board H.M.S. Amphitrite, Voillop a Razzor or ellesaware (the Amphitrite, Valparaiso, or elsewhere)
- W. Stratton, commonly ceald teapot (we presume, as a total abstinence man) Weeling (Welwyn).
- To Mr Miehler Darcy, in the town of England.
- To my Uncle John, in London.
- Miss Queen Victoria, of England

The report for 1872 included the following statistics:

The gross revenue from postage and money orders in 1872 was, in round numbers, £5,209,000 of which £5,013,00 was from postage.

The number of letters which, owing to wrong addresses and other causes, found their way back to the Returned Letter Office, was about 3,600,000. About 88,000 of the undelivered letters contained property of different kinds. Besides the property thus posted, there were 2,700 valuable books, which, owing to careless packing or weak envelopes, escaped from their covers, but were recorded, so as to allow of their being traced if inquired for: and more than 51,000 postage stamps were found loose in the different post-offices.

The following is an estimate of the weight of correspondence carried, for Great Britain and Ireland, in the year 1872. Great Britain: 24,131,090 ounces, Ireland: 2,791,750 ounces. [In modern units that is about 676 tonnes, and 78 tonnes respectively.]

STOP PRESS – NEW eBAY VENDOR

By Sheryll Oswald

(An update on the saga from page 9.)

A new selling ID, "32gyt78" has been linked to the upstate New York group. This ID, based in New York, registered on eBay on 29 October, and began listing 5-day auctions on eBay on 5 November. Many of these lots have been found to have been altered after being bought by "chickfrdstk" and "tremor111" from August though till October.

The story line used by the seller is that of an older person selling off duplicates at the behest of his nagging heirs. However, the purchase of these supposed duplicates by the buying IDs in this group a matter of weeks ago is evidence that this is just another fabricated story to lure collectors into thinking they are getting genuine stamps at bargain prices.

In an effort to further muddle the trail, the seller has gone to the trouble of buying an old album (which was purchased by "chickfrdstk" a few months ago) and mounting their altered stamps into it, so that buyers will believe the "old duplicates" story line.

The spelling errors in the story line (e.g. "My family keeps telling me I'm *getter* on" and "This is a *trail* run") are reminiscent of the style of "pcheltenham". This seller's has also described of his strategy "those items without a reserve and a nominal starting price do get sold" is based on the rationale of "pcheltenham".

PASTCARDS

Journal of
CANBERRA PICTURE POSTCARD COLLECTORS

a branch of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, Inc.

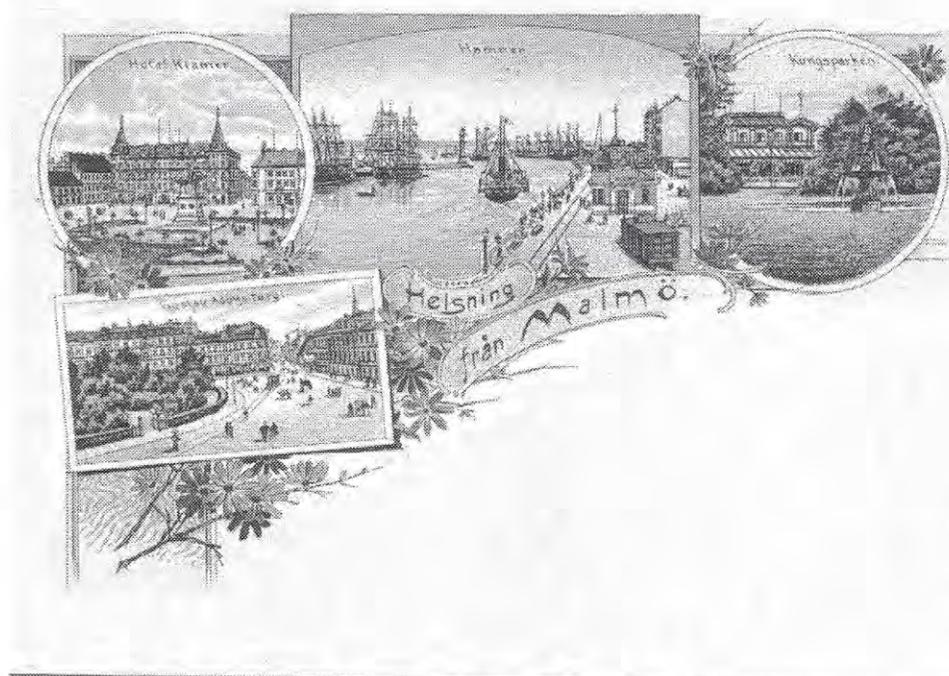
No. 49

November 2002

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ISSN 1326-9941

*An attractive
facsimile of a c1900
Greetings card of
Malmö in Sweden by
Scandinavian stamp
dealers Postiljonen
AB.*



EDITORIAL

Since our last issue, further consolidation with *Capital Philately* has taken place, with the view of making **PASTCARDS** a continuous section

within the Society's parent journal. This has marked advantages in ensuring consistency between the covers and also reduces the need to ensure a multiple of four pages in each issue of **PASTCARDS**. This of course has been one of your editor's biggest problems in producing this journal, and I am pleased to confirm its survival, and the fact that I will be sharing my editorial duties with Bruce Parker. Between the two of us we hope to improve the journal significantly (although last month's *opus* on Strangman will be hard to beat). It is up to all readers to contribute whatever they can to make the journal worthwhile, and we particularly thank Hans Karman for this issue's main article as well as his promise to write a series of articles based on his award-winning windmills exhibit that will be used over the course of the next couple of years.

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MARKEN

Hans Karman

Europe abounds in historic enclaves close to major centres where time, it seems, has almost stood still. One such region is Marken in The Netherlands, just 11.4 kilometres from the modern commercial centre of Amsterdam, yet steeped in history - all preserved by careful urban planning controls, of course.

The IJsselmeer (pronounced Eye-ssel-mar) is a man-made lake of 1,380 square miles, the biggest in Western Europe. Formed out of the former *Zuyder Zee*, it lies just north and east of Amsterdam, which, in the 19th century, was on its shore. A series of tidal floods, commencing around 1164 AD, had created the *Zuyder Zee*. Before then the river IJssel, an estuary branch of the Rhine, emptied into the North Sea via a series of shallow lakes. The flood might have been caused by climate change, or possibly by the massive harvesting of peat, which served as a barrier to the tides, weakened the resistance of the fresh water to the salt water of the sea. In any event, a massive tidal wave in the year 1287 allowed the sea to encroach; existing vegetation died off or was washed away; and by the 14th century the entire area had become a shallow branch of the North Sea.

Amsterdam became a rich and famous city, as its boats (and those from other shore towns) sailed the newly created *Zuyder Zee* to ply a trade, first to Scandinavia and the Baltic states, and later to the Orient. The *Zuyder Zee* shore became known as "The Golden Circle". The down-side was that towns along the shore were, for centuries, ravished by devastating floods.

By the late 19th century, a protective dyke closed Amsterdam off from the IJsselmeer, and surrounding lands were filled to accommodate the growth of the city. In 1932, the Netherlands completed a 19 miles-long barrier dam-dike (Afsluitdijk), blocking off the northern entrance into the *Zuyder Zee*, renamed the IJsselmeer.

Marken itself was a promontory jutting into the former *Zuyder Zee* that, with rising sea levels, became an island - perhaps helping it resist modernisation until its quaintness became worthy of preservation in its own right. In 1957 a dam was built that once again joined Marken to the mainland.

As was planned, the Dutch, by damming and draining, reclaimed several huge *polders* (new agricultural lands) from the edges of the lake, decreasing its surface by almost one-half.

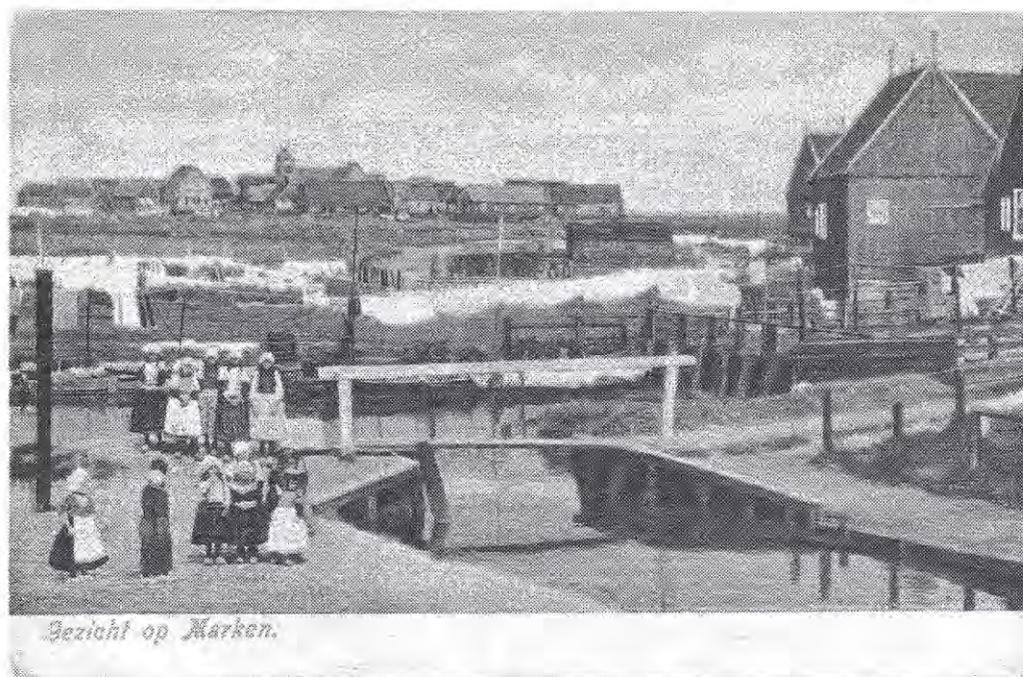


Figure 1
Gezicht of Marken
 - Art-chrome by
 Schaeffers,
 Amsterdam;
 undivided back

PASTCARDS

Tiny though the island is, it is divided into smaller parcels by draining ditches crossed by narrow foot bridges. The island flooded frequently up to 1932 when the Zuyder Zee enclosure was completed, turning it into the fresh water IJssel Meer.

Figure 2

Marken
- Dr Trenkler Co,
Leipzig, 20 March
1906



The Dutch Reformed Church in the background is one of the two churches on the island. All buildings on the island dating from before 1930 are built off the ground on piles, or on higher ground to avoid flooding.



Figure 3

Marken
Binnenkamer
- Art-chrome by
Schaefers,
Amsterdam;
undivided back

Houses in Marken are small, but most still have traditional furniture and furnishings in the “pronk kamer” (the “room-for-show”). This was what we would nowadays call the living room, except that it was used only for special occasions or for valued visitors, such as the Dominee (the minister).

Figure 4

Fishermen
Marken

- No details,
except a factory
logo of a Tulip in a
diamond



Fishing was the main industry before 1930, when the closure of the Zuyder Zee cut off the traditional access to the herring schools in the North Sea. The boats on the quay in the background are "botters", traditional fishing vessels from the edges of the Zuyder Zee.

Church is out! The Marken women wore (and still wear) their finery to church. Note that the Marken white cap does not have the upturned wings which are found only in the costume of Volendam, on the coast just across the narrow water separating the island from the mainland. All wear clogs, the only sensible wear when it is very wet underfoot. The plain skirts are enhanced by the gaudily embroidered waistcoat worn over a plain or striped shirt.



Figure 5
Church-is-out
Marken Uitgaan
der kerk

- Dr Trenkler Co,
Leipzig, 11 March
1906

Figure 6

Children
Marken

- Dr Trenkler Co,
Leipzig, 21 March
1906



Both Marken boys and girls wore dresses. While the children wore a variety of different dress styles, there does not seem to have been any

significant stylistic difference between the dresses worn by boys and girls. Floral and other print skirts along with embroidered detailing seem popular. One source reports that the only way the boys could be distinguished from the girls was by the different decoration they wore on their caps. A seller of Dutch postcards reports that there were some detailing differences between the dresses worn by

the boys and girls. He insists that the children with vertical stripes are definitely boys. Boys after being breeched might keep the tops, hats, and curls for several years longer. I am not sure that boys always wore dress tops with vertical stripes. In a small community everyone would know whether a particular child was a boy or a girl. I understand that tourists were quite fascinated that both boys and girls were dressed alike. Perhaps the stripe was for the benefit of the tourists. Beginning about age 7 through 12 years the boys were "breeched", i.e. donned baggy trousers but from the waist up kept the upper part of the dress along with the curls. If you happen to see an old Dutch postcard with little girls wearing trousers these are really little Marken boys. Where many travel writers have mentioned the Marken Island folk costuming and conventions, I have never seen any comments as to how the Marken Island boys regarded their costumes.



Figure 7

Gent Marken

- Dr Trenkler Co, Leipzig, 27 March 1907

A Fisherman in his working dress, complete with blackened clogs. The pavement is made out of "clinker" bricks, laid on edge. They were specially

fired to be harder than standard bricks so they could withstand heavy wear.

Figure 8

Woman
Costume Marken
 - Dr Trenkler Co, Leipzig, 7 March 1907

This young lady is wearing her Sunday Best, complete with a white lace cap, and a lace undervest, showing over her plain skirt. She is wearing extra "sleeves" to protect her lace cuffs, just peeping out from under the protection. She also has the traditional ringlet curls worn by all unmarried girls (and boys) at the beginning of the 20th century.



Figure 9

Bride
Marker Meisje in Bruidscostuum
 Dr Trenkler Co, Leipzig, 6 March 1907

The Bridal Costume is similar to the Sunday Best, but has a more elaborate cap and belt. The waistcoat is hand embroidered, and you can just see the gold clip peeping out from under the front of her cap. She would have two of these, one either side of her forehead.

TWO SCARCE POSTCARDS OF AZERBAIJAN

Robert Gregson

Postally used postcards from Azerbaijan are scarce and highly sought after. This pair illustrates the old and the (then) new from this region of the former Soviet Union, both dating from when it was part of pre-revolutionary Russia. At the time Russia still used the Gregorian calendar, with dates 13 days behind our own.



Figure 1

Baku - Camel in Market Place, 1911

An attractive card with a collotype vignette, a coloured red, white and blue lithographed "envelope" border and the coat-of-arms of Baku embossed in red and (crown and wreath) gold. The text is simply "Camel in

Marketplace," and the publisher's name Gurevitch appears at the lower left. It was sent from the Baku Railway Station to Paris, where it arrived on 27 October 1911.

Figure 2

Near Baku - A "Gusher" Ablaze.

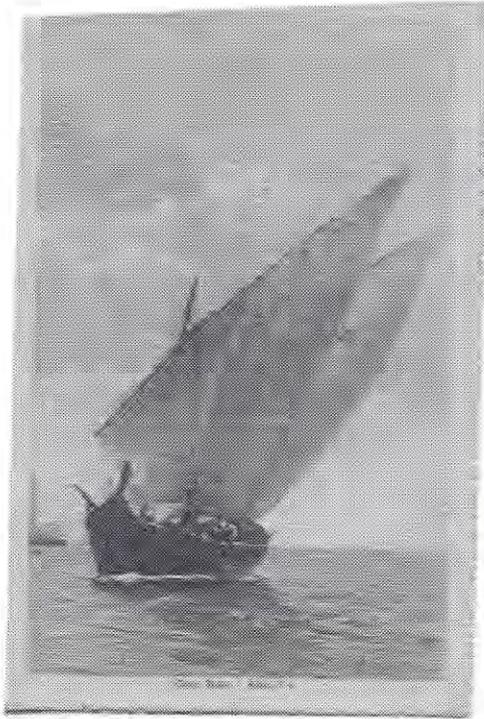


Blazing "gas fountains" were a popular subject for postcards of Baku and its surrounds. This one shows such a spectacle at the Bibi-Eibat oilfield on the Apsheron Peninsula near Baku. Spectators include oil workers and a family with a child - the man at the extreme right appears to be a military officer saluting the lady - or perhaps even the photographer!

The card was posted at Baku on 26 June 1915 (Gregorian) to the writer's mother Ekaterina at the town of Ossnevo in the Jaroslavl district.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN – REMNANTS OF MALTESE LIFE SEEN THROUGH POSTCARDS

Albert Farrugia



Life changes quickly these days, but even in the first half of the last century the pressures of technological innovations were making themselves felt in the Maltese Islands. Transport between Malta and the other principal island of Gozo across the 8 kilometre Gozo channel (left) was always important for transferring agricultural produce from the more arable Gozo to Malta, and also for the many Gozitans employed in Malta. Before the First World War the entire cargo traffic between the two islands was handled by some thirty so called lateen rigged sailing boats. These magnificent vessels had a crew of some ten expert and strong oarsmen. After the First World War diesel engines were installed on the boats; however the spars and sails were retained in case of an engine breakdown. What was a two to three hour sail from Gozo on these boats (less with a following wind) is now achieved with modern ferry boats which do the trip in 20 to 30 minutes, in considerably less romantic if safer and more comfortable circumstances. The card shown is from a series from the early 1900's.

One of the earlier and more notable, if somewhat macabre, tourist attractions for the island was the so-called "Chapel of bones" found at the tip of the peninsula on which Valletta is situated. The Chapel was centred on the Nebbia church which was erected in 1619, between the Order of St John's sacra infermeria (hospital) and the adjoining cemetery. In 1852 the chaplain of the hospital had the idea of constructing the decoration of the chapel using the bleached bones of those buried in the ground attached to the hospital. He must have been a weird bloke. Anyway, the chapel included the bones of several worthies, including the skulls of three Maltese rebels shot by the French during the siege of Valletta in 1798-1800. The chapel was open to the public upon



application to the public works department in Malta, until 1920 when the then Archbishop decided to suspend further visits. In the Second World War the chapel suffered a hit from a German bomb and this author remembers seeing the remains while a student at the nearby college pre his university years. The card is from one of many series depicting this macabre but strangely appealing structure, in the early 1900's. A similar edifice is still found in Rome, in one of the streets off the Piazza Barberini.

PASTCARDS



For many decades the favoured haunt of the Maltese bourgeoisie, the Royal Opera House completed in 1866 was nevertheless always a somewhat fated building. In 1873 it was gutted by fire but restored to the original magnificence of the architect Edward Barry's design three years later. Barry was also the architect of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. However, the effects of another German bomb in 1943 were not so easily remedied. This author remembers growing up in Malta in the 1960's against a background of

sporadic debate as to whether the Opera House should be re-built. Sadly this never happened, and a car-park still graces its existing ruins. Continuous Maltese governments have tended to enthusiastically subsidise the construction of increasingly more imposing hotels, frequently at the expense of the environment and the Islands' historical heritage, but have shown little inclination to facilitate taste and culture. And here endeth the lesson.



*Postcard from the Postmuseum in Frankfurt-am-Main
The painting is "Winter Reisende" (Travelling in Winter / Voyages en Hiver)
by Wilhelm Alexander Meyerheim (1815 – 1882)*

MACHINATIONS

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EDITORIAL - DASHED HOPES

This is the first editorial for Machinations I (AF) am writing this year. My work life continues to keep me away from my collecting, and indeed away from the country, for much of the time, and I want to take the opportunity to recognize the noble efforts of my colleagues in the editorial board in keeping the ship afloat – indeed, in better shape than I possibly could.

Anyway, readers will recollect that, when the British authorities decided to shift issues down the self-adhesive route, we predicted that this would lead to a (desirable) decrease in new issues. As indeed, in some ways it has. However, our initial hopes that the field would become more manageable, logistically and financially, are starting to fray at the edges. One wonders what goes on in the minds of the UK postal authorities. Take, for instance, the case of self-adhesives in sheets.

John Deering's article in the September issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly summarises the issues so far, and we refer you to it. And you will note that these issues are multiplying at the usual alarming rate for Machins. So that, in this year of 2002, we already have two separate issues of both 1st and 2nd class denominations, both from Enschedé as these took over the contract from Walsall and Questa. The first issue from May represents a straightforward change of printers. Collectors will heave a weary sigh as they wonder why it was necessary for the authorities to have a contract which changed after 20 months, but we are used to this.

However, we start kicking when in July, the sheets are re-issued, again by Enschedé. The 1st class denomination is now in gold, to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee of her *accession* to the world's best job. Of course, the plethora of other issues, Prestige books etc to note this remarkable event (which will continue next year as the Golden Jubilee of her *coronation*) were not enough, and as they did some years back to celebrate another golden jubilee (when she and hubby got spliced) the authorities decided to issue the 1st class stamp in gold. So far so good, you may well, or may not, say.

Machinations

But in that case, why issue a 1st class sheet in May in the normal red colour, and not just issue the gold sheet immediately in that colour? Is this incompetence, or simply an attempt to continue eliciting cash from the battered ranks of the Machin collectors?

And that, as Dr Seuss once said, is not all. All the commentators from Deegam down are anticipating a third issue, where the main change will be the removal of the backing for the self-adhesive stamps as has already happened for the booklets (or books, or sheetlets, or whatever). So, depending on your level of specialisation, you may be up for another £19 + £27 = approximately 131 Aussie dollars. Now the Aussie dollar, as we ruefully recognise, is a currency which has felt the pressure these days, but you know, 131 of them can get you a very nice Penny Black. Which will retain its value best, d'you reckon, a set of two self-adhesive sheets, or a Penny Black.

Of course, you don't have to buy the damn things. Me, I'm striking a blow for freedom – the last Prestige Book I restricted my expenses to just a first day cover – difficult things to unload too if you want to sell, but the cheapest way to get the sole Machin-containing pane. And I shall wait and see regarding the third putative self-adhesive sheet issue. If it turns out that the only change is the removal of the backing they can keep them. If they change the top panel again, which is the really collectable part of the sheet, then I suppose I'll have to dig deep and use the residue to pay for my dues to the various UK stamp clubs I am a member of. But what with the previous two issues, I already have quite a lot of dues paid up.

So think about it, and if you have suggestions on how to fight back, in the name of decency and financial liquidity, do share them with us.

Albert Farrugia

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MACHIN SE-TENANT COIL STRIPS, PART 2- "READERS DIGEST" COILS

Tony Luckhurst

The following issues were not available through the vending machines described last issue. They were produced by the Post Office for the use of a large direct mail marketing firm. These were mounted by wax strips on Reader's Digest promotional cards. This was to be used to post back the reply to the advertisement. Strips were also available from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. Later they were also available from other philatelic counters. All the strips described here contain 4 stamps (not 5 like before). Their total value was equivalent to the current second-class postage rate.

Issue #1 – 1981 Strip of 4 stamps – 2½p, 3p, 3p, 3p (to make up 11½p)

The 2½p stamp was rose-red and the 3p stamp was bright magenta. They were printed on phosphorised fluorescent paper with PVA Dextrin gum. There were 700 strips in each reel. The standard coil strip is inexpensive. Examples are known without fluorescent brightener (FBO). These are worth much more (about \$50)

Issue #2 – 30th December 1981 Strip of 4 stamps – ½p, 4p, 4p, 4p (to make up 12½p)

The ½p stamp was the standard turquoise-blue and the 4p stamp was greenish-blue. They printing details were the same as the previous issue. As before the standard coil strip is inexpensive. The strip also exists without fluorescent brightener. It is a much more elusive issue than the previous error (A perfect example would set you back \$5000).

Issue #3 – 14th August 1984 Strip of 4 stamps: 1p, 4p, 4p, 4p (to make up 13p)

The third coil contained the same 4p stamp as before. It contained a 1p crimson. It was originally issued on phosphorised paper (PCP). In March 1988 it was reissued on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP). Both types of strips are quite common.

Issue #4 – 5th September 1988 Strip of 4 stamps: 2p, 4p, 4p, 4p (to make up 14p)

The same 4p stamps were used again for this coil. The 2p green stamp used was value type 2 (narrow figures). It was printed on ACP with PVA Dextrin gum. I am not aware of any errors for this issue.

Issue #5 – 10th October 1989 Strip of 4 stamps: 3p, 4p, 4p, 4p (to make up 15p)

The 4p stamps had value type 2 (narrow) and were printed in new blue. The 3p magenta also had the narrow type 2 value type. This issue was also on ACP with PVA Dextrin gum. It is easy to get.

Issue #6 – 27th November 1990 Strip of 4 stamps: 5p, 4p, 4p, 4p (to make up 17p)

The 4p stamps were the same as the previous issue. The 5p stamp was the dull red-brown with value type 2. The gum and printing details were the same as before.

Issue #7 – 1st October 1991 Strip of 4 stamps: 5p, 5p, 4p, 4p (to make up 18p)

The stamps used in this strip were identical to the previous issues.

Issue #8 – November 1993 Strip of 4 stamps: 5p, 5p, 5p, 4p (to make up 19p)

The 5p and 4p stamps were identical as before. Although the sheet stamps now had elliptical perforations the coils stamps did not.

The basic collection of Reader's Digest coils is very easy and inexpensive to complete. To add more challenge you could try and obtain the two FBO errors. Other people like to collect coil leaders these were unprinted. Some may have had the opportunity of collecting the coils on the original cards.

Reference:

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue

Volume 4: Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Definitive Issues, June 1994 ISBN 0 85259 372-4

THE “DOUBLE HEAD” ISSUE OF 1990 Danny Howard

On 10 January 1990, Royal Mail issued a series of 5 stamps to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the introduction of the uniform penny post. The design of the stamps retained the familiar Machin head, but they were redesigned slightly to incorporate the head of Queen Victoria.

Queen Victoria was the reigning Monarch at the time of the introduction of the uniform penny post and is familiar to philatelists through her appearance on the Penny Black. A similar image of Queen Victoria to that on the Penny Black was used for this series. The similarities with the Penny Black did not end there. Black and light blue were chosen as the colours for the two inland letter rate stamps, as the Penny Black and Twopenny blue had been 150 years before.

The five values, their colours and details of the relevant service they prepaid, with the number of varieties listed in the Deegam Handbook in brackets are as follows:

- 15p light blue (19) – 2nd class inland letter rate;
- 20p black and cream (31) – 1st class inland letter rate;
- 29p purple (2) – worldwide postcard airmail rate;
- 34p slate blue (3) – zone B airmail letter rate; and
- 37p red (1) – zone C airmail letter rate.

While 10 January 1990 was the official release date, they were all available from 12 December 1989. It was intended that they would replace their counterparts in the normal Machin definitive range for the whole of 1990, however, a rate rise in September of that year put paid to those plans, resulting in both an early start and an early finish for the series.

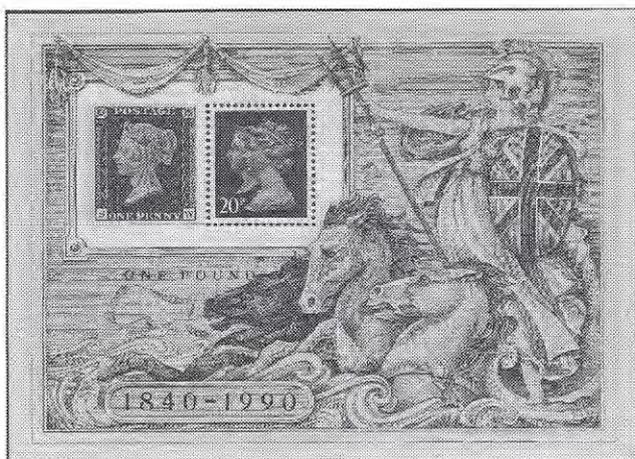
The Double Heads have something for everyone who is interested in Machins. Four types of paper, two types of gum, two types of phosphor, two perforation types and three printers were used in the production of stamps in the series. Harrison supplied and used both Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) and Fluorescent Coated Paper (FCP), gummed with Dextrin, to print stamps by Photogravure. Coated Papers Limited supplied both Questa and Walsall with ACP and FCP, gummed with PVAI, which they used by to print stamps by Lithography.

Harrison and Walsall also printed the Queen Victoria head in cream, while Questa did not. Walsall perforated their stamps $13\frac{3}{4} \times 14$, while Harrison and Questa used a $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$ perforation. Harrison used *A Phosphor* for stamps it printed on FCP, while Questa and Walsall used *SA Phosphor* for their FCP printings. Along with the usual left band, right band, centre band and two band phosphor layouts, a number of short, inset and notched band varieties exist. No phosphor was used on any of the ACP printings, although normal and low Optical Brightening Agent (OBA) varieties exist.

The Harrison photogravure printings are also found with all four directions of printing (upright, inverted, sideways left and sideways right). It is not possible to ascertain the direction of printing for printings in Lithography.

It is also understood that Enschedé printed trials using the Double Head design, but ultimately did not end up contributing to the series.

All values were available in sheet form (printed by Harrison), the 15p, 20p and 29p from booklets (printed variously by Harrison, Questa and Walsall), and the 20p in a miniature sheet (printed by Harrison). In addition to fully perforated stamps, booklets provided examples of the 15p and 20p stamps with imperforate edges at top, bottom, left and right as well as in combinations of top and left imperforate and bottom and left imperforate.



A number of errors on the miniature sheet, which was issued for Stamp World 90, comprise the more elusive items (they are priced in the range £3,000 to £7,500 in the Machin Collectors Club catalogue), for the collector seeking to assemble a specialised collection of the Double Heads. These errors include the use of uncoated paper, the omission of either the black or cream printing, the black printing being inverted (resulting in the perforations meant for the stamp image surrounding a different part of the sheet and leaving the stamp imperforate) and some examples which are completely imperforate. These varieties do not

meet the criteria for listing in the Deegam Handbook.

Despite this it is possible for the average collector to assemble a comprehensive and fairly complete collection of the Double Heads at a reasonable price.

The two most highly catalogued items, other than those involving the miniature sheet, also involve the 20p, but from booklets. The 20p printed by Harrison on ACP with low OBA. This stamp appeared on the second pane (6 x 20p, DP146A) in some copies of the £5 London Life Prestige Book (DB5 (11)), and catalogues at £55. The other is the 20p printed by Questa on ACP, which is **not** low in OBA. It appeared on panes (10 x 20p, DP151) in window booklets (DB20 (7)), and catalogues at £50. A copy of the booklet DB20 (7) sold in the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle (GBDSBSC) auction No. 85 in January 2002 (Lot No. 1449) for £345.

A phosphor variety on pane DP 147 of the £5 London Life Prestige Book went undiscovered for many years. It was found some years after the event that the two band stamps (1st Machin, 20p Machin and 20p Double Head) at the right of this multi value pane have either a 10mm or 11mm gap between the bands. This is because the phosphor band at the right varies in width between 4.5mm and 5.5mm. The Deegam Handbook states that it is not certain whether two phosphor cylinders were used during the printing or whether the variation only exists on panes from the right of the primary sheet. Neither of these varieties is particularly expensive, each cataloguing at £1.75.

The most highly catalogued of the remaining stamps in the series is the 29p also from DP 147 at £4.50. This leaves around fifty four of the fifty six specialised varieties listed in the Deegam Handbook as quite affordable to the average collector, with a few additional items for the serious and well healed philatelist to pursue, if and when they become available.

While this completes the description of the original series issued throughout 1990, the Double Head design reappeared in a pane of 6 stamps of that design (DP 306) denominated 1st in the Special by Design Prestige Book (DB5 (24)). This adds one further variety. It was printed by Walsall on OBA Free Non-Phosphorised paper (OFNP) (new paper type), gummed PVA1 supplied by Coated Papers Ltd. It has two A2B phosphor bands (new phosphor type) and is perforated 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 14 as were the earlier Walsall printings. The 1st NVI stamps printed in the Prestige booklet also resulted in the only Double Head stamp with elliptical perfs.

The DB and DP numbering systems used throughout this article are the copyright of the GBDSBSC and are used with permission.

References:

The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook, 2nd edition, 1996

The Bookmark Catalogue, 7th edition, Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, 1999

Specialised Machin Catalogue, 3rd edition, Machin Collectors Club, 2000

IDENTIFYING NVI MACHINS PART I – 1ST CLASS SELF ADHESIVE NVI'S FROM SHEETS

Albert Farrugia

Although what constitutes a sheet or a booklet (or a sheetlet or a book) is somewhat controversial these days, we start this series of identifying the non-value indicated (NVI) Machins by addressing the self-adhesive first class issues on sheets. As we write (late September 2002, there are three versions of the traditional red issues. These are the ones issued by Walsall, Questa and Enschedé in 1998, 2000 and May 2002 respectively (shown below, left to right).



The use of EME has made differentiation of the various printers much more difficult than previously, as discussed in previous issues of *Machinations*. Differences in phosphor and value type are much more useful. In the case of the issues in question, mint stamps still on the sheet are very

easily distinguishable in the Enschedé printing, as the two bands are discontinuous between the rows, whereas the Walsall and Questa issues show continuity. This, however, is not very useful for stamps detached from the sheets i.e. for used copies. And the shades of the phosphor bands themselves are depressingly similar, at least to this author and his lamp.

However, do not despair. The actual shades of the stamps are reasonably distinguishable if one has reference to well preserved mint copies for comparison. The Questa printing has a higher level of shade on her majesty's face, so that the Queen looks somewhat flushed (under the burden of fifty years of ruling the roost no doubt) while the Enschedé printing is less clear than either of the other two.

The most useful feature is the value types. Questa has Deegam Type 2 with thick characters relative to the others. Walsall comes with Type 1. As noted by Doug Myall in Report 46 the Enschedé printing comes with a new Type 6 which is similar to Type 1 but with thinner elements with a setting different as well – the **ST** is further away from the **I**.

So there you have it, and good luck to you. And for those who are, quite rightly, yelling “yes but how do we tell apart the sheets from the books from the coils?” well, all I can say is, watch this space. And remember, the force will always be with you.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 20p PURPLISH GREY, THE SEA GREEN, THE BLACK AND THE LIGHT GREEN, AND THE 20½p PALE ULTRAMARINE MACHIN

The 20p purplish grey value was first issued on the 25th February 1976, replacing the large format olive green issue, it was used as a make up value and a stage rate.

The purplish grey issues were printed by:

1. Harrison in photogravure

1.1 On FC paper with Dextrin gum

- in sheets with two phosphor bands from cyl 4

1.2 On PC paper with Dextrin gum

- in sheets from cyl 4, found as PCP1 and PCP2

2. Waddington in lithography

2.1 On FC paper with PVA gum, perforation 13½ by 14

- in sheets with two phosphor bands from **cyls 1A 1B**

The paper used in this issue has a distinct ribbed pattern.

2.2 On PC paper with Dextrin gum, perforation 13½ by 14

- in sheets from **cyls 5A to 22A, 6B to 14B**

2.3 On AC paper with Dextrin gum

- in sheets from **cyls 23A 15B**

The colour of this issue is listed as blackish brown

3. Questa in lithography

3.1 On AC paper with Dextrin gum perforation 14¾ by 14

- in sheets from **cyls Q1 Q1 to Q18 Q18**

The purplish grey issue was withdrawn on 22nd August 1988

The sea green issue of this value was made on the 23rd August 1988 it was used to pay the basic letter rates for 1st class inland post and European countries.

The first issue was printed by

4. Harrison in photogravure

4.1 On AC paper with Dextrin gum

- in sheets from **cyl 11 and 12**

This colour was replaced temporarily by a black version as part of the celebrations of the issue of the Penny Black.

5. It was printed by Harrison.

5.1 On AC paper with Dextrin gum

- in sheets from **cyl 12** screened values and examples of low OBA can be found
- in coils vertical **TL** and horizontal **SG** from **cyls R2** and **R3** respectively
- in pane **DP133** from a £1 machine vended booklet. The pane comprises six stamps in two columns, LH 1 label and 2 x 20p and RH 3 x 20p the right and left edges of the pane are imperforate. There are screened values in the pane also.

Machinations

5.2 On FC paper with Dextrin gum

- in pane DP132 from a 50p machine vended booklet. The pane comprises four stamps in two columns, LH 1 label and 1 x 20p 2B, RH 2 x 15p with LB.
- in pane DP132N has no phosphor bands
- in pane DP147 from the £5 London Life Prestige booklet. The pane comprises nine stamps in three columns, LH column 1 x 2nd class RB, 1 x 15p RB and 1 x 15p double head RB, C column 1 x 50p 2B, label, 1 x 29p 2B and RH column 1 x 1st 2B, 1 x 20p 2B and 1 x 20p double head 2B.

The 20p sea green value was re - issued on 7th December 1993 with elliptical security perforations .It was printed by:

6. Enschedé in Gravure

6.1 On OFN paper with PVA gum with the phosphor/ fluorescent bands varnished

- in sheets with two phosphor bands with yellow phosphor printed from cyl 1
- the yellow fluor was found to be too bright causing problems with the sorting system so it was reduced giving phosphorescent bands first of yellow green, then on further reduction, of greenish yellow.
- in sheets with two phosphor bands with blue phosphor and long wave response fluorescence. These were printed from cyl 1

The 20p value was reissued yet again as a result of the Jeffrey Matthews colour revision. They were printed by :

7. Harrison In photogravure

7.1 On OFN paper with Dextrin gum

- in sheets from **cyls 12,13 and 14** with a centre band of blue phosphor

8. Harrison in gravure

8.1 on OFN paper with PVA gum

- in sheets from **cyls 14,16 and 17** with a centre band of blue phosphor

9. Questa in lithography

9.1 On OFN paper with PVA gum with a centre band with blue fluorescence

- in pane DP243 from a £2 vending machine booklet which comprises eight stamps in two columns, LH column 1 x 20p CB 3 x 26p 2B, RH column 4 x 26p 2B
- in pane DP244 from a £1 vending machine booklet which comprises eight stamps in two columns LH column 1 x label, 1 x 1p, 1 x 20p, 1 x 26p and the RH column 1 x label, 1 x 1p and 2 x 26p.

The phosphor bands on the 20p can be found that are short top or bottom.

Booklets have been reported with missing phosphor.

10. Questa in gravure

10.1 on OFN paper with PVA gum with centre band and blue phosphor and long wave response fluorescence.

- in pane DP278 from a £2 vending machine booklet which comprises eight stamps in two columns, LH column 1 x 20p CB 3 x 26p 2B, RH column 4 x 26p 2B
- in pane DP244 from a £1 vending machine booklet which comprises eight stamps in two columns LH column 1 x label, 1 x 1p, 1 x 20p, 1 x 26p and the RH column 1 x label, 1 x 1p and 2 x 26p.

Missing phosphors are known from these two panes

10.2 On OFN paper with PVA gum with centre band and blue phosphor and long wave response fluorescence.

- in pane 257 from the Wales Prestige booklet comprising six stamps LH column 3 x 20p RB and RH column 3 x 26p 2B.

11. De La Rue in gravure

11.1 On OFN paper with PVA gum with two phosphor bands and blue fluorescence.

- in sheets from cyl 17

The 20½p Ultramarine was issued on 30th March 1983. It was printed by:

1. Harrison on PC paper with perforation 14¾ by 14

- in sheets from cyl 1

this issue is known in the PCP1 form only

At the end of such a list dare I say Happy Collecting!

References:

Alan, B. *The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps, 10th Ed*, 1995

Philpott, M. *Machin Collectors Club Catalogue, 1st Ed*, 1996

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*Face Value 20p
Colour Purplish grey*

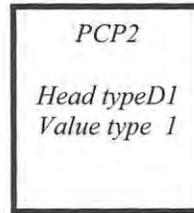
Printed by Harrison in Photogravure



Issued 25.2.76

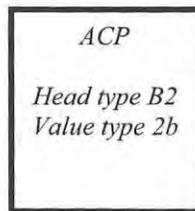


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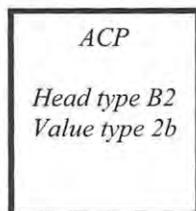
Issued Dec 1980

Colour Sea green

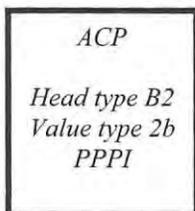


Issued 23.8.88

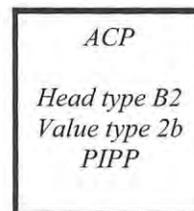
Colour Black



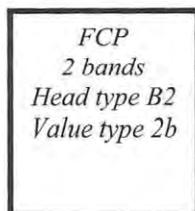
Issued 26.9.89



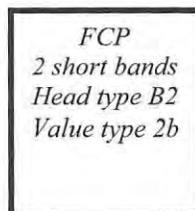
Issued 2.10.89



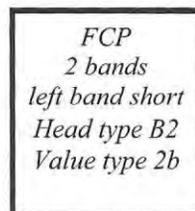
Issued 2.10.89



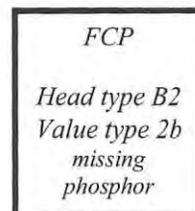
Issued 20.3.90



Issued 2.10.89



Issued Oct 1989



Issued Oct 1989

*Face Value 20p
Colour Sea green*

Printed by Enschede in gravure

*OFNP
2bands
Head type A1
Value type 2b

yellow phosphor*

Issued 7.12.93

*OFNP
2bands
Head type A1
Value type 2b

A2B phosphor*

Issued 26.3.96

*Printed by Questa in Gravure
Colour Light green*

*OFNP
centre band,
short top and
bottom
Head type B4
Value type 3b+c*

Issued 1.12.98

*OFNP
centre band
,short bottom
Head type B4
Value type 3b+c
A2B phosphor*

Issued 1.12.98

*OFNP
centre band
short bottom
Head type B4
Value type 3b+c
missing*

Issued April 1999

*Printed by De La Rue
in gravure*

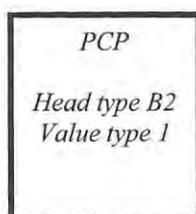
*OFNP
2 bands
Head type B4
Value type 2
b
blue phosphor*

20.4.99

This value was originally issued in the latge format, and reissued in the purplish grey colour on the 25th February 1976 and withdrawn on 22nd August 1988. It was replaced by the Sea green issue both were used as make up and stage rate stamps. From the 2nd October the light green 20p stamp paid the 1st class inland letter rate and the EU countries. From the 26th September this colour was replaced temporarily by black as part of the celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of the Penny Black. The light green issue was returned to service on the 25th June 1996 and from the 8th Of July 1996 was used to pay the second class letter rate, until 26th April 1999 when the rate was reduced to 19p.

*Face Value 20½p
Colour Ultramarine*

Printed by Harrison in photogravure



Issued 30.3.83

*This value was issued on 30th March 1983 in time for the tariff increase on 5th April 1983.
This was the basic rate for surface letters and cards to countries outside of Europe.
The stamp was withdrawn on 7th September 1984.*