

CAPITAL PHILATELY

February 2007 – VOL. 25, NO. 2.

Capital Philately

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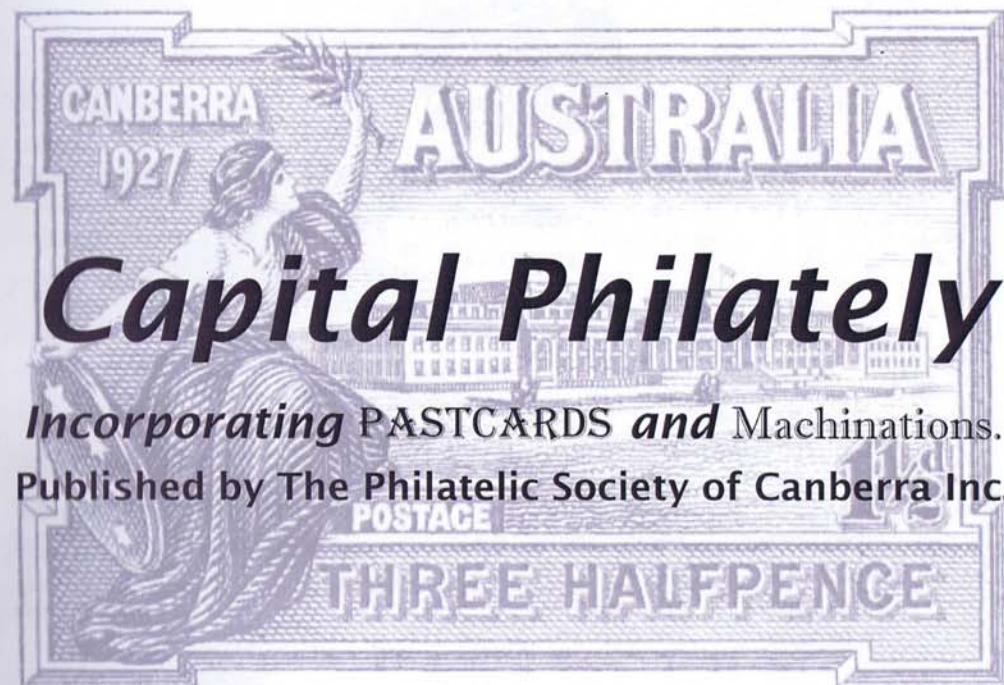
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Watch as Machins celebrate



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Capital Philately.



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

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CANBERRA ACT 2601

President	Darryl Fuller
Secretary	Tony Luckhurst

Capital Philately Editorial Board

Jenni Creagh	Editor	jecreagh@bigpond.com
Robert Gregson	Editorial Advisor	
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<http://www.canberrastamps.org>

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Telephone (02) 6241 1963

Enquiries regarding subscription rates for *Capital Philately*, advertising rates, purchase of back issues etc. should be addressed to Jenni Creagh. She can be contacted by telephone on 0409 150 938 or by e-mail addressed to

jenni@nationaldinosaurmuseum.com.au or jecreagh@bigpond.com

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EDITORIAL

I have had a few notes from readers over the past few months, one of which we see featured as I think it's quite important for people to be aware of. The second was a book review for Blue Mauritius, which set me hurrying to my local bookshop to order a copy for myself - here I am, a collector of this small country and a book comes out about one of the most important postage issues, and I didn't know until one of you told me. This is fantastic for a few reasons: No, not because I didn't know, but because someone else shared the information, someone reviewed the book as I will do for next issue, and someone thought it would make a good topic for an article. The most satisfying thing about these notes though, is that it means that you are reading *Capital Philately* and getting something out of the experience. As an editor this is most rewarding, and justifies the effort put in both by myself, but more importantly by the authors of the articles.

So this issue we look at Parcel Cards, and for the first time we do so in colour. So many times before I have regretted the fact that only the contributors and I get to see the material as it should be seen, but this is no longer the case. Robert takes us through the CP 2 issue as well as looking at parcel cards from both ends of a route with the matched pairs.

Marilyn takes us to Wareham in the UK for a quick trip with some picture postcards and a bit of history for this installment of Pastcards, and there are a couple of treats from my food and drink collection that snuck in too.

Machinations is back this issue and has plenty of goodies with a look at what's in store for UK postage releases, and a review of one of the best research tools for Machins, the Deegam Handbook on CD.

So, it's time for you to have a look through this issue's variety, I'm off to do some reading so that you can read about Blue Mauritius next time.

COLLECTING MATCHED PAIRS IN POSTAL HISTORY

Robert A. M. Gregson

Some years ago I saw an advertisement from a stamp dealer who wanted to advocate the collection of incoming mail to one's country of special interest, as opposed to collecting only covers that were sent away internationally bearing the stamps of the one sending country.

He had a sensible commercial reason for suggesting this, but there are philatelic reasons for collecting incoming covers to add to a one-country collection, as they often bear special postmarks or postage due markings that are only used on international mail.

Airmail collectors will often study the pioneer flights across the Tasman in both directions, and find covers that did a return flight bearing stamps of both Australia and New Zealand.

When we consider parcel cards then even more complicated and interesting things can be revealed. To show what is possible I describe here two cards that went between Germany and Turkey during the period of the First World War, one in each direction. I propose to call this sort of philately *the collection of matched pairs*. It reveals similarities and differences in postal rates and routes, and in the case of parcel cards we need pairs that are fairly close in their dates of use, as the design of the cards themselves evolved over time, partly because the Universal Postal Union (the UPU) from time to time altered its rules about their design and what information they have to carry. Some countries did not put stamps on their cards, which are often called Despatch Notes in English and French, or Address cards, or Packet cards (usually in German) and some countries add a collection fee, paid on arrival in their own stamps, others do not. You can, or could, send things C.O.D. internationally, at least within Europe, and sometimes there are special cards for this purpose. Business houses that had a lot of parcels to send modified, by overprinting, the standard card design to indicate the company or companies involved.

We need to look at both sides of any parcel card, because a lot of the crucial information can be on the back, or infuriatingly missing.

The card from Karlsruhe to Constantinople, our Germany to Turkey example, is quite complicated and bears stamps of two countries, see Figures 1 and 2. I consider it first because it tells us more, though it is a bit later in time than its counterpart.

Germany to Turkey in 1917

A Commercial Parcel Card in German and French, apparently concerned with luxury goods. The sending company has its own parcel cards overprinted with F. Wolff und Sohn and with the Kapps und Kleiner business in Constantinople who were apparently its regular agents there.

Many of these particular modified cards may have existed over the years before 1918, but few have apparently survived.

From Karlsruhe (Baden) 10 11 1917 to Stamboul 28 12 1917.

Transit railway post marks on the back of the Strassburg to Stuttgart train 11 11 17, Stuttgart 11 Nov 17, Württemberg railways at Ulm 11 11 17, so it went across Bavaria, and at the frontier at Passau entered Austria and was given another consignment number at Wien on 29 Nov 17. By train from Vienna on the Orient Express route it eventually got to Turkey. It arrived at Constantinople 28 12 17, received by Calliopi Frères and a delivery fee of 1 Piastre was charged by the Turkish post office. Postage Mk 2.45, Weight 4.85 Kgs. Marked Beschaufrei (= free from inspection at customs), value declared at Mk 125, it probably contained toilet soaps.

The C.O.D. facility on the card was deleted. Note that the German 2 Marks stamp is cancelled twice, two strikes side by side. This was a German post office regulation for the long format stamps.

[See Figure 3 for the front side of the other card travelling in the opposite direction]



Figures 1 & 2. Karlsruhe to Constantinople.

100%



Figure 3. Constantinople to Berlin..

100%

Turkey to Germany in 1915

A Commercial Parcel Card in Ottoman Arabic and French; Albert Alcalay company in Constantinople to Schenker and Co in both Wien and Berlin. Printed on mauve card.

The printed Constantinople to Wien text was readdressed to the same company but in Berlin. The card has some fixed details put on it by the printer, suggesting that a number of 5 kilo packages were sent. The 5 para stamps include the overprint of a six-point star and date of 1331 (SG # 583), those were used for foreign mail and printed matter, as they were replaced in 1916 by a five-pointed star, and then by a 1332 date, this suggests a limit to when it was posted. There is no date in the Gregorian calendar in the postmark (some later Turkish postmarks give the date in two calendars, one commercial Turkish and one Western), but I think around 1915 is the year of use. There are no other postmarks for places on its route to Berlin, so strictly we have no evidence that it ever got to Germany. It was not signed for.

There is another explanation of why it has no transit marks, in that this was early in the war and incoming mail was not then censored or delayed by conflicts. If it did travel, then between Constantinople and Vienna it would have gone by the same railway route as the other parcel card. Postage paid ; 16.10 Piastres.

The back is quite uninformative, merely the usual text about signing or receipt, so I have not shown it.

As a word of caution, some matched pairs can exist, and others may be impossible. For example, and related to the route illustrated, there were parcel cards before 1918 between Austria and the Austrian Post Offices in the Levant, in both directions, that was solely an Austrian activity. There were parcel cards from Ottoman Empire Turkey to Austria, but as Turkey has no post offices of its own in Austria, no cards from Turkish offices to Turkey exist on that route.

There were Ottoman offices in Palestine and I presume in the three villayets that became Iraq.

Notes

Of course matched pair collecting of Penny Blacks and the first Penny Reds from the same plates is a specialised and well-researched pursuit, but in the postal history of parcel cards it is perhaps an innovation, as material is elusive.

The Turkish stamp in Figure 2, issued in 1917, is perhaps the first to show the map area where the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign took place, in 1915-16. There are in fact a number of Turkish stamp designs around 1917 which celebrate a military victory. Turkey is philatelically a popular country to collect in Europe, German auction houses seem to present a lot of older Turkish material, but in Australia I have not yet met a collector of this country; probably the reasons are twofold, the language and the sheer complexity of the earlier issues.

STOP PRESS!

Australian Financial Review, page 3, Friday 2nd February 2007.

Special delivery floors dealers

Terry Ingram

AFR p3 Fri 2 Feb 07

Police are talking to a man about sheets of counterfeit postage stamps that have allegedly been offered at big discounts to their face value around Melbourne stamp dealers for use as bulk postage.

The stamps are said to be so convincing that several dealers have bought the sheets. Police put their value at \$30,000.

Apparent differences in the gum raised the suspicions of Melbourne stamp auctioneer Gary Watson. He called the Victoria Police, whose criminal investigation unit is handling the matter.

The stamps are non-current issues designed for international postage, but can still be used on bulk mail. There is a big market among stamp dealers and other



bulk mailers, who can reduce their postage by as much as 40 per cent by buying them.

Once stuck to an envelope, any oddities in the gum are difficult to detect. Also, international stamps

fall outside Australia's jurisdiction when the mail leaves the country.

Stamps with at least three different face values are believed to be involved.

Police said yesterday that no charges had been laid. Australia Post declined to comment.

The Australian Philatelic Traders Association told members that they "should be aware that a large volume of forged international postage is being offered around Melbourne at the moment".

"The highest value seen so far is the \$3.30 value. It is being offered in sheets of 25 with no margins by a gentleman from China. Australia Post and the police are involved."

Police said the man was being questioned about stamps to the value of about \$30,000.

What is or was CP 2 ?

Robert A. M. Gregson

If there was ever a proposal for one stamp design to serve for all countries, it did not get off the ground. There was a time when colour coding of stamps for some postal rates was used internationally, green for postcards and red for the first weight step of inland letters. Countries with colonial empires, such as Britain, Germany and France did use key types in the early days, just inserting the name of a colony in a space provided on the stamp, but that was within their own territories. They had omnibus issues for royal weddings and colonial exhibitions.

However in postal stationery there are examples where the same basic design has been adopted and used internationally, under the regulations of the Universal Postal Union. One such example is CP 2, and it was certainly current from the 1940s in France, up to the very late 20th century. Parcel cards for international mail were supposed to be inscribed both in the language of the country of issue, and in French. The exception, unsurprisingly, was France itself, where Bulletin d'Expédition was a sufficient title at the top of the card. In English that is translated as Despatch Note, European languages may for example call it Addresskort, Paketkarte, or Bollettino di spedizione.. Other equivalents have to be in Arabic or Chinese where appropriate. There is no special ranking for the countries involved, which range right round the globe, so we will look at a few examples in the date order of their postal use. In each case the letters CP 2 are at the top, usually on the far right. In a panel at the top labels are supposed to be affixed by the post office sending the parcel on its way. The text is often obscured by labels and stamps, but it reads (in the language of the sending country) that a number CP 7 should be indicated on a label called CP 8. The number identifies a specific parcel, so there can be a number of them if some packets are sent together, and the label will have the name of the sending office or district. Such labels have been used at least since the 1860s, before the UPU regularized the system with its CP numbers, and in the early days they could be colour coded to differentiate uninsured and insured parcels.

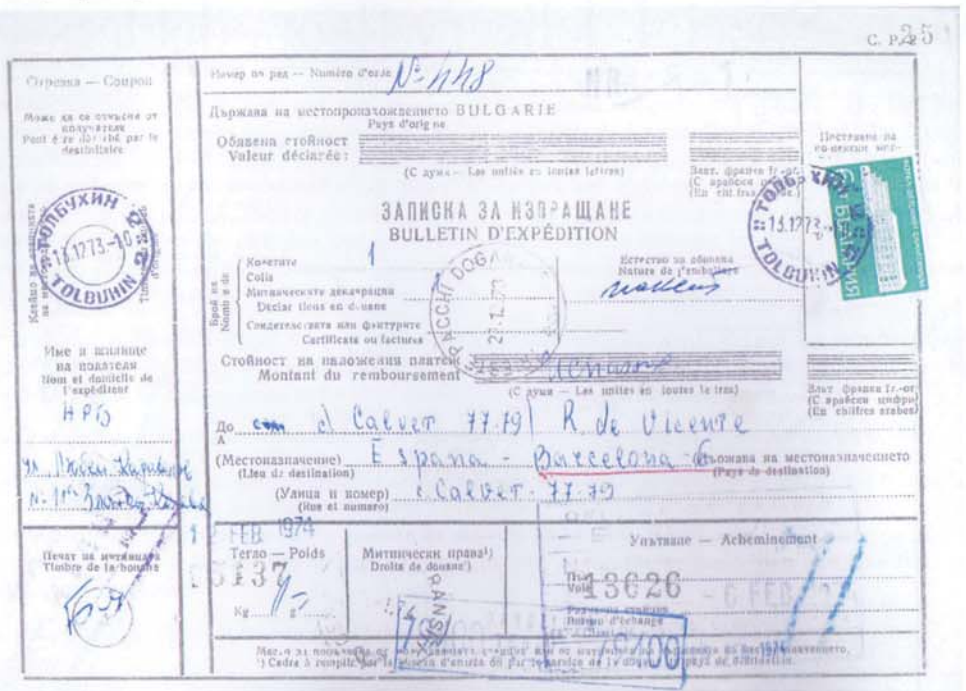


Figure 1. Bulgaria, Tolbukhin 13 12 1973 via Trieste 21 12 73 to Barcelona 6 2 74. 90%

Another sure way to identify a CP 2 card is to look at the back; running longways down the page is a set of answer boxes labelled from a through g, (some earlier German ones run from a through h) with text in the local language and French.

When the card is Israeli then a through g are matched with the first seven letters of the Hebrew alphabet, but oddly not so for cards in Greek, Arabic or Japanese. The boxes are instruction that the sender has to choose from, in case of non-delivery, and is told he or she may only choose one of them. They range from (a) please tell me if the parcel is not delivered, to (g) treat the parcel as abandoned, and other alternatives include instructions to return the parcel by surface or by air, after some permitted days of delay.

The Bulgarian CP 2 card (figure 1) still has the coupon on the left, a feature of parcel cards that dates back to the 1870s and was eventually dropped; when it was provided the sender could cut it off if he or she so wished as a record. It is from Tolbukhin 13 12 1973 via Trieste 21 12 73 to Barcelona 6 2 74.



Figure 2. Iceland, Reykjavik 28 VIII 1973 via Göteborg 5 Sep 73 to Stockholm 7 Sep 73. 75%

This card from Iceland to Sweden is of the new CP 2 format with a panel inside a thick margin on the right hand side for the sender's details to be entered. From Reykjavik 28 VIII 1973 via Göteborg 5 Sep 73 to Stockholm 7 Sep 73. It is via shipmail, and postage was paid in cash and not by stamps. That is an option that some countries seem always to use, and others only sometimes

This heavily franked card from Sweden to Hong Kong by airmail left Lidingö on 22 10 1975, and was for three parcels sent together with a total weight of 30 Kgs. The top denomination of stamp then available was Kronor 20, so the total of Kr 689 (about the same as AUD 135) needed more on the back.



Figures 3 & 4.
Sweden to Hong Kong 22 10 75.
Front 90%
Back 75%



Figure 5. Portugal, Porto 27 12 78 airmail to Stockholm on 5 Jan 79. 80%

Figure 6. Belgium, Puurs 22 V 1979 via Mechelen, Antwerp and Bombay to Calcutta 2 Jan 1980. 80%



Portugal (figure 5) used CP2 also encoded as 218, and required 219A, another etiquette to be stuck on. This is from Porto 27 12 78 airmail to Stockholm on 5 Jan 79. This card was actually one of six identical examples sent together, on some of which the CP 2 text is visible at the top right, with a customs declaration for the whole consignment appended on a separate form.

Belgium uses a different system (figure 6), with many heavier parcels being sent by rail from railway stations who act also as post offices. A railway station can act as the place to send a parcel by airmail. This is a slightly different CP 2 from Puurs 22 V 1979 via Mechelen 23 V 79 and Antwerp 25 V 79 and Bombay to Calcutta 2 Jan 1980. One parcel of 10 Kgs.



Figure 7. Japan, Osaka on 28 XI 83 to Stockholm on 28 Dec 83, via Siberia. 90%

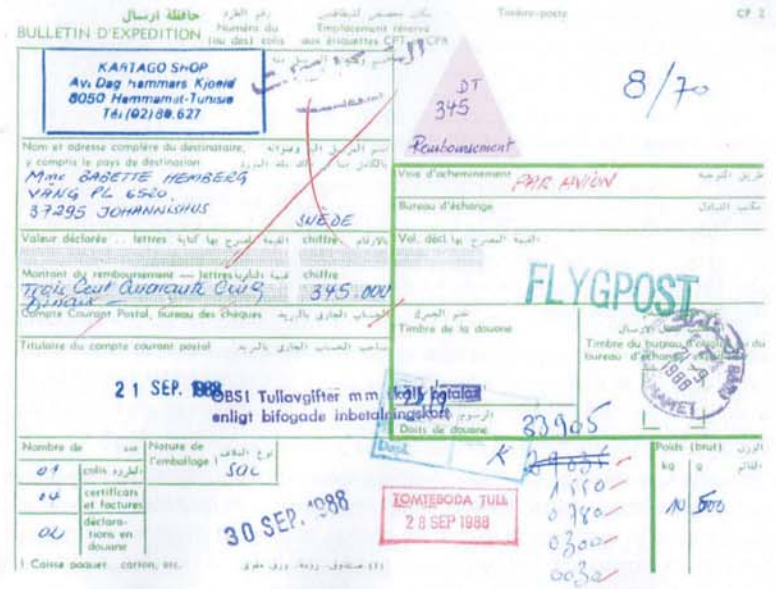
Japan has used parcel cards for many years, but rarely puts stamps on them, and they are in fact printed on flimsy paper. They followed the rules of CP 2 layout, approximately; this is from Osaka on 28 XI 83 to Stockholm on 28 Dec 83, via Siberia (figure 7). It is declared as having no value and was exempted from customs at Helsingborg. What route exactly it took is a puzzle, by the Trans-Siberian Railway, but why then to Helsingborg? Postage of Yen 9500 and weight of 9 Kgs, sent by a man on holiday or whatever back home for Xmas?

Israel puts stamps on its parcel cards, including here some bee-keeping commemoratives. From Tel Aviv 21 4 1983 to Stockholm on 27 Apr 83, by airmail (figure 8). Total postage Shk 157.- and weight of 1.5 Kgs.



Figure 8. Israel, Tel Aviv 21 4 1983 to Stockholm on 27 Apr 83. 80%

Figure 9. Tunisia, Hammamet 21 9 1988 airmail to Johannishus, via Tomtebod 28 Sep 1988. 75%



Tunisia, like many of the former French colonies, used both parcel stamps and parcel cards. After independence parcel stamps seem to have vanished. From Hammamet 21 9 1988 (figure 9) airmail to Johannesburg, via Tomtebod 28 Sep 1988 (that is a postal sorting center near Stockholm), this was a cash on delivery parcel of 10.5 Kgs., valued at Frs 345. The form is in French with Arabic and has not got the country of origin in French.

Figure 10. Germany, Warburg 23 3 1988 to Listerby via Trelleborg on 10 4 88.

75%

German parcel cards originate over a very long period, from the 1870s, for the second and third Reichs, and for the DDR and BRD. This modern BRD card from Warburg 23 3 1988 to Listerby via Trelleborg on 10 4 88 was a woollen cardigan, weight 1.7 Kgs and postage paid in cash of DMk 16.30. The yellow label HÄMTAS means that Greta collected it at the post office, so they didn't deliver it to her home and then charge her more postage within Sweden, which is commonly done.

An Australian example, (though CP 2 is obsolete here, replaced by CP 72 and CP 74), from Woden ACT on 13 JE 1974 to Madrid 17 Sep 74 via Barcelona 29 Aug 74, was shown in Capital Philately for May 2006, on page 13. The Australian design of the card followed British practice, and the coupon was still there on the left, like the Bulgarian example with which we started.

The selection of countries here was arbitrary, I have seen examples of CP 2 in slightly varying designs that came from the USSR including the Baltic States, Greece, Spain, Argentina, Syria, and from Iraq before the Gulf War of 1991. Switzerland revised its card designs to drop the coupon, as later did all other countries that used CP 2. There are countries such as Montenegro that had its own parcel card before it vanished politically in 1918, and so it may now re-emerge as autonomous but miss out on ever having used CP 2 format.

VALUING AND INSURING YOUR COLLECTION

Darryl Fuller

In my last article I wrote about disposing of your collection. One of our members then wrote to me stating that he enjoyed the article but how do you get a valuation. His point being that he wanted to know an approximate value so that he was in a position to know that any valuation he received was realistic. There is no simple answer to this question but I would offer the following advice in relation to getting some form of valuation.

Why Do You Want the Valuation?

The first question to ask is why you want a valuation. Is it for insurance purposes? For sale reasons? For probate? For a donation? To give away? Or simply for curiosity sake? Each of these may require a different approach from a simple once over to get an approximate valuation to a very formal valuation. What you require will depend very much on your own needs and the actual value of the collection.

First Steps

If you have inherited or been given a collection you may have no idea what a collection is worth. If you have put the collection together yourself you will have a rough idea of what you have paid. Depending on what you collect this may or may not relate to its actual value.

My first and most important point is don't assume anything in relation to a collection that you know little or nothing about, and do not alter the collection in any way before seeking guidance. That is, do not soak stamps off covers or start mounting mint stamps on sheets or even rearrange the collection, especially if it is a hodgepodge of material in the envelopes it arrived in. If the material was auction lots the lot numbers and descriptions may provide a useful clue as to their value or provenance. The latter can add considerably to the value of a piece.

Catalogues – Are catalogues a good place to start? If the material is straight forward mint or used stamps, the answer is yes. But it is important to remember that it is rare for material to sell for full catalogue value. Most material sells for only a fraction of catalogue value, anywhere from 5% to 75%+, with the higher end being the exception. It is also important to remember that a stamp catalogued at \$10 will sell for a much greater price than 100 stamps catalogued at 10c each. The latter tends to represent a dealer handling charge rather than a valuation.

Catalogues are a guide only and are of course not much good for anything outside the ordinary. At best a dealer may pay two thirds of his selling price for very good quality material but on average expect a less.

The Philatelic Society – one of the great advantages to being a member of a stamp club is that it is full of people with a wide range of knowledge and experience in all matters philatelic. For example, back in the mid 1980s I worked for a while for one of Australia's major stamp auction firms, and for a while with a stamp dealer. Other members of the Society have a good knowledge of many specialised areas of philately and amongst them virtually all areas of philately are covered. This experience includes the buying and selling of specialised philatelic material, as well as the putting together of major specialised collections. In addition, many have a significant level of research experience in their own specialities.

So the best thing you can do is take advantage of this experience. If you have a collection you know little about or want a rough valuation guide then ask around in your philatelic society. There will usually be someone who can provide a rough valuation or at worst point you in the direction of someone who can. Use this pool of experience as it is almost certainly better than just adding up values in a catalogue. It will also allow you to go to a dealer and have a greater level of comfort when negotiating a sale or auction listing.

The Philatelic Society of Canberra takes such valuations quite seriously and has a small subcommittee to provide such valuations. This is to ensure that all such valuations are above board, to protect both you and the Society.

In any case such valuations or recommendations are for guidance only.

Stamp Dealers – An obvious source of valuations but many collectors or owners of collections don't feel comfortable approaching a dealer with a collection, hence my advice above to use fellow philatelists as a first step. Members of the society will also point you in the right direction when it comes to approaching dealers.

The single most important thing to remember about dealers is that they are in the business of making a profit. If they didn't they wouldn't be in business long and you wouldn't have a valuable source of new material. Many collectors resent dealers making a profit, but this is a ridiculous attitude. They often have quite large stocks and it takes money to carry these stocks so that you can buy the material you need.

Dealers may charge a valuation fee (see below) but many are also happy to take a quick look at a collection and give you an idea whether they are interested, either in a purchase or to put into an auction. One of the most convenient places to get a quick valuation can be at a stamp exhibition or stamp market where there are a number of dealers present. If one dealer isn't interested they may point you in the direction of one who will. However, choose a time when the dealer isn't busy so as not to inconvenience them.

One other issue that can cause problems with approaching a dealer is when you have a lot of material and you only take them a sample. This can be quite dangerous because your sample may either, over or under, represent the range and value of material in a collection. You may be better to arrange a visit by a member of your philatelic society first so that some guidance can be given. If you know the material that you have is valuable then a dealer may consider dropping in to give some guidance. This is particularly true if you allow the dealer some latitude as to the time of the visit, so that it is more convenient to them as they know that many visits can end in little value being found. After all time is money to a stamp dealer.

Formal Valuations

If you need a formal valuation, remember that it will almost certainly cost you money. Dealers may charge up to \$60-70 an hour for a formal valuation. If the valuation is for probate or for taxation purposes you may have no choice. However, many dealers will waive the fee if you decide to sell either directly or through one of their auctions within a certain space of time. So a valuation need not be a dead loss.

In order to protect yourself there are a few things you should do before handing over your material to value. Firstly, you need to have a record of what you giving the dealer to value. If all the material is written up on pages taking a photocopy may be the best record. Otherwise take notes on what you are handing over for valuation. This protects both you and the dealer from any unscrupulous practices.

Secondly, agree with the dealer the method of charging for the valuation. Is it flat fee or a charge per hour? If it is the latter then agree on a reasonable time. This should be done in writing with perhaps a clause that allows the dealer extra time, with your permission, should the valuation prove to be taking more time than expected.

Third, you should agree on the purpose of the valuation. There will be a significant difference between the valuations for a dealer buying the material, approximate auction estimates and a valuation for insurance. The latter will need to cover the cost of replacement of the material which will be significantly higher than a dealer's buying price.

Once you get a valuation, remember that it may change significantly over time. And don't forget that valuations can go down as well as up. So you may need to get regular valuations (although probably not annual) in order to ensure your insurance is up to date. Whoever valued your collection the first time may be happy to arrange regular insurance valuations for a reduced fee.

Insuring Your Collection

Whether it is worth insuring your collection only you can answer. However, it is worth considering, given that many collections are a substantial asset. Whether your collection is covered by your home insurance is something

that you will need to check, although in general it won't be. Most household insurance policies will only cover collectibles up to about \$2000. If your collection is worth more and it is stolen, the insurance company may not pay out at all or pay only a small percentage of your loss. You can arrange to take out additional cover but the costs are likely to be prohibitive, particularly if the collection is worth \$20-50,000 or more. In general it is not worth insuring your collection under your contents insurance assuming your insurance company will even provide coverage.

There is a specialty stamp insurer in Australia – H. W. Wood. This company operates around the world and specialises in collectibles insurance, and most notably in stamps. It has the backing of a Lloyds syndicate. The company has a range of policies and will cover collections 24/7, at exhibitions and in transit (under certain conditions). I have only used them to insure my collection when I send them internationally but the cost is not too bad. While I would not normally make a recommendation about a single company, in this case, H. W. Wood is virtually your only option for comprehensive insurance. They are certainly worth talking to if you have a valuable collection and they can be contacted as follows:

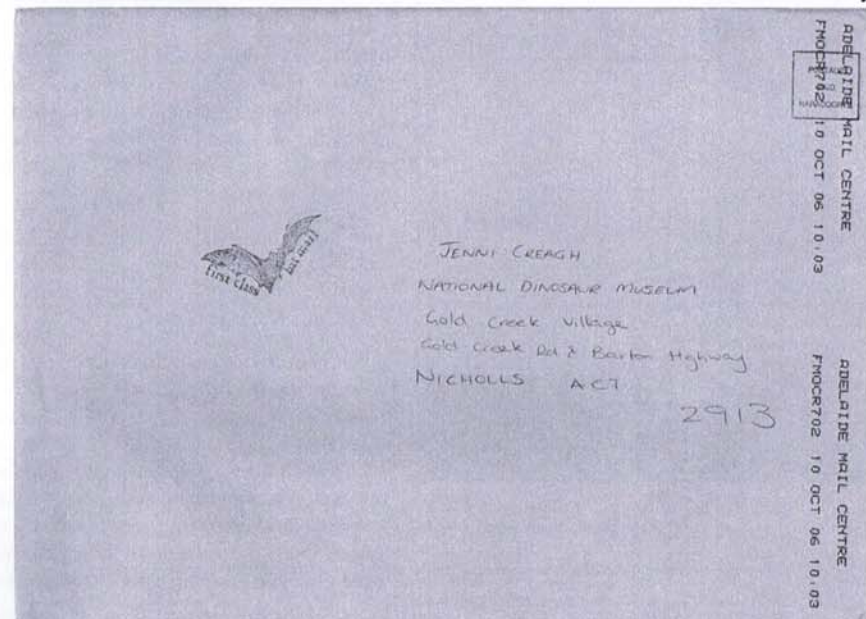
Wood H.W. Australia Pty Ltd

617 Glenferrie Rd Hawthorn VIC 3122

Telephone: (03) 9819 9122

A quick item of interest...

50%



This C4 envelope recently arrived at the Museum, from Naracoorte Caves in South Australia. Luckily I got to it before my staff, because to their eyes there's nothing special about it. What I was intrigued about was the pictorial cancellation - "First Class Bat Mail". Unfortunately there are no indications on the cover of how much this service costs, but I am surprised by the physics of such carriage, as the majority of bat species in Australia are far too small to have carried a letter of this size (the Naracoorte residents are the Bentwing Bats, a few of which could fit on your hand). It makes one wonder what other weird and wonderful ways mail has travelled over the years.

PASTCARDS

Journal of

CANBERRA PICTURE POSTCARD COLLECTORS

a branch of the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

No. 66

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February 2007

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Judy Horacek's latest cartoon collection, "Make Cakes Not War" (Scribe Publications) is available now at all good bookshops.

Postcard from Avant Card, #11514, 2007.

EDITORIAL

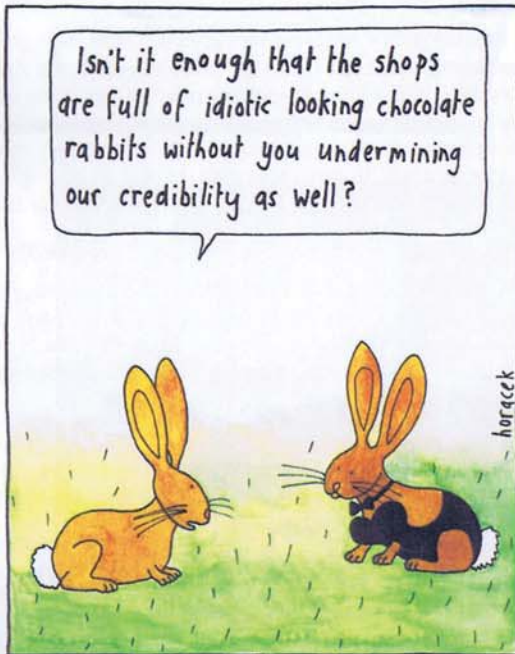
Well we got a little sidetracked on the way back to London, and thought we'd stop off in Dorset and visit Wareham: Okay, I was driving and I didn't watch the map... and now we're not where we're supposed to be, but I think you'll find that it is worth the detour.

You know, it's kind of funny when they say that Europe is where the history is, but from a certain humanocentric point of view it's certainly true.

You take a small place, a ruined castle, some green fields and have a close look - and there are so many stories behind it all. You can go back hundreds of years and see how civilization has changed, and how much has been accomplished in such a short time... Empires grew, flourished, sent out explorers who found new lands, planted flags and brought back many treasures that were new and exciting - prime amongst these was chocolate! Read on, I guarantee no calories are involved.

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The Chocolate Empire	



THE ATTRACTION OF WAREHAM

Marilyn Ann Gendek

Wareham has a history that dates back over many centuries. Located near the coast of Dorset, England, the town was an important large Saxon community and suffered Viking raids. It is surrounded on three sides by earthen defences dating from the time of Alfred the Great, and is structured around a grid street pattern attributed in part to the Romans. The surrounding countryside is replete with evidence of Neolithic man and Bronze Age landforms and structures.

Riffling through a pile of postcards in Canberra, the mental scanner stopped when two sepia coloured postcards of Wareham were unearthed. One postcard showed a scene of one of the main streets of the town, while the other a church.

The street scene shows 18th century architecture of Wareham that arose after the fire of 1762 which ravished the town (Fig.1). The church on the second postcard is St Martin's (Fig.2). This building is reported to be the most complete example of a Saxon church in Dorset, having survived the great fire of Wareham. Located in the middle of the north wall of the town, it seems that one of its most famous features is the effigy of T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) donated to the church by his brother in 1939.



Figure 1. RPPC, No.3334, Wareham, West Street.

Sepiatone Series published by Photochrom Co. Ltd. London and Tunbridge Wells.

Turning the postcards over, however, reveals another aspect of history linked to the scenes. A father has written both cards to his son in Glasgow during the last year of WWI. The messages are written in pencil and on one postcard, the writer suggests that it would be nice to collect all the postcards he has sent and future ones he will write.



Figure 2. RPPC. No.30473. Wareham, St Martin's Church.

Sepiatone Series published by Photochrom Co. Ltd. London and Tunbridge Wells.

The street scene card was postmarked Crewe in the mid north of England on 26 January 1918 at 10.30am. The writer tells his son that he is still further away and is now at Birmingham (the time of writing the letter has been erased), he hopes that the mother is keeping well and that the son's cold is better. It is signed Daddy.



Figure 3. Reverse of Figure 2 (above).

The postmark on the second postcard, while incomplete, is postmarked Worgret Camp, 7pm, 4 February 1918 (Fig.3). Worgret is on the western outskirts of Wareham and the camp accommodated overflow from Bovington Camp. At the start of WWI, Bovington became a training camp, expanding with thousands of troops from the north of Britain. With the advent of tanks, it became the location from which nearly all the tank corps units were raised during WWI. Bovington and camps around Wareham were sites also for some of the soldiers from the allied forces. Records of ANZACs at Wareham are held at the Australian War Memorial. By the end of the war, Bovington had grown into a massive camp, reputedly larger than nearby Wareham.

It was also the Royal Tank Corps at Bovington in which T. E Lawrence enlisted under the name of Shaw in 1923. He later joined the RAF where he served the next 10 years. In 1935 Lawrence was seriously injured in a motorbike accident close to his cottage, Clouds Hill near Wareham. He died in Bovington Camp Hospital.

The message on the postcard from Worgret Camp now expresses the writer's desire to have his son beside him and hopes he is a good little boy and keeping well. The writer appears to communicate to his wife through the messages to his son and has requested that an already prepared packet of papers be sent which he will find useful. This time the writer has squeezed more words into the space available and asks his son to write to him while commenting that time passes better while working.

There are two sides to every postcard, but there may be one or many aspects to those sides, which provide the basis for an attraction. In this case the scenes of Wareham on the one side of the postcards were the attraction, with their significance for one part of a family ancestry. But the two little chapters on the other side, which have been separated from their larger story, provide a surprising attraction and generate many questions. Lastly, the Worgret Camp postmark has been advertised as scarce. If only it was complete.

And While In Dorset...



Just a few kilometers south of Wareham is Corfe Castle (Fig. 4). While not associated with the previous story, it is worth a mention. The Normans built Corfe on the site of a Saxon fortress, and subsequent rulers added to it while the Saxon King Edward was murdered here in 978. It was during the Civil War that it met its fate. Despite being defended valiantly by a Lady Bankes, a large amount of gunpowder was used to blow it up.

The postcard is from the Raphael Tuck & Sons Picturesque Castles of Great Britain, series 794. There is no artist signature visible on the painting of Corfe Castle used for the postcard. There is however a photograph taken in 1897 which may have provided the scene for the artist. It is exactly the same as this painting and can be found on the website of the Francis Frith photograph collection,

<http://www.francisfrith.com/search/england/dorset/corfe+castle/corfe+castle.htm>

The website also provides the following information regarding the scene at that period:

The view was taken from the tower in the time of Rev Eldon Surtees Bankes, the rector since 1854. The newly erected cross for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee (centre foreground) faces Refreshment Rooms (bottom left) and the shop front towards the centre carries the name of grocer Robert Thomas Chipp who had recently succeeded baker and seedsman John George Luker. The Greyhound Hotel (bottom right) was run by Miss Mary Desalliond. The view is northwards to the railway viaduct and Norden claypits (far right).

Internet Resources Used

www.army.mod.uk/linkedfiles/soldierwelfare/supportagencies/aws/awis_index/sw_sa_aws_afab_inf_w/bovington_scog_2006_section_4.pdf [link modified to update, Ed.]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wareham,_Dorset

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._E._Lawrence

<http://www.visitingpurbeck.co.uk/>



I visited the Purbeck site to check the links and found an imbedded map of the area, and thought i'd take a virtual trip when I found the zoom function and switched from the road map (which wasn't really helpful to me as I'm driving a virtual car) to satellite.

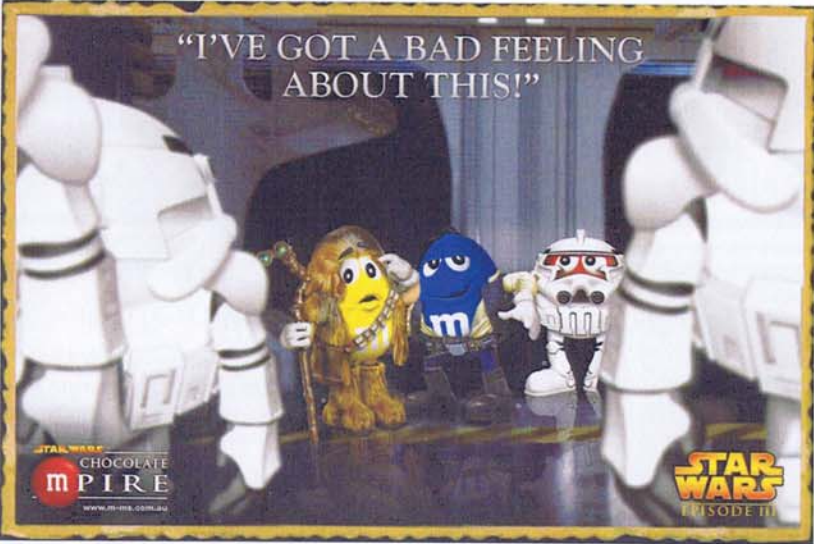
The wonders of "Modern Technology" - and all praise to Google. There are so many handy utilities now available to aid us in our hobby.

Here we see the Castle and its surrounds in living colour - they have green grass over there!

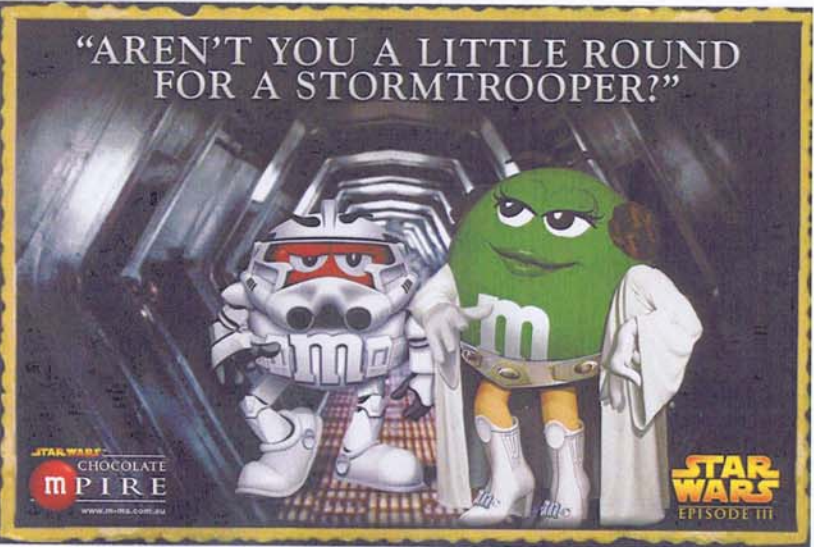
I suggest that there are a few things we could all learn by taking a bird's eye view of the areas that interest us - check out Google Earth if you haven't done so already, and find out if there's a camera pointed at your house - I found mine.

THE CHOCOLATE EMPIRE

Jenni Creagh



Some of you undoubtedly have realised by now that in my postcard collection of food and drink related material there is a special spot for that most wonderful of treasures - Chocolate. As this time of year we begin the celebration of this foodstuff, I thought you might like a taste of a parallel dimension where things are a little different... A long, long time ago, in a galaxy far away...



The special thing about these two Avant Cards from 2005, are the captions - so relevant to this time of the year: I always have the thoughts at the top first, and inevitably hear something like the bottom after the chocolate festival. I know it started out as something more important, but seems to have become totally commercial these days.

MACHINATIONS

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EDITORIAL - Stop the Press!

Photographs courtesy of Royal Mail (Thank you!!!)

The new values and colours for the new postage rates in April 2007 are 16p pink, 48p rhododendron, 50p grey, 54p rust, 78p emerald green. The 50p stamp is being reprinted as postal sorters believe it is similar to the 1st class gold stamp

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- The Speed Prestige booklet

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THE COMPLETE DEEGAM MACHIN HANDBOOK ON CD-ROM

Tony Luckhurst

Having already purchased a copy of the 3rd Edition of the "hard copy" book version of the handbook I was given the opportunity to explore the CD-ROM version of the handbook. Some people would argue why we need two versions of the handbook so I'll try to look at the differences between the two publications.

Firstly cost may be an option; the Handbook is £59 for the hard copy and the CD-ROM is only £39. The postage on the CD-ROM would be less than the postage on the book. The illustrations in the CD-ROM are mostly in colour. The CD-ROM has more sections and is more up to date. Once you have purchased either from Douglas Myall he sends you regular updates to his reports. These can be posted or emailed. The emailed versions are pdf files which can be integrated into the electronic version.

The CD-ROM version had its contents updated to the postage rate rise of April 2006. As we are due for another rise in April 2007 there may be a new update ready. However he may wait and do a special Ruby Anniversary edition??

Anyway let's look at the CD-ROM:

To view your files you need Adobe Acrobat Reader. This lets you navigate the documents using hyperlinks. Text is underlined in red. When you click on the word it takes you to the relevant section. This means you can go to a relevant section without going back to the index or flipping through pages.

The "Tutorial" section shows you the basics of both using Acrobat and the background on how the catalogue works, while the "HB-start" file gives you the index and you just have to click on a chapter / section to go to that chapter / section.

Prelims

Table of contents: these are similar to the printed version except they have been updated to 2006.

Chapters

1. Introduction
2. Postal Rates
3. Colours
4. Printing Processes
5. Papers & Gums
6. Luminescence
7. Perforations
8. Direction of Printing
9. Deegam TCTC system (locating the source of a stamp)
10. Deegam PIPI system (source of straight edged stamps)
11. Deegam SIN system (identifying phosphor bands)
12. Deegam Types & Settings (value and head types)
13. Machin Regionals (Country stamps)

Appendices

1. Machin stamps in rolls (ie. Coils)
2. Machin Pane Layouts (booklets)
3. Decimal Miniature Sheets
4. Machin Self-Adhesives
5. Machin Cylinder & Plate Blocks
6. Machin Postal Stationery
7. How to identify Machin singles
8. Machin Training Stamps (These are standard stamps overprinted with black bars to prevent their reuse.)
9. Machin perfin patterns
10. Machin Se-Tenant Pairs (There are lots of these)
11. Machin Packs & Covers
12. Non-Machin Decimal Definitives (Castles & Wildings)
13. Machin Ephemera (cards, posters and so on)
14. Country Pictorial Definitives (not Machins but there will be many of them)
15. Overseas Machins (Other countries stamps with the Machin head as part of the design)

The Lists

1. Pre-Decimals: all values from ½ d to £1
2. Decimals (includes all printings and all Machin Regionals) includes all values from ½ p to £1.00
3. High Values
4. 1840 Anniversary values
5. Non-Value Indicators
6. Glossary (what those Machin Terms mean)

Unlike other catalogues the Deegam Handbook does not give a value to each stamp. It gives a check square with a number in it to indicate the level of scarcity of the stamp. This is explained in the handbook.

The Profiles

These list all the different values / types of Machin stamps available. These can be printed out to create album pages. This depends on how specialised you want to make your collection.

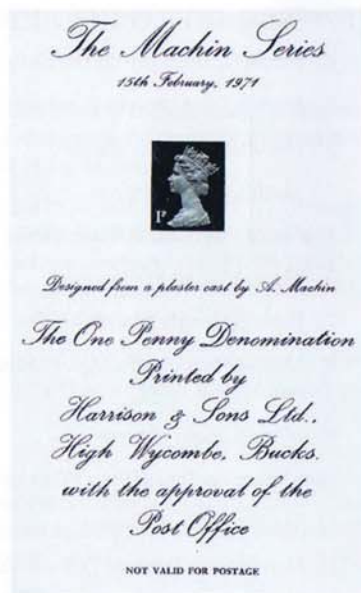
The Reports

This is where you can store any new reports that are sent to you. For CD-ROM users these have hyperlinks to link them to the text of the Handbook.

What the CD-ROM has got going for it:

- Colour
- Up to date
- Able to zoom illustrations
- The Profiles
- Ability to print out pages / sections easily

If you are a serious Machin collector EITHER of these handbooks would be useful for you



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- ⇒ New Appendix showing Machin perfins
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MACHINS AND OTHER MODERN BRITISH STAMPS-WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2007

Tony Luckhurst

In February there was the first of a series of new booklets which contain a combination of PIP Machin stamps and Greetings Stamps. It consists of 5 x 1st Class stamps and 1 "Love" stamp. This issue is to coincide with Valentines Day. It could have had 3 of each stamp in it but there is the Royal Mail for you!



The first Prestige Book (of 3) for the year is to do with "The World of Invention". It ties in with the commemoratives that are issued on the same date (1st March). The Machin se-tenant pane (we usually only get one for each book nowadays!) will be a combination of PIP stamps (1st class small) and 5p Machins (4 of each)



Then its April Fools Day (!) and Royal Mail will increase its postal rates again. Some rates will be covered by the NVI and Universal stamps. Other stamps and make-up values may be needed. In Deegam Report No 70 the following changes are mentioned:

- The basic first class rate increases from 32p to 34p
- The basic second class rate increases from 23p to 24p
- The first class large letter rate increases from 44p to 48p
- The second class large letter rate increases from 37p to 40p

Machinations

This will mean there will be no need for the 9p stamp which was the difference between 1st and 2nd class mail. This will now be 10p (an existing stamp will be used for this). The uprating values for small and large letters will change from 12p and 14p to 14p and 16p respectively. This will mean the 12p stamp and the 9p stamps will be withdrawn.

- The basic European rate will increase from 44p to 48p
- The next step European rate will increase from 64p to 69p
- The overseas airmail rates will also increase: the 50p will increase to 54p, the 72p will increase to 78p, the £1.12 will increase to £1.17 and the £1.19 will increase to £1.24. The larger 40g rates are covered by "Universal Stamps" and probably not need new Machins. There will be some new values needed for the hike. It also indicates the scarcity of some modern Machin values (try finding used copies of the 9p, 12p and 49p)

The series of pictorial definitives for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will also grow with new 48p and 78p values needed.

During the year there will be special miniature sheets containing 2 x 1st class stamps and 2 x 72p values. These are for the Saints days for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Scottish sheet was released late last year. The interesting feature of these sheets is the 2 large sized commemoratives and one of the small 1st class stamps is the 2nd class design. There is also a series of Remembrance Day miniature sheets which contain a 1st class "Poppy" stamp and 4 x 72p pictorial stamps (one from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

The most eagerly anticipated issue for us "Machin Nuts" will be commemorating 40 years of the Machin design. This is the ruby anniversary so we will be treated to a new colour in the Machin range-ruby! This colour is rumoured to be the new colour for the £1.00 stamp replacing violet. There will also be a miniature sheet and £7.00 Prestige Booklet. The miniature sheet will contain the old and new £1.00 stamps with 2 new first class commemoratives-one with a portrait of Arnold Machin and the other with the 4d sepia Machin stamp. The booklet will contain a combination of PIP standard and large stamps and both £1.00 stamps. We will find out more about what's in store for us in 2007 in a later issue.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have to acknowledge three sources of information for this article:

1. Royal Mail www.royalmail.com
2. Norvic Philatelics www.norphil.co.uk
3. D.G.A. Myall and his Deegam Reports (#80)



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