

# Capital Philately

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

*Inside this issue:*

*Ian McMahon MAP*

*Hong Kong Machins*

*Fujeira - The True Story Part 4*

*The Thames – Part III*

*and more.*



Our president Ian McMahon receiving his  
Australian Philatelic Order



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(Founded 1932)

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*Capital Philately* is published quarterly and supplied free to members of the Society. Enquiries regarding membership are welcome and should be addressed to Tony Luckhurst,

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Advertising rates are: full page \$45, half page \$25, quarter page \$15  
There is a 20% reduction on all rates for 4 consecutive issues.

Articles, letters and other contributions to *Capital Philately* should be sent to the Editor;  
Either by mail to the Society address or c/- Darryl Fuller at the above e-mail.

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ISSN 0729-8765

## CAPITAL PHILATELY

September 2010 – VOL. 28, NO. 4

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## September 2010 - Editorial

Welcome to the latest issue of Capital Philately, which I am pleased to say has virtually no items written by the editor, except for a small book review and a small input on the piece on Ian McMahon receiving his Australian Philatelic Order. Ian is to be congratulated on receiving this honour which his citation notes is well overdue. The APO awards were started in 1994 by the Australian Philatelic Federation to recognise significant service to philately. The Philatelic Society certainly punches above its weight with two Fellows and three Members of the order; Ed Druce, Dingle Smith, Hans Karman, Tom Frommer and now Ian McMahon. These five recipients are out of a total of 35 Fellows and Members.

For the first time in a long time I had to leave out material on hand from an issue with three long articles available. Indeed I had to split the article on the Machins of Hong Kong with Part 2 to appear in the next issue. I was pleased to receive this article which was written by one of our newest members, Daniel Tangri, who has recently returned to stamp collecting. It is certainly a well written and informative article. Daniel was lucky enough to be on the spot in Hong Kong when a number of these issues came out. Other articles include the fourth part of John Vassallo's fascinating series on the stamps of Fujeira, and the final part of Elspeth Bodley's trip up the Thames River via postcards. In the next issue will be the second part of the Hong Kong Machins, an article on some of the new players in the New Zealand postal market plus my long promised article on comparing Canberra Stampshow, London 2010 and Bangkok 2010. Despite this I still need articles and I am happy to assist you with their preparation. Articles on your area of collecting interest are always welcome, and you never know they may inspire others to collect. Certainly the Machins, whether from the United Kingdom or Hong Kong, continue to fascinate all those who collect them. **Anyone who says modern stamps are no fun isn't trying** – once you go beyond collecting a mint example of each. Certainly modern postal history is a challenge as those attempting to find correct usage of stamps will know.

Darryl Fuller

## IAN MCMAHON MAP

### MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC ORDER

Our President, Ian McMahon was recently awarded an Australian Philatelic Order for his many years of service to philately. Ian became a Member of the Australian Philatelic Order (MAP) at the Australian Philatelic Federation's (APF) AGM dinner in August. Ian joins four other Philatelic Society members who have received such awards with Hans Karman and Tom Frommer having been made members, while Ed Druce and Dingle Smith have received the higher award of Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order (FAP).

The Australian Philatelic Order was established by the APF in 1994 to recognise and honour philatelists who have given distinguished service to Australian Philately. The awards are now an established highlight of the Australian philatelic calendar with a formal presentation ceremony held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the APF. Nominees are considered on the basis of their services to organised philately, which includes distinguished philatelic study and research, judging, promotion of philately and public dissemination including teaching.



The three recipients of Australian Philatelic Orders John Bell, Michel Roland and Ian McMahon (L-R) with the evenings guest speaker Martin Walker

Ian is a very valuable member of the Philatelic Society of Canberra and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all members of the Society, to congratulate Ian on his award as he is a very worthy recipient. The following is the citation as read out at the APF AGM dinner.

#### CITATION

*Ian McMahon began schoolboy collecting in his home State of Queensland. However his philatelic prowess and skills blossomed when he moved to the national capital and joined the Philatelic Society of Canberra in 1978. Since that time his contributions to organised philately at Local, State, National and International level have been outstanding. These include:*

- *the Council of the Philatelic Society of Canberra from 1986 to present in many roles including President 1991-94 and from 2009;*
- *the ACT Philatelic Council 1989-present, President 1991-99 and from 2002-present;*
- *the APF Executive from 1996-09 in a variety of roles including President 2003-05 and Secretary 2007-09;*
- *a Bureau Member of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission since 2006.*

*He brought to all these positions dedication and enviable administrative skills always accompanied by quiet, unruffled efficiency.*

#### **Exhibiting & Judging**

*Ian has a diverse range of collecting interests and is a regular exhibitor at National Shows in Australia and New Zealand as well as at FIAP and FIP Exhibitions. His major interest and successes are those of Postal Stationery especially of Canada, New Zealand and modern Australia. He qualified as a judge at State level in 1996, at National level in 1999 and as Postal Stationery judge with FIAP in 2008 and with FIP in 2009. He has been a jury member at*

numerous national shows, often as Chair or Secretary, and is qualified to judge in a range of classes. Canberra is unique in that commencing in 1980 it launched a continuous series of major biennial shows and Ian has played a major role in the organisation of all of these events since 1988. He is also an experienced and widely travelled Australian Commissioner to a range of FIAP and FIP shows. Ian is always prepared to assist with training courses for new exhibitors and judges at all levels of competitive philately.

### Research & Publications

Ian has been a prolific contributor to a range of journals and his bibliography of articles and monographs since 1987 lists over 200 entries. These included Australian and overseas publications as diverse as archival research into early Queensland railway postal rates to APF brochures such as 'I have just inherited a stamp collection'. Especially praiseworthy is his association with the Postal Stationery Society of Australia; he has been the driving force and editor of its journal, the Postal Stationery Collector, since its inception in 1995. His personal contribution to listing and describing items of modern Australian postal stationery deserves special note.

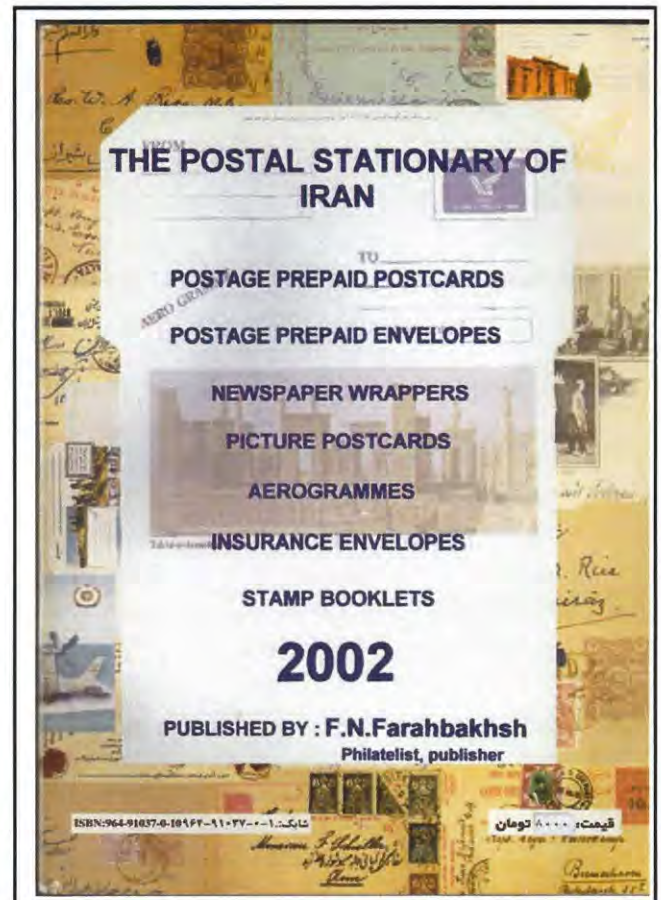
Ian is a fully worthy and qualified to become a Member of the Australian Philatelic Order. An honour that he would have undoubtedly received some years ago if it were not were for his long service on the APF Executive which rightly does not permit its office bearers to receive such awards while in office.

## THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF IRAN

**F. N. Farahbakhsh**

At Bangkok 2010 I met fellow judge Mr Farahbakhsh who had published the book "The Postal Stationery[sic] of Iran". Mr Farahbakhsh is a collector of Iranian postal stationery and I judged with him at my FIAP apprenticeship.

The book is 184 pages and is written in Arabic and English. It covers the postcards, envelopes, wrappers, picture postcards, aerogrammes,



insurance envelopes and stamp booklets. The picture postcards are not postal stationery but are a useful addition to the catalogue as some may be government issued cards.

This is a priced catalogue printed in colour and the images are reasonably well produced. It covers the stationery from 1879 through to 2002. It covers the occupation issues from 1918 as well as some of the second world war issues. This book is a must if you collect Iranian stationery as there is much information that would not be easy to find anywhere else. I believe that if all countries had a catalogue such as this, postal stationery would be more widely collected.

The catalogue is self published and is available from Vera Trinder for £18. It may also be available directly from Mr Farahbakhsh but Iran may be a tricky place to send money.

Mr F N Farahbakhsh,  
391, Valie Assr Ave. Amir akram  
Tehran 11336  
Iran

## SOME NOTES ON THE 1992-97 HONG KONG MACHIN DEFINITIVES

## Part 1

Daniel Tangri

The 1992-97 Hong Kong Machin definitives are much liked, both by collectors of Hong Kong stamps and by fans of British Machins. The juxtaposition of the classic Machin head with traditional Chinese calligraphy, and the brilliant colours of the stamps, forms an eye-catching design that captures both Hong Kong's colonial past and its Oriental location. Furthermore, the definitives were issued in a variety of formats, including sheets, coils, booklets and miniature sheets, and straddled the introduction of new electronic mail sorting machines in Hong Kong, meaning that the majority of denominations were re-issued with phosphor bands. As a result, the set offers enough complexity to make collecting it an enjoyable challenge.

Typically the stamps are referred to by Stanley Gibbons numbers (SG 702-17 and 757-65) or by Yang numbers (Y404-44). They have also been given a full listing in the Deegam Machin Handbook. In practice, all three sources are required when working on these stamps, as each contains some information not found in the others.

and \$2.40 stamps were issued, and stocks of the 60c, 70c and \$2.30 values were no longer printed after that date and were sold down. The 80c was printed again in 1994, but then sold down afterwards. The next new values were released on 1 June 1995. The 90c, \$1.70, \$1.80 and \$2.40 values became obsolete and new \$1.10, \$1.50, \$2.10 and \$2.60 stamps were issued (see Figures 1a-1c).

The 1995 annual report of the HKPO reported that a tender had been let 'to procure and install two Culler-Facer-Canceller machines in 1996/1997 at the GPO and International Mail Centre to automate the existing manual process of facing and segregation of mails collected from street posting boxes.'<sup>1</sup> These machines were introduced in April 1996, with the result that on 24 April 1996 the low value denominations then in circulation were issued with phosphor bands - specifically, the 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1, \$1.10, \$1.20, \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.90, \$2, \$2.10, \$2.60 and \$5. In addition, the words 'Hong Kong' on the stamp were also overprinted in phosphor. According to the Deegam Report No.65, the phosphors on



Fig 1a: Low values from 10c to \$1.20 including two different \$1 values



Fig 1b: Low values from \$1.30 to \$5

The definitives were first released on 16 June 1992. At the time the Hong Kong Post Office (HKPO) announced that the stamps were its sixth series of Queen Elizabeth II definitives. The stamps were designed by Ivan Leung and printed in gravure by Joh Enschedé. Initially 16 values were released, 10c, 50c, 60c, 70c, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.20, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2, \$2.30, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50. On 1 November 1993 new 20c, \$1.30, \$1.90

definitives printed on sheets are Novaglo (phosphor with yellow fluor added); they fluoresce a dull yellow under ultraviolet light. The Deegam Handbook classifies the phosphor as A2Y. The phosphor on the 1997 Prestige booklet version of the \$5, and on the 1996 \$1.30 from the 7-Eleven booklet, are stated to have

<sup>1</sup> Hong Kong Post Office Annual Report 1994-95 (1995) p.8.

added green flour, classified as A2Y2.<sup>2</sup> Low values (to \$2) were issued with two phosphor bands and the \$2.10, \$2.60, \$3.10 and \$5 values with a single central phosphor band. From September 1996, when a new \$2.50 value was released, the \$2.10 was reclassified as a low value and issued with two phosphor bands. The high values were not provided with phosphor bands.

On 2 September 1996 the \$1.10, \$1.50, \$1.90 and \$2.60 values were superseded by new \$1.40, \$1.60, \$2.50 and \$3.10 values with phosphor bands.



Fig 1c: The three high value Machins

All stamps were perforated 14 x 14¾. The three high values had a large, circular perforation hole at each corner, something best observed in blocks (see Figure 2). Sheet stamps were initially printed on non-fluorescent paper (OFNP) with blue-tinted PVAI gum, but all sheet stamps issued in 1996 by Enschedé had white PVAI gum. The low values, from 10c to \$5, are the same size as their British cousins, but the three high values are similar in size to the pre-decimal Machin high values. Prior to the introduction of phosphor bands, there was a security overprint in yellow fluorescent ink over the words 'Hong Kong' on values from 10c to \$5. These security overprints cannot be seen with the naked eye. The name of the former colony shines a bright yellow under ultraviolet light, but this vanishes as soon as the light is switched off. The three high values had this bright yellow overprint as well as a green fluorescent ink line underneath the words 'Hong Kong'. The green line does not shine under long wave ultraviolet; I don't have a short wave lamp, so cannot say what spectrum band it will react to!

<sup>2</sup> See Deegam Report 65 (2006) p.7 and *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* (2010) C6-11-13 (henceforth 'Deegam Handbook').

The security overprint is extremely consistent on all sheet stamps; I have not seen any faulty registrations or variations in brightness under ultraviolet light. Once phosphor bands were introduced, as mentioned above the phosphor cylinder was used to overprint 'Hong Kong' as well as phosphor bands, and the overprint is therefore not as bright on phosphor printings as on earlier printings.

All low value sheet stamps I have seen from the first requisition C in June 1992 had inverted direction of printing (i.e., swarf at the top of the perforation holes). From 1994, all low value stamps had upright direction of printing. During 1992 and 1993 some stamps could be found with either inverted or upright printing. The 10c, 20c, 50c, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.20, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2, \$2.30 and \$5 can therefore be found, from sheets, with either inverted or upright printing. I have only seen the 60c and 70c with inverted printing, and I have only seen the \$1.10, \$1.30, \$1.40, \$1.50, \$1.60, \$1.90, \$2.10, \$2.40, \$2.50, \$2.60 and \$3.10 values with upright printing.

The first printings of the high values had sideways left direction of printing; by 1994, these values had sideways right direction of printing.

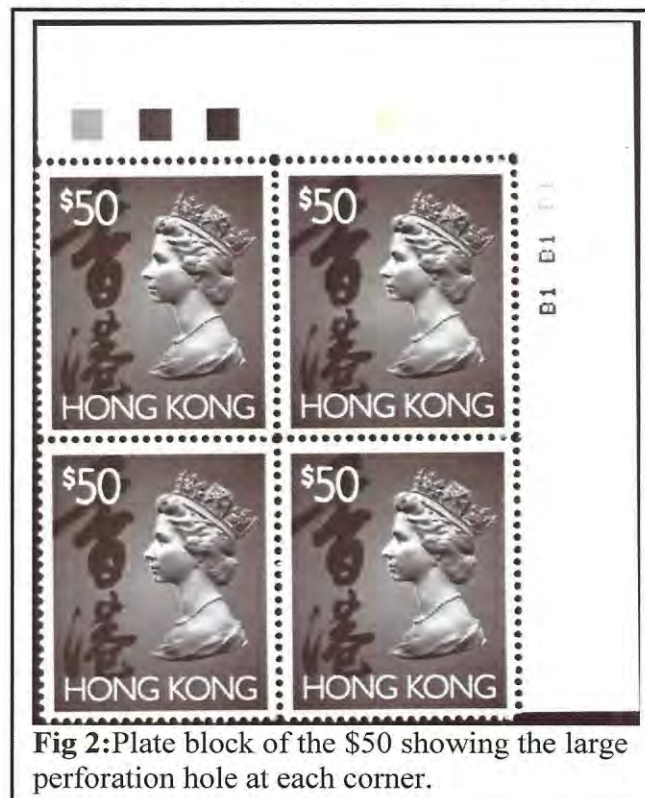


Fig 2: Plate block of the \$50 showing the large perforation hole at each corner.

## Sheet layout



**Fig 3:** Sheet layout for the \$1.10 value showing perforation extension holes at left and sheet markings

The low values were issued in counter sheets of 100 (10 x 10) and the high values in counter sheets of 50 (10 x 5). The low value sheets are quite small, roughly quarto size, and can be readily accommodated on standard album pages.

**Printers' sheets of the definitives had four panes,** labelled A, B, C or D. Low value panes were printed in two pairs on the sheet, one pair above the other, separated horizontally by a blank gutter and vertically by a gutter containing printed arrows at the middle of each pane. The arrows were printed in the colours used for each denomination (including the security overprint; this arrow bar is only visible under ultraviolet light). T-shaped guide marks were also printed at the top left and top right corners of each pane, to guide guillotining.

High value panes were similarly printed in two pairs, but the arrows were located at the middle of each pane in the horizontal gutter, rather than the vertical gutter.

Sheets were comb-perforated using an APS machine. On low value sheets perforations ran through the top and bottom margins and the blank gutter in the middle of the sheet. Low value counter sheets had two extension holes at the edge of each row of stamps, on each side of the pane (refer Figure 3), like the RE2 perforation type used by Enschedé for some British Machins.<sup>3</sup> High value counter sheets had no extension holes, but as noted above each stamp had a large perforation hole at each corner. High value sheets also were not perforated in the top and bottom margins.

Four cylinder numbers were printed at all four corners of each pane, representing:

1. the cylinder used for the Machin head;
2. the cylinder used for the Chinese characters and foreground of the stamp;
3. the cylinder used for the coloured background in the centre of the stamp; and
4. the cylinder used for the 'Hong Kong' security overprint.

Each cylinder number was prefixed with a letter representing the pane the counter sheet originally came from, so, for example, in the first printing counter sheets with cylinder numbers A1 A1 A1 came from pane A and cylinder 1 of all values, and sheets with cylinder numbers D1 D1 D1 came from pane D but the same cylinders. The cylinder number for the security overprint can only be seen under ultraviolet light, so that the

<sup>3</sup> See the *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Definitive Issues, Vol. 4 Part I*, p.445 (henceforth Gibbons 4.1).



sheet from pane A would actually be from cylinders A1 A1 A1 A1.

The Machin head type used for the Hong Kong definitives is the same as that used by Enschedé for British Machins, a modified Head B with a dark blob at the base of the hair bun and an open central cross on the diadem,<sup>4</sup> and it is therefore likely that the head cylinder was computer engraved like that on the British stamps.

**Printers' sheets** were guillotined vertically and horizontally to separate the panes. Sheets were cut down the middle of the arrows between panes. This means that counter sheets of low values can be found with cut arrows in the selvedge at the left or right of the sheet, depending on which pane they came from. Counter sheets from panes B and D always have cut arrows on the right side of the sheet, and counter sheets from panes A or C always have the cut arrows on the left. As a result, the layout of the panes on the printers' sheet must have been, clockwise, B A C D (indicating that the clockwise layout, in mirror image, on the cylinder would have been A B C D).

I have not seen enough sheets of the high values to identify the layout of the cylinders on these values, but suspect the layout was similar to the low values.

Square traffic lights were printed at each corner of the pane, in the colours of each denomination (refer Figure 4). On low values, a fourth square traffic light was also printed at each corner in the security ink. An additional two fluorescent ink squares were printed at the corners of each pane of the high values, representing the two inks used. The traffic lights in security ink are

generally visible with the naked eye, although the degree of clarity is variable.

Requisition numbers and printings

After being severed each counter sheet was numbered, with an initial letter denoting the requisition from the HKPO. The first requisition was 'C'. On the first printings under this requisition in 1992, sheet numbers were printed



**Fig 4:** Complete sheet of the \$1.80 value showing colour bars in right margin.

at the bottom of the sheet in small black font, under the sixth and seventh stamps of the bottom row. Some sheets of the 60c, \$1.70 and \$1.80 values were also printed for requisition C with the sheet number at the top of the sheet. Some sheets of the 10c, 70c, 80c, \$2.30, \$5 and \$50 values are also known from requisition C with the sheet number in a large font, and sheets of the 80c and \$1.80 values have been found with the sheet number in a medium-sized font. Large and medium-sized fonts would be used for further

<sup>4</sup> See Deegam Handbook C12-5 and Gibbons 4.1 pp.14-15.

printings under the next three requisitions, G, L and N, but all subsequent sheet numbers appeared in a standard small font.

Counter sheets from the second requisition, G, which were issued in late 1992, had all the sheet numbers at the top of the sheet, above the sixth and seventh stamps in the top row. From this point on all sheet numbers were printed in this location, and as a result the philatelic outlets of the HKPO would sell cylinder blocks in a standard format of a block of ten from the top right corner of the sheet. This block would show both the cylinder numbers and the sheet number, allowing collectors to link the cylinder numbers to the requisition. A number of Hong Kong collectors preferred to collect cylinder blocks of four, however, perhaps to match their holdings of the earlier Elizabethan definitives, and as a result one can readily find cylinder blocks of varying sizes, with or without the requisition number, and from different corners of the sheet.

Requisition letters 'C' and 'N' were used twice, in 1992 and 1995 and in 1993 and 1996 respectively. Otherwise, however, unique requisition letters were used. It is important to stress that a requisition was not identical to a printing. Ms Mary Chung of the HKPO informs me that "reprints were generally placed around two times per year and each reprint order was placed individually according to the stock level of respective definitive values."<sup>5</sup> Consequently, more than one printing of any value could be made under a single requisition. A requisition, I suspect, was a budgetary allocation in the HKPO under which stamps would be printed until the allocation was exhausted. Sadly, the HKPO no longer retains any records for this period, so we are unlikely ever to know exactly how many printings there were of each value.

There were nine requisitions in all between 1992 and 1996. We generally know when printings under specific requisitions first appeared, as some new printings were advertised by the HKPO, but do not necessarily know how many subsequent printings were made under a requisition. Requisition 'C' covered the first

printings on 16 June 1992. Requisition 'G' covered further printings in late 1992. Requisition 'L' was used for special printings of the 80c, \$1.70 and \$1.80 values in June 1993, and the \$2.30 value in October 1993. We know that requisition 'N' initially covered printings released in November 1993 (including the four new values) and releases of the three high values in August 1993. Another special requisition, 'P', covered a printing of the 60c in October 1993 and a printing of the 80c in October 1994 (I was still able to buy this value at Post Offices in early 1995, although sadly at the time I could not buy a cylinder block). The sixth requisition, 'U', covered values released between July and October 1994. The seventh requisition, 'C', covered values released between June 1995 and February 1996. Requisition 'M' then covered the various printings of the phosphor-tagged values between April and September 1996 (including the different printings of the \$2.10 with first one, and then two, phosphor bands). Finally, requisition 'N' covered a final printing of the three high values in October 1996.

Most cylinder numbers were limited to a specific requisition, and as a result a marginal block with cylinder numbers or a sheet number can generally be allocated to a requisition within a specific year (if not always to a specific printing). This method is not foolproof, as some cylinders were used for one value in two different requisitions. Most of these problem cases can be identified if one has both the cylinder numbers and the sheet number identifying the requisition. In other cases, some unique aspect of the stamp can help identify different printings. For example, both phosphor-band varieties of the \$2.10 were printed from head cylinders 7 and 8 under the same requisition. Without the change in phosphor it would have been difficult to distinguish the two printings, although it should be noted that the shades of the two printings are also different.

One odd case, which would otherwise have proved difficult to identify, is a printing of the 90c value which was first observed in September 1994. The sheet numbers were printed with 'T' at the start. However, the sheets should have been allocated to requisition U. The HKPO blacked out the T and overprinted U. As a result,

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<sup>5</sup> Ms Mary Chung, Senior Manager (Public Relations), Hongkong Post, personal communication 9 September 2010.

marginal examples of this rather rare printing can be identified by the correction.

Table One correlates cylinder numbers with requisitions and dates of release where known. This table is based on the invaluable information sent to me by Mr Kong Siu Wa, which I have also checked against the records I made when I bought stamps from 1993-96. As most new releases were advertised by the HKPO, we can have considerable certainty about most of the allocations in Table One. However, the HKPO did not operate just for the benefit of philatelists. It did not advertise all new releases, and would not advise which cylinder numbers were used under each requisition. As a result, some of the dates in Table One are best guesses only; in particular, the printings of the 60c and 80c in October 1993 and October 1994, the 90c in September 1994, the \$2.40 in 1995, the \$5 in 1994 and all the printings in late 1992 have not been closely tied down.

Although one might think that the date a block or sheet was purchased would give a good approximation of its date of release, when printings were not advertised it could take collectors some time to become aware of the existence of a new requisition letter or cylinder number. Furthermore, the HKPO would keep material from several requisitions on hand. Early in 1995, I ordered cylinder blocks from the General Post Office (GPO) of all the low values, and the GPO filled this order with blocks from three different requisitions. It is likely that the GPO simply sent out stocks to individual post offices as the need arose, and as a result a collector who first noticed a new printing at a post office at a certain time may in fact have been discovering a printing that had already been in use for some time.

Incidentally, cylinder blocks were generally only available at philatelic outlets in Hong Kong. Between 1992 and 1997 there were six to eight such outlets. Counter staff at normal post offices used to tear the selvedge off sheets of stamps when providing them to customers – meaning that, even if you ordered 100 stamps, you would not be given a complete sheet. When I asked one clerk if it was possible to leave the selvedge on, he told me that if I wanted cylinder blocks I

needed to go to the GPO. Another clerk, in a small post office between Causeway Bay and Wanchai, did sell me a cylinder block, but this appears to have been the exception rather than the rule, and perhaps reflected the fact that, at the time, I regularly went to that post office to buy stamps for work. This proved to be a stroke of luck, as the block I bought is, to this day, the only example I have seen of the \$2.60 value printed, without phosphor bands, from head cylinder 7.

In total, eight different head cylinders are recorded for the low values and five for the high values. There are no apparent differences between the cylinders. It is logical that a number of cylinders would have been required for the head, as this would have experienced heavy usage, being used for all values. It is likely that, when all the low values were being printed at one time at least two cylinders would have been used to speed up the printing; this in fact is what we observe with the use of both head cylinders 1 and 2 for different values in the first printing under requisition C. The head cylinders are also likely to have experienced more wear than other cylinders and may therefore have needed to be replaced.

We rarely see any number other than cylinder 1 for other cylinders, which may indicate that a unique cylinder was made for each value. There are two exceptions; cylinder 2 is recorded, on the 10c and \$1 values, for the third cylinder, which printed the colour background in the centre of the stamp. The 10c and \$1 were both commonly-used values. The \$1 stamp, for example, paid the standard local letter rate from November 1993 to June 1995. The number of \$1 stamps required was immense; in 1994-95, according to the HKPO annual report, 866 million local mail items were posted,<sup>6</sup> and it was common practice for local letters to be franked with \$1 stamps. As a result, it makes sense that there could have been greater wear on the cylinders for these two stamps and cylinder 2 would have been required.

#### Coil stamps

With sheet stamps, while there are some uncertainties, we nonetheless have a reasonably good idea of how many printings were made and

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<sup>6</sup> *Hong Kong Post Office Annual Report 1994-95* (1995) p.5.

what cylinders are associated with different printings. With coils, the picture is completely different. Coils did not, as far as I know, have leaders which might have contained cylinder numbers, and little is therefore known about printings or requisitions. As a result, all we have to work with is the somewhat imperfect knowledge afforded by personal observation and philatelic sales. Both of these have their weaknesses. Any coil stamp bought from a coil machine could have been printed recently, or several months beforehand; some coil machines would have had a high turnover, but others may have only slowly released their contents, so any coil stamps bought from different machines on the same day could have contained different printings of the same value. Oddly enough, the same problem applies to coil strips bought from a philatelic outlet. Such outlets would probably offer, as part of a new issue release, freshly printed coils of new denominations, but where existing values were included in any release (as happened in 1995 and 1996) they may have used older stock. As a result, the best we can do with coils is locate them within the time periods they were in use, but it is impossible to isolate different printings within those periods.

Philatelic outlets sold two lots of coil stamps, in strips of five, while I lived in Hong Kong. In June 1995, to mark the release of new denominations reflecting changes in the major letter rates, they offered coil strips of the 10c, 50c, \$1.20, \$1.50, \$2.10 and \$2.60 values. The last three were new values, and are likely to have been newly printed, and the \$1.20 was re-issued as a coil at this time, having already been issued as a coil in November 1993.

The second philatelic release of coil strips took place in September 1996, when coil strips of the new \$1.30, \$1.60, \$2.50 and \$3.10 values, each with phosphor bands, were issued, along with strips of the 10c and 50c values, neither of which had phosphor bands. The 10c and 50c appear to have been old stock; although sheet stamps of these values were issued with phosphor bands, the coil stamps never were. The HKPO must have had a large stock of these values on hand, and decided to sell down the stock in the final few months before the new Skyline definitives (including coils) were released on 26 January 1997.

It should be noted that the Stanley Gibbons catalogue does not fully list coils. It notes that ‘Nos 702, 703, 706/7, 709bp, 709e, 711, 713, 713b and 713d also exist from coils’, but this note leaves out stamps that were sold as coils for quite a long period of time, such as the \$1, \$1.20, \$2.40 and \$2.60 values. Yang identifies 13 values issued as coils in reels of 1,000, but in fact 17 different values were issued in coils, and reels of 2,000 are also known of the 10c value. The Deegam Handbook provides a full listing, and is by far the best source of information on the Hong Kong Machins.

We have little information on how these coils were printed. By analogy with Enschedé’s approach to printing British Machins, we can probably presume that they were printed in continuous reels, and guillotined into strips as part of the printing process, but there is little else we can say.

All coil machines I used in Hong Kong were set up for vertical delivery. The 1992-93 HKPO annual report notes that new electronic stamp vending machines were introduced at some post offices. **These machines could dispense ‘multiple stamps of four commonly-used denominations’,** and the HKPO planned to have them at all post offices within the next three years.<sup>7</sup> It is important that these new coil machines only sold four denominations. As a result, all the coil machines I used at Post Offices during my time in Hong Kong did not sell all the coils then on offer. To be specific, they sold the top four values out of the six coils that were in circulation at any one time. Between 1992 and 1997 these values ranged from 80c (lowest) to \$3.10 (highest; and see below for the groups of denominations and the periods they were in use).

The 10c and 50c values were not on sale at coil machines in post offices (although they were offered at philatelic outlets). Reels were available for sale to the public and were used in office buildings. The stamps were also sold in coil machines that were located in the basements of large office buildings and only offered these two values.

<sup>7</sup> *Hong Kong Post Office Annual Report 1992-93* (1993) p.8.



Fig 5a: Coil Strip

the back and three had small font. As a result, I presume that the coils were simply produced on at least two different machines with different fonts.

The earliest coils appear to have had upright direction of printing; at least, the 80c, 90c, \$1.80 and \$2.30 coils, which were only in use during 1992-93, did. All the values introduced subsequently had inverted printing, except for the 10c, which is an odd coil stamp. I bought a strip at the Hong Kong GPO in April 1996 which had blue gum and slightly translucent paper, with inverted printing. I bought another strip in September 1996 which looks identical, but has upright printing. I also have a strip of the 10c with white gum (see below) which has upright

printing. The Deegam Handbook also lists the \$1.20 coil with upright printing, but I have not seen this.

Coils can be readily identified by several factors. The first is their perforations (refer Figure 5a). As coils were guillotined on the press, they sometimes have perforations cut short at either of the long sides. In the notation of the Deegam Handbook, individual stamps from coils will be TCTC, that is cut on both vertical sides and torn at the horizontal sides. Furthermore, every fifth stamp on a coil has a number printed underneath (refer Figure 5b); this is the main reason why philatelic outlets sold coils in strips of five. The font on the backs of stamps could vary, with some stamps having a large, thin black font and others a smaller, thicker black font, but this does not appear to reflect any difference in printing. When I bought the six coils released at the GPO in July 1995, three had large font on the back and three had small font. As a result, I presume that the coils were simply produced on at least two different machines with different fonts.

printing. The Deegam Handbook also lists the \$1.20 coil with upright printing, but I have not seen this.

The 10c and 50c coils were in use throughout 1992-1997. Other values were released at the following times:

June 1992	80c, 90c, \$1.80, \$2.30
November 1993	\$1, \$1.20, \$1.90, \$2.40
July 1995	\$1.20, \$1.50, \$2.10, \$2.60
September 1996	\$1.30, \$1.60, \$2.50, \$3.10

The 10c coil also exists without phosphor bands but with white gum. We know that at the end of 1995 Enschedé stopped adding blue dye to the gum used on the paper for its British Machins, and instead began using white gum.<sup>8</sup> Consequently, this coil stamp could have been issued in late 1995 or during 1996, although the precise timing of its release is unknown.<sup>9</sup> I have not observed this white gum on the 50c coil, the other non-phosphor coil to be in circulation after April 1996.

(to be continued)



Fig 5b: Coil strip with number printed on reverse

<sup>8</sup> See Deegam Handbook, C5-10.

<sup>9</sup> The coil is unlikely to have been printed in 1997, as the Skyline definitives began to replace the Machins from the end of January 1997, and would have been in preparation at the printers for some time before this date.

# FUJEIRA – THE TRUE STORY

## Chapter 4: May 1969 to 1971

John Vassallo

(Cont. from Capital Philately Vol. 28 Nos 1-2)

### Introduction

The original 5 year contract with Finbar Kenny was extended for a further two years from 14 June 1969 to 15 June 1971. Soon after this extension, the Ruler of Fujera heard from another agency - Middle East Stamps Co - and they offered him much better conditions. So he must have felt that Finbar Kenny had cheated on him. This made the Ruler quite upset and determined to change agent even though there were no 'early termination' clauses in the contract. In the meantime, the Fujera Stamps kept on rolling out!

### APOLLO 8 Overprints

20<sup>th</sup> May 1969 - The original space set of May 1966 was overprinted APOLLO 8. Some values were also changed. The set was: 50np; 75np; 1R; 2R (all still in the old currency even though they had changed to Dh!) 2.50 R (on 25np); 3R (on 15 np); 4R on (10 np) and 5R (on 5np). The miniature sheet was also overprinted. All were available in perforated and imperforate format. Inverted overprints are known



Fig 1a: The High Value (5R on 5np) in imperforate format and with Overprint Inverted on the perforated version.

(Refer Figure 1a). The 2R stamp was also produced in Gold perforate and imperforate and the imperforate sheet was also produced in a Prestige miniature sheet on stiff paper (refer Figure 1b)!

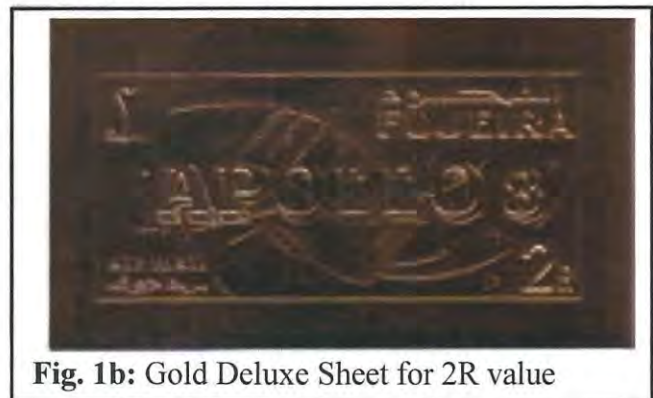


Fig. 1b: Gold Deluxe Sheet for 2R value

### SAPPORO '72 Overprints

20<sup>th</sup> May 1969 - The original Winter Olympics set of January 1968 was overprinted SAPPORO '72 and Emblem. The set was: 25Dh; 50Dh; 75Dh; 1R; 1.50; 2R & 3R in both perforated and imperforate. Inverted overprints are known. The imperforate miniature sheet was also overprinted. The Michel catalogue lists the perforated miniature sheet of this set as also being overprinted. I do not believe that this miniature sheet (with or without overprint) was ever produced in perforated format! Each stamp was also produced in a deluxe miniature sheet. The overprint is in 2 versions – black (as the issued stamp) or in Gold.



Fig. 2a: The 25Dh value with inverted overprint.

### Birds

30<sup>th</sup> May 1969 – A set of 9 diamond-shaped values: 25Dh; 50Dh; 1R; 1.50 & 2R (Postage) & 1.25R; 2.50R; 3R & 5R as Airmails. All stamps were issued both perforated and imperforate. No miniature sheet was produced.

### Dwight D Eisenhower

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1969: 25Dh; 50Dh; 1R; 1.50 & 2R (Postage) & 1.25R; 2.50R; 3R & 5R as Airmails. All stamps were issued both perforated and imperforate with no miniature sheet. The 5R value was also produced in Gold as a perforated and imperforate stamp.

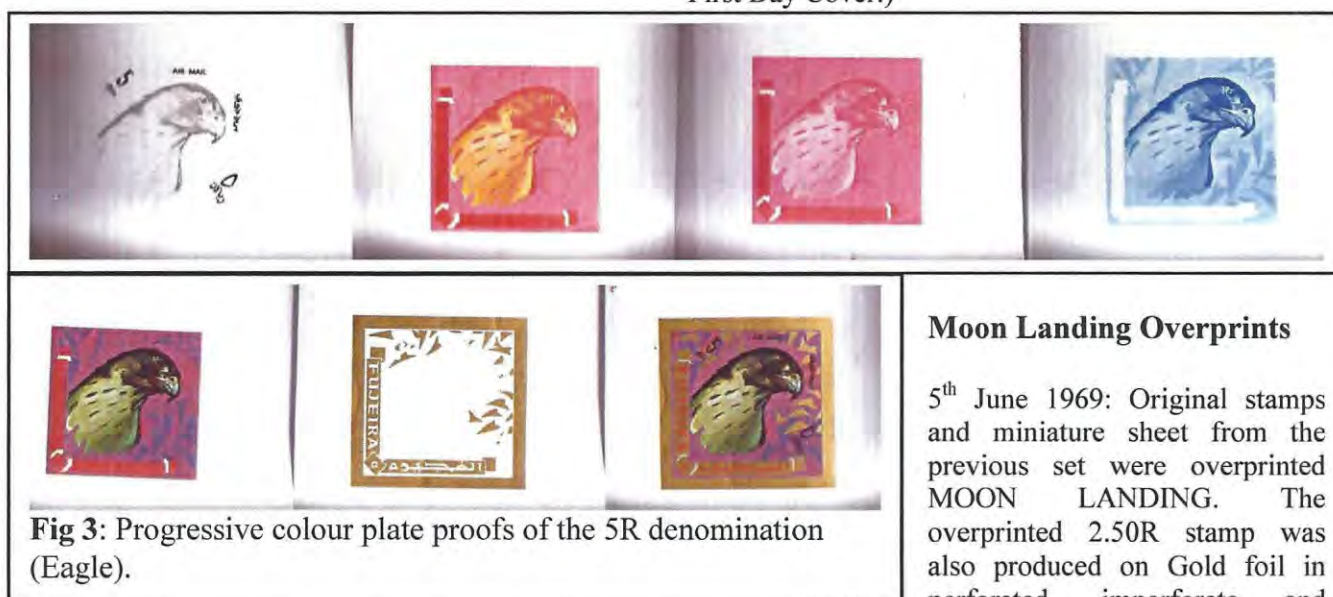
### Champions of Peace

5<sup>th</sup> June 1969: 25Dh; 50Dh; 75Dh; 1R; 2R; 3R & 5R (Postage). All stamps were issued both perforated and imperforate with no miniature sheet. The 25Dh value (Churchill) was also produced on Gold foil as a perforated; imperforate and a deluxe imperforate stamp (refer Figure 4). Note – these gold stamps exist on First Day Cover dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 1969 – two weeks before the official issue of the regular stamps.

issued both perforated and imperforate. The four Airmail stamps were also produced as a miniature sheet with the stamps labelled Postage. The 5R stamp was also produced on Gold foil as a perforated, imperforate and imperforate deluxe stamp.

### Apollo 10 Overprints

5<sup>th</sup> June 1969: Stamps and the miniature sheet from previous set were overprinted APOLLO 10. Note – the latest English version Michel catalogue also lists the overprinted 2.50R stamp on Gold foil in perforated, imperforate and imperforate deluxe stamps. I have not seen these! It is interesting to note that this gold foil was not listed in the earlier German-language Michel catalogue - so it was added relatively recently. (Also Note – as Michel catalogue does not give a date for this issue it is taken from the First Day Cover.)



**Fig 3:** Progressive colour plate proofs of the 5R denomination (Eagle).

### Moon Landing Overprints

5<sup>th</sup> June 1969: Original stamps and miniature sheet from the previous set were overprinted MOON LANDING. The overprinted 2.50R stamp was also produced on Gold foil in perforated, imperforate and imperforate deluxe stamps. (Michel gives the issue date for this set as 22 September, but I have seen a First Day Cover of this set dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 1969.)

### International Human Rights

The same regular stamps were also issued on 5 June overprinted: 'INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR', also in perforated and imperforate stamps. No gold stamp is known of these overprinted stamps.

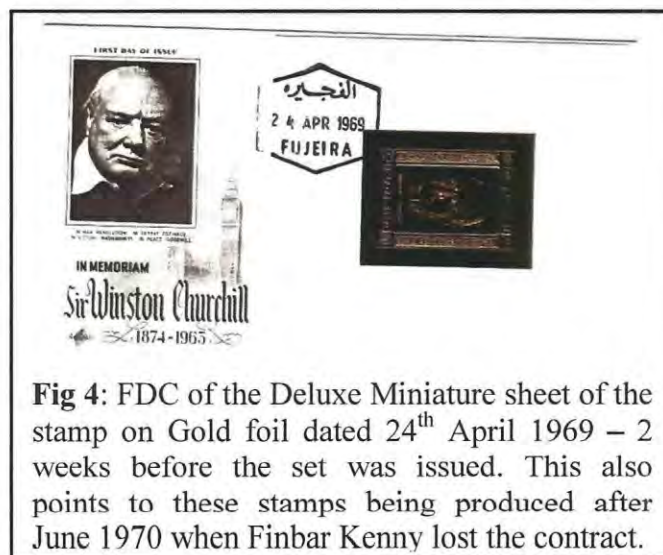
### Wild Flowers

5<sup>th</sup> June 1969: 25Dh; 50Dh; 1R; 1.50 & 2R (Postage) & 1.25R; 2.50R; 3R & 5R as Airmails. All stamps were issued both perforated and imperforate. For the 5<sup>th</sup> set in a row, no miniature sheet was produced!

### Apollo Space Flights

5<sup>th</sup> June 1969: 10Dh; 25Dh; 50Dh; 1R & 2R (Postage) & 2.50R; 3R; 4R & 5R as Airmails. All stamps were

imperforate deluxe stamps. (Michel gives the issue date for this set as 22 September, but I have seen a First Day Cover of this set dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 1969.)



**Fig 4:** FDC of the Deluxe Miniature sheet of the stamp on Gold foil dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 1969 – 2 weeks before the set was issued. This also points to these stamps being produced after June 1970 when Finbar Kenny lost the contract.

**Apollo 11 – 3 different overprints**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 1969: The top row of the sheets of the original perforated stamps were overprinted: 'FIRST MEN/ON THE MOON'; the second row: 'APOLLO 11/MOON/FLIGHT' and the third row: 'NEIL/ARMSTRONG/EDWIN/ALDRIN JR./MICHAEL/COLLINS'. The order was inverted on the imperforate stamps! The 3 overprints were used on the single miniature sheet with an additional overprint: 'MOON/APOLLO 11/FLIGHT'. (Note: Michel catalogue incorrectly lists a separate miniature sheet under each overprint instead of just one with all overprints.) Three different Gold stamps were produced. The 50 Dh and 5r1 stamps with 'FIRST MEN/ON THE MOON' were made available on gold foil in perforated, imperforate and deluxe imperforate

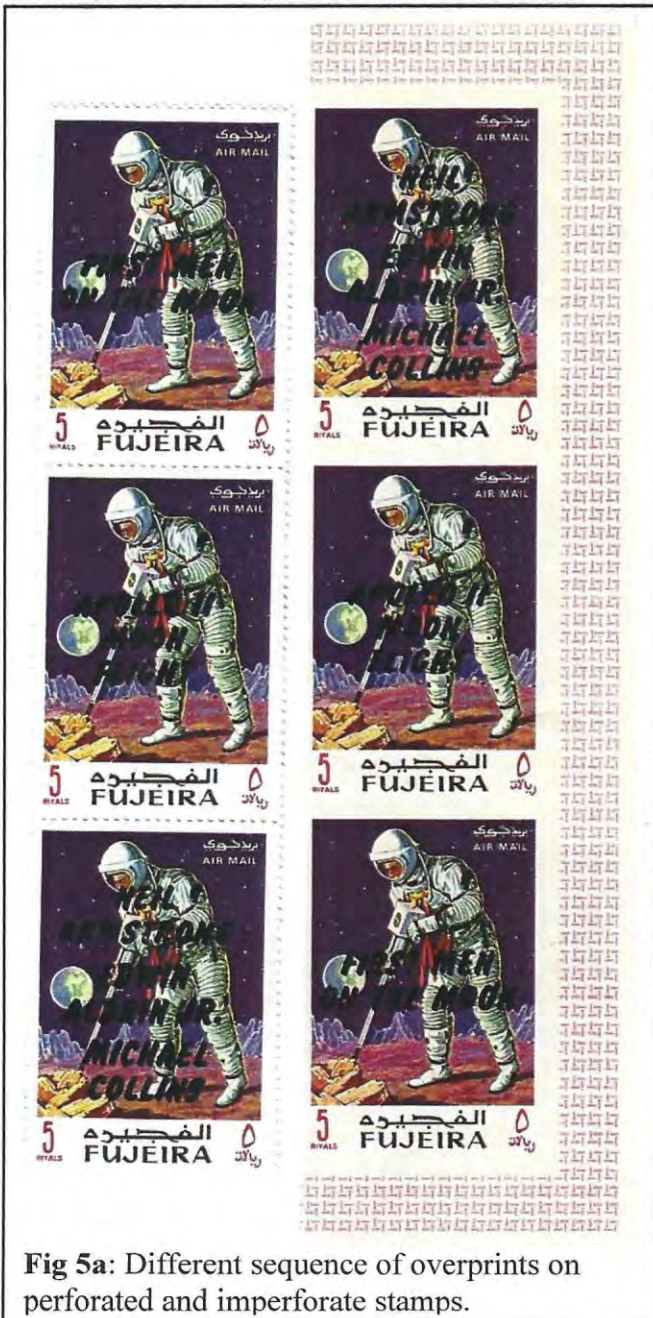


Fig 5a: Different sequence of overprints on perforated and imperforate stamps.

stamps; and the 1r1 value with 'APOLLO 11 / MOON / FLIGHT' was also produced on Gold foil in perforated, imperforate and deluxe imperforate stamps.

There are numerous errors reported of these overprints. The main ones are inverted overprints and the Apollo 11 overprints printed on already overprinted stamps instead of the original 'clean' issues. The miniature sheet is also known with two different overprints. (refer Figures 5a-5d)



Fig 5b: The miniature sheet overprinted with the 3 different overprints (as compared to different miniature sheets overprinted with each of the overprints. As listed in Michel catalogue)

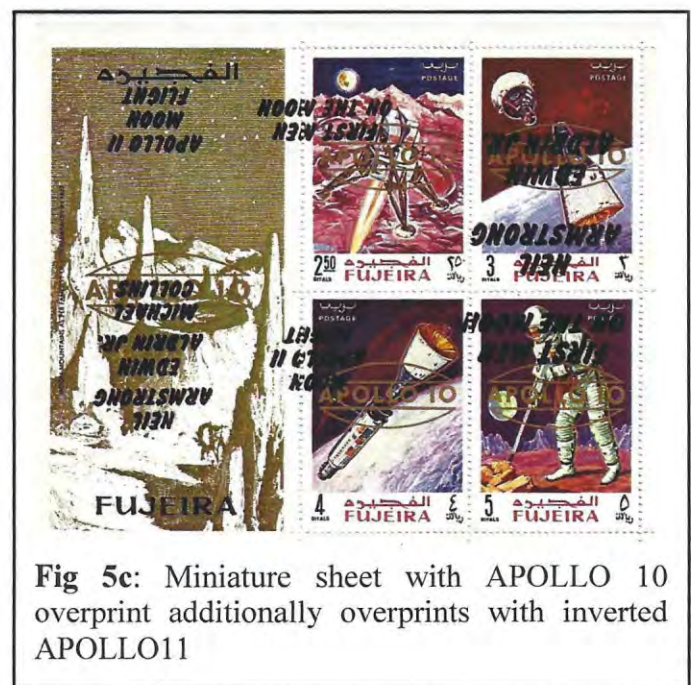


Fig 5c: Miniature sheet with APOLLO 10 overprint additionally overprints with inverted APOLLO11



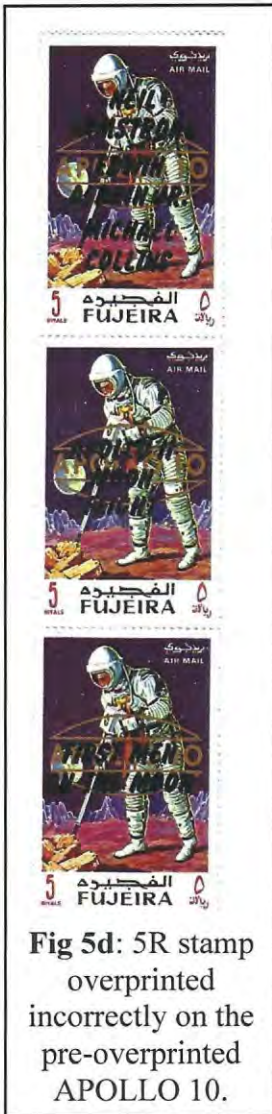


Fig 5d: 5R stamp overprinted incorrectly on the pre-overprinted APOLLO 10.

Michel also lists gold stamps of the APOLLO 11/MOON/FLIGHT overprint - I have never seen these.

Michel also lists two gold deluxe miniature sheets from the above overprinted APOLLO 13 and HEROES OF APOLLO 13. I have never seen these issues.

Please also refer to Part 3 of this series of articles on Fujeira. The 'Oriental Fairy Tales' set of July 67 was produced in deluxe miniature sheets each overprinted Moon Landing/Apollo 11 and the astronauts names. These overprints are available in gold overprint and also in metallic blue. The 'Official First Day Cover' for these miniature sheets are dated 31 December 1969.

**Napoleon**

6<sup>th</sup> April 1970: 15Dh; 25Dh; 50Dh; 75Dh; 1R; 1.50R & 2R 'Postage' stamps. The two highest values were also

produced in an 'Airmail' miniature sheet. All were produced in both perforated and imperforate format. The 50Dh value was also produced on Gold foil perforated, imperforate and imperforate deluxe on thick board.

**De Gaulle**

15<sup>th</sup> April 1970: 35Dh; 60Dh; 75Dh; 1.25R; 2.50R; 3R & 5R 'Postage' stamps. The 2 highest values were also produced in an 'Airmail' miniature sheet. All were produced in both perforate and imperforate format. (refer Figure 6)

**Bible**

25<sup>th</sup> April 1970: 15Dh and 1R 'Postage' and 35Dh; 75Dh; 1.25R; 1.50R; 2.50R

&3R 'Air Mail' stamps; plus a miniature sheet containing the 2.50R; & 3.R stamps. All is available perforated and imperforate.

**EXPO '70**

30<sup>th</sup> April 1970: 15Dh; 25Dh; 50Dh; 75Dh; 1R & 2R 'Postage' and 75Dh; 1.25R; 2.50R & 4R 'Air Mail' stamps; plus two miniature sheets containing the top two 'Postage' stamps as 'Air Mail' stamps and the top two 'Airmail' stamps as 'Postage' stamps. All are available in perforated and imperforate formats.

**NEW CONTRACT**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1970, the Ruler of Fujeira, Mohammad Bin Hamad Alsharqi, signed a new contract for Postal administration with Middle East Stamps of Beirut through Mr Hage from Lebanon. This was not taken very favourably by the previous administrator Finbar Kenny. He threatened legal action because there was no early termination clause in the old contract. In return, the Government allowed Finbar Kenny to still produce the next space issue that had already been agreed upon and already produced. These were issued on 9 May. The sets were as follows:

**APOLLO 12**

9<sup>th</sup> May 1970: 25Dh; 50Dh; 75Dh; 1R; 2R; 3R; 4R & 5R 'Postage' stamps; plus the top four values were also issued in an 'Airmail' miniature sheet. All were available in perforated and imperforate format. The 3R value was also produced on Gold and on Silver foils as perforated, imperforate and deluxe imperforate stamps!

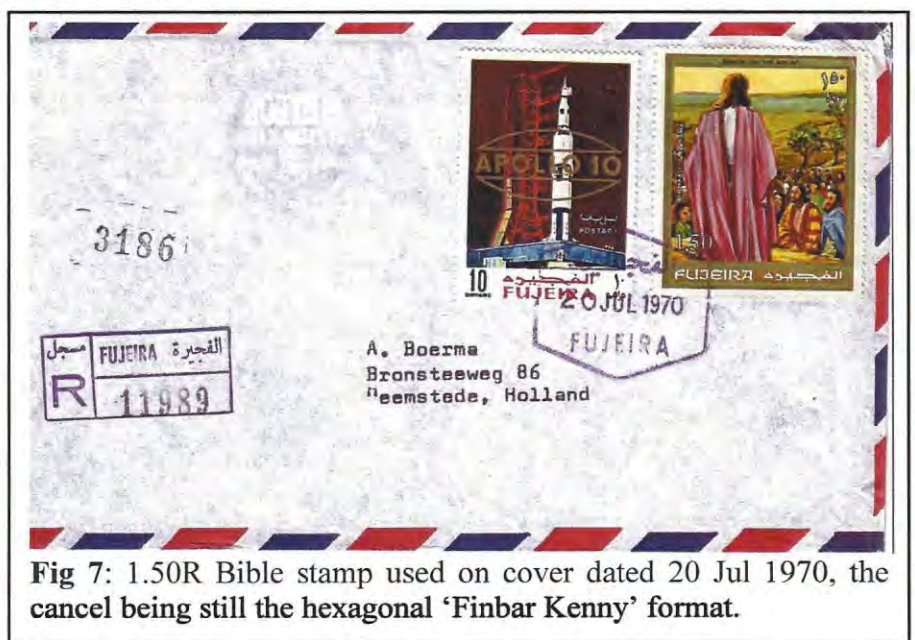


Fig 7: 1.50R Bible stamp used on cover dated 20 Jul 1970, the cancel being still the hexagonal 'Finbar Kenny' format.



**Fig 6:** These last 2 sets advertised on the same pamphlet as Educational Issue - French History! Also note that there is no mention of the availability of the stamps imperforate or of the stamp on Gold foil. Are the imperforate versions from proof issues?

Michel catalogue indicates that these 2 sets were issued after the Postal contract with Finbar Kenny was terminated. This is not correct because the contract was replaced on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and approval was granted to produce agreed stamps up to 9<sup>th</sup> May. Since these were issued before this date, they must have been official.

### APOLLO 13

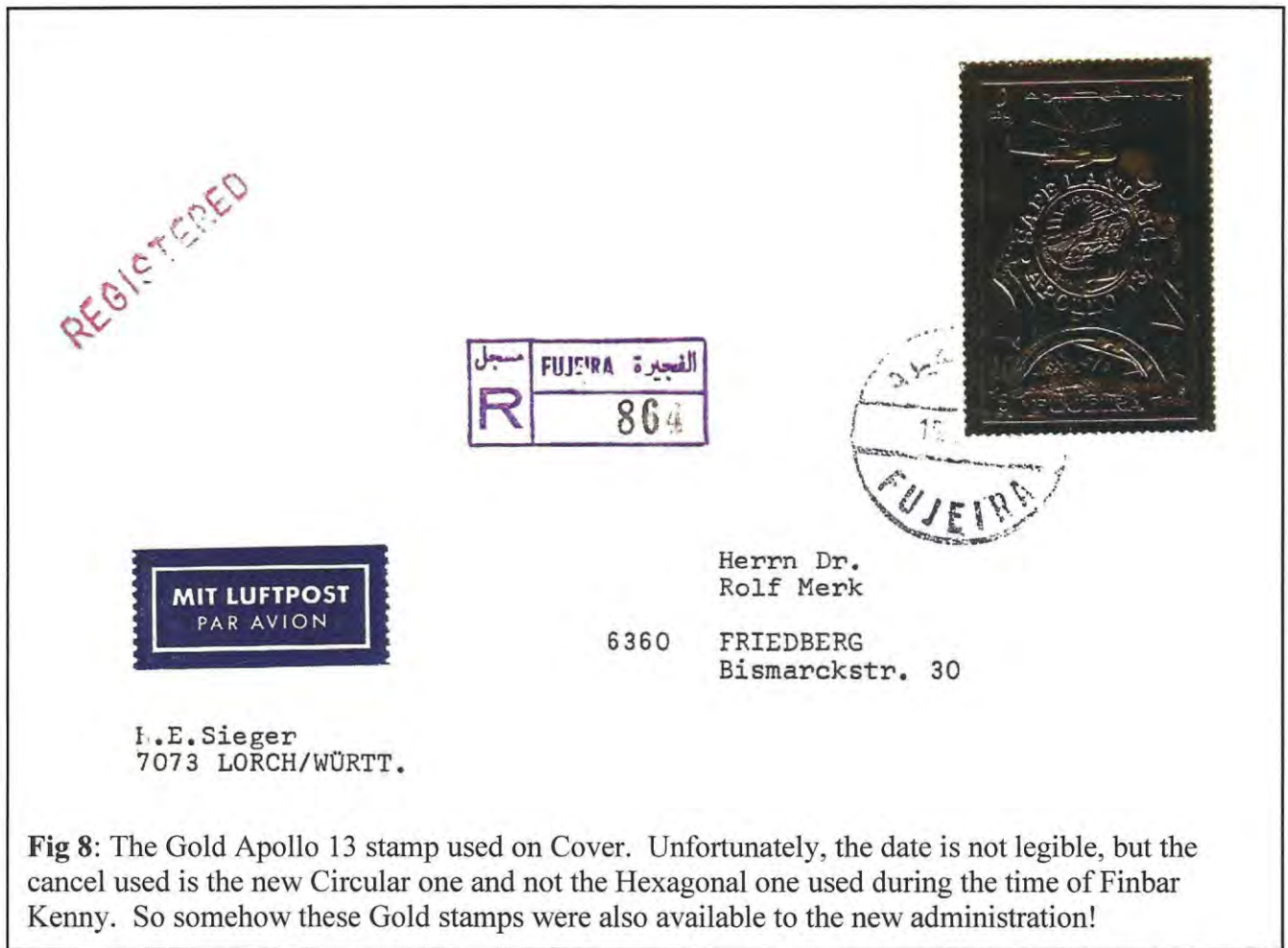
9<sup>th</sup> May 1970: All stamps overprinted with a silver emblem of Apollo 13 and 'SAFE LANDING'. The 5R value was also produced on gold and on silver foils as perforated, imperforate and deluxe imperforate stamps!

### APOLLO 14

9<sup>th</sup> May 1970: Original stamps overprinted in gold 'APOLLO 14/PROJECT'. The 2R value was also

produced on Gold and on Silver foils as perforated, imperforate and deluxe imperforate stamps!

Finbar Kenny was still threatening legal action and kept on producing stamps after his contract was terminated on 9 May. He issued a few circulars and sent them to his previous clients and philatelic magazines stating that the other 'labels' were produced illegally by other parties. For these circulars please refer to the internet site: <http://www.ohmygosh.on.ca/stamps/fujairah/fujann1.htm>. These circulars are given in their entirety. They



**Fig 8:** The Gold Apollo 13 stamp used on Cover. Unfortunately, the date is not legible, but the cancel used is the new Circular one and not the Hexagonal one used during the time of Finbar Kenny. So somehow these Gold stamps were also available to the new administration!

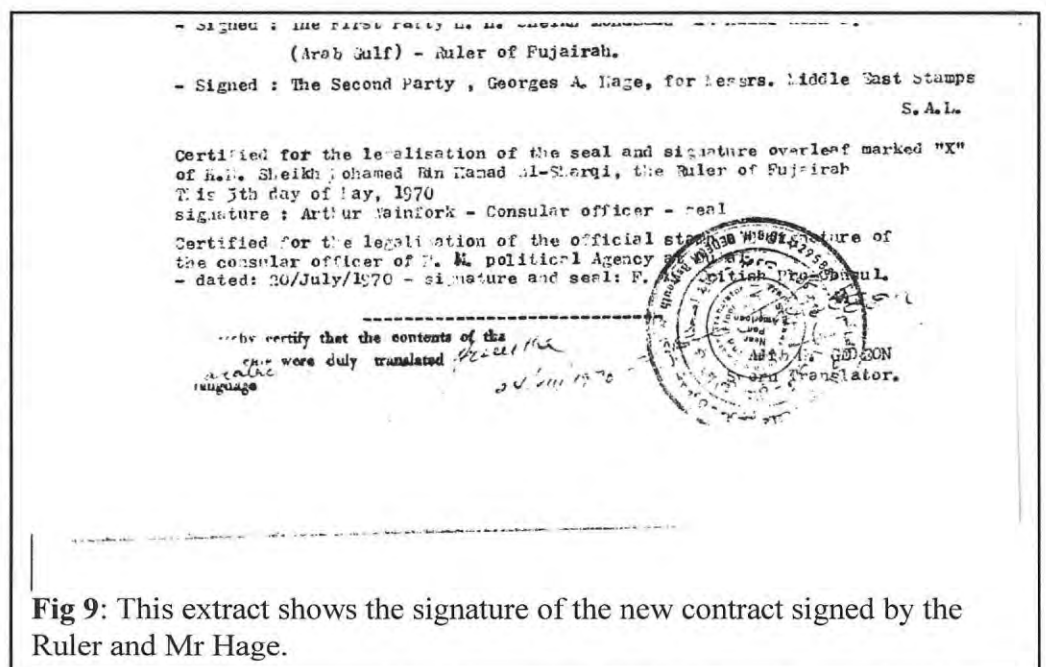
document how Kenny was fighting back claiming that he was running the official Post Office in Fujeira.

Kenny produced many other issues after 9 May and these were illegal. Issues include Apollo 13&14 issue; English Personalities; American Personalities; German Personalities; UN; Education Year; Scouts; Dickens; Red Cross; Centenary of British Red Cross; IOC; Munich Olympics; Mexico World Cup; Brazil Winners; Expo 70; Expo 70 on Gold foil.

At the same time, the Ruler of Fujeira was sending out circulars to dealers and the philatelic press to tell

everyone of the change in administration (<http://www.ohmygosh.on.ca/stamps/fujairah/1970.htm>).

He also organised telexes to all major stamp printing houses explaining the situation and asking them to stop supplying stamps to Mr Kenny. Some are reproduced here. (refer Figures 9, 10 & 11)



**Fig 9:** This extract shows the signature of the new contract signed by the Ruler and Mr Hage.

The cancellation was changed by the Ruler to a circular cancel. But Kenny was still using the Hexagonal cancel on the envelopes he was using and sending to clients and dealers. And the same applies to the cancel on CTO stamps – all issues mentioned

above by Kenny have the Hexagonal cancel. Some examples of the Hexagonal cancels after this date are displayed in this chapter indicating that they emanated from Finbar Kenny.

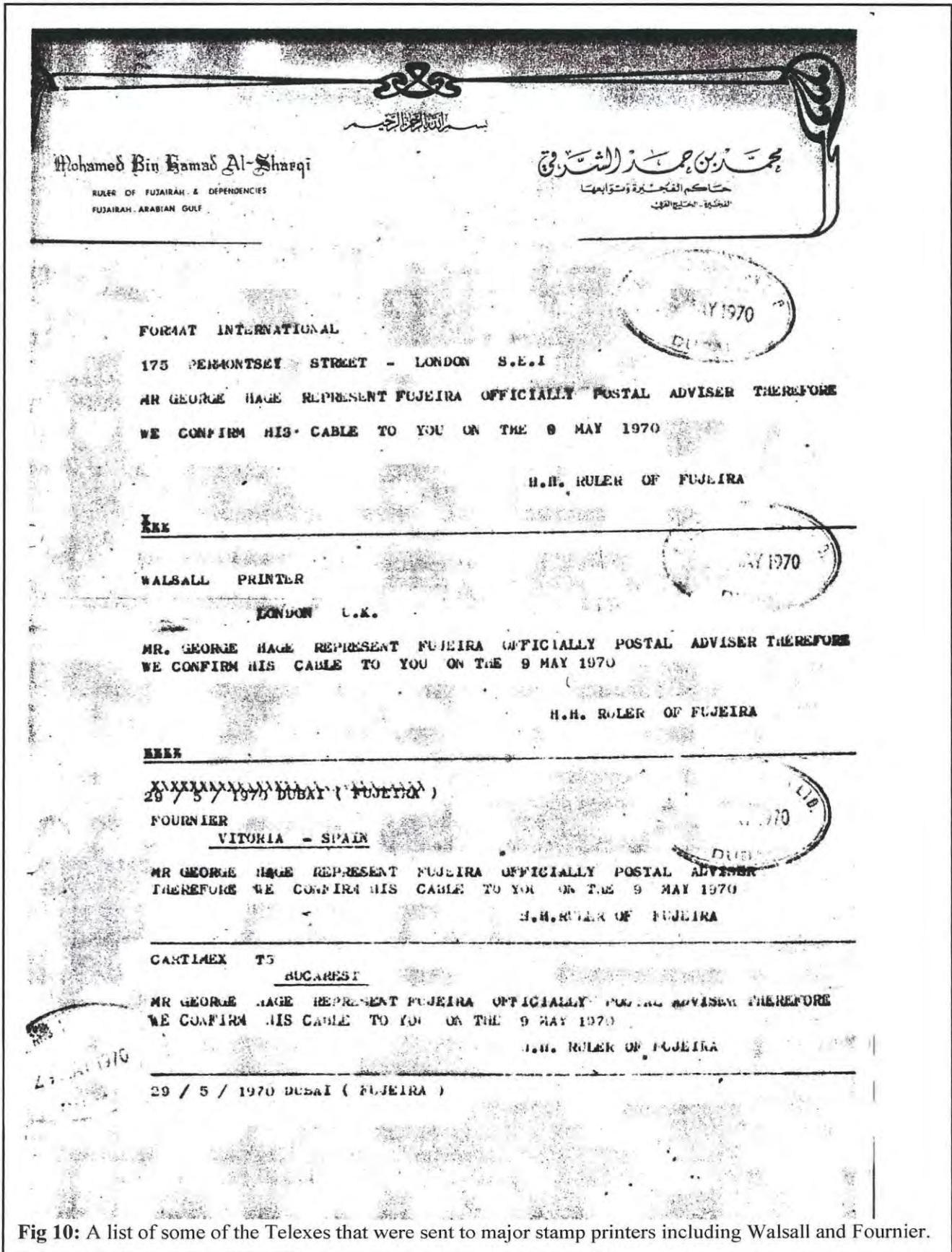


Fig 10: A list of some of the Telexes that were sent to major stamp printers including Walsall and Fournier.

دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
سلطنة فجيرة

GOVERNMENT OF AL-FUJAIRAH

حكومة الفجيرة

تاريخ ١٩٧ / /

17th October, 1970

M/S. Walsall Security Printers Ltd.,  
Box No. 26, Midland Road,  
Walsall, Staffs,  
ENGLAND.

Gentlemen,

We, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Hamad Al-Sharqi, Ruler of Fujairah & Dependencies, confirm the contact of our solicitors in London to you, as well as our several cables to your establishment instructing you not to accept orders, print or deliver of any stamps, souvenir sheets etc., for Fujairah to Mr. Finbar Kenny.

But to our astonishment we learned that more stamps, souvenir sheets of Fujairah are being printed and or delivered to Mr. Finbar Kenny.

In spite of all the above correspondence and official procedures taken to keep you aware of your responsibilities; we note that you ignore our instructions.

We ask you for a full report with a detailed list of all stamps, souvenir sheets etc., ever printed in your establishment since 1964 up to date, in order to be aware of our position with Mr. Finbar Kenny, to be addressed to our solicitors in London:

Messrs. Maltz Mitchell & Co.,  
Clun House,  
17 Surrey Street / Strand,  
London, ENGLAND

and the same copies to our Postal Representative Mr. George A. Hage,  
P.O.Box 2181, Beirut, LEBANON.

We hope to receive your earliest confirmation of receipt of this correspondence and do not expect to be compelled to contact you again through another channel.

Thanking you,

MOHAMAD BIN HAMAD AL-SHARQI,



محمد بن حمد الشارقي

RULER OF FUJAIRAH & DEPENDENCIES.

Fig 11: A letter of Demand from the Ruler to Walsall printers to stop producing stamps for Mr Kenny

# PASTCARDS

Journal of  
**CANBERRA PICTURE POSTCARD COLLECTORS**  
 a branch of the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

No. 79

September 2010

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ISSN 1326-9941

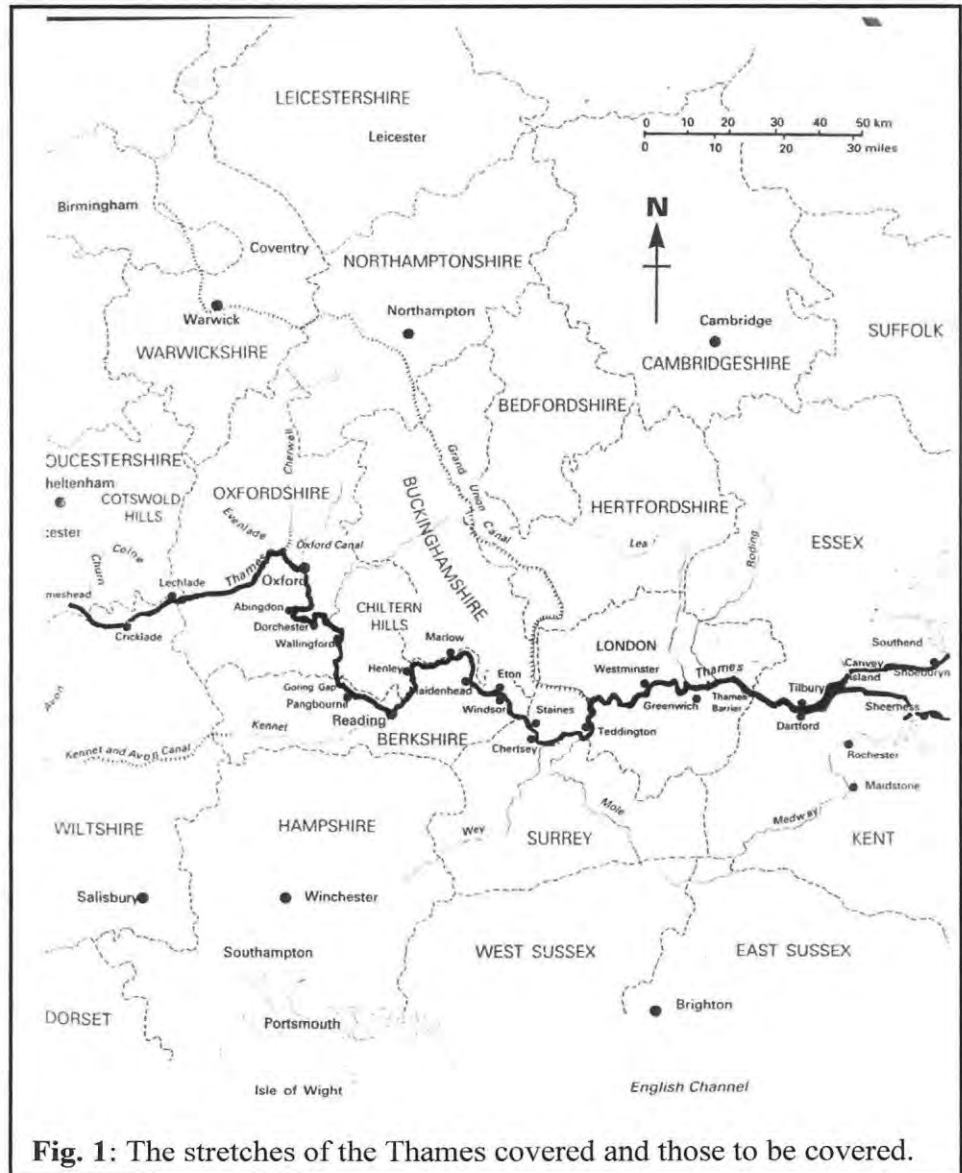
## THE THAMES - Part III Windsor to the Source

Elspeth Bodley

*(continued from Capital Philately Volume 28, No 3 June 2010)*

In previous issues of Capital Philately we have travelled upstream from the mouth of the Thames along the estuary with its mud flats and modern port facilities, through the Thames Barrage into London's River where the river is an intimate part of the city's history from Roman times to today. The tidal reaches of the Thames continue through the western suburbs and commuter areas to the final gasp of the tide at Teddington. The last issue of Capital Philately carried that story further from Teddington to Windsor. Now it is time to head even further upstream on our journey through English history.

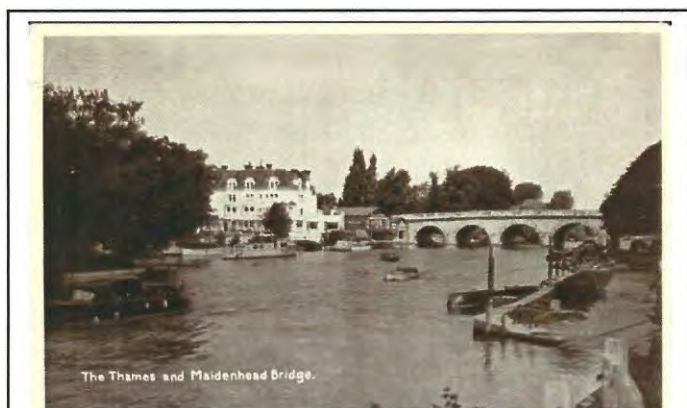
The river continues to be heavily used, by leisure craft



**Fig. 1:** The stretches of the Thames covered and those to be covered.

these days, rather than the working boats of earlier times, and runs through many populated areas to Oxford. From Oxford the river heads west through much emptier country until the head of navigation is reached at Lechlade. Further upstream is Cricklade and beyond that the mighty and historic river is little more than a creek until we reach the final controversy – which is the real source?

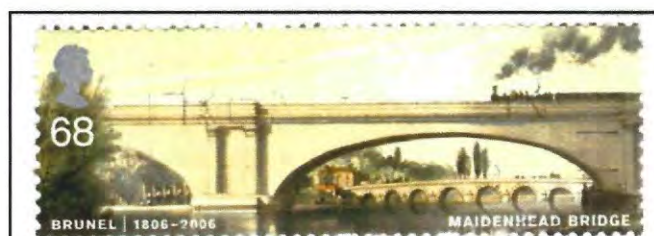
The map (Figure.1) shows the stretches we have already covered, and those still ahead of us.



**Fig. 3** Maidenhead has always been an important river crossing place. The first bridge was built in 1397 and lasted for about 500 years. This bridge was built in 1772 and still copes with modern traffic.



**Fig. 2** We set off from Windsor where people have been watching the river run past for countless generations.



**Fig. 4** Isambard Kingdom Brunel's railway bridge at Maidenhead, built in 1838, appeared on a British stamp issued in 2006.



**Fig. 5** Boulter's Lock is one of the busiest locks on the river. The earliest lock on this site was built in 1580 – a flash weir with a removable centre section allowing a flush of water downstream.



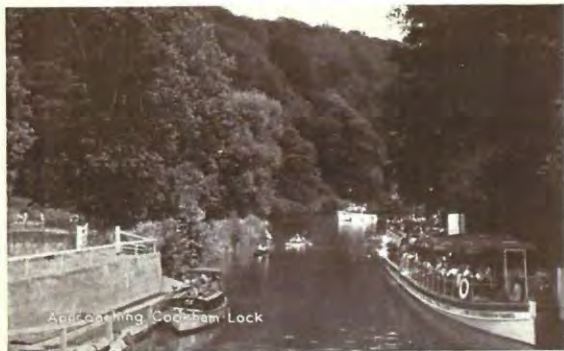
**Fig. 6** Maidenhead was a fashionable river centre in Edwardian days and Boulter's Lock was very busy at weekends.



**Fig. 7** Ascot Sunday was particularly busy – and the crowded Lock itself was something to see. Note the photographer’s tripod in the crowd on the right.



**Fig. 8** Cliveden is on the right bank of the river north of Boulter’s Lock. Now owned by the National Trust, the present building was erected in 1850. Cliveden was the home of Dukes and Princes, then the American millionaire Waldorf Astor bought it in 1893. His wife, Nancy, Lady Astor, the first woman to take a seat as a British Member of Parliament in 1919, made Cliveden a focal point of political influence. Nancy Astor was born in the USA and was the aunt of that ‘terribly English’ comedienne, Joyce Grenfell.



**Fig. 9** The Romans crossed the river at Cookham on their way from St Albans to Silchester and called the road Camlet Way. There was later a Saxon settlement nearby.

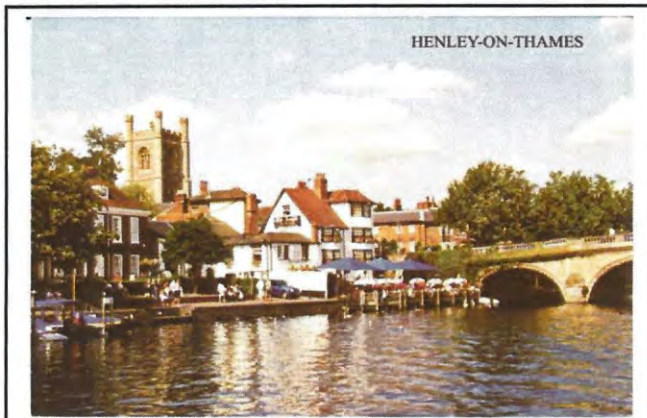


**Fig. 10** The history of Marlow Lock dates back to the days of Queen Elizabeth I. Boats now pass under the new motorway bridge before approaching this lock and around the bend is ...



**Fig. 11** An old settlement, Marlow became popular in Georgian times. In 1720 Marlow Place was built for the Prince of Wales, before he became George III. The poet Shelley lived in West Street for a time and the Military College was established here in 1779 before moving to Sandhurst in 1812. The suspension bridge was built in 1835 and its designer, W. Tierney Clerk, later built the great bridge in Budapest to a similar design.





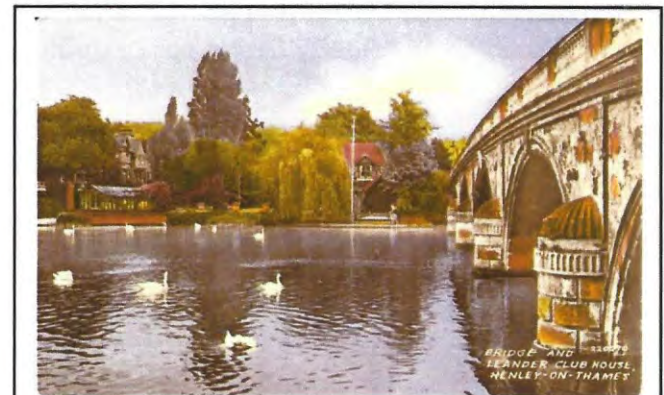
**Fig. 12** Henley on Thames, but still only 35 miles from London Bridge. The bridge was built in 1786; St Mary's Church dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.



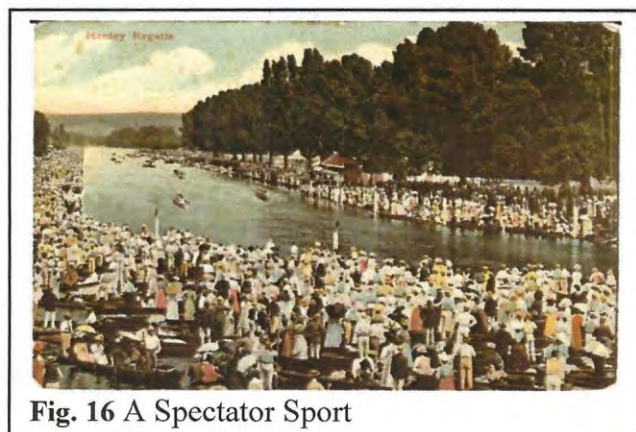
**Fig. 13** The Henley Royal Regatta is held in the first week of July each year. In 1829 the first Oxford-Cambridge boat race was held; its course is now the stretch of the Thames between Putney and Mortlake in London. In 1839 the Henley Regatta began and became Royal in 1851 when Prince Albert became its patron.



**Fig. 14** The Royal Regatta course starts at Temple Island and ...



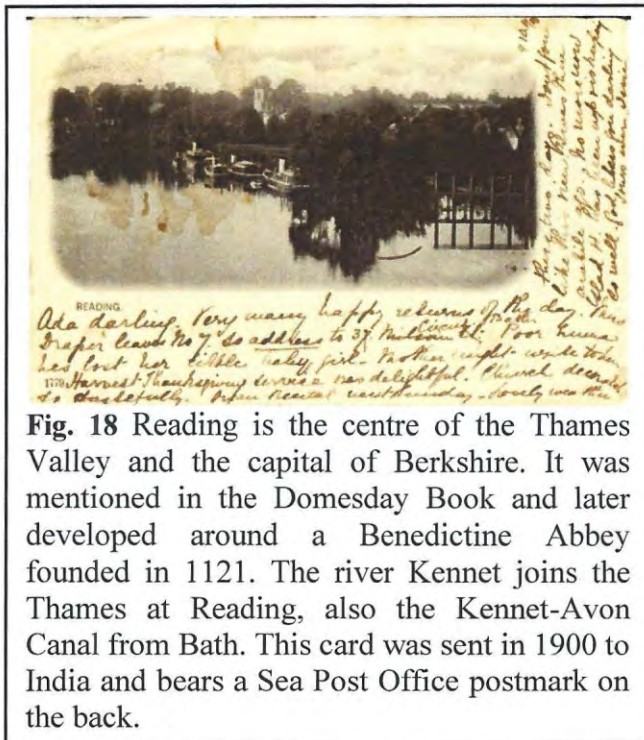
**Fig. 15** finishes 1 mile and 550 yards upstream, just below Leander Club.



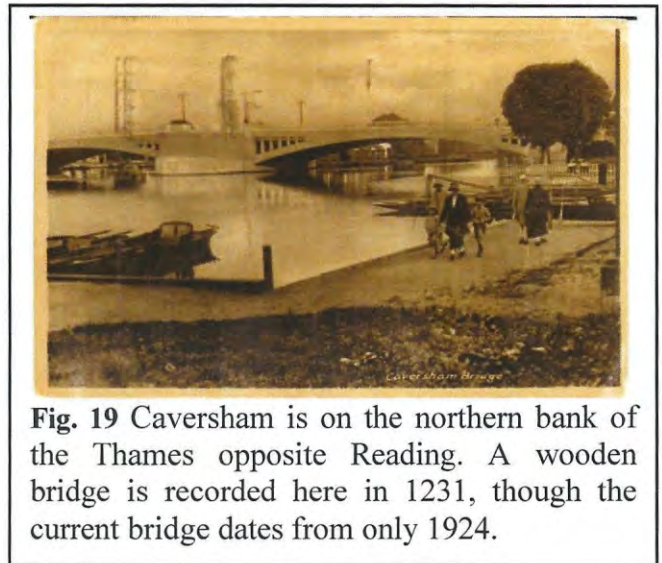
**Fig. 16** A Spectator Sport



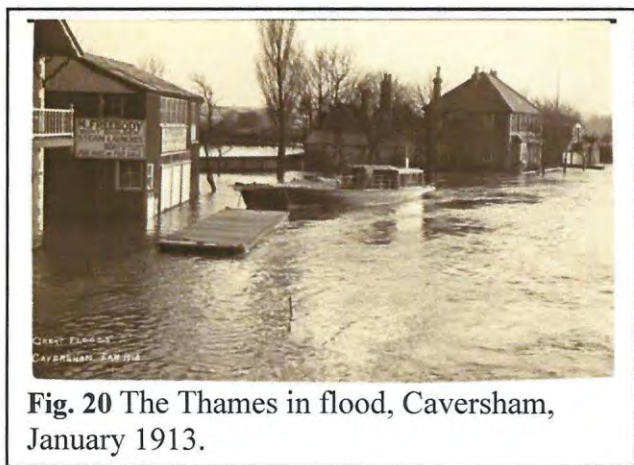
**Fig. 17** Sonning Mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The bridge was built about 1775 to replace a wooden bridge built in 1604.



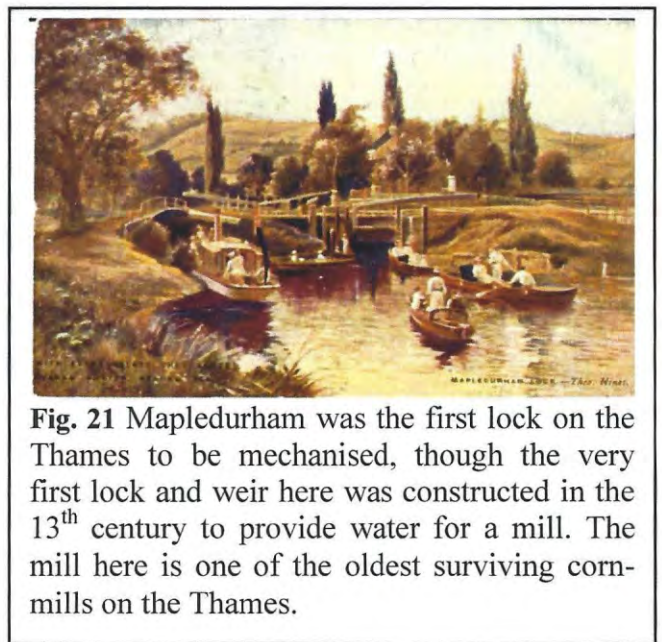
**Fig. 18** Reading is the centre of the Thames Valley and the capital of Berkshire. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book and later developed around a Benedictine Abbey founded in 1121. The river Kennet joins the Thames at Reading, also the Kennet-Avon Canal from Bath. This card was sent in 1900 to India and bears a Sea Post Office postmark on the back.



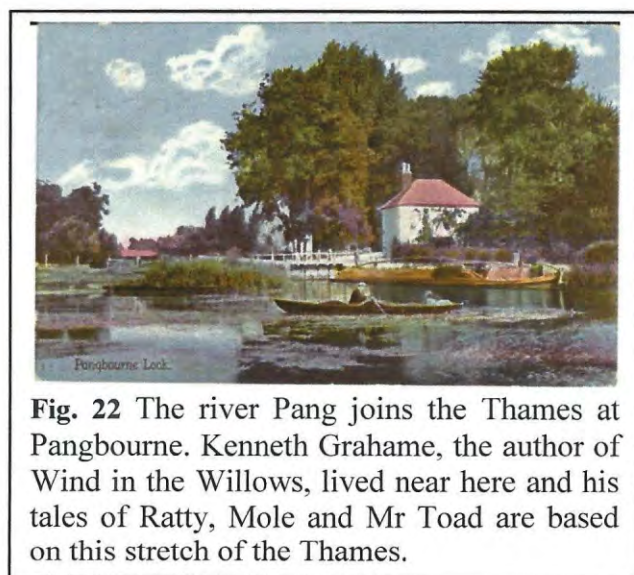
**Fig. 19** Caversham is on the northern bank of the Thames opposite Reading. A wooden bridge is recorded here in 1231, though the current bridge dates from only 1924.



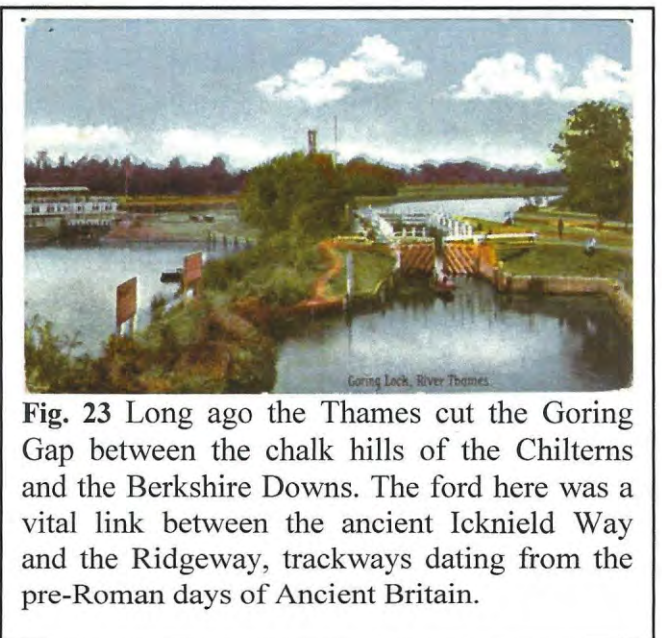
**Fig. 20** The Thames in flood, Caversham, January 1913.



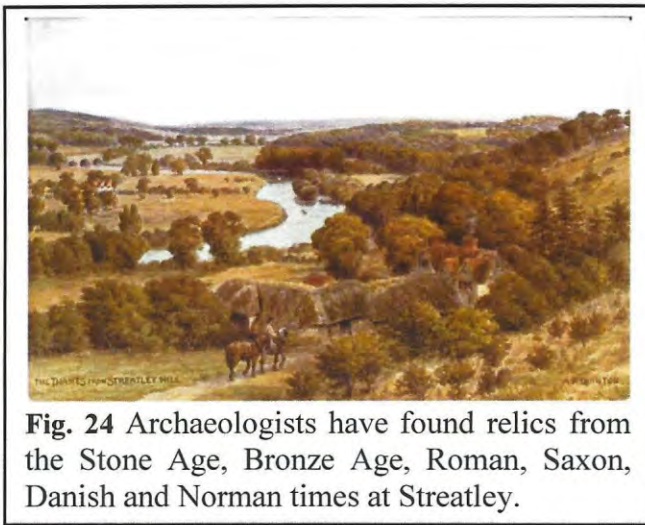
**Fig. 21** Mapledurham was the first lock on the Thames to be mechanised, though the very first lock and weir here was constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to provide water for a mill. The mill here is one of the oldest surviving corn-mills on the Thames.



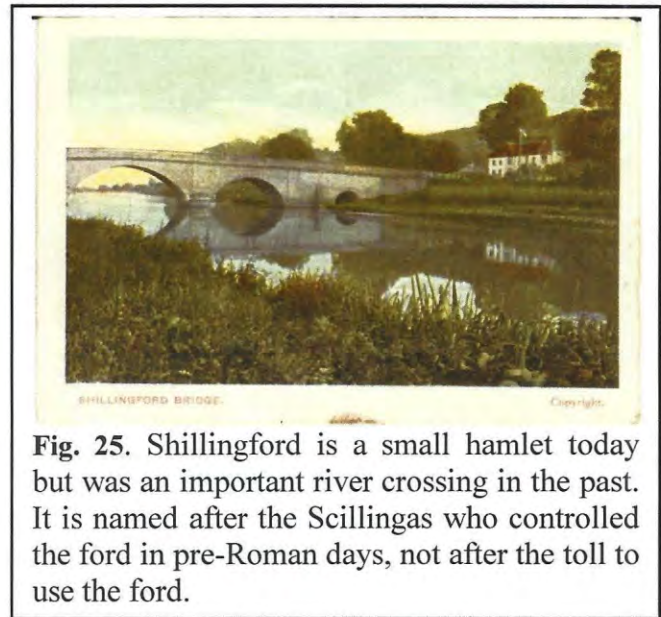
**Fig. 22** The river Pang joins the Thames at Pangbourne. Kenneth Grahame, the author of *Wind in the Willows*, lived near here and his tales of Ratty, Mole and Mr Toad are based on this stretch of the Thames.



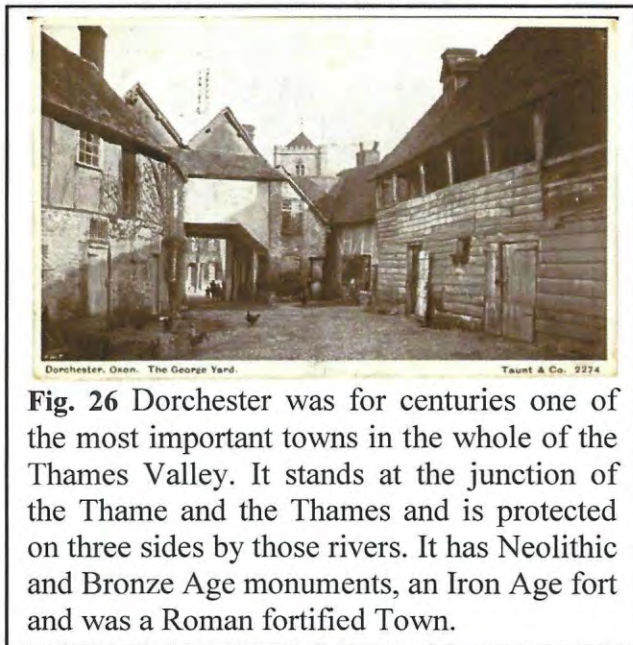
**Fig. 23** Long ago the Thames cut the Goring Gap between the chalk hills of the Chilterns and the Berkshire Downs. The ford here was a vital link between the ancient Icknield Way and the Ridgeway, trackways dating from the pre-Roman days of Ancient Britain.



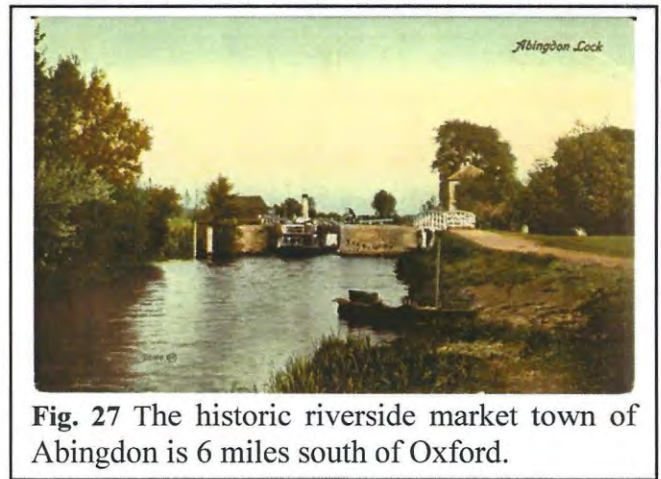
**Fig. 24** Archaeologists have found relics from the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon, Danish and Norman times at Streatley.



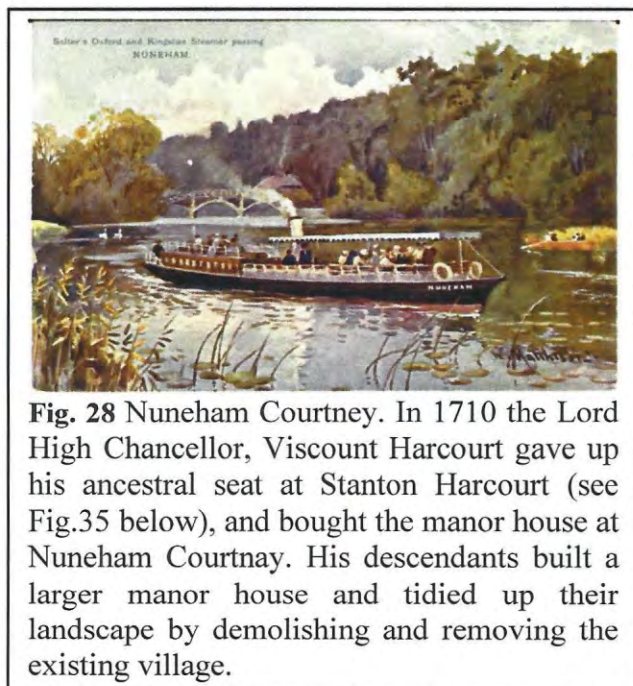
**Fig. 25.** Shillingford is a small hamlet today but was an important river crossing in the past. It is named after the Scillingas who controlled the ford in pre-Roman days, not after the toll to use the ford.



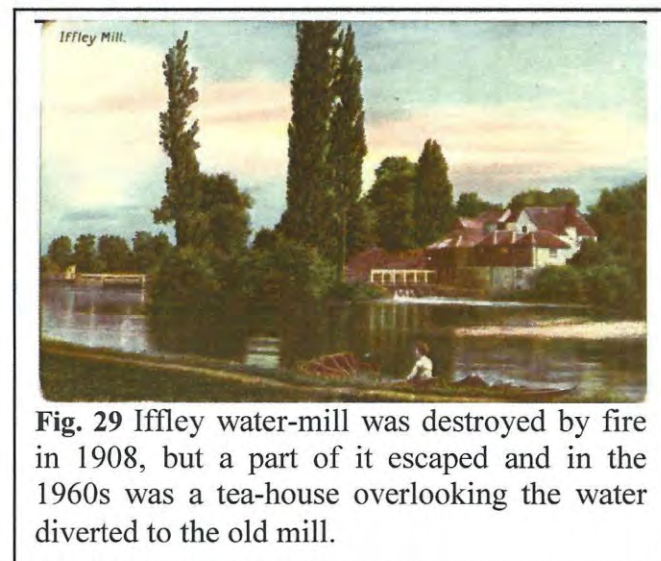
**Fig. 26** Dorchester was for centuries one of the most important towns in the whole of the Thames Valley. It stands at the junction of the Thame and the Thames and is protected on three sides by those rivers. It has Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, an Iron Age fort and was a Roman fortified Town.



**Fig. 27** The historic riverside market town of Abingdon is 6 miles south of Oxford.



**Fig. 28** Nuneham Courtney. In 1710 the Lord High Chancellor, Viscount Harcourt gave up his ancestral seat at Stanton Harcourt (see Fig.35 below), and bought the manor house at Nuneham Courtney. His descendants built a larger manor house and tidied up their landscape by demolishing and removing the existing village.



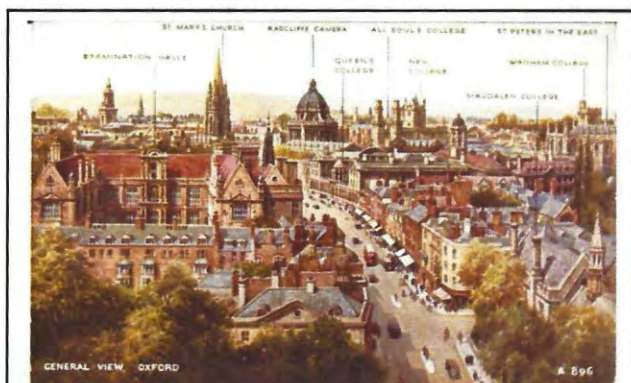
**Fig. 29** Iffley water-mill was destroyed by fire in 1908, but a part of it escaped and in the 1960s was a tea-house overlooking the water diverted to the old mill.



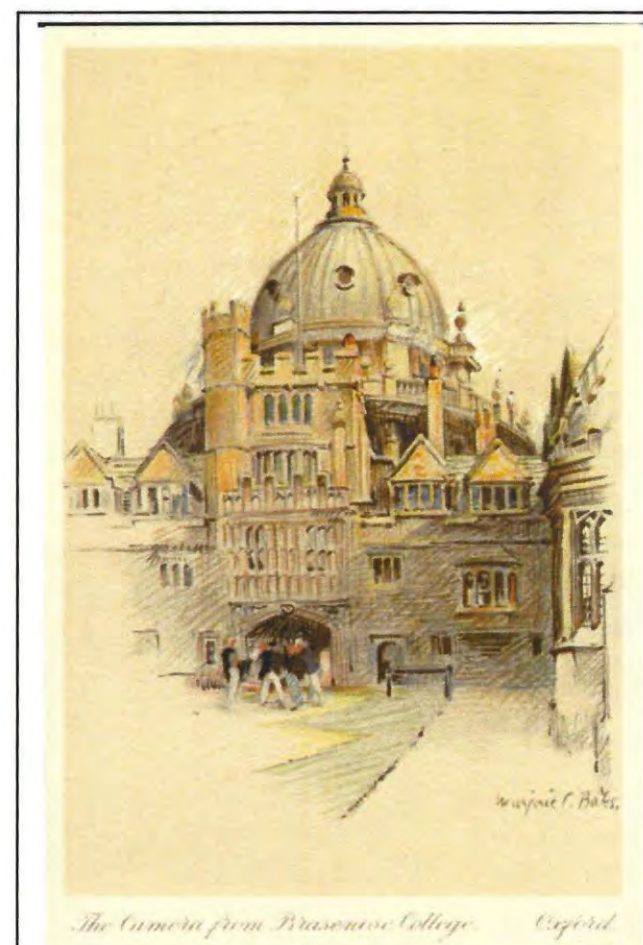
**Fig. 30** The Oxford College barges moored in the river are relics of the days when each Livery Company of the City of London had its own resplendent barge for ceremonial and special occasions. When the barges became redundant they were used as inexpensive headquarters for University rowing clubs. Now a trust has been formed for their preservation.



**Fig. 31.** The view from Folly Bridge shows the course of the Oxford May Eights, a race held each year between the College rowing clubs.



**Fig. 32** Oxford, where the Thames becomes known as the Isis, a corruption of the older name of Thamesis.



*The Camera from Brasenose College. Oxford.*  
**Fig. 33** The Radcliffe Camera which houses part of the Bodleian Library.



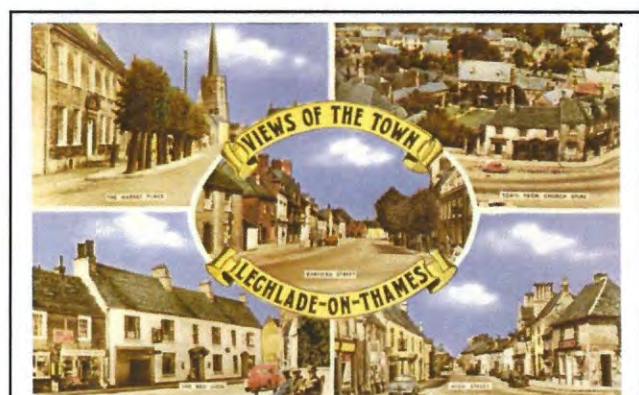
**Fig. 35** The Thames above Oxford - Stanton Harcourt – original home of the Lord High Chancellor who relocated to Nuneham Courtney, downstream of Oxford.



**Fig. 34** Memorial to Sir Thomas Bodley (1545-1613) founder of The Bodleian Library. (Yes, there is a connection with my husband's family.)



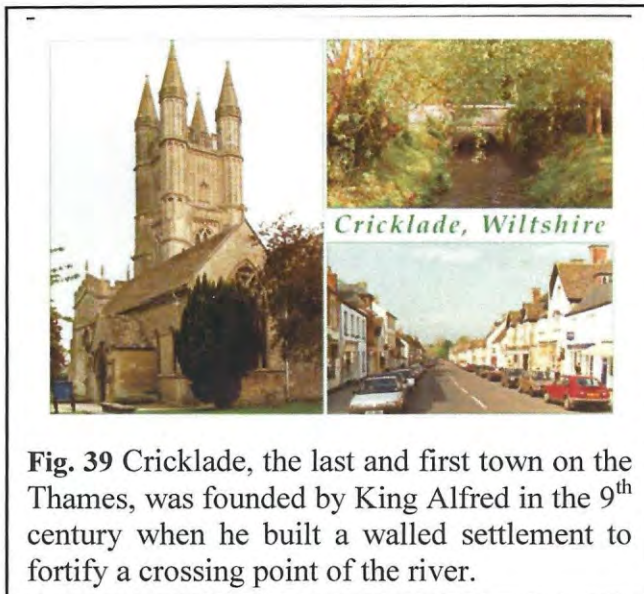
**Fig. 36.** Kelmscott was the summer home of William Morris (1834-1896) from 1871. He was the central figure of the Arts and Crafts Movement and his designs are still popular. He and his wife are buried in Kelmscott though he also lived in London. He set up the Kelmscott Press in 1890.



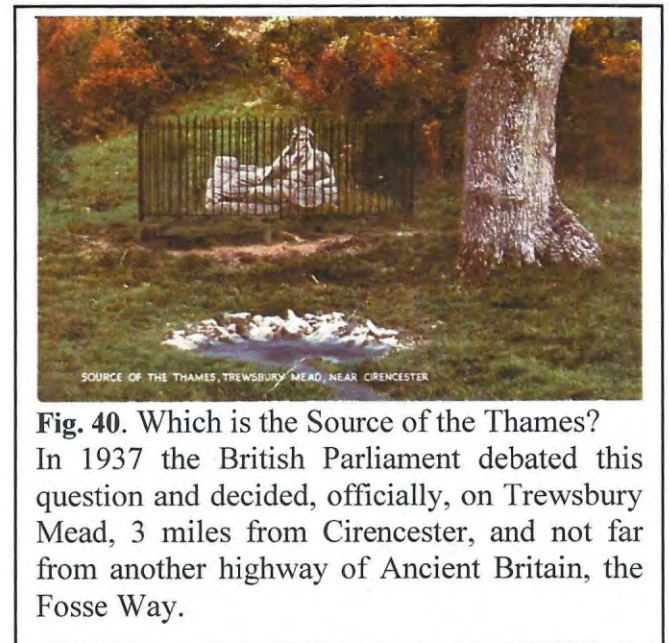
**Fig. 37** Lechlade, the head of navigation, 123 miles above the Tideway at Teddington. The river Leach joins the Thames and the first lock on the Thames, St John's Lock, is here.



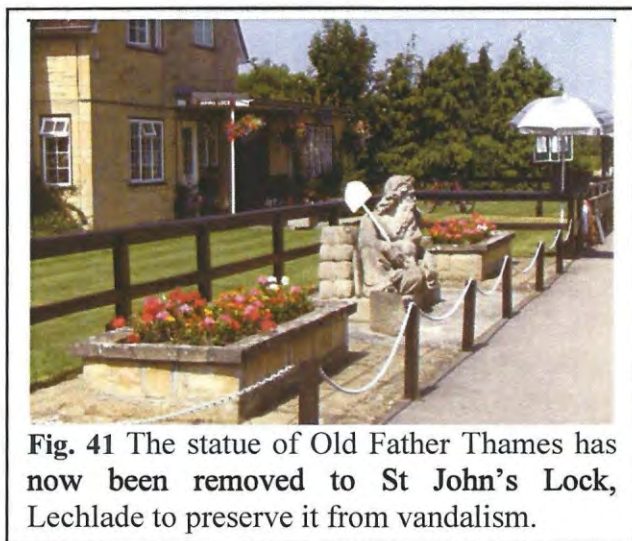
**Fig. 38** The Halfpenny Bridge at Lechlade, named after the amount of its toll for pedestrians, which was discontinued in 1839 after a revolt by local townsfolk.



**Fig. 39** Cricklade, the last and first town on the Thames, was founded by King Alfred in the 9<sup>th</sup> century when he built a walled settlement to fortify a crossing point of the river.



**Fig. 40.** Which is the Source of the Thames? In 1937 the British Parliament debated this question and decided, officially, on Trewsbury Mead, 3 miles from Cirencester, and not far from another highway of Ancient Britain, the Fosse Way.



**Fig. 41** The statue of Old Father Thames has now been removed to St John's Lock, Lechlade to preserve it from vandalism.

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**Fig. 42** The British Parliament decided that Seven Springs is the head of the river Churn, a mere tributary of the Thames, not The Source.



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September 2010 – VOL. 28, NO. 4

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