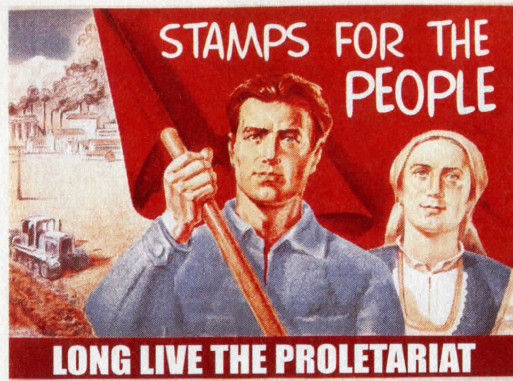
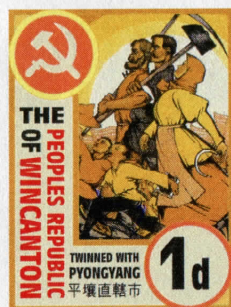


Issue 1 February 2009



COMMISSIONED
BY THE A-M C. W.
DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE

**PEOPLES
SOVIET OF
WINCANTON**



Wincanton has had a long radical tradition; it was no accident that brought Karl Marx to the town in 1850 and it was this visit that was pivotal to his writing 'DAS KAPITAL'.

In keeping with this revolutionary ideal the Consulate's Political Officer mooted the idea of asking the Council Twinning politburo if we could commemorate their vision of a socialist utopia through the issue of a series of stamps.



Ecclesiastical Offerings

STAMPS THAT HAVE BEEN
COMMISSIONED BY THE
A-M C. W. DEPARTMENT
OF RELIGIOUS &
ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS



Saint Asperger of Träbbant has long been associated with mathematicians and those of the numbered persuasion.

According to tradition, in 1460, at the Diet of Rheims, it was he that worked out the exact number of Angels that could stand on the head of a pin (4,300%).

No wonder then that he has been adopted as the patron Saint of Computer Programmers & allied Arts. His tomb can be found in Lahnau, Germany, which has been twinned with Wincanton since 1988.

Thus it was decided to commemorate both the Saint and the twinning on one stamp.



THE ARMS OF LAHNAU
IN GERMANY



The Blessed Saint Tourette of Coprolia has long been associated with public speaking and is the patron Saint of Stand up Comics. His death at the hands of the Saxon King Cerdic the Stutterer in 494 was one of the turning points in Somerset becoming Christian.

The Saint's shrine which was to be found on the old Roman road just outside Wincanton, was destroyed at the time of the Reformation and thus the ancient tradition of pilgrims processing to his shrine 'shouting aloud great oaths in glory of the Saint and to the benefit of their soul' has sadly ceased. However the Consulate has plans to excavate the old site and, who knows, even reinstate this ancient tradition.



HM Revenue & Customs

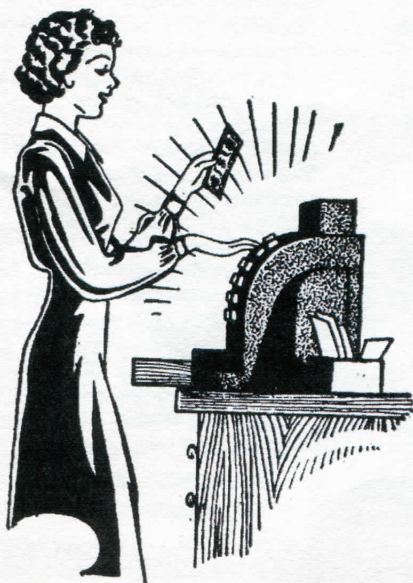
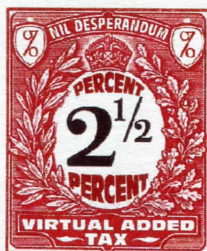
In his Pre-Budget Report on 24 November 2008 the Chancellor announced that the standard rate of VAT will be reduced to 15% on 1 December 2008.

This means that for any sales of standard-rated goods or services that take place on or after 1 December 2008 providers should charge VAT at the new rate of 15%.

Only standard-rated sales are affected. There are no changes to sales that are zero-rated or reduced-rated for VAT. Similarly, there are no changes to the VAT exemptions.

The 15% rate will remain until 31st December 2009, and from 1 January 2010 it will revert to 17.5%.

The Consulate's answer to this administrative conundrum was the issue of a FREE VAT STAMP to the value of 2½%.



So successful was this issue that the Accounts Department are looking at ways of doing something like it again.