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POST OFFICE

THE STAPLEY HOWLER STAMP JOURNAL

DEAR READER,

Life is, as we all know, unfair. For example, the next Hogswatch event will be held in December in Wincanton. Nothing wrong with that, you say, and, funnily enough, we agree. But some people claim that they can't come all the way to Wincanton. I know, feeble, isn't it? But they say that crossing the Atlantic/Channel/North Sea/the M25 just for a weekend is an ocean/sea/nasty road too far. Or they say that they have prior engagements that cannot be broken. Like wedding anniversaries, partners' birthdays, or detentions at her Majesty's pleasure. And some just say they have a note from their Mam. Well, you hapless souls who cannot or will not come to Wincanton or to the Convention, you don't need me to tell you what fun you'll be missing. As we said, life is unfair.

But there is something you don't need to miss out on. As you probably know, we usually issue a special LBE at events, and while we try to keep a few back for people who can't attend, it's been difficult to know how many to keep in reserve and someone usually ends up disappointed. But Steeljam, bless his cotton socks, has come up with a solution.

So here is the Cunningly Artificed plan for subscribers to the Stanley Howler Journal. We will announce in the pages of this hallowed organ when there is a forthcoming special LBE and give you a password. There will be a special subscribers' section on the website, which can be accessed using said current password. And once you have access, you can pre-order as many special LBEs as you wish. We won't take the money from your account until immediately after the event, but we will have a cut-off for final orders 2 days before the event.

THIS WILL NOW BE THE ONLY PRE-ORDERING SERVICE AVAILABLE, SO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE ASKED TO HAVE 'ONE OF EVERYTHING' PUT BY WILL NEED TO REGISTER ON THIS SYSTEM.

The next special event-only LBE will of course be issued at the Discworld Convention in August, and the password to access the order page is:

Continued next page

Wizla

DEAR READER, (cont)

You will also be able to order this issue's special offer via the website using the same facility. Please place separate orders though, or you will not receive your special offer until after the Convention.

The special Convention LBE is not to be confused with the 2nd Anniversary LBE which is already available.

For the frank collectors amongst you, we will also be making available to subscribers the 'Wincanton Post Office special envelope'. This will be stamped and franked in a variety of ways - an Ankh-Morpork stamp with an A-M frank, a Sto Helit stamp with a Sto Helit frank and so on. Details soon on the Journal page of the website.

We have much news to tell you of stamp comings and goings and all the usual gossip, so let's get on with it. Thanks, as ever, are due to our regular and irregular columnists.

CONTENTS CONTENTS

Pages 2 and 3: In the beginning was the word -

The Stout One

Page 4: What drives a collector? - Darren Hill

Page 5: Comings & Goings - part 1
Page 6: Comings & Goings - part 2

Page 7: The Smokeless Wahooni.

Plus this issue's free stamp.

Pages 8/9: From our Own For'n Correspondent -

Mike Steele

Pages 10/11: Everything in Moderation - Gytha Fiona

Page 12: The Raffle Round-up and the Wincanton

Raffle

Inside back cover: Competition

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD.

That's how it starts. Well mostly. This certainly did. A word from a man who's written lots; words that have formed some of the finest pictures I, and several million other folk, have ever had the pleasure of seeing within the mind's eye.

Terry Pratchett has ideas that are in a class of their own. His ideas are some of the most original takes on the human condition that you can find. You can read a passage, digest it within the old grey-matter, and only later does the significance come back to hit you like a flatiron wrapped in a sock.

He sees further sideways than most, and not just when writing about people, or gods come to that, but landscapes as well. He can write a sentence that has you looking for the mud on your shoes after you have read it. He'll take you into a building and you can smell the gravy, let alone the corpse.

Now I must confess I am no stranger to imaginary landscapes. Nearly always found within the leaves of a book, I must hasten to add, not the sort that are visited after a few pints of cider, or the ingesting of interesting fungi. Over the years I have made a sort of living in translating the written word into bits of sculpture. There are worse jobs; it's indoors with no heavy lifting, smoking restrictions, or memos.

I have created lots and lots of things that need dusting; Bijoux Sculpture for the Domestic Environment, not your big gallery fine art stuff. Mine were the sort of whimsical bits that lurk on bookcases, the odd mantelshelf, and latterly on e-bay.

I have made all sorts of things inspired by the writings of clever authors, and numerous folksy buildings that paid homage to vernacular architecture and bad taste. I really loved sculpting buildings. I had even rendered a couple of Discworld images, but small beer compared with the task I was to undertake in the spring of 1997.

Isobel and I had been staying with Terry and Lyn over the new year's celebrations, and I had taken them a piece of work I had just finished called The Grail Castle. Until then it was the largest piece of work I had done, and the most enjoyable. Well, there we were, enjoying huge log fires, big dinners, and good company, and there were Terry and Lyn with yet another 'Pearson' lump to find a home for. But I think Terry liked it, because it led on to a detailed discussion of the Unseen University. The more we talked the more I could see a little door opening up into a landscape I had never really explored as a craftsman.

The Unseen University is remarkably well described - both the inner and outer are visited in a number of books, and one gets a real feel for the place. Never having been to a university I had all the preconceptions imbued within me through film, television, and books. This was both a help and a hindrance. A help in that the 'Dreaming Spires' and such like of Oxbridge are visually well represented in books and film; a hindrance in that my only 'feel' for the place was through others' experience. Terry builds pictures in people's minds, but the foundations are solidas with almost all of Terry's writing, the bedrock is real life. I needed to get really inside an old university so that I could sculpt the outside of an imaginary one.

Families can be a wonderful seam to mine. My lot are good for, shall we say, the more interesting aspects of inner city and rural life, whereas Isobel's is heavily into big-

time education, accountancy, and the law. So a dear sweet niece showed me around her rooms and the environs of her ancient college, and I spent a lot of time wandering around, scratching under the tourist façade for the real grit of history. Oh, and a wayward son took me drinking in the seamy bars of Cambridge with his dissolute chums - a right ruddy education that was.

Then back to the studio, where over a period of many months I turned various large pieces of sculptors' wax into bits of building. I used all the techniques that I had learned over the previous twenty years and explored almost every architectural style from Saxon to the red-brick sixties. At every stage, when a building was finished I drove to Terry's where it was looked at and judged.

Sometimes there were just a few minor changes, changes that had been brought about by plot and circumstance. Other times there had to be either drastic surgery or a serious spot of re-building. It was fascinating to see for the first time behind the scenes, as it were, of a very clever writer at work. Terry would see possibilities within the form and structure that I had not; there were other occasions when little additions of mine very own were greeted with a wry smile. He talked me through the entire roof of the High Energy Magic Building. Drawing on his experiences in the nuclear industry (the builders' detritus, wheel barrow, and forgotten tools that nestle in the bottom of a certain nuclear reactor, there to remain for centuries to come), I was asked to make small additions in places that really made no sense until I read them in a book written long after the particular building was finished and happily ensconced in collectors' homes.

The first thing I made was the Tower of Art - it gave everything else scale - and the last building I finished was the boat house. In between there were thousands of bricks, countless tiles, beams, windows and assorted doors. There were even tiny bricks that came out of tiny holes in the scholars' wall, just as described in the books.

Because of the slow nature of the sculpting, and really to spread the load, we sold an edition of just 250 - Terry had number one and Colin Smythe, his agent, number two. Each one was made by the hand of Vincent Cowdry who has been working with Isobel and me for twenty years this year. They have been painted by a number of artists the first being Karen ... the last being Howard Legg. Each artist has had their own take on the finish but follow the lead given from the master that is still taking up a huge part of Terry's study.

And now Alan Batley has done the tremendous job of bringing the Unseen University to the most difficult medium of paper. Just as my original was a labour, mostly of love, so is his. And before the next issue of this Journal drops seductively onto your doormat, the book of the cut-out Unseen University will have been published. And then it's your turn.

In the beginning was the word. Terry wrote it and it was good. Then came a stout Artificer and made the word stone. Paper wraps stone.

(Adapted from the introduction to The Unseen University Cut-out Book)

You will of course be able to purchase YOUR copy of this wonderful book through your favourite journal, it will be cheaper on Amazon, BUT with us you'll get a **FREE GIFT**.

Passion, Obsession or Speculation - What Drives a Stamp Collector? By Darren Hill

The world of collecting, in all its various forms, has one underlying force, the drive of the collector to obtain items for his collection. From books to bottle-caps, one of the largest pleasures obtained from the hobby is the hunt for, and subsequent attainment of, something new for the collection, particularly when the discovery is by chance or unexpected.

With the current interest in the blanket hobby of "collecting", a number of different motivations can be seen to drive the enthusiast to look for his or her items. The age-old one is the simple passion for the subject. This is often a consequence of the day to day life of the collector, for example milkmen collecting milk bottles or postmen collecting stamps. The same passion which leads them to have and keep their jobs can often spill over and find expression in their private collections. In a way the collection can become a tribute to both themselves and the dedication and pride felt in their profession.

The second common driving force is obsession, where a collector is a fan of the given subject or person. Here we can include for example book collectors (including the works of a certain Mr Pratchett), only a relatively small number of which will be authors themselves, and even then the parallel between collection and profession is usually coincidental. The drive here will be more an appreciation or affection for the quality and depth of the work.

In recent times a third type of collector has emerged onto the scene, the speculator. As collecting and collectables have become more common and more "socially acceptable", there has been a drive toward the production of "limited editions" in many things, from the usual collectables such as artwork, plates and stamps, to the more bizarre such as food items and cars. The reason behind this can often be one thing, money. Limited edition items are seen as having prestige and increased desirability, a lever in potentially raising the price of the item. Demand for items can be high, leading to a sellers market, where people will pay more than the original price to obtain the item and so to profit for the speculative collector. The widespread nature of this can easily be seen from a random browse through the many relevant categories on eBay.

So for Discworld stamps, what do we have in our community? The simple answer is there are elements of all three, which is no bad thing. The passionate collector may be those who have their collection as a subset of either a larger cinderella collection, or a more general philatelic collection. The main appreciation will be the quality of the items. The obsessive collector will collect anything related to Pratchett, Discworld or produced by Bernard (or a combination thereof). As it is an item which has provenance or links to one or more of these topics, the collector has to have it. Lastly the speculative collector will buy more than he or she needs for their own collection, to sell or trade on the excess either immediately or at a later date once supply is outstripped by demand.

Indeed in many cases, the collector of Discworld stamps has elements of more than one of these categories, which has led to the wide diversity and vibrant energy that can be witnessed at any gathering of our members, be it online or in person. It can rightly be seen as one of the greatest strengths of the community, and is a major feedback and driving force in turn for the continuation of both the Discworld novels and their flatalic offspring.

Sub editor's note: Speaking of offspring, Darren and more particularly Helen Hill are to be congratulated on the arrival of a new addition to their collection, Katie.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

As we bid a fond farewell to the Brass Bridge Blue Triangle, all of which should be in circulation by the time you read this - we ask you to welcome the brand new triangle stamp. At time of writing, the final design has still to be approved by Mr P, but we can tell you this much - it will be triangular, it will feature another of Ankh-Morpork's bridges, there will be 500 only, ever, and there will be no sports. Who will be first to find the new triangle? Something tells me the lucky person will not be slow to make him or herself known!



Also on their way out are the farthing, penny farthing, 3p and 50p Merchant Series stamps, which will retire on October 1 2006. To mark their passing we'll issue an A4 proof sheet featuring all four designs. The \$5 will continue for a while as it was introduced later than the rest, and at some point in the future we will issue a new Merchant series.

In August at the Convention we'll be releasing the Unseen University series of stamps, designed by Colin Edwards from artwork by Alan Batley and printed in Ireland. The issue of University stamps has a long history, and Colin is writing an article on the subject to feature in the next issue of the Journal.

The UU stamps are the most complex and expensive stamps we've ever produced, but only very special stamps could do justice to this important piece of Discworld iconography. There will be a farthing, a penny, and a penny farthing. They use a printing process rarely used these days, requiring an extraordinary level of technical expertise and a little magic. And there will of course be First Day Cover.

Speaking of Colin, in issue 6 I wrote that David Wyatt designed the Sto Helit 5p and the Big Wahoonie stamp. Like most good journalists and all the bad ones, I didn't let facts get in the way of a good story. I should have said that David created the artwork for the central panel in each case, but the overall stamp design was by Colin Edwards.

My apologies, Colin.

Looking further ahead, in October we'll release a stamp featuring the goddess Annoia, to coincide with the publication of 'Wintersmith'. Details will be announced in due course.

5

Comings and Goings - part 2

News from The Cabbage Trading Post

The last of the Dragon Sanctuary Envelopes have now gone out - we'll give you the final count in the next issue.

To replace them, we've come up with a cunning wheeze. And, appropriately enough, there is a strongly cabbagey connection. From August 1, in exchange for your first batch of 10 Cabbage Trading Stamps you will receive a seed catalogue from Messrs Jocelyn & Seth Tracklement, Seed Merchants, listing 5 of the Sto Plains most favoured cabbage varieties, together with an order form and collecting card, all in a decorative envelope with a special stamp. When you have acquired enough (10) CG trading stamps to fill your card, return it with your order in the stamped envelope provided - you'll need to add Roundworld postage. We will exchange this for a very special packet of autumn sowing cabbage seeds complete with duty stamp and frank, another collecting card and order form and another stamped return envelope, together with your original return envelope which with any luck will have been cancelled by a Roundworld postal service.

There will be 100 packets of each design. If the scheme is a success, we may introduce a range of spring sowing seeds in, er, Spring, but either way it will end on July 31, 2007, no matter how much you beg!

New Exchange Rates:

All these will get you 1 Cabbage trading stamp:

10	Sto Lat 1p	6	10 Bizot Bad Blintz
10	Sto Helit 5p	6	20 Bizot Bad Blintz
15	1 Bizot Bad Blintz	4	50 Bizot Bad Blintz
15	2 Bizot Bad Blintz	3	100 Bizot Bad Blintz
15	5 Bizot Bad Blintz		

A final thought:

The word philately was first adopted by a French stamp collector, Georges Herpin. He put together the Greek words philo, meaning a 'lover of', and ateleia, meaning 'exemption from payment'. And being a lover of exemption from payment has been costing stamp

collectors dear ever since.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ANKH-MORPORK CONSULATE TRAVELLERS CLUB

It is reported to this Journal that both the Honorary Chairman and Secretary of The Travellers Club have received several letters of complaint concerning noxious fumes infesting possessions and articles stored by club members in the cloakroom. One member reports that a wicker picnic hamper left in the cloakroom for a week was so impregnated with fumes and tarry substances that he was able to leave fresh herrings in the basket overnight and eat them as kippers for breakfast. Whilst he was content with this situation, being quite fond of a decent kipper, his wife was somewhat less sanguine with the outcome when her beloved pet, Tiddling Farleigh Hungerford IV, curled up within the hamper for a short nap. Suffice it to say, the animal will never again be usable for stud purposes.

In line therefore with the Resolution passed at the recent Extraordinary General Meeting, The Travellers Club has been obliged to announce that the cloakroom shall henceforth be designated as a No Smoking area.

To mark this unprecedented break with tradition, the stamp featuring Sir Roderick Purdeigh, discoverer of the Big Wahoonie, has been re-issued, but with Sir Roderick's pipe unlit, a sight which would have been rare in his all too brief lifetime. This stamp will be available to those of you who have already received the companion stamp. Anyone wishing to exchange a smokeless stamp for one with the offending 'puff' is asked to contact The Travellers Club at their earliest convenience.

This issue's other free item is a block of four of the surcharged Post Office Half Penny.

Owing to recent disturbances in The Shades, the Post Office was obliged to make an additional farthing charge for letters destined for that district, to cover the costs of the armed guards required to accompany the Postmen about their duties. Due to the sudden onset of the unrest, Teemer and Spools were unable to create a new three farthing stamp with sufficient expediency, and lighted upon the strategy of overprinting the half penny. Craftsmen that they are, it took Messrs Teemer and Spools a considerable time to 'register' the stamps for overprinting to their satisfaction - some would be slightly misaligned, some smudged, and many sheets ended up on the printing floor from whence they were gathered up for safe-keeping by Stanley Howler. Happily, order in the Shades was soon restored when it was discovered that it had all been a silly misunderstanding over the wording of a ban on 'edged' weapons. However, this left the Post Office with several of the discarded sheets of overprinted stamps, which Mr Howler considers to be of particular interest to the dedicated Flatalist. At his special request, a block of four of these 'trial print' stamps are here

FROM OUR OWN FOR'N CORRESPONDENT

Introducing a new occasional series of reports from our further flung fans. Our first article is from Mike Steele. who lives and works in Saudi Arabia.

Trials and tribulations of a Cinderella collector

I was in the Ministry of the Interior where residence visas, work permits and exit/re-entry visas are issued to expatriates living and working in Saudi Arabia. When issued, these visas are accompanied by a revenue stamp applied to the appropriate document and the first thing that jumped into my mind when I saw them was "These are nice, I want some. They'll look good in my Cinderella collection".

The more I explained why I wanted a selection of the revenue stamps the more the situation got confused and chaotic. I was speaking in broken Arabic and the official was speaking in broken English, so it was no wonder we got bewildered. The counter clerk helpfully suggested that I go to the post office

if I wanted stamps.

"Ah, no. I don't need stamps for letters. I want some revenue stamps

The blank stare from him told its own story, so further explanation was required. This only managed to deepen the furrowed brow of the official.

"The post office is just down the road" said an Arabic gentleman

behind me obviously thinking I hadn't understood the official. So I explained again to the newcomer. Rapid Arabic was exchanged with the Ministry official, followed by a question.

"Why do you need these stamps?"

The only thing I could reply was "...because I collect them".

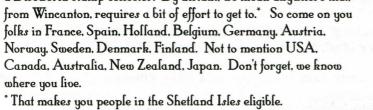
"But these stamps are for residence and other types of visas", says my helper. By this time we were joined by two other men all jabbering in Arabic and pointing accusing fingers at me. I was desperately trying to follow the rapid Arabic that was toing and froing between my entourage and the official dealing with my problem. And by the sound of the noise being created, it was indeed a huge problem. All I wanted was some revenue stamps. It wasn't too much to ask was it? Such was the noise that the two security guards, previously lolling about at the entrance, advanced on the melée with the look of grim determination security personnel seem to get when they are about to deal with a tense situation.

I was then escorted to an obviously important official. After an animated exchange by the guards to the aforementioned important official, evidently explaining what the 'criminal', that's me, had done, I was addressed by said important official in a solemn manner.

"Why do you want people's residence permits?" Slightly taken aback, I replied "No. No, I don't. I only want the revenue stamps you issue. I don't want peoples' documents, just the stamps in unused condition". He was gracious enough to allow me to explain my collecting interests, but I rue my decision to inject a new approach to my explanation. I entered the word "Cinderella" to describe this branch of philately. I gave up on that tack. The allegorical connection between the famous pantomime and philately was too much for him. Very shortly after I was escorted out of the building before I could cause any more problems.

It is of course very much easier to get Cinderella stamps in the UK and the introduction of Discworld stamps has made the hobby much more interesting and they are truly Cinderellas the beautiful and abused sister who outshines

We would welcome reports from distant parts on any aspect of Discworld stamp collecting, or on any story you think would interest a Discworld stamp collector. By distant, we mean anywhere that, from Wincanton, requires a bit of effort to get to. So come on you folks in France, Spain, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland. Not to mention USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan. Don't forget, we know where you live.





The Journal 7 Special Offer

To commemorate the Second Anniversary of Discworld Stamps, Stanley Howler is pleased to present, in conjunction with Messrs Teemer and Spools, the Tower of Art Archive Proof Sheet, featuring representations of the original green \$1 stamp as issued in The Year of the Prawn, together with facsimiles of the sports and variations.

In total, only 500 will be issued, at a never to be repeated price of £9.00 each including postage worldwide.

This offer is restricted to one sheet per subscription held.

It's now possible to order via the Journal page on our website - don't forget to use the password: Wizla

Or you can use the form.

Everything in Moderation by Gytha Fiona

How many of you lot out there realise that a work of writing, that deliberately excludes particular letters is called a lipogram? You knew? Blast!! Well I hadn't a clue. How about the fact that you can only buy white toilet paper in Holland and Canada and that there really is a virtual toilet museum? Intriguing most certainly not, but it is bound to come up in a pub quiz one day.

What would you call a group of people that can hold a discussion on a forum about the relative merits of different types toilet roll, lasting for nine pages (or should that be sheets) and yet can intelligently and informatively discuss and debate issues such as homophobia and religious intolerance. I don't know about you, but I would call 'em all forum members, friends and in a couple of instances one or two other things besides.

At the spring event at Wincanton The Society's Chairman was delighted to name the winners of the Loupe Awards: Alan Batley won gold for his work with Colin Edwards on stamp development.

Silver Awards were won by Kelshandra aka Narelle Cairns for the work she has done collating information on Discworld stamps, Kiyomi Deards for her work on the website and as a Secretariat member, and last, but by no means least, to Ptim aka Tim Williams for the superb pieces of poetry of which he seems to have an inexhaustible supply.

Whilst these awards seem grand there are others that are just as important; the monthly LBE winners were: Miss Tick aka Carole in April, Rabelasian aka Catherine in May and in June Stalby aka Per was the lucky Flatalist. The Sod Awards were again very fairly awarded, one going to Old Hag aka Bexs for overcoming the challenges of dyslexia and writing some seriously thought provoking posts and to young Nicobains aka Nico for trying to form a Wales and West Branch without Cornwall. (I'm so hoping he manages it)

April was an interesting month; it started on the 1st (as April usually does) with 46 members of the forum being online simultaneously, and was closely followed by Waddy's requests for victims (I'm so sorry, I meant players) for the Flatalist and Old Morporkian XVIII cricket match to be held in Wincanton for The Spring Fate. I'm not sure who won, but points of interest were that poor Catrine ended up being accidentally whacked round the head by a nameless person's cricket bat (to her credit, she didn't even wibble) and xxmaxiexx aka Karen and Igor aka Geoff's son, young James being made Man of the Match. Oh yes, an my poor ole cuddly toy hedgehog called George ended up being sponsored (£67 raised for the Wincanton Cricket Club) to be the ball for the first bowl of play. He now has a seat of honour in the cricket pavilion's trophy cabinet.

Marmaduke aka Helen, recorded snow in her part of England on the 10th of April and blamed it on The Wintersmith and The April Foolish Society competion was won by Vimesy aka Shaun for a rather good joke that I can't repeat here. April was also noted for its rash of Bernard Pearsons registering as forum members; Tom was swiftly notified and the fake Bernards found their accounts deleted. (Methinks the world hasn't room for more than the original).

The footie season even managed to infect the forum this year; the chief culprit was

answered, as was his World Cup Sweepstake where he promised to draw the winners from his 'floppy stiff hat. There will be some sort of prize'. The fact that people are going to be happy to accept a prize given away by Mark makes me doubt the sanity of members who are participating.

The Society regional meets are still happening on a regular basis, the recent South Coast meeting on the 10th of June and the Essex and London meet on the 18th being the most recent. The Northern Institute has a meet planned for the 25th of June and the regular Everywhere Else online meeting continues to be well attended. Ptim sadly announced that he will be retiring as the Essex/ London organiser as he is off to University in September. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to him for making the meetings happen.

Zephyr aka Jenn Davis, the creator of the cartoon strip 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Wincanton' managed to not only raise a laugh but also sufficient money from the sale of some superb 'toon based posters, to fund the rescue and medical treatment of a lovely Border Collie called Gracie. Monies that remained after all Gracie's bills were paid were used to save another lovely dog called Layla. Continuing the animal rescue theme, The Grand Secretary, The Honourable Pusha-da-Quil aka Peter, on behalf of The Society, adopted a five year old orangutan called Bejo through the Orangutan Foundation International, until June 2007, after which time further funding will need to be raised. Last but by no means least, Doc Brown aka Martyn Ransom is collecting used stamps for Guide Dogs for the Blind - please contact him via pm to find out where to send 'em.

Last year Pat caused an LBE to be sent round the world, picking up different franks as it travelled. This year Zephyr has arranged for a Stamp Catalogue Volume 1 to do a similar thing, the difference is that the catalogue will be signed by each member it's sent to and will be given to Bernard at Hogswatch. Zephyr has also sent out a plea for new characters for the cartoon strip. To volunteer yourself pm her with a description of your character and include a recent piccy and then wait and see what she does to you.

Plans for a Society magazine are underway and the offending piece of literature will be called The Bumper Book of Flatalist Fun. It will contain puzzles, word searches, stories and reports of events, and hopefully will have the same kind of flavour as a Beano or Dandy magazine. A competition to design the front and back cover for the mag is being run on The Society forum until the end of June. It will be available to buy at The Convention this year, and also available toorder on the forum. All monies raised by the sale of the magazine will be donated to a charity of Isobel and Bernard's choosing.

As always I shall close with a few statistics; at the time of writing the forum had made 256250 posts, and had 759 registered users.

Happy collecting all, may your LBE's always contain a rarity.

The Raffle Round-up

The past few months have seen a larger than normal amount of fundraising for deserving causes. The two main raffles were the Gracie raffle, which eventually raised \$544.88, and the Wincanton raffle, plus the inimitable Strapper had his very own raffle run from his desk, where everyone was a winner, especially the Double Trees Hostel in his native Cornwall, to the tune of \$445.

The Wincanton Raffle

In the brief but colourful history of the Discworld Stamps community, there have been numerous fundraising events, with a huge amount of money raised for worthy causes. These have ranged from the national and indeed global (Comic Relief, MEdia), to the local (the Wincanton Church roof fund and the Health Centre).

All of these have been very worthwhile and deserving causes, but of them all the "Wincanton Raffle" was one of the most heartrending to hear of. Bernard and Isobel asked if we could assist with it, and even with an eight-month pregnant wife (and in a way especially because of it, with the new child of our own then soon to join us) it just had to be done.

The raffle was to help an eight year old girl with an inoperable brain tumour. Her story has touched many in the town and fundraising was underway to make the remaining time of her life as comfortable and happy as possible, including the provision of a holiday for the family. As the Discworld community plays such a part of Wincanton life, Bernard asked if the forum would be willing to assist in adding to the funds.

And the support from the forum community has, as usual when called upon for worthy causes, been phenomenal. In just two weeks, a magnificent \$750 was raised toward the funds. It has been one of the most fulfilling fundraisers certainly that we have done, and on behalf of the family, Bernard and Isobel and ourselves, we must say a huge thank you to all who contributed both donations and entries.

Darren Hill

Your Editorial Team

Editor in Chief Mr Stanley Howler

Your Editorial Team Editor in Chief Sub editor & envelope stuffer **Roving Reporters**

Mr Stanley Howler Hilary Daniels Darren Hill **Gavin Arnold** Fiona O Mahoney

Guest Columnist

Mike Steele Art editor, important utterances and stool pigeon

> Bernard (I'll clear out this drawer one day) Pearson

Everything else

Granny Pearson

The Competition

There was a large shield. Cabbages, actual cabbages, had been nailed to it. The old man said something that Vimes couldn't hear. The little owl fluttered from its perch and landed on a large ankh that had been glued to the top of the shield. The two hippos flopped out of their pool and took up station on either side.

The old man unfolded an easel in front of the scene, placed a canvas on it, picked up a palette and brush, and shouted, 'Hup-la!'

The hippos reared, rather arthritically. The owl spread its wings.

'Good gods,' murmured Vimes. 'I always thought they just made it up!'

'Made it up, sir? Made it up?' said a voice behind him. 'We'd soon be in trouble if we made things up, oh dear me, yes.'

(Extract from 'Feet of Clay', © Terry and Lyn Pratchett 1996)

But making things up is just what we're asking you to do in this issue's competition. Select any character you like from the Discworld® novels and either draw or describe a suitable coat of arms. Bad punnes will either score extra points or be disqualified, depending on how bad they really are, and how we're feeling at the time. Shields with real cabbages nailed to them will not be accepted, and no animals must be physically harmed. The judge's decision is final. Until he changes his mind or receives a larger bribe. However you create your work of imagination, please post it to us to arrive not later than September 15.

As there was no competition in the last issue, an informal one was run on the Forum. The result will be announced on the Forum shortly.



Number ALL ABOUT STAMPS FROM THE HOME OF STAMPS

Free with this issue:

Special Offer order form The Shades Surcharge stamps The Smokeless Wahoonie stamp



If any of these items are missing from your Journal, please contact the editor, who will make the usual

Kindly address all correspondence, abuse, valedictory communications, or marriage proposals to:

Hilary Daniels.

The Stanley Howler Stamp Journal. c/o 41 The High Street, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 9JU

Tel 01963 824 686

E-mail: hilary@cunningartificer.demon.co.uk www.discworldstamps.com

Back Issues of the Journal, together with free stamps while stocks last, £4.00 per issue.

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E-Bay Price-watch Summary - June 2006

By Gavin Arnold, roving reporter

Number of listings: 222

Items sold: 157 Items not sold: 65

Total value of items sold: £2528.10

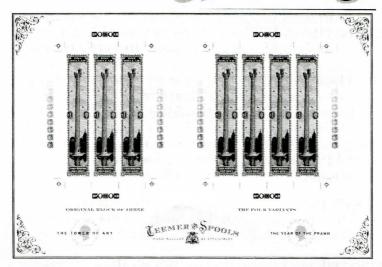


Value	Number
Less than £10.00	86
£10.00- £24.99	37
£25.00- £49.99	20
£50.00-£99.99	8
£100.00-£149.99	4
£150.00- £199.99	1
£200+	1
Total winning bids	157

Winning bids over £50

Item		
	Selling price	Bids
Cabbage Skunk Stamp	£ 257.89	7
Rat Stamps - 3 Joined	£ 152.52	15
(Candle, Potato, Raisin joine	ed in a row)	
Red Nose Patrician	£ 122.01	10
Hogswatch 2005 - Sport	£ 117.00	11
Original 4p Thieves	\$ 105.55	3
Guild -Sheet		
Original 6p Thieves	\$ 105.55	2
Guild -Sheet		
Rat Stamp Potato	£ 75.01	13
Rat Stamp Raisin	£ 75.01	16
Sick Dragons	£ 61.11	5
Sanctuary Envelope #6		
Sick Dragons Sanctuary	£ 57.11	6
Envelope #2		
Rat Stamp - Candle	£ 56.50	9
Sick Dragons	£ 56.11	5
(Unopened with stamps)		
Sanctuary Envelope #3		
Sick Dragons	\$ 53.02	5
(Unopened with stamps)		
Sanctuary Envelope #7	1. year o to dist. 1	
Penny Patrician Red	£ 51.00	10

The Journal 7 SPECIAL OFFER



To commemorate the Second Anniversary of Discworld Stamps, Stanley Howler is pleased to present, in conjunction with Messrs Teemer and Spools, the Tower of Art Archive Proof Sheet, featuring representations of the original green \$1 stamp as issued in The Year of the Prawn, together with facsimiles of the sports and variations.

In total, only 500 will be issued, at a never to be repeated price of £9.00 each including postage worldwide.

This offer is restricted to one sheet per subscription held.

It's now possible to order via the Journal page on our website - don't forget to use the password: Wizla Or you can use the form below.

If you would like to be one of the 500 to take up this offer, please fill in the form below.

Name:	Telephone	
Address:		
Post Code:	or other i	f from foreign parts
I enclose a Cheque for £ 9.00 Made out sod it. BANG it on the Credit Card	to: THE CUNNII	NG ARTIFICER
Name on Card:	Signature:	
No: Expiry Pate: or issue number		*,, ,,
Expiry Date: or issue number	Security No	riease, only I cover