



Well would you believe it!

A whole ruddy film, from those very clever blokes of 'The Mob', what fun that is going to be.

So what will it do for us?

Well folks, some million or more good people will sit down sometime next Christmas, and be made aware in no uncertain terms that there are Discworld Stamps alive and well and living in a universe near them.

Will that bring in any new collectors? Oh indeedy yes, with a very big YES added on. We have found that every film shown on Sky makes an appreciable difference to both web traffic and orders. The number of people 'looking' at the forum increases, and surprisingly we also get a bigger footfall in the shop. Also with this film we are already assured that it will be our stamps that are seen dotted all over the place. That comes as no surprise, as there are only our stamps that fit the bill, and lets not be coy, to get the stamps that sort of exposure the Mob will not be short of a few thousand stamps supplied by us. As Terry is wont to say "what goes around, comes around.

Will there be a special stamp or two?

Now what do YOU think ......

All the best,

ernard.

### GOING POSTAL

# We live, as a wise man once said, in Interesting Times.

It's not that we've ever regarded stamps frivolously. Oh no. Stamps roundworld

stamps are little bits of history, geography and anthropology, with a hefty dollop of fine art and design technology thrown in. It's hard to take that combination lightly. To have any credibility, Discworld stamps had to have the same gravitas, the same sense of an entire hinterland being represented by a small piece of sticky paper.

That's not to say we haven't had fun creating stamps, and we know that you have fun collecting them. But when the British Library's Philatelic Department shows up at the door and wants to add Discworld stamps to the nation's collection, it's difficult not to take it all a little more seriously.

What will that mean in practice? With luck, fewer cock-ups. Fewer designs, fewer proof sheets, fewer commemorative covers. More selection, more thought, more planning. Shorter runs, more limited editions. More awareness of what a collector would value.

And not a moment too soon. With the announcement that the next book to be filmed for television will be 'Going Postal', it's probably safe to assume that the profile of Discworld stamps is likely to be higher than ever.



#### **PRIZED POSSESSIONS**

All entrants of the Journal 12 competition received a special 'Miss Hilary's Class Competition Winner' LBE, and the finalists received a special Year of the Three Roses Consulate Envelope. As well as the half penny violet, this bears the Patrician penny sport as a joined pair with its common and the 2p sepia sport as a joined pair, all with the Year of the Three Roses frank. Only ten of these envelopes were created; six were awarded as competition prizes and the remaining four will become prizes in the future.



#### THE NATION IS GRATEFUL

We've more or less got used to the idea that what started as a joke has become a phenomenon, that Discworld stamps are collected throughout the world, that they have become the most prolific Cinderella stamps ever, even that they can achieve extraordinary sums of money at private auction.

It started to become clear that something unusual was going on when the Stanley Gibbons magazine not only invited Bernard to design a stamp and first day cover to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the company, but also featured an article about Discworld stamps in their commemorative magazine. It felt as though Cinderella had been invited to the ball in her own right.

But there was a whole extra level of serious recognition that we never dared dream of. Until now. And it's all David Waskett's fault. So let him explain how it happened:

I have been asked by Miss Hilary to explain how the British Library connection came about, and that's not an offer one can refuse and stay healthy.

I was off sick from work and spending a lot of time sorting through my DW stamp collection. At much the same time I was doing my will, and had thought that the stamps would ultimately go to auction. But as I sorted I got to thinking that it would be a pity to split them up. The more I looked at what I'd got, the more I began to realise that this was a unique and very special collection.

My next thought was how best to keep them together. A trawl of the internet established that the finest collection of stamps in the UK is held by the British Library. On 07/07/07 a suitably auspicious date I emailed the Philatelic Department, indicating that I was prepared to leave them my Discworld stamps as a legacy when I finally pop my clogs. I wasn't sure how they'd react, so I was delighted to receive an emphatic 'yes please' from David Beech, Head of Philatelic Collections.

As they say, the rest is history. David came to see my stamps and in due course my wife Penny and I were invited to see his (actually the nations's) mind-boggling collection. And that, I thought, was that, but David had other ideas. He also wanted the background material - what leads up to a design, the brief, the early plans and that could only come from the fountainhead. I duly spoke to Bernard and he seemed happy to go along with it all.

Why donate my collection to the British Library? Well, I feel that Discworld stamps deserve to be preserved as part of the National Collection of stamps, so that future researchers can, well, research to their little hearts' content. The artwork and designs are exquisite and really knock the proverbial spots off modern GB stamps. Then of course we mustn't forget the fun that is part of the fabric of Discworld. And the final element is acknowledging the work done by Bernard, Colin, Alan, David and the rest in producing the fantastic artwork that has made collecting these stamps so worthwhile. The approach culminated in a visit by Paul Skinner, one of the curators of the Philatelic Collection. Paul was content that the collections of David and Ken James, who has also now agreed to bequeath his Discworld stamp albums to the British Library, would form the body of the archive. Our role is to add the background detail the briefing material from which artwork was derived, the early drafts, even rejected designs. He left Wincanton laden with some interesting bits and pieces and the promise of more to come.

This level of official recognition is something we would never have dreamed of aspiring to. From the very beginning, Terry insisted that Discworld stamps had to look real, and it is a credit to his vision that the stamps are real enough to be accepted into the august archives of the British Library<sup>\*</sup>. And it gives a strange warm glow to be told that 'The Nation is grateful'.

As if this weren't enough, Paul Skinner proved to be a mine of information, a Discworld fan, and a man with a keen eye for the outlandish, the quirky, and the wildly eccentric. From just the one meeting we came away with enough ideas for a year of stamps, and access to a website full of interesting and inspiring material which has already fed into Discworld stamps the tints of the new Tower of Art\*\* were directly lifted from the colouring of an obscure stamp that was never issued. More is sure to follow.

\*For readers in forn parts, the British Library is a division of the British Museum which collects and collates printed material books, newspapers and, of course, stamps. US flatalists should think of it as being invited to be in the Library of Congress. Perhaps someone should warn said Library.

\*\* Inspiration for the colouring of the Year of Three Roses Tower of Art came directly from our new closer relationship with the British Library's philatelic collection. Rifling through their curiosities we came upon a Jamaican £1 stamp dedicated to tobacco growing, a subject dear to the Stout One's heart. It was prepared for use between 1956 and 1958 but was never issued. The colours are described as chocolate and violet, and knowing the typical Flatalist's views on chocolate, we knew we were on to a winner.



#### **COMINGS AND GOINGS**

April will see the issue of stamps for Djelibeybi and probably Tsort, both countries determined not to be outdone by neighbouring Klatch or, indeed, by each other.

In May the Merchants Guild is planning to sponsor a stamp promoting tourism to Ankh-Morpork, Pearl of Cities, and there will be a new LBE to replace 'Spring' which will run until the end of June. The next limited edition LBE will also be in May, to be released at the Wincanton Spring Event, and the special item is expected to be a communication from an educated rodent.

By June it is anticipated that the Guild of Seamstresses will have successfully renegotiated sponsorship of a new stamp. Rumour has it that after two 'tupp'ny uprights' in succession, this one will be known as the 'fourp'ny horizontal'.

In July we will be celebrating four years of Discworld stamps with a special collection of Consulate envelopes and a limited edition LBE. The Kingdom of Sto Helit is expected to withdraw its current stamp, replacing it with a mini-sheet and a new design. There will be a new standard LBE which will run through to the end of August, and of course July will see the next issue of the Journal.

#### In Season

Since the last Journal we have introduced the LBE Season Ticket, an opportunity to reserve one of every design of Little Brown Envelope, even the limited editions. This is already proving useful for collectors who can't get to their computer at the right time, or are in an inconvenient time zone. If only we could think of a way of providing the same service for artefacts and commemorative covers.

#### Cabbage Trading

We're launching a new series of collectable trading items, and the first two are now available. The first envelope, addressed to 36 Chitterling Street, comes from the Zellter Institute, advertising Dr Sigismund Zellter's Scientific Retrophrenology ('mould your future, change your prospects') in the comfort and convenience of your own home. Along with the promotional leaflet, the envelope contains a postcard requesting a no obligation home assessment and treatment, complete with a special commercial rate postage paid stamp.

The second, addressed to Mrs Agnathea Parker, contains that lady's ticket for a performance of The Enchanted Piccolo at the Opera House, together with a return postcard for requesting information on the forthcoming programme of productions. Again, this has a commercial rate postage paid stamp.

The plan is to introduce two new designs every month or so, and we have ideas so far to last many months. We'll make 50 of each design, and each envelope can be redeemed with 25 Cabbage Trading Stamps.

And to help with collecting trading stamps, these are the exchange rates for recently introduced stamps:

50p Gr	een Tower of Art	7
Klatch	10 Wol	7
Klatch	50 Wol	6

## Free with this Journal

The stamp commemorates the actions of Master Lambert Cordwainer. The Post Office Handbook relates how Sir Rolande de Colline, already celebrated with a \$2 commemorative stamp, administered the first formalised network of messengers, but this was operated for the exclusive use of the King (Cirone II) and 'certain approved officials, royal relatives, hangers-on and chums'. Meanwhile 'the ordinary people of Ankh-Morpork had to rely on the good offices of traders and merchants to carry their mail for them as they journeyed round the Disc. This service was fairly reliable, but letters could take months to arrive'.

But in 1635 King Lorenzo I 'decided that the general public could also use the King's Letter Office of Ankh-Morpork and the Sto Plains'. At the same time the King dictated 'that all houses and properties in Ankh-Morpork should display a number to facilitate the delivery of the post'.

On April 1 Master Lambert Cordwainer became 'the first commoner customer' of the new postal service, and for this he is commemorated with the stamp in this issue's Journal.

Special Offer

According to the Handbook, 'Master Cordwainer sent a letter to himself at his home address in order to 'teste thee system'. Cordwainer's original and unopened letter was recently sold on C-Bay for 150,000 AM\$.'

Fortunately Mr Stanley Howler was able to contact the winning bidder and get access to this important item of postal history, and we are now able to offer a facsimile edition to all our readers. Your copy is available to order now on the website don't forget the password:

#### LAMBERT

## Auction Price-Watch By Gavin Arnold

The New Year started with trading picking up as the number of existing collectors selling off collections and part collections was matched by the number of new collectors looking to catch up on the early issues. In the first three months of the year a total of 397 lots sold for  $\pm 4,408.81$ . For those catching up on envelopes and covers it has been a particularly good time with many of the common covers going for less than their original selling price – some have even gone for as little as 99p.

The rarity of short issues was reflected as the first of the Koom Valley 'postcards home' reached high prices with the a Troll card reaching £39.00 and a Dwarf card going for slightly higher at £42.00. Another example of the rarer issues is the Bonk Transition envelope which has reached an average price of £56.50 from the two that have reached the auctions in the last quarter. Another noticeable difference is a distinct lack of current sports being put up for sale. There was a time when you could quite easily catch up on those elusive sports through the auction pages, today I suspect that many flatalists are resorting to buying a sheet of stamps from the shop just to get the sport before it's retired.

One of my favorite auctions to watch is when an unopened LBE comes up for sale. This time it was two City & Guilds LBEs which, at £21.00, went for over twice their original cost. I wonder if they are still unopened....

Just a word of caution - prices can vary quite widely. A good example of this is the Owlswick 1/2p forgeries at the top of the list opposite: the highest sold for £ 49.88 and the lowest £9.75! Provided that you have remembered when the end of the auction is you can get carried away with your bids. Unless it really is something you must have at any price set yourself a limit and stick to it.

So what's been attracting the big money? Here's a selection of the top sellers:

•	An Owlswick Jenkins 1/2 p forgeries Miniature Sheet	£108.51	
٠	A sheet of green \$1 TOA stamps without the sports	£ 85.50	
٠	A set of Bad Blintz Rat Stamps	£ 77.75	
٠	A twinning FDC	£ 66.00	
•	A full sheet of unused GCTS	£ 63.34	
٠	3p Assassin's stamps sheet with the upside down stamp	£ 51.32	
•	Assassin's First Proof of Artwork	£ 49.99	
•	Klatchian Legion Stamp	£ 26.99	

#### **Discworld Stamps Resale Price Guide**

Item	Average Price (£)	Number Sold	
Bonk 1 Bizot - Werewolf Phase (all variants)	5.30	4	
Oldswick 1/2p forgeries (all types)	22.93	5	
Blue Triangle	24.83	3	
Purple Triangle	7.36	3	
Eaten by Snails Letter	15.63	2	
Dribbled on by Toads Letter	16.00		
Snake Warning Letter	25.09	2	
Defecated Upon by Mongeese Letter	20.50	2	
Hamster Bedding Letter	39.99	2	
Marine Creatures Letter	43.49	2	
Cosmopolite Letters (all variants)	35.25	4	
Military Issue Booklet	4.82	3	
Widow's Mite Booklet	2.23	3	
1/2 p Gold Sport	1.83	3	
Stampex FDC	4.26	3	
Rockall / Leshp FDC	6.00	3	
1/- Jamboree floorboard sport	12.84	1	
Discworld Stamp Catalogue Vol. 1&2	7.43	7	
Valentine Patrician Sport	16.25	2	
2004 Hogswatch FDC	30.00	1	
2005 Hogswatch FDC	6.96	5	
2006 Hogswatch FDC	0.99	1	
2007 Hogswatch Special FDC	16.00	1	
2007 Hogswatch Sport FDC	49.99	1	
Samedi Nuit Mort Stamp	6.17	7	
Koom Valley FDC	4.94	3	
Seamstress FDC	6.40	3	
Green Susan	10.00	2	

(~ based on average auction prices in January, February and March 2008)

(As always prices do not include postage (which can add up to £5.00 per item!)

## **Postcards from the Rim**

The trolls carved them in stone, and the dwarves bake theirs in bread. But how did the more mundane but equally collectable roundworld postcard begin?

In Britain, the humble postcard began life back in 1870, when it was introduced by the Post Office. A plain affair, it was simply a card where you wrote your address on one side (which also featured a pre-printed stamp), and your message on the other. There was no picture, making them almost the text message of their day, albeit somewhat slower if better spelt.

It took another 24 years before in 1894 the Post Office allowed postcards published by other companies to be posted. This heralded the birth of the picture postcard, the first published one being credited to George Stewart of Edinburgh. As they were privately produced, they did not have the pre-printed stamp and needed the addition of a halfpenny adhesive stamp to make them good to go through the mail.

Due to this wide range of producers, there was initially no control over the size of the cards. However the following year a size of 4.75 x 3.5 inches was adopted, such cards being known as Court Cards. As with its predecessors the address was on one side and usually a small picture on the other, along with a space for the message itself. This size card was already in use in other countries, and in 1899 it became fully adopted as the official standard size for British postcards.

In some cases the picture on the cards was larger, taking up most of the space. As the rule was still in place that only the address could go on the other side, this often left little space for the actual message. To overcome this, in 1902 the Post Office changed the rule, to allow a picture to appear on one side of the card, and the reverse side divided with the message on the left hand side and the address on the right. Initially the division was not explicit, but by the September of the year manufacturers had introduced the line drawn down the middle, which quickly replaced the earlier versions. Great Britain was the first country to allow this practice.

From then on the postcard became a common sight, with the picture featuring a huge range of subjects, from photographs of locations and artwork reproductions to historic monuments and places of interest. And they have also become synonymous with holidays, from the "wish you were here" messages home to the saucy cartoons that are part of the seaside tradition. And many specific subjects or topics have spurred collectors to seek them, either in their own right or as part of a larger collection on the subject. So you might say Bernard's cards, both current and past, are upholding a long and noble tradition, and you would certainly be right.

Darren Hill

#### ALL FOOLS?

The Merchants' Guild had sponsored stamps. The Assassins had sponsored stamps. Thieves had sponsored stamps. Even the Seamstresses had sponsored stamps. That kind of exposure was bound to get the attention of the kind of Guilds who believe they are the more important movers and shakers in Ankh-Morpork. Like the Guild of Lawyers (with or without apostrophe). And the Guild of Heralds.



The Guild that could dismiss Lord Vimes with a flea in his ear was not likely to take no for an

answer from Moist von Lipwig, so a stamp for the Guild of Heralds was put in hand. A local designer with contacts in the engraving trade was keen to try his hand at stamp design and he was given the brief, along with a copy of Feet of Clay and the Discworld Companion.

With misplaced confidence, the forthcoming stamp was 'trailed' in an earlier issue. In due course a design arrived which filled the brief and was duly presented to Terry for his approval. Fifty five sheets were printed, and then perforated, and the only decision that remained was how and when to issue them and how to describe their inception on the website. A quick check of the Companion for inspiration and then the horrible realisation dawned.

It all depended which edition of the Companion you looked at: some editions showed a coat of arms apparently attached to the item on the Guild of Heralds, but captioned it as being the coat of arms of Rudolph Potts, member of the Bakers' Guild. The version we had given our designer didn't, and not being sufficiently familiar with Feet of Clay, he didn't realise it wasn't the arms of the Heralds' Guild. Even with a thorough working knowledge of the book, we hadn't spotted the error.

What to do? The stamp clearly couldn't be issued the Ankh-Morpork Post Office was hardly likely to celebrate Mr Rudolph Potts with a stamp, no matter how good his bakery skills. On the other hand, knowing how flatalists howl at the very idea of destroying stamps, that didn't seem like an option. The sheets went into a drawer, to wait for an appropriate occasion to launch them onto an unsuspecting public. And what occasion could be more suitable than All Fools' Day?

The April Fool LBE brought 500 mint stamps, plus 100 sports, into circulation. The stamps are also available until the end of April attached to Consulate envelopes we'll let you know in the next issue how many made it out of hiding. By the way, we call it the Y-Front stamp.

### **Competition Results**

Competition 13 invited readers to come up with a short slogan not more than 20 words or poster, to attract visitors to Ankh-Morpork. So the first thing to note is how few entrants took any notice of the rules, thus making my job much more difficult, and some contributions just couldn't be distilled into something that was still funny but short enough for inclusion here.

Helen Hill waxed poetical, in 21 words!: From the top of the Tower To the centre of the Bridges, Come to Ankh-Morpork Where the legend, you live it!

Pete Chapman also had trouble with this simple instruction which part of 'not more than 20 words' is so hard to understand? though the idea of the fiasco in Genua when 'the Synchronised Voodoo Display Team lost control of the zombies' is undeniably entertaining.

Larry Hart's twenty words are: Holy Wood Studios welcomes you to the Moving Pictures Theme Park in the grand city of Ankh-Morpork where Adventure awaits. He then seems to have press-ganged Twyla into drawing many of the theme park's main attractions and describing them too, which took the word count somewhat higher.

James Page ignored the rules completely and submitted a complete leaflet. This is just a small section:

'If you can't find a good time here you are probably dead. And that doesn't stop some of our citizens. Check out the Fresh Start Club for further information. Or contact Mr. R. Shoe on C-Mail deadidontthinkso@tryharder.am.win'.

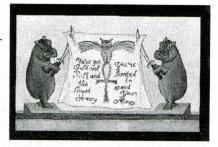
Kindra Jones' star-studded poster arrived late, but otherwise managed to follow the rules, claiming A-M to be 'The City where you can be robbed, run over and assassinated\* all in one day!'

Per Stalby not only managed to stay within the 20 word limit, but his poster also came complete with GPS. Or rather, with chems for a 'Golem Positioning System'.

Jonty Hird's poster (Far from home and all alone, we'll treat you just like one of our own) shows an innocent tourist being stalked by ne'er-do-wells in what he describes as 'Ankh-Morpork, the Guilded City', which qualifies for the best pun award.

Martyn Ransom's promotion of Ankh-Morpork relied heavily on the negative aspects of alternative destinations: 'Reflect on rain, Llamedos. Don't mention Bonk'.

John O'Neill's poster (shown here) is all hand-painted, with two surprisingly genial hippos.



Catrine Smith's poster featured the Tower of Art, with the apt slogan: 'Always Look to the Skies Ankh-Morpork, where you always get a receipt'.

Pete Elliott's poster bears the slogan: Visit Ankh-Morpork, the City that Never Sleeps. Not surprising, bearing in mind that the poster has been sponsored by the Seamstress Guild, the Assassins Guild, and the Guild of Thieves, Cutpurses, Housebreakers and Allied Trades.

Steve James dispatched no fewer than four posters, all bearing the slogan:

Ankh-Morpork

So Good They Named It

Closer inspection revealed that each poster carried a Tourist Tip. Number 4 advised tourists to 'keep in touch with home with WiFi (Wave It Flap It) technology'.

Anne Birgitte Nielsen revived one of the city's official slogans, Merus in pectum et in aquam, but with a qualification: 'The tourism committee of the Merchants' Guild hereby abdicate all responsibility for the drinkability of water or kind-heartedness of hearts or vice versa'.

Karen Carr and Suzanne Vanden Bosch just got in under the wire with late entries. Karen's slogan reads 'Come to A-M Where You Never Tire of Living', but adds: 'Unless you visit The Shades of course'. Suzanne added even more small print:

Citie of the Future!\* Make your Fortune!\*\* Find Love!\*\*\*

\* All technologies patent or patent pending not to be infringed upon on pain of pain \*\* All guild laws to be observed, dues paid, and no refunds on costs for yearly services of the Thieves' Guild \*\*\* See Mrs Palm The small print proved a very popular device. Su, Danny & Josh Hyam offered:

Welcome to Ankh-Morpork, a Taste\* of Paradise\*\*

\* Taste may vary subject to species and without notice

\*\* Paradise not included, unless you meet some unsavoury characters and paradise fits with your belief structure and pre-death payments are up to date

While Julian Fagandini suggested:

Ankh-Morpork City of Ten Thousand<sup>1</sup> Smells Fragrances<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Please note that this number cannot be guaranteed and is likely to be substantially smaller should Corporal Nobbs be absent from the City for any reason.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that whether something is a smell or a fragrance is very much in the nose of the beholder and the Tourism Committee of the Merchants' Guild of Ankh-Morpork will not be held responsible for any adverse reaction you may have to any of the City's fragrances/smells.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> For the attention of members of the Tourism Committee: please note that adverse reactions are likely to be substantially less of a problem should the circumstances of note 1 pertain.

Nigel Rogers admitted that he had got 'carried away', and submitted not only a poster but also three slogans, ostensibly offered by Messrs Starchy and Starchy (ethical advertisers):

See. Perish and Die

Roam the Infernal City (his personal favourite)

City of Steaming Mires (the one that got Isobel chuckling). and

Messrs Starchy and Starchy suggested that these could be 'kept in mind for future campaigns when the more adventurous visitor is being targeted\*'. \* No pun intended. (Allegedly.)

The poster features the Unseen University in the background, while in the foreground is the famous 'skipping fisherman' from the iconic poster for Skegness and a clever distortion of that poster's slogan: Ankh-Morpork: Brace Yourself.<sup>1</sup>

There will be a prize for everyone, even those who didn't follow the rules, and special prizes to Suzanne Vanden Bosch, Jonty Hird, the Hyams, Julian Fagandini and Nigel Rogers.

<sup>1</sup> Apologies to our overseas readers, for whom this example of English 'culture' must be completely baffling. The original poster has the slogan: Skegness It's So Bracing. In this context, bracing is a euphemism for cold. It says much of the place that the best thing they could think of saying about it is that it's so cold.

## Your Editorial Team

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The Competition

3 January 1805

The Post Office motto is installed on the front of the building. The motto was agreed upon following a competition amongst postal workers, narrowly beating its close rival WE'LL DELIVER IT IF WE FEEL LIKE IT AND NOT BEFORE.'

(Extract from the Post Office Handbook © Terry Pratchett)

As we all know, the winner was NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT CAN STAY THESE MESSENGERS ABOUT THEIR DUTY. For this competition we'd like you to suggest an alternative motto WHICH MUST BE NOT MORE THAN 20 WORDS. And that 20 must include qualifications, small print, footnotes or any other diversionary tactic. Entries must be received by 24 June 2008.











*with this issue* The Lambert Cordwainer

**Commemorative Stamp** 

## and Helen Hill's Stamp Update



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

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

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