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The Stanley Howler
**STAMP
JOURNAL**



Issue Number

I9



THE STANLEY HOWLER
STAMP JOURNAL

Hi gang

What can I say, what a great Birthday 'do' Happy smiley faces and lots and lots of cake. There was even some left over for me to take over to Pratchett Towers the home of our favourite author. He met me at the huge oaken door of his study and through the gap allowed by the massive security chain asked if there was cake. I said there was and was allowed in. I know Terry was very sad he could not make the celebrations, not least of which because he could have got hold of more cake.

But the gods be willing he will be in here at Hogswatch.

Well before that actually. 'Unseen Academicals' will be launched at the Wincanton Town Football Club on the 10th October this year.

There will be a five aside match between representatives of 'The Mob' and the publishers as well as teams from the Consulate and town junior team. And of course there will be pies - just like in the book.

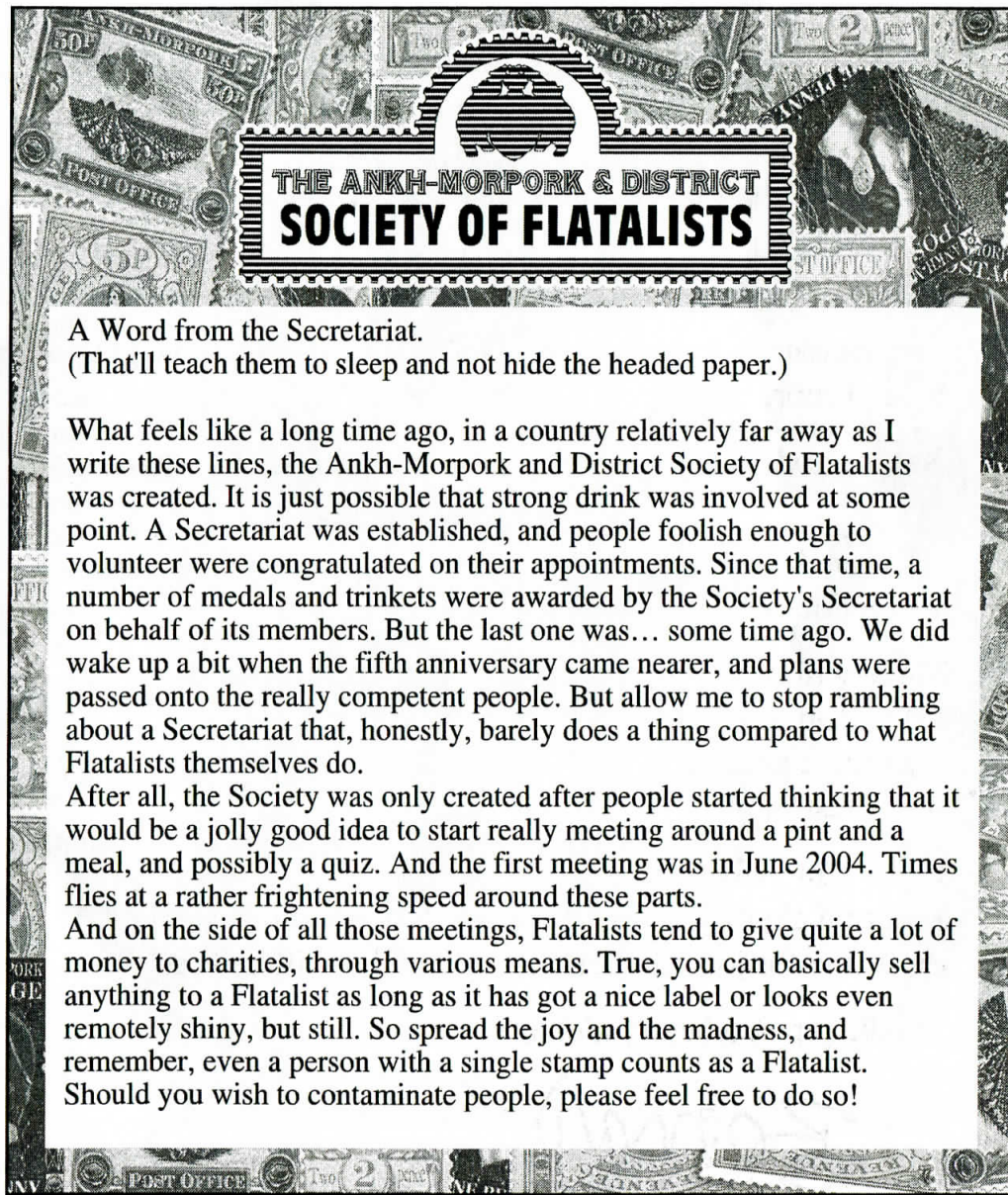
If you can make it all this way, please do come - or nominate a journal chum, because there will be something special and exclusive for journal members. Oh and it will be Free.

Toodle pip & a hearty kick off

Bernard.

Welcome to Issue 19
and the 5th Anniversary of the launch of Discworld stamps.

This special landmark apparently seemed an appropriate time to revive the Ankh-Morpork and District Flatalist Society. The poison chalice has fallen to Jean (Worbleook) Guittet to revive the sleeping giant, and he now describes the challenge.



**THE ANKH-MORPORK & DISTRICT
SOCIETY OF FLATALISTS**

A Word from the Secretariat.
(That'll teach them to sleep and not hide the headed paper.)

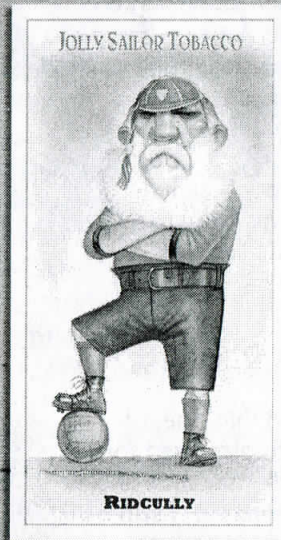
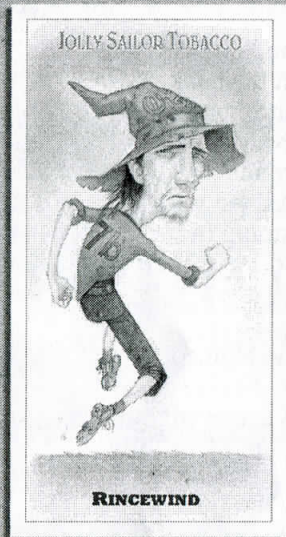
What feels like a long time ago, in a country relatively far away as I write these lines, the Ankh-Morpork and District Society of Flatalists was created. It is just possible that strong drink was involved at some point. A Secretariat was established, and people foolish enough to volunteer were congratulated on their appointments. Since that time, a number of medals and trinkets were awarded by the Society's Secretariat on behalf of its members. But the last one was... some time ago. We did wake up a bit when the fifth anniversary came nearer, and plans were passed onto the really competent people. But allow me to stop rambling about a Secretariat that, honestly, barely does a thing compared to what Flatalists themselves do.

After all, the Society was only created after people started thinking that it would be a jolly good idea to start really meeting around a pint and a meal, and possibly a quiz. And the first meeting was in June 2004. Times flies at a rather frightening speed around these parts.

And on the side of all those meetings, Flatalists tend to give quite a lot of money to charities, through various means. True, you can basically sell anything to a Flatalist as long as it has got a nice label or looks even remotely shiny, but still. So spread the joy and the madness, and remember, even a person with a single stamp counts as a Flatalist. Should you wish to contaminate people, please feel free to do so!

FOOTBALL CARDS from UNSEEN ACADEMICALS

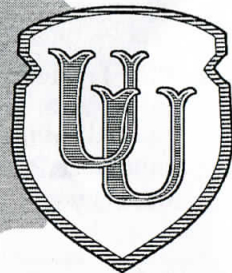
As I'm sure you know, we are creating a series of traditional cigarette cards in partnership with Paul Kidby. Oh the fun. The book itself is just fantastic.



It is a time stealer (you know the sort of book you pick up on a Friday night and put down about noon on Saturday) Here are some of the cards in sensual greys, as apposed to the lovely colours Paul has painted them in.

There will be an album and of course dedicated stamps and covers.

So be afraid.
Very afraid.



Flataly will get you anywhere

To mark this special Anniversary, we asked Flatalists to tell us their favourite story about Discworld stamps. Here are some of the best:

Peter (Squigglyx) Elliott recalls his first LBE:

I had been reading Discworld books for a few years and one day decided to check out one of the websites advertised in the back of the book (can't remember which book or which website), but got a 'page not found error'. Unperturbed, I Googled Discworld and found out about a weekend camping event somewhere in Nottinghamshire due to be held in August. I persuaded the wife and kids that it would be a good idea to spend a week camping in Skegness and then head off to this Wadfest thingy and see what it was all about.

It rained non-stop for the week in Skeggy and I got the blame for what was turning out to be a pretty miserable holiday. Friday came, we packed up the wet tent and set off for Wadfest. We arrived mid-afternoon at a very muddy field and put the tent back up. Mercifully it wasn't raining.

Saturday came and the traders were out in force in the marquee. Some guy called Barrie had a stall full of jewellery and some Little Brown Envelopes. "What's these?" I asked. "Discworld stamps, only a fiver an envelope and you might get a nice surprise" he replied. "Ok I'll have one." "Good luck" he shouted as I walked away, peeling the envelope open.

I peered inside and emptied out a pile of colourful, very detailed stamps. Feeling pretty pleased with my souvenir, I was showing them off to my wife and the kids, when someone said "Here, is that a blue triangle you got there?" Guess what, I was hooked.

Caroline (Mme les Deux-Epees) Parkinson has a true story of illicit hole-making:

It was when the first Discworld Stamps were released that I heard about the Bath Postal Museum and its Victorian Perforator used for the Blue Triangle. So I went and there was just me, the machine and a piece of paper so I yielded to temptation and perforated it. I still have the paper and I use it to identify the Bath perforated stamps. Since then the Postal Museum has moved (and roped off the perforator) but I haven't been fined for misuse of Post Office property.



Narelle (Kelshandra)

Cairns explains how it all began for her:

I got into Discworld stamps because I didn't want to buy expensive broken fragments from Clarecraft and the exchange rate was murder anyway. But while on a quiet Friday afternoon in 2004, as I was goofing around on internet instead of working, I stumbled on The Cunning Artificer's web site.

'Oooh, pretty,' I thought. And then pondered that bits of paper were much more likely to survive the gentle ministrations of the postal service than delicate three dimensional things. And it looked like if I bought the one 'Little Brown Envelope' I'll get all the stamps and could just have them as a nice little side display to go with my Discworld books. Like my figurines of Pinky and the Brain and a Dalek that guarded my old text books. They wouldn't take up much room and would be cheap even with the exchange rate.

Five years later...

One small bookcase is filled with several albums of various items, boxes with empty LBEs, unopened LBEs, unsorted LBEs, LBEs containing stamps sorted by type, more boxes with other associated random Discworld stuff. My desk is a construction zone, with all available surface covered with tools for making a custom stamp album with (since my inability to decide on a design coupled with irresistible urge to experiment means that I'll have made ten copies of a single book before deciding on a method), with a few other assorted stamp related projects in various states of completion tucked away in corners.

And I refuse to try and put a price to my collection (or look at my piles of LBEs too hard) or consider the implications of how I can translate the exchange rate between GBP and the Aussie dollar in my head to within a few dollars without thinking. But I was right about one thing. The stamps are pretty...

Larry (Lazzagami) Hart makes an embarrassing admission:

I've been collecting Discworld stamps now for about 5 years and have a few rather nicely laid out displays in folders. I thought this would be the right time to get to the bottom of why I was getting such wrinkly puckered up sections even though I wasn't using a lot of glue to hold down the proper clear plastic mounts. Now I had never collected stamps before Discworld ones, and there are no instructions on the plastic mounts, so it seemed reasonable to find a way of fixing them to the book.

I phoned the people who should know. No, not Teemer & Spools, but Stanley Gibbons, and the man listened patiently to my dilemma before telling me "You could try licking or wetting the back of the mount, sir."

"Oh (penny drops) do you mean the uneven surface on the back of the mounts are glued?" I ask while my throat goes dry.
"I believe so sir", says the man at Stanley Gibbons.

Don't worry Larry, you're not alone. Su Hyams reveals why the Forum name shared by her and husband Danny is well-deserved:

Some time ago, either Danny or I ordered the 4th anniversary TOA consulate envelope, along with some LBEs, as a surprise gift for the other. When it arrived it was hurriedly hidden away in its original envelope to save being discovered. Well, both of us seem to have the brainpower of a gnat and so it was forgotten about and made its way into the 'envelopes for recycling' box.

Some time passed. We traded on the forum and needed a recycled envelope to send a FDC to a fellow flatalist. Somehow, we managed to put the trading FDC into an envelope and failed to notice that there was already a consulate envelope hiding inside.

So, off went the envelope. Then a pm arrived a few days later from a confused flatalist who had received their trade and a surprise gift, the TOA consulate envelope. They kindly returned the consulate envelope, however we were too embarrassed at the time to actually admit that neither of us could remember buying and then losing it. I think this just reflects that we really are a pair of Muppets.

And what better way to round up our selection, than with this contribution from Martyn (Doc Brown) Ransom:

For the love of a stamp the forum was found.
For the love of the forum a friend was found.
For the love of a friend Wincanton was found.
For the love of Wincanton a marriage was found.
For the love of a marriage my life was found.
And all for the love of a Discworld Stamp.
Thank you.

Altogether now... Aaaaaahhhh!

Five Years at the Auctions (*almost!*)

by Gavin Arnold

As Discworld Stamps approach their fifth birthday I thought that it would provide a good opportunity to take a step back over time and see how they have fared at the auctions (or 'the other place' as most people refer to it on the Forum).

It's not often that you can say that you were in at the beginning of anything big but not long after there was Discworld Stamps, they started appearing at the other place. At first it was one or two items (not even sports in some cases!) but this quickly built up so that by the end of the year there were four or five stamps a week being listed. As more stamps, and sports, were issued the number of lots available grew.... and grew... up the point where thousands of lots were being sold every year for tens of thousands of pounds. Over the years many a new collector has been drawn into the weird and wonderful world of flataly after snapping up their first stamps through a successful bid.

However, the burning question here at Auction Watch is; looking back over the last five years what have been the most desirable Stamps? You always have to be careful when looking at prices as over the years they have gone up and down as fast as a negotiable ladies unmentionables at times – but here's my top ten:

Item	Price (£)
Blue Triangle Sport	1375.00
East Knoyle Patrician	311.61
Cabbage Skunk Stamp	257.89
2004 Hogswatch 3p Sheet	256.00
\$1 TOA Green Weathervane Sport	225.00
Assassins Zombie Envelope	223.20
Blue Triangle Joined Pair	213.78
Matt Hampson Trust Fund LBE (unopened)	211.51
White Backed Zombie	155.00
Owlswick ½ p forgery – block of 4	108.51

Note: these prices are averages and exclude postage

A few interesting auction facts:

- There has not been a single day in nearly three years when you have not been able to bid on a Discworld Stamp on eBay.
- The highest winning bid for a Discworld Stamp item was at the beginning of this year when a Blue Triangle sport sold for £1500.
- The highest trading year so far was 2007 when 1,429 items sold for £21,146.15 (an average of just under 4 a day, at an average price of £14.79 each).
- The most popular item in terms of winning bids is job lots of Discworld Stamps. These can be anything from a few choice sports to forty or fifty different current and retired stamps, ideal for any new collector.

Other high prices (generally around the £50 - £100 mark) my favorites have included:

- Dragon Sanctuary Covers – of which over fifty have been sold (opened and unopened) – approximately £60 each
- The Original Twinning Cover – with one appearing about every six months these can fetch around £90 each.
- The Jamboree Balloon Race stamp (a very rare stamp only available to those whose balloon was recovered), only a very few listed but raised around £80.
- The Red Nose Patrician – always a favorite which originally started off reaching high money, £125 plus, but have since dropped to the £30 mark.

Finally I would like to close by wishing the stamps a happy birthday. Even though keeping track of the auctions over the last three years has been frustrating at times (especially when you cannot remember where you stored the price list from one month to the next) it has been a real pleasure. Big thanks however must go to the person who started all of this keeping track of auctions thing off almost as soon as the first listings appeared - Kelshandra from the Discworld Stamps forum – without whom no-one would be keeping track.

Here's to the next five years.....



STAMP OF APPROVAL

Fiscal revenue-stamps predated postage stamps by nearly two centuries. They were in use in Holland from the early 17th century, and were introduced to the UK in 1694 with the establishment of the Board of Stamps and Taxes. Most property transactions in the UK still attract stamp duty, but in the late 17th century all legal contracts had to have an embossed tax stamp attached by means of a lead staple, secured in place on the back of the document by a small paper label. For added security, the labels carried letters of the alphabet in the corners. The postage stamp was little more than an extension of this long-established system of raising revenue, and the penny black adopted the size, even the same security system of letters, of the paper label.

After its introduction, excise duty was soon applied to a huge range of items, including wig powder, gloves, hats, newspapers, almanacs, cigars and tobacco, wines and spirits and patent medicines. There's no reason to suppose that the British public welcomed these taxes, but the extension of the Stamp Act to one of Britain's colonies in 1765 was to provoke a more extreme reaction and prove a turning point of history. American colonists were so outraged that the British government was obliged to back down on every duty. Except one the threepenny tax on tea and the Bostonians threw a Tea Party to express their views on that decision.

Meanwhile, back in the UK, more products and services attracted excise duties perfume, phonograph records, even cinema tickets. But one tax that was widely ignored was that on playing cards, until the government decreed that every pack should have one card specially printed by the Stamp Office. The card selected was the ace of spades, and even though this law has been scrapped many years ago, most UK packs of cards still contain an ace of spades bearing an intricate pattern of roses, shamrocks, leeks and thistles, the floral emblems of the nations of the United Kingdom.



HATS OFF!

When excise duty applied to hats, the stamp would be fixed to the sweatband inside the hat.

We can now reveal that the Postmaster's Hat bequeathed to Moist von Lipwig contained not only a maker's label, but also an excise stamp just like the one included free with this journal.

In this, the 5th anniversary of Discworld stamps, we are proud to offer an A5 sheet of excise stamps as issued to the manufacturer of the Postmaster's hat, together with a facsimile of the maker's label. The sheet and facsimile label together cost £6.50 and are available to order online.

As usual, the user name is 'subscriber' and the password is:



Hat Maker.

HATTER

Journal Competition

You would think that Teemer and Spools would take particular care with the production of the new stamp for the Guild of Engravers. Indeed they did, spending hours ensuring the right colour tones, and having endless discussions on the quality of the paper.

After all these deliberations the stamps were duly produced and delivered to the Guild. It took a little while and an awful lot of licking before the engravers realized that the stamps were not sticking, in fact there was not a trace of stickiness to be found.

The competition is to write a letter from Teemer and Spools to the Guild of Engravers explaining why the stamps were printed on non sticky paper.

Prizes will be sheets of Engravers stamps on non-sticky paper, because we have quite a few!

THE STRONGEST GLUE IN THE WORLD.
2 GOLD MEDALS AWARDED
LONDON 1883 NEW ORLEANS 1884
RUSSIA CEMENT CO.
Gloucester, Mass.

These glues are used in the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, for all the works of sewing machines, by the Government Armory and Department buildings, by the Pullman Palace Car Co., Messrs. & Lincoln Organ and Piano Co., and by thousands of other steam manufacturers and mechanics throughout the world, for all kinds of fine work. Pronounced by THE ENGINEER, LONDON, 1883: "GIVE IT A TRY." No other glue has the record of 1800 pounds to the square inch. The total quantity sold between January 1880 and 1887, in all parts of the world, amounted to over FORTY-TWO MILLION LBS. No other name, no matter how famous, is equalled by any one of the Glues. Remember that they are unequalled for resisting all kinds of Putrefaction, Climate, Fatigue, Every Breaker, Leather, Musical Instruments, Machinery, etc., etc. The only quality being desired by the many glues flooding the market, none with high-sounding names, whose (including our advertisement, trade-marks, and logo) they dare, we have commenced putting the autograph below on all the Genuine LaPage's Glues.

Sample by mail, 20 cents (stamp). Mention this journal.

Russia Cement Co.
GLOUCESTER, MASS.

No Acid in LaPage's Glues.

SOMETHING NEW
THE PATENT
ADJUSTABLE BRUSH.

LIQUID GLUE
ALWAYS READY FOR USE

MANUFACTURED BY
RUSSIA CEMENT CO.
GLOUCESTER, MASS., U.S.A.

Our patent style "Patent" can be used also. Best for the pocket. Patent Wiper. Break adjustable to admit of Glue to the Cap.

Journal 18 Competition invited readers to submit a postcard sent to a friend, relative or workmate in Ankh-Morpork to which an A-M postal worker had added a comment. Well, didn't you all have fun and games with this one!

Julian Fagandini's postcard was sent from Stanley Howler Jr. holidaying in Lance to 'All the Gang' at the Broad Way Post Office:

Hail (lots of hail here in Lancre in winter apparently, haha!), fellow apostals (apostles of the post, haha!). Very rudimentary service out here. Local chappie still franks mail with a carved rock. Hit me with it yesterday when I commented as it happens. Wish you were here.

One of his workmates has added: **Wish he'd stay there. (Ha bloody ha!)**

Meanwhile, Martyn (Doc Brown) Ransome is clearly in the pink:

Hilary is looking forward to her first lesson, and taking up a new career as pole-dancer. Just what Wincanton needs.

Larry (Lazzagami) Hart's postcard comes from less well-upholstered surroundings:


Sumtri is a wonderful place. Everyone here is so relaxed and we're treated like royalty every day, waited on crag and for all day. I could get used to this, but Grav's always complaining. This morning he said he threw his Himalaya out when he fell on the giant Thud board.

To which has been added: **Should have checked the Sumtri exchange rate. They are royalty.**

Post Card

I saw this and thought of you. We visited the postal museum today and I had this hand prepared for your collection. The stamp was affixed using distilled water and positioned with a ruler and then crisply franked with precision. It was produced with extreme care by the post office.

And delivered with extreme malice by your postman



Master A Pettis
FIRST CLASS
Poach Pie Street
Ankh-Morpork

Nigel Rogers reflected on the problems some fatalists have experienced lately at the hands of insensitive postal workers.

Peter Elliot's postcard came from Jason in Djelibeybi:

Hi Nanny,

We gott heer yesterday and it is verry hott. The food we had last night was horribul. Everywear is ful of sand and there is nowt to do butt luk at pointy sandcastles.

It's good to see that Jason has inherited Nanny's broadminded approach to travel and spelling.

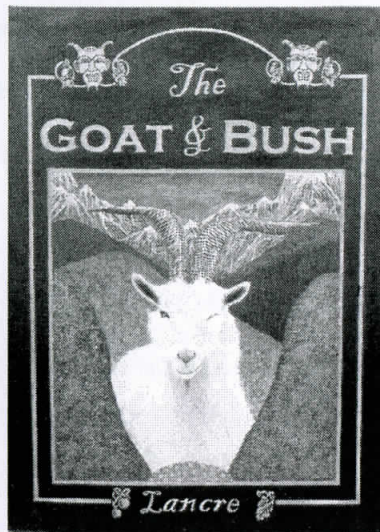
Appropriately enough, Narelle (Kelshandra) Cairns offered a postcard from Fourecks:

Sara Davidson's card is sent from Mrs Evadne Cake to her daughter and shows her characteristic prescience:

Already know I'm going to have a good time so thought I'd write this before I go to save on postage. (Which promoted the postman to comment: 'Cheapskate more like')

Been to ALL the churches! Not to my standards! Lovely full moons here and packs of wild dogs you'd love it. Home soon.

Jean Tillson excelled herself with a design that, it must be said, works better in colour, but we understand that lucky folk who are going to Phoenix will see it there in its full glory. For those viewing in black and white, you'll just have to use your imaginations.



THE ORIGINAL XXXX COLLECTION

Dear Mr Stibbons
We arrived at Biggerup W for the exchange program we expect to begin with on Hex Mark 2.0 next week. I'm a bit worried about some of the parts we have that let the ants escape but an told that the rich lang ants are only slightly dead.

Yours sincerely,
Pando the Path

Pander Stibbons
Unseen University
Ankh-Morpork

ADDRESS

Well, you were right - the inn owner loved the new sign and postcards, Nanny laughed like anything, and Granny W. just smiled and said none of the dancers stand that close together really. I still think you're crazy, but it looks like you may get away with it.

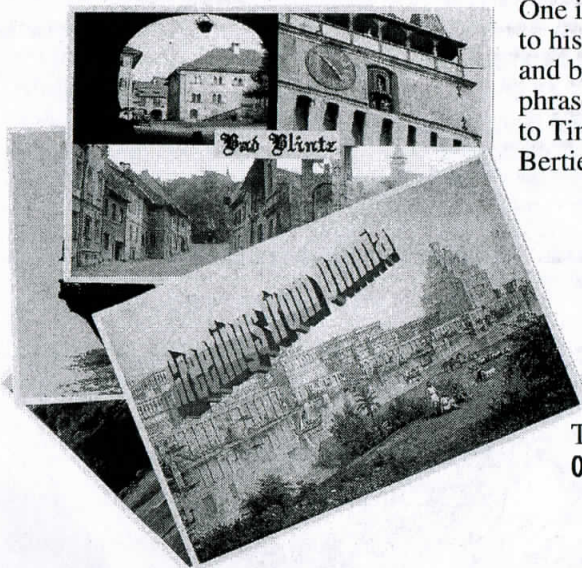
Jean Ogg

Ha! Don't Count on it!

To:
Mr G. Casanunda
Mrs Palm
The Seamstress Guild
Ankh-Morpork

GOLEM DELIVERY ONLY

Steve Tandy has been busy again, this time with four postcards from Bad Blintz, Omnia, Bes Pelagic and the Brown Islands.



One is addressed from Ted in Bes Pelagic to his colleagues at the AM Times office and brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'Junk' mail. Another has been sent to Tim and Aggie Parker by their friends Bertie and Maureen:

Arrived safely in Omnia. There are lots of old temples to visit, but we keep getting bundles of pamphlets given to us. We've just had a desert camel ride to the Blue Oasis for a cup of tea.

To which the post office has added:
One hump or two ha ha

Meanwhile Brian (delboy) Delaney risks life and limb:

'Pushed' door marked 'Pull'. Ended up here Rotorua! Cold beer! Air smells like rotten eggs! Sulphurous pools rising in inconvenient places. Rugby, national religion, brutal as an Omnian Prayer Meeting heavyweight disciple 'sects' competing for an inflated pig's bladder! Wish you were here or me there where's the bloody door?

The post office has added: Home, where the heart is the body follows by post

Jonty sent a postcard of bathing beauties, with one of his typically saucy messages:

Dearest Mother, captured by an all woman tribe in Howondaland. Forced by the Queen to take part in her 'Tribal Expansion' programme, refusal means certain death. Please, please send a crate of Mistress Weatherwax's Invigorating 'Ramrub' Elixir so that I may complete this terrible task and be allowed home. Your loving (and exhausted) son, Jonty Eightpanther.

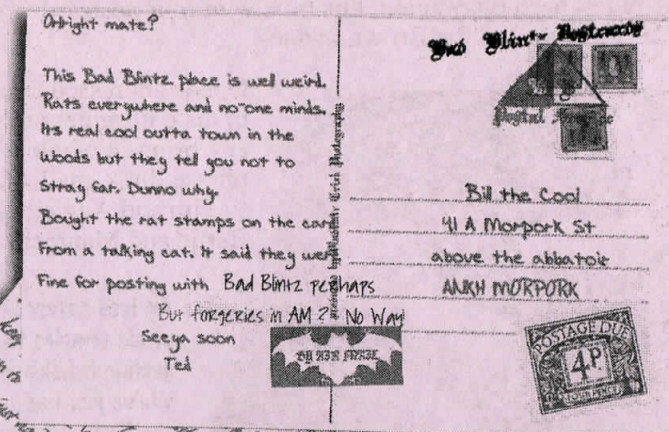
To which Senior Postman Ivor Codpiece has volunteered to deliver said elixir in person.

And Steve James writes from Genua:

Dear Auntie, it was an exciting journey in the stage coach. Had two Stand and Delivers! Thank goodness for our Thieves Guild receipts. Genua smells funny and the river is full of running water. Wouldn't drink it though. They have Rat-on-a-Stick here, they call it Mouchard Royale.

Prizes for everyone, including Su and Danny Hyams for contributing the idea.

This is very clever
too bloody clever
by half



Steve Tandy has been 'Mr Clever' with his competition entry. Unless the 'Mr Clevers' sign an exclusive, no fees contract with The Diseworld Emporium they very often get disappeared

Your Editorial Team

Editor in Chief Mr Stanley Howler

Sub-editor	Hilary Daniels
Foreign Correspondent	Jean Guittet
Recruitment page	Martin Stevens
City page	Gavin Arnold
Father of the chapel	Bernard Pearson
Ink Monitor	Isobel Pearson

They have all gone on holiday so its been left to me - Joyce Spooone - canteen operative.

Number

19
2009

All about
STAMPS
from the
home of
STAMPS

THIS MONTHS FREE STAMP



The
ANKH-MORPORK
DUTY PAID

to the value of 7 1/2 P

A new design of Duty Stamp
that echoes Civic Pride &
Fiscal Probity.



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please contact the editor, who will make the usual
excuses.*

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