

STAMP

Journal



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Well that's it then.....

Whew, got away with it again for another two years. Twas a close run thing though - ye gods it was.

Mind you I always seem to say that after a UK Discworld Convention, or any convention come to that!

Strange things conventions. I always meet new people and old friends and at the end of the con I have new old friends joining the old, old friends I had when it started. Great fun, but exhausting.

I think the Stamp Exchange summed it all up, a great bunch of enthusiasts gathered together exchanging and swapping stamps, just like it should be - new collectors sitting at the feet of the old hands and learning the ancient law of the Discworld Stamps.

I learned a lot just by being there. It is somewhat terrifying to see just how large the collection has now grown. I see the growth one bit at a time or should I say one stamp at a time and here were ALL the stamps in one place, all at one time, awesome or what!

To see just how far we have travelled and how the styles and design of the stamps has evolved not just with stamps but also with our other 'postal' ephemera was an education for me, I wish I could have grabbed Ian to share in it.

In our workshop stuff is either being worked on or away in files. To see Justin's collection in boxes, books and albums was really something. It is really very humbling to see not just the investment in money but also in the time it must take to keep such a collection catalogued, cared for and obviously loved.

It makes all the time we spend in trying to make every design that bit special so worth while. I was recounting this incident to Terry our printer who said that he was inspired after meeting with a bunch of collectors last Hogswatch.

Normally he told me he just prints 'stuff' and that is that, but with our stamps knowing the care that is given to them by the collectors he feels morally obliged to lavish all the craftsmanship and skill at his disposal on our jobs. He also admitted he finds the whole 'stamp' thing fascinating because it really stretches his skills as a master printer of some forty five years experience.

Our whole business is now really is a symbiosis, a virtuous circle, between creators and collectors that I don't think I have ever encountered before in any enterprise I have ever been involved in.

No wonder I was so gob smacked I had to go outside for a smoke - there was a lot going on in my head.

THE STANLEY HOWLER STAMP JOURNAL

DEAR READER,

Well you have finally got it. At last, here you are with your very own journal.

We can only apologize for the delay and put it down to the huge amount of extra work that has come our way over the last few months.

Its not just the stamps but also all the other things Discworld we are now involved in.

Don't get me wrong, we all love it, there can be no better toy box for a bunch of designers to play with - but it all takes time - especially if you are as nit-picking as we are in getting everything we do just 'right'

With Steve James and others keeping the day to day cataloguing of stamps up to date so splendidly, the archive information is covered in a way it never has been before.

Our regular news-letters keep collectors informed on new developments as and when they happen.

So, we are planning on bringing out the journal twice yearly.

This would allow us to make it a bit more substantial - more illustrations - more information, more recreational and more special offers and deals for subscribers.

The subscription will remain the same, but will last twice as long.

We hope you will agree this is a step in the right direction.

Yours from the editors desk. Bernard Pearson

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THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN BOTH THE WRITING AND THE COMPETITION, YOU ARE ABSOLUTE STARS. KEEP IT COMING - OR WE'LL COME ROUND TO YOUR HOUSE AND BE RUDE TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

FIVE YEARS, FIVE YEARS, FIVE YEARS!

I have always got at least one Terry Pratchett novel 'on the go', and for the last five years I have been reading and rereading *Going Postal*. For five years every time I've picked up this book, I've looked at the stamps printed on the inside cover and thought "wouldn't it be fantastic if'n someone actually made these...?"

So, one January evening, waiting for my wife to cook dinner don't start, I know it's the Century of the Anchovy, but honestly, you set fire to the kitchen once and believe me you are banned from even looking at a frying pan, I'm surfing the interwebs and I find the Discworld Emporium site... and I notice the Stamps button... and with hand trembling with anticipation, I press said button, and start to explore...

Some time later the world falls out of my bottom, How much have I missed? Where do I start? What do I do? Where is my credit card.....?

As everyone knows, becoming a Flatelist five years late means that you have missed out on a LOT of stamps. So, I thought, is it worth taking the plunge? Wait, what is this? Sports, Variations, Limited editions, Letters, LBE's! How cool is this? This looks fun, credit card melting fun, but Fun, with a capital F! Lets check out the forum, what sort of people do this, are they friendly, are they good people, and more importantly, do I need one of my Anoraks?

Well, you all know the answers to these questions, and, of course, I took the plunge and became a Flatelist. So four months on where am I? I am amazed at the quality, thought and craftsmanperson?ship that goes into each stamp. My collection is slowly growing and, of course, there are huge spaces in my album awaiting stamps that will never arrive, but, you know what? It doesn't matter.

Me and my son eagerly await the arrival of the LBE's, eyes glued to the magnifying glass, looking for that elusive sport, groaning at the lack thereof, but secretly counting the 'doubles' to see if we have enough for some Cabbage Trading Stamps. CTS, such a cool idea, though I do worry about the stamps sent in exchange, I dream that they spend their lives archived away, satisfied in the knowledge that they have served a higher purpose.

I've won a few stamps on ebay, but they don't 'mean' as much as those that come in an LBE. Sports and rarities in an LBE seem like gifts from their maker, we were meant to receive them. Anyone can purchase a collection the fun is the surprise arrival in an LBE, the gift from a fellow forummer, the fair trade made after deliberation. Which reminds me, I have some corners to trade.... if anyone is interested. Anyone..? Anyone...?

BISECTED STAMPS.

Farthing is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *feorthing*, a forth-part. In monetary terms a Farthing is a quarter of a penny. Most transactions in the Anglo-Saxon period were by barter but when necessary coins were struck in precious metals, silver or gold. The penny was made of silver and when it was necessary to create smaller coinage the mint would cut the coin into halves, a half penny, and quarters, a farthing. Only the mint was allowed to do this and it was a capital crime for anyone else to cut coins.



In later years the cutting of coins became tolerated which was lucky of Arthur Kipps and Ann Pornick as capital punishment would have spoiled a good story and musical.

It should be noted that this practice has nothing to do with Coin Clipping which was a means of cutting or clipping off part of the coin's edge in order to make additional coins. Milling, ridges and engraving were techniques used to prevent clipping.

A similar technique has been used with stamps. The term for this is Bisecting. This refers to a stamp being cut in half, usually diagonally, to create smaller denomination stamps. The Seamstress' Guild Two Pence Plum Lovers stamp which is perforated down the middle is not a candidate for a bisected stamp. Bisected stamps are created by cutting as needed and not prepared in advance.

If a post office found it was short of lower value stamps it would cut, or bisect, a higher value. A two penny stamp would be cut to make two one penny stamps. As with the penny it could only be undertaken by the relevant authority, in this case the Post Office. In addition a bisected stamp cannot exist on its own. Anyone can cut a stamp in half and call it bisected. The important thing is that the bisected stamp would be on an envelope or card and be officially franked, in the same way that a First Day or Commemorative Cover is authenticated by the frank.

Mexico was probably the first country to use bisects around the 1860s. In fact they didn't restrict themselves to bisects they sometimes cut into three-quarters, quarters and eighths pieces as the proportionate value of a full stamp.

During the First World War the Faroe Islands was an autonomous province of Denmark and had to conform with the Danish postal rates. When Denmark raised the postal rate from 5 to 7 øre on 1st January 1919 the Faroe Islands did not have access to 7 øre stamps due to the war. They had access to 5 øre and 4 øre stamps so they resorted to bisecting the 4 øre stamps. This lasted 11 days, between 3rd and 14th January 1919 when the postmaster was granted permission to surcharge the 5 øre stamp to 7 øre. Bisected stamps were valid until 31st January 1919. In 1979 a stamp commemorating the bisect was issued to celebrate the 60th anniversary.

The last time it was permitted in the United States was over 60 years ago during the war caused by a shortage of stamps. Another instances of bisects was during the Second World War when the Channel Islands were occupied by German Forces.

On Guernsey as the supply of ½d and 1d stamps diminished the German authorities suggested that the 2d stamps could be bisected until new supplies were made available. Authority was granted on 24th December 1940 and the first cancellations were made 3 days later, too late for Christmas. Five stamps were officially approved. The 2d definitive, the 2d postal centenary, the 2d King George V, two issues, and the 1934 2d stamp. The bisects were used until 22nd February 1941.

It seems however that the exercise was partly a money making scheme with many letters bearing bisects being sent to philatelists and the Germans producing many thousands of unaddressed covers to order by a German Office who obtained British stamps directly from Germany. After liberation the covers were sent back to Germany before being picked up by a London stamp dealer. Addresses were only added later.

Am I odd in wondering why people are worrying about postal prices during a war? In the case of the Faroe Islands they are cut off and having trouble with supplies of food and provisions and they are spending time organising increases in postal prices.

Who were the people in Guernsey writing to and why were the Germans allowing the mail to go out. In fact I can imagine an envelope dropping on to a mat in London bearing a bisected stamp and a Guernsey postmark, inside was a letter full of holes and looking like a Jacquard punched card.

Steve James

MYNAME IS BETH. I AM A DISCWORLD FAN.

And just now I've cupped my hand to my ear to see if I can hear an answering chorus of "HI BETH!" Yes indeed, it's an addiction isn't it? And what a support group we have! Though I think the difference between us and other helpful groups for addicts is that we enable and encourage each other nay, egg each other on to greater heights of involvement rather than try to gently help each other to abstain.

It's wonderful isn't it? I've just left/was privileged to be present at/am recovering from/am looking forward to the next, Discworld Convention in Birmingham UK. I'm quite sure there was a convention because I remember spending rather a lot of money paying for airline tickets from India, hotel rooms and meals. Along with of course buying all things needed for costumes, new corsetry and all the many other things that go along with being a resident of the Discworld. Oh and spending the hours of time necessary looking for costume bits, sewing, gluing and stapling costumes together, packing and worrying. "Will it be right? Will my costumes look nice? Will there be things wrong with it? Will it show enough cleavage.....?" That sort of thing. Oh and somewhere along the way (this was my third Discworld Convention) I decided it would be a jolly good idea to use some of my abilities to contribute in a more substantial fashion to the charities.

So there are the hours spent working on the paintings that I have begun to donate to the con auctions to consider as well. So, as I say, I'm sure there was a convention. I remember drinking quite a bit and hugging people and being hugged and fun in general being had. I remember a little play that I was in called the Rocky Horror Discworld Show...played once...not recorded and never to be seen again. I saw Terry Pratchett so I sincerely hope that means he was there. If not, I blame the bar or rather its liquid contents.

I saw other dear people that it was a joy to see but I'm afraid, from my cozy prospect here in lovely Wincanton it all seems a blur and a nice (if rather fraught) dream rather than something that actually happened. I can reassure myself later thank goodness with all the photographs and of course the bills. And I ask myself after reviewing all the time, money and effort spent...why do we all do it? I know the answer as well as you do. Why? **BECAUSE WE LOVE IT!**

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

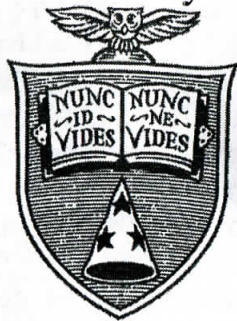


THE FIRST 3 CORRECT ENTRIES GETS A PRIZE.

THERE ARE 11 FRANKS AND AT LEAST 11 SUBTLE (AND NOT SO SUBTLE) DIFFERENCES SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THEM.

UNIVERSITY SHENANIGANS By Steve Tandy

The Unseen University farthing booklet states "These stamps are licensed by the Ankh-Morpork Post Office for use only by students and authorised College servants." As usual there is a RW parallel to this. Between 1870 and 1885 a number of Oxford and Cambridge University colleges issued their own adhesive private postage stamps as well as pre-paid stationery with college crests printed where the stamp would be placed. This stemmed from a centuries old right, which was formalized by an Act of Parliament in 1656, giving these two universities the right to operate private postal services for university mail to be delivered between colleges and to addresses within the cities. Oxford was first to issue stamps with Keble College in 1870, followed by Hertford and five others. Cambridge waited until Selwyn College issued stamps in 1882 with two other colleges. However the university postal services were in use prior to the stamps for hundreds of years. The Penny Black was only of passing interest. Students or staff would post a letter in a special collection box, marking it with the sender's identification. A college porter would then collect them, stamp them and record who sent what, before a messenger would deliver them to other colleges and across the city. The fee was half-pence to a penny per letter depending upon the college. The fees were paid either per item or settled at the end of each term (semester). 15,000 sheets of stamps over three years were required for post from Keble College alone.



All this was to cease however in the spring of 1886. Remember that this was a time when these two cities were divided into "town and gown" so there was some local antipathy towards the college's privileges with city residents objecting to a cheaper and exclusive postal system. The then Postmaster General, Lord Manners, put pressure on the colleges to discontinue the posts. He argued that exclusive privilege had been conferred on him for the carriage of letters. Other objections included the use of the private collection boxes and the use of adhesive stamps to denote payment. As it turned out, the legality of these private posts was never tested, as the college authorities rather quietly and very surprisingly gave in. The stamps disappeared, but the college post system remained

albeit in a restructured form – no stamps, no private letter boxes, messengers paid per item and the service to be used only when a messenger could deliver faster than the Royal Mail.

The stamps also caused disagreement and controversy amongst Victorian philatelists. Were they true postage stamps, thus qualifying them for a place in a specialist collection? This depended on the definition of a postage stamp. The term 'postage' means the fee paid for the conveyance of a letter and a postage stamp therefore franks it to denote such payment. If the postal authorities were opposed to the college posts as a whole then services should have been abolished. Therefore it was the use of stamps which was the primary cause for concern. But the legality or otherwise of the stamps was never tested in court, and it cannot be denied that they did represent the postage fee and were true postage stamps. Even so, they are not listed in a Gibbons catalogue and few collectors of GB stamps find room in their albums for them.

One curiosity is a so-called parcel post stamp, which one college porter seems to have created using an embossing stamp for use on books delivered by the post. Almost no record of it exists apart from haphazard pressings on a piece of paper and sketchy eye witness reports.

The stamps themselves are quite distinctive, usually showing the college arms with geometrical backgrounds and borders in a monocolour. However, they were and are still quite collectable by the few, especially used covers and the pre-paid stationery that soon followed the stamps. Most that appear on eBay show signs of their age with some discolouration of the paper. Stamps genuinely used on a cover command premium prices. Various printings of the stamps are known, as well as test prints or assays adding to their collectability.

They are the subject of various books. Entire monographs have been written concerning the identification of different print runs and positioning of the stamps within a sheet. Articles in the philatelic press continue to be written and published.

These were not the only philatelic artifacts to come from Oxford University. Between 1857 and 1882 the Oxford Union Society (OUS) were permitted to firstly overprint and from 1870 underprint official postage stamps. This was the first, and possibly the only time, of a permitted surcharge on the

face of official stamps for private use.

The overprints were vertical, reading O.U.S. between two wavy lines. I was lucky enough to find one in a batch of 'Penny Red stars' bought on eBay. A red overprint on a red stamp does not hit you in the face and must have been missed by many collectors over the years!

It almost seems a shame that the U.U. stamps have not created parallel controversy in Ankh-Morpork, but does the AMPO have a monopoly on the post that the Royal Mail has in the UK? Would Vetinari back Moist if he were to challenge? The issue of new U.U. stamps implies that this exclusive service is not merely tolerated, but approved of. Challenging the Wizard's rights is not to be undertaken lightly, but we wait and see. The Oxford and Cambridge college stamps lasted 15 years and the U.U. stamps have only been around 6 so far.



Three typical college stamps and a OUS underprint on the back of a 1d red (the overprint is harder to see)

JOURNAL OFFER

A mini sheet of the 'Foxy Variant'



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THE PASSWORD IS
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COMPETITION RESULTS

Spot the Difference

A good number of entries – too many to list, but we will be sending you all a special “I spotted the difference” LBE

Not so many offerings for the The Klatchian Menu competition but some splendid efforts that had us all chuckling.

We are awarding a special Prize for Steve Tandy, whose inventiveness in creating his menu was impressive and it looked the part too. I especially treasure the Seamstress Specials and the Meat Findaloo

Prizes also for Charles Braham “The House of Tarka, our food is always a little otter”

Jonty's The Rhoxie - Klatchian Takeaway

Mundane Meals from Justin Gillet

Klatchian Curry Gardens from Julian Fagandini

And The Cunning Klatchian – from Danny and Sue Hyam.

Thanks also to Brian Delaney and Larry Hart.

COMPETITION FOR JOURNAL 23

This is Ian's idea and should tax your ingenuity and produce some interesting results.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to stick one or more Discworld stamps in an unusual, interesting and unlikely place and then send us a photograph of it.

(Nothing anatomical thank you – apart from that we really look forward to seeing your results)

- [illegible]

WHOOPEE CUSHION



BOFFO'S ITCHING POWDER

Keep them
SCRATCHING AWAY
for HOURS



The STAMP Journal

A review of Discworld Stamps, and the sort of stuff we all hope you might just find interesting and or amusing. With contributions from collectors, friends, and anyone holding an opinion, a pen. or both.

THE 'FOXY VARIANT' HALF PENNY ANKH-MORPORK

This Journal's Free Stamp.
A cunning variation on the stamp we produced for Fox.
Using the same frame Ian has dropped in the original Post Office.
Which of course follows the written word rather than the film.



Measuring approximately 34 x 40 mm and also available in a mini sheet as this Journals 'SPECIAL OFFER'

See page 10 for details

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