

The Stanley Howler
**STAMP
JOURNAL**

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AUTUMN ISSUE
2011

THE STANLEY HOWLER



STAMP JOURNAL

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Most of this journal was worried over by Reb and our profound thanks go to her and all those clever scamps who filled the pages with their drawings, pictures and ideas.

THANK YOU ALL MOST MUCHLY

Printed in Somerset by our good friends at Rose Mills Print Finishers, who put up with a lot!

Comings & Goings

Comings & Goings
Comings & Goings
Comings & Goings

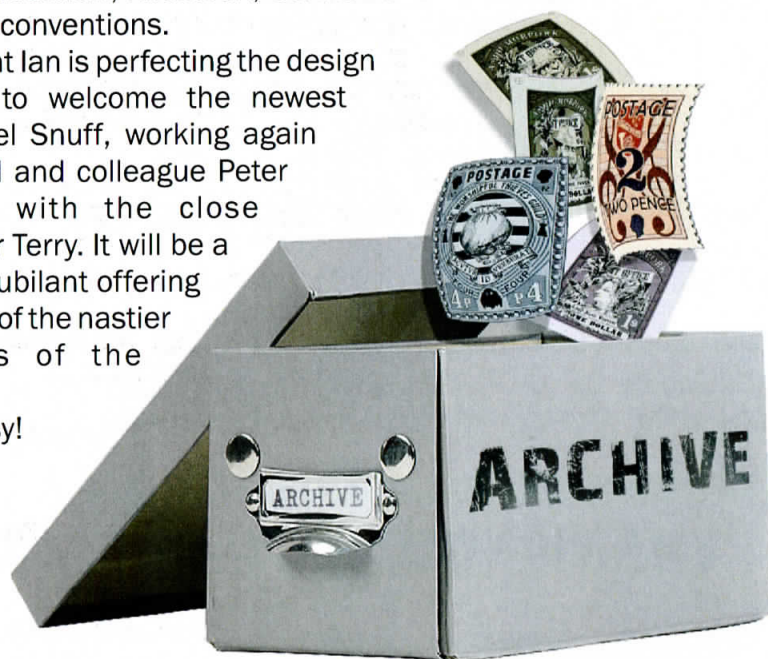
Over the past six months we've said our goodbyes to the Genua \$1, the Llamados, Lady Alice and Sir Roderick \$1 Explorers stamps, Sto Helit 1p, Tsort 1D, Thieves' Guild 4p and Musicians Guild 2p.

As we've become rather busy with games, books and global Discworld events, time has been too fleeting for us to keep a regular eye on stock levels. Therefore some of the aforementioned items and some covers have been whipped away into the safety of the archive, without the usual notice given by their being added to the endangered list. With so many things for few hands to juggle, this has been rather unavoidable, but hopefully when we settle into things we can give better warning of a stamp's demise.

New stamps for this half of the year have included the Howondaland 50WB, Quirm 5p, Guy De Yoyo \$1, Omnia Obal [sic], the Great Inventors of Ankh-Morpork \$3 duo, and the Klatch 2Wol. A colourful bunch of additions to the range, and mostly from foreign parts! Suitably, we've also created items for the Australian, American, German and Irish Discworld conventions.

As we go to print Ian is perfecting the design for a Stamp to welcome the newest Discworld novel Snuff, working again with our friend and colleague Peter Dennis and with the close guidance of Sir Terry. It will be a colourful and jubilant offering involving none of the nastier connotations of the book's title.

Busy, busy, busy!



STAMP BOLLOCKS

BY PETER DENNIS

FOR SOME REASON, BEST KNOWN TO THEMSELVES, THE TWITS AT HER MAJESTY'S POST OFFICE HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO COMMISSION MY SERIES OF STAMPS ON MEMORABLE BRITISH MASSACRES THROUGH THE AGES. SO, WHEN THE FAR MORE ENLIGHTENED FOLK AT THE ANKH-MORPORK P.O. ASKED ME TO DO A COUPLE, I WAS THRILLED. I DIDN'T SHOW IT OF COURSE, I PLAYED HARD TO GET, I UMMED, I AAHED, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WHEN YOU'RE NEGOTIATING FEES.

THE THING IS, I'VE ALWAYS FANCIED TRYING TO MAKE ONE OF THOSE DRAWINGS, THE SORT THAT ARE ON BANKNOTES AND STAMPS. THEY'RE SO PERFECT, YOU DON'T EVEN REALISE SOME POOR ILLUSTRATOR HAS BEEN SWEATING BLOOD OVER THE CREASES IN ISAAC NEWTON'S ELBOW OR HAS TRIED FIFTY-THREE DIFFERENT EYEBROW POSITIONS ON ABE LINCOLN TO GET THE LOOK EXACTLY RIGHT.

YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT THEM TO INTENSE SCRUTINY YOU KNOW, OH YES. OLD PEARSON WILL BE PORING OVER THE ARTWORK WITH HIS WATCH-MAKER'S EYE-PIECE IN, WAFTING THE PIPE-SMOKE ASIDE. YOUNG MITCHELL WILL BE MUTTERING DARKLY ABOUT TONAL VALUES, WHILE HE FIGHTS WITH A ROUGH CIDER-INDUCED HANGOVER. EVEN THE CATS HAVE THEIR SAY. IT'S NO PICNIC.

LUCKILY, THE SUBJECTS ARE AS MAD AS BADGERS, SO I POSED FOR THEM MYSELF. THAT LOOK OF SELF-DISGUST IN BS JOHNSON'S FACE, THE LOST EXPRESSION OF THE HOPELESSLY SENILE FOR THE UNKEMPT LEONARD... NO PROBLEMO.

DO THEY HAVE THAT MOUNT RUSHMORE MONUMENTAL QUALITY THAT AN INSTITUTIONAL ICON MUST HAVE? WELL....

DO THEY LOOK GREAT ON THE SHEET THOUGH, ALL REGULAR AND REPEATED?

WELL I THINK SO., BUT THAT MIGHT JUST BE SELF-PHILATELY

Peter is working with Ian and I on the brand new map of Ankh-Morpork as well as other projects we have on the go.

A REPORT ON THE OFFICIAL RETIREMENT OF ONE OF THE PARTNERS

Bernard Pearson co-founder of Clare Craft and the Discworld Emporium reached the retirement age of sixty five on the thirteenth of September this year.

At his retirement dinner in the senior partner's canteen he was given a wheelchair as a mark of appreciation from his fellow partners in the Emporium.

As one of the partners explained to the writer, Bernard was won't to drink in nearly all the public houses in the town justifying this by saying that as the de-facto Ankh-Morpork Consul as well as being a town councillor he was duty bound to 'spread his custom'

However, of late, arthritis of the knees and other less savoury medical conditions have made walking both painful and difficult. It is hoped the wheelchair will allow him to coast down to the Bear and the Nog or tack to the Dolphin and Uncle Toms. It is unfortunate that the footpaths in the town are so narrow and his home is almost at the apex of a steep hill.

The wheelchair has been fitted with a 'wide load' sign in conformity with current traffic regulations concerning low-loaders.

The staff clubbed together and gave him an inscribed box of Swan Vesta's and an economy size tube of Anusol.

In his speech to the assembled partners and staff Bernard said how much he had enjoyed working with them all in bringing into existence some of the artefacts and objet d'art that the writings of his good friend Sir Terry Pratchett had given life to.

For over twenty years he had lived, breathed Discworld, made thousands and thousands of quite interesting but normally useless items and seen some of them change hands for almost obscene amounts of money on e-bay and other places of ill gotten gains long after he had sold them for a bloody pittance.

Now that he is in receipt of a pension sufficient enough to keep him in tobacco he is going to spend his twilight years in pursuing one of the dreams of his life, namely to do and make exactly as he wants to until they nail him in his box.

Consequently he is working, with a few friends, on redrawing the city map of Ankh-Morpork with an accompanying 120 page gazetteer and city directory which will be published by Transworld in 2012. He will then assist his good pal Mr Ian Mitchell in worrying the new Discworld Bestiary into existence for a 2013 publication as well as playing with sticky bits of paper in between times. He might even get his old hands dirty doing a bit of light sculpture for some Hogswatch trinkets if the mood takes him.

And of course now he is retired he can spend a more time with his eight grandchildren and still have time for those enjoyable lunches with Sir Terry that seem always to involve bubble & squeak.

His wife and best friend of thirty years, Isobel, told us that she thought it was good that he had found a hobby and one that would keep him out of her hair for a few hours each day though she would miss his getting up to catch the early bus to get into work on time.

They both plan to travel to visit friends and loved ones in his retirement.



Wonder Blunders

Now and then the Emporium has proven idiosyncratically prone to the odd design fault, spelling mistake, printing error or delivery mix-up. We sit not alone in our dunce caps however, for a delve into the histories of our postal institutions and the habits of their customers reveals a whole ocean of ineptitude to rival Mr B.S. Johnson in the stupid stakes (endless counts of damaged, lost, missent and delayed mail aside). Here are a few choice nuggets:



ER ... ITEM 1 - A LITTLE PROBLEM
WITH THE GERMAN SPELLING

A Bloody Stupid Post Box?



Larry Hart, renowned paper meddler, shone a light on this gem courtesy of the British Postal Museum Archive detailing the infamous design interpretation for the Crown & Cushion pillar box:

"From 1856 Smith and Hawkes of Birmingham made pillar boxes for the Midlands and Southern District in the style of a fluted Doric column with a vertical posting aperture. However, unclear instructions resulted in the first three being eight feet tall, with a high domed roof, topped by an ornate crown! Further boxes were made without the domed roof and crown, and were distributed until about 1857".

It doesn't stretch the imagination to envisage such a design gracing a corner of Ankh-Morpork at some point, though if it did there would probably be someone living in it by now.

Taking liberties

The US Postal service's Lady Liberty 'Forever' Stamp gaff came to light when a keen-eyed Statue of Liberty fan spotted flaws in the image used on the stamp and reported his findings to the philatelic publication Linn's Stamp News. Having selected a photograph from a picture agency, the USPS's design team then unknowingly ran millions of stamps featuring not the famous landmark, but a replica from the New York-New York Casino in Las Vegas.

The Human Letter

W. Reginald Bray was a collector and post-card enthusiast born in the late 1800s who delighted in challenging the post office with his eccentric antics. Reginald's mailings included seaweed, turnips, the first postcard to Santa Claus, and himself in regular bids to test the limits of P.O. regulations. The blunderer here was undoubtedly the Post Office who would deliver postcards using reused stamps, cut out postmarks and train tickets as stamps to their destinations. Bray may well have enjoyed the concept of Cinderella stamps from a fictional world being sent across the world, confusing post room staff and earning a cancellation as a consequence.

A little too late

In 2010 Nantwich residents were left baffled by a seemingly heartwarming and well intentioned Royal Mail Ad campaign encouraging them to use their local Post Office. Glossy leaflets featuring personalised Images of Post office signs, vehicle number plates and welcome mats were delivered to homes, beckoning occupants towards their nearest branch at Millfields. Royal Mail had somehow forgotten giving Millfields the chop two years earlier.

"Special" Deliveries

Spare a thought for the poor drug dealers across the globe whose livelihoods are so often ruined by post office staff and courier companies. Mr Dench was jailed in 2002 after P.O. staff became suspicious of the amount of jiffy bags he was buying and a package intercepted by police was found to contain heroin en-route to Aberdeen. The supply chain was described in court as "possibly not the most sophisticated". Similarly 198 pounds of marijuana was discovered after Fedex delivered to the wrong address in Baltimore in 2008. Police then posed as Fedex staff and waited for the actual recipient to make contact about missing parcels. Delivery was arranged the next day and the recipient 'nicked' as soon as the parcels were signed for.

Style overdose

The Mulready stationary were early pre-paid envelopes and lettersheets where the elaborately illustrated decoration served as the frank and sign of payment. Released in the UK at the same time as the Penny Black and Two Penny Blue, the Mulready designs were also available in two values. The postage stamp prevailed while Mulready stationary was mocked, lampooned and ridiculed for its fanciful appearance. Although we can now appreciate the charm of high Victorian style, at the time such extravagance probably didn't suit the everyday communications of Alan the blacksmith and his mates for example, just as it wouldn't in the present day.

COMPETITION TIME

For your chance to win something stampy and feature in the next Stanley Howler stamp journal your next challenge is to create a Discworld parody of the Mulready stationary. It could be an official A-M.P.O issue utilising the skills of the engravers' Guild, or crafted by the hand of a by a well-known Discworld character - the world is your mollusc.

Please send your entries by January 1st 2012

to reb@cunningartificer.co.uk or post them to:

Stanley Howler c/o 41 High Street, Wincanton, Somerset, BA99JU



**OF THE SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
COMPETITION
JOURNAL NO 24**

Steve James

Steve Tandy

Julian Fagandini

Chris Lean

Irena Nepevna

Justin Thompson

Marie Wright

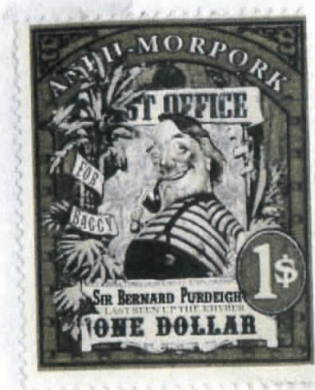
Mark Holloway

HURRAH FOR THEM ALL!

OFF THE WALL

We are very lucky indeed for there are not many shopkeepers on this great round soggy rock that has quite the kind natured and generous collectorship as we.

Over the years we have been fortunate enough to get our mitts on some splendid items from Discworld Stamp Collectors, who have put their creative hats on and used our stamps as inspiration or art material. No doubt most of you will have ogled Kelshandra's skilfully crafted decoupage at some point, or even participated in the annual envelope exchange initiated on our forum which enables everybody to create a Discworld postal artefact and share in the joy of receiving each other's creations. For the Flatelic marvels we received this year – THANK YOU! They have been added to the shop noticeboard for visitors to gawp and at.



Steve Tandy really is a cheeky boy, adulterating Discworld stamps to great effect and sticking 'em on his GCTS entries.

AND LO!
IT CAME TO PASS;
FOR THRICE I HAVE BEEN POKED WITH THE LUCKY STICK;

I GOT MY FIRST,
EVER,
TOA
FALLING MAN SPORT.

AND...

MY FIRST, AND SECOND,
EVER,
LBE PRIZE TICKETS.

AND...

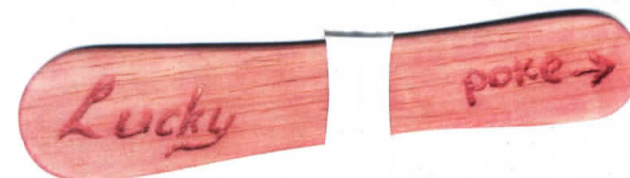
ENOUGH COMMONS TO TRADE FOR;
25 GREEN CABBAGE TRADING STAMPS
AND THEREFORE;
FOR A PACK OF R-SOLES!

PAINT ME HAPPIER THAN NOBBY NOBBS FACED
WITH A STREET FULL OF UNLOCKED DOORS!

We receive all kinds of stampy items created or sent as gestures of goodwill and mirth, and to help keep our well of inspiration moist. Time then that we shared some examples with the rest of the class - they're just too damn good to be kept for our eyes only!

IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED POKING,
AND IN CELEBRATION OF THE GODS IN GENERAL,
AND THE GODDESSES'S'S'S'S'S'S'S OF
INTERESTING STAMPS AND THE OPENING OF BROWN ENVELOPES - LITTLE,
AND OF RENDERING OF ENVELOPES BROWN,
IN PARTICULAR, I HEREBY PASS ON THE LUCKY (POKING) STICK.

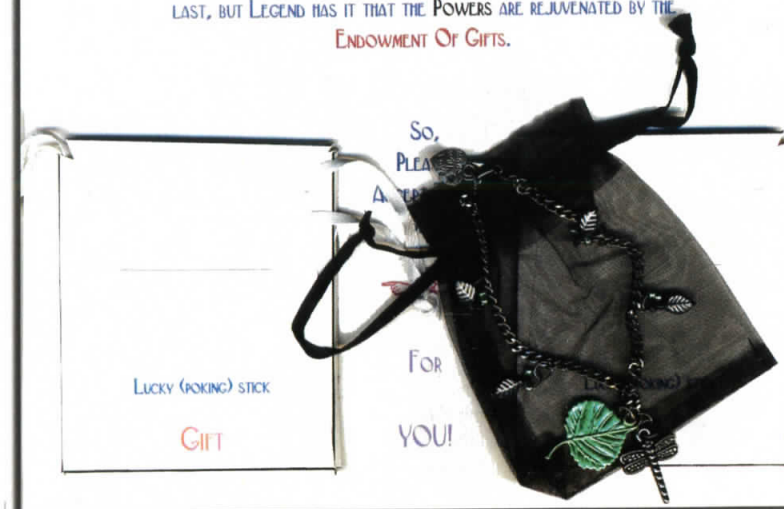
THE LUCKY (POKING) STICK



NO ONE KNOWS HOW LONG THE POWERS OF THE LUCKY (POKING) STICK
LAST, BUT LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE POWERS ARE REJUVENATED BY THE
ENDOWMENT OF GIFTS.

Paul Davidge expressed his delight and thanks with perhaps the most original Green Cabbage Trading Scheme

submissions in Emporium history. A real delight and gesture of generosity that included a lucky poking stick and two handmade bracelets for the lady-folk of the team. What a clever fella!



Charles Braham's mail often arrives inked with his trademark cancellations and post marks. He has been kind enough to include a glorious selection of colourful stamps from Thailand, including designs that incorporate, foil block, silk, and embossed details.



David Poulsen has sent first day covers from Australia of a similar ilk to our own, so that they may be given complementary Discworld stamps and franks and added to his and our collections.



XXXX
Department
Of
Home Security

Always Remember...
LOCK YOUR DOORS

XXXX WILDLIFE IS KNOWN TO BE VERY DANGEROUS. ALL HOUSEHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO PROTECT AGAINST HOME INVASION. AGGRESSIVE SPECIES INCLUDE EMUS, WOMBATS, DROP BEARS, BARKING SPIDERS, RING NECKED WALLABIES AND GALAHS. BELIEVE US, YOU DO NOT WANT TO WAKE UP ON A SUNDAY MORNING WITH ANY OF THESE HIDING BEHIND THE VEGIMITE JAR.

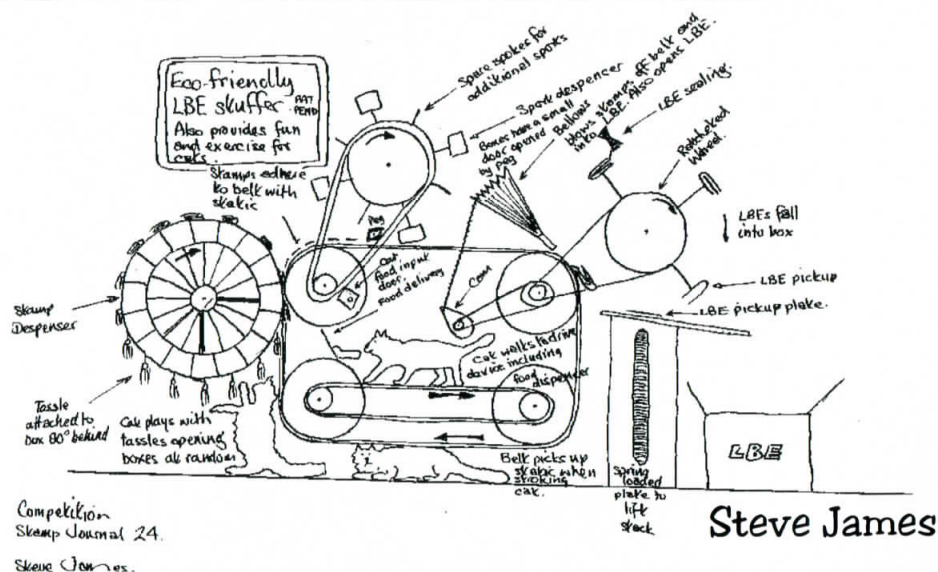
BE AWARE!!!

Larry Hart

AKA 'LORD HONG
created an astonishing set of earrings for Reb made from Bad Blintz stamps which are both beautiful and cunning.

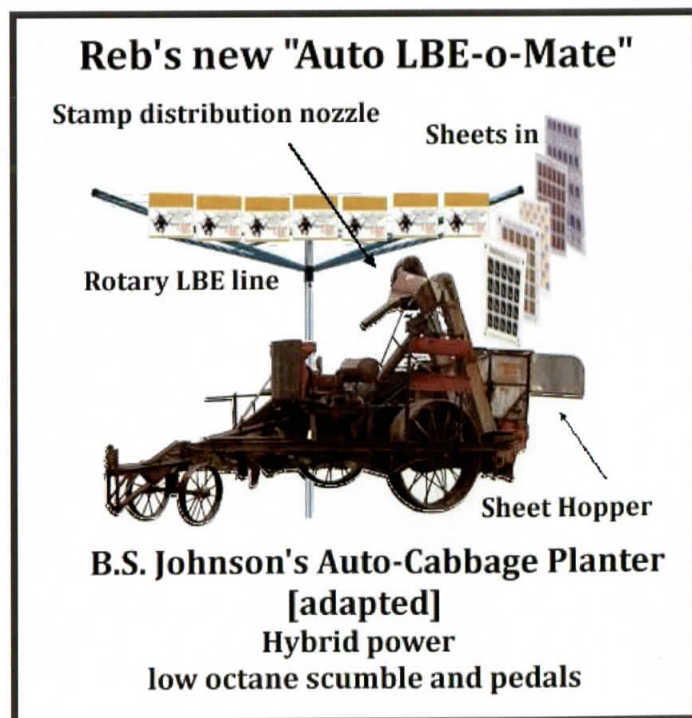


YET MORE OF YOUR COLLECTIVE INGENUITY HAS GONE INTO THE PACKING OF LBE'S. SO MUCH SO WE HAVE INCLUDED THE VERY BEST IDEAS IN AS BIG A SIZE AS WE CAN - JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE SUCH FUN - and did I say ingenious!



Steve James

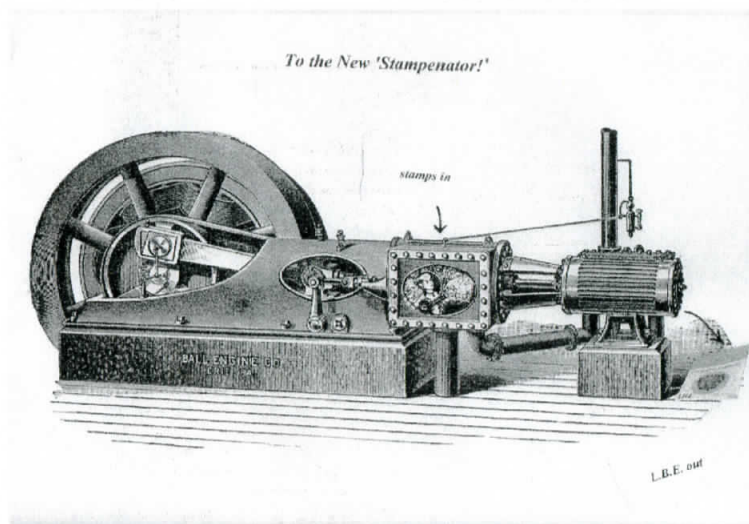
Steve
Tandy



The Jonty



Sara Jones



From out dated cottage industry...



Then the selection process

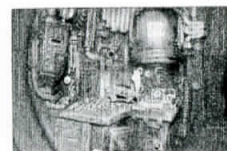


and finally onto Quality Control

Firstly the stamps are treated with light fish scent

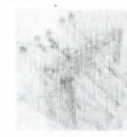
Julian Fagandini

The Original Official Discworld LBE Engineering Process Improvement Project
(Codename: *TOODIE PFF*)



Hex

WFF
(Wizardly Fidelity)
Link



Imp multipules
as many as required
- one imp per catapault
- five catapaults per multipule
- each imp is assigned to one drawer in the CFC

1. Hex signals a binary number to the imp multipules coding 1 for fire and 0 for do not fire.
2. The selected imps are fired by catapault to the CFC.
3. Each imp extracts one stamp from its assigned drawer.
4. The imps move from the CFC to the stamp collation and LBE stuffing area.
5. The imps deposit the stamps they have collected from the CFC into the next available LBE.
6. The imps return to their allocated catapault and await the next signal from Hex.
7. Goto step 1 and repeat until stuffing complete.



Cabinet of Platonic Curiosities (CFC)
- each drawer in the CFC contains one variety of common stamp
- one drawer in the CFC contains sports



Stamp Collation and
LBE Stuffing Area

We just had to print all these in a decent size to show just how bloody clever you all are.

The last one is on page 17 - and well worth a read it is too.....

Justin Thompson

Imagine how tiring it can be to fill LBEs - especially in the run-up to an 'event', when batches of 1000 (or more!) need to be prepared. Think how tiring it must be, after picking and packing all those envelopes, how exhausting it must be to then have to take each envelope and fold over the flap, thus sealing away the precious contents.

Enter the BSJ LBE Flap Folding Device (Patent Pending). Simply place the LBE on the lower platen, aligning it carefully to ensure the fold is made at the correct position. Then just pull the upper platen over (using the handle provided, after all we don't want any nasty injuries, do we?) to fold and seal the envelope.

Of course, since this is a BSJ design, its efficiency is pushed to the max! Up to 1000 standard LBEs can simultaneously be positioned on the lower platen, meaning they can all be sealed at the same time. Of course, this does lead to some minor problems... To accommodate 1000 envelopes, the device is over 100 metres in length. Which might be ever so slightly larger than the shop at No. 41...

THE STANLEY HOWLER STAMP JOURNAL
ISSUE NO. 24 (SPRING 2011)
LBE PACKING PROCESS COMPETITION

My idea calls for a specialized computer and a lot of hardware:

First of all, you need a special compartmented box, fitted so the compartments correspond with the placement of stamps on a sheet this calls for a box per stamp. The tops of the compartments need to be razor sharp, so when a sheet is placed on the top of the box, a flat slab pressing down causes the stamps to separate into the compartments in the box.

From there the stamps go into tall, narrow hoppers which are above a conveyor belt, at a height of the thickness of a single stamp (so only one comes out at a time). There should be a hopper for each shape of stamp (such as corners and individual sides) as well as each type of stamp, and a separate hopper for sports, of course so stamps like the Genua 1c would have 10 hoppers: one for each sport, one for each of the remaining corners, one for each side and one for the rest of the commons.

The conveyor belts lead into a single LBE feeding slot.

The computer is programmed with the monetary value of the contents of each hopper, and can control the conveyor belts. A simple "random" program which guarantees only that the total value of stamps per LBE is between 5 and 6 Pounds and only one of any stamp is present in each LBE. An additional part of the program, either random or numerical (for example, one in every 5) also adds a sport and / or a prize ticket (which are kept in a separate hopper at the height of a ticket above their conveyor belt).

The labels can be applied with whatever machinery industrial canneries or other label-sticking companies use, with another conveyor belt leading the envelopes from there to the slot where the stamps come out, and then onward to be piled neatly wherever they wait at the Emporium while waiting to be stuffed into envelopes.

Fun fact:

A similar system could take care of all shipment packaging just program the system to recognize the necessary size of envelope for whatever is in the order.

Pins Pins Pins,

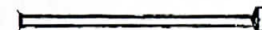


Earlier this year, our second perforator had a re-fit, and a very expensive one at that. The machine hadn't seen action for a couple of years; it had been banished from service after being found guilty of imperfect perforations. Punching holes in Discworld Stamps is waring work, and it's pins were blunt and useless. Although tempted to train termites or unleash granny's Singer to do the job, Discworld Stamps would not be Discworld Stamps if the job wasn't done at least half properly. And so, a phone call to it's Italian manufacturer was made and a new iron bar holding a few hundred shiny new pins was ordered. The perforator lives again.

But what to do with the original pins? They were quite ordinary to the untrained eye, but our wallet was far more knowing. More than that though, they had perforated the first five years of Discworld Stamps and were a real piece of Discworld; the very perforating pins of Teemer and Spools from our own portal. Luckily Ian had a plan to save them from the scrap pile, and incorporate them into a very special artefact uniting three of Discworld Stamps' most famous custodians: Teemer and Spools, The Ankh-Morpork Post Office, and Dave's Pin and Stamp Exchange – a perfect package!

With so many components, and 'pin-head' wax seal to secure the pin, as well as being restricted by the number of pins themselves, the Dave's Pin and Stamp Exchange Postal Pack would have to be a limited edition piece, and 100 was the number finally settled upon. Being a production for Dave's Pin and Stamp Exchange scrupulous customers, the package had to be suitably finely detailed and charmingly convoluted, and so the calendar and authentic fun-sized bag of chad was included, with an attractive receipt and change for the order provided in stamps.

We think those envelopes are one of our favourite ever Special releases, not least because all four of us had a hand in making each one and because our faithful pins have new homes. If you were lucky enough to obtain one of these items, please look after it, for although at first glance those perforating pins are but humble cylinders of steel, they are in fact Discworld perforating pins, pins that all true pin-heads and Flatalists will covert and treasure.



HOME FROM THE HOLIDAYS *A picture that conjures up the frantic confusion of railway travel.*

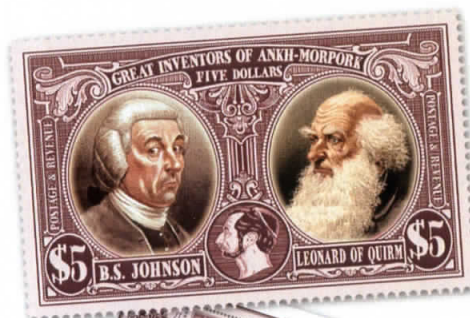


/// /// ///




There are 20 differences - see if you can spot them

ISSUE NUMBER 25 - SPECIAL OFFER



FREE 
IN THIS ISSUE!

'2 HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE' \$5
EDITION OF THE GREAT INVENTORS OF
ANKH-MORPORK.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR JOURNAL
SUBSCRIBERS, A SHEET OF THE SAME
FEATURING THE PORTRAITS OF BOTH
INVENTORS ON A SINGLE HIGH VALUE
STAMP. PRICED AT £15.00 PLUS
POSTAGE. 



NO SPORT APPEARS ON
THIS SHEET.

TO GET YER MITS ON THIS EXCLUSIVE OFFER
SIMPLY GO TO THE JOURNAL OFFERS SECTION OF OUR
ONLINE STAMP SHOP AND QUOTE THE PASSWORD IN THE 'MESSAGES' SECTION
WHEN ORDERING. PASSWORD: ~~BERNARD SMELLS~~ *

My dear friend and partner in crime, Mr Ian Mitchell does like
a little jape - hence the password above.
However he forgets who actually type sets this little offering.
Therefore the PASSWORD FOR THE OFFER IS:

*** Nun's-the-word**

A reference to the fact Ian's dear mother still thinks he doesn't smoke!

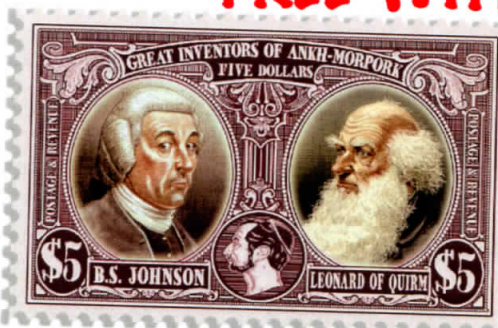
As my old dad was wont to say:
"its no use getting old if you don't get artful"



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.

FREE WITH THIS ISSUE



The 'Great Inventors'
\$5 Special.

Two Heads are
always better than
one.

A Cunning collaboration between Mr Mitchell & Mr Dennis

Kindly address all correspondence to:
The Discworld Emporium (Stamp Journal)
41 The High Street, Wincanton,
Somerset. BA9 9JU

Tel 01963 824 686

E-mail: reb@cunningartificer.demon.co.uk

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