

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

APS Chapter 1591

October-December 2018

In This Issue



The Joy of Collecting (Postage Due)

SCINDE DAWK: FIRST POSTAGE STAMP OF INDIA



Write for The Stamp Forum Newsletter

We are always looking for articles of a philatelic nature for publication in the Newsletter. They can vary in length from 1 page to several and can cover any topic imaginable as long as there is a philatelic connection. Well-researched articles, tips for collectors, stamp collecting memories, stamp show and philatelic book reviews, etc., are all welcome. Just send a text file with some supporting image files and we'll take care of editing and layout. The Forum and its Newsletter need your support so please help us!

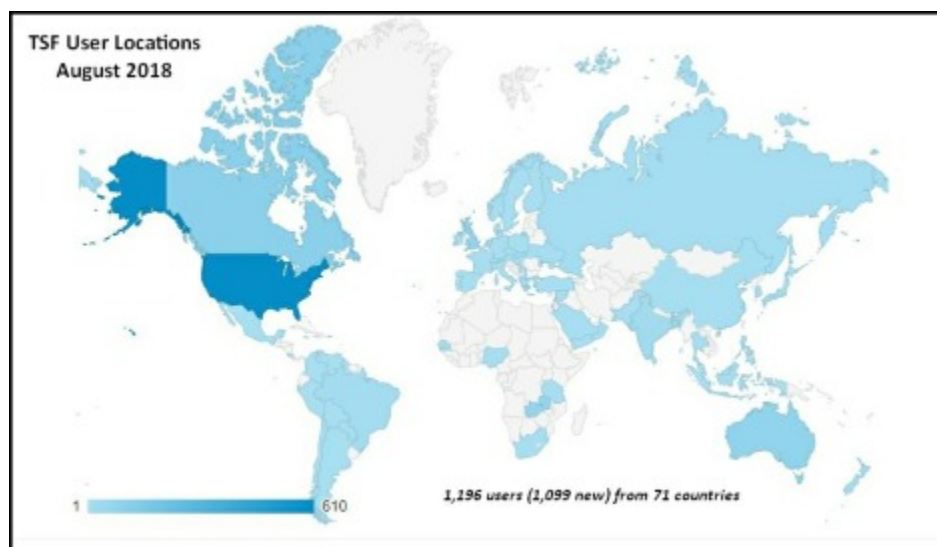


Forum Update

As previously announced, this issue is the first being published on a quarterly basis. The change in frequency was brought on by an insufficient number of article submissions to support bimonthly publication. I'm hopeful that as our numbers increase and more of our members are willing to try their hand at philatelic writing we will be able to resume the bimonthly publication frequency.

In regard to increasing our numbers, it seems that a greater percentage of those who have requested membership over the last two months have actually made the required introduction and are now actively participating on the Forum. We've even had recent joins submit material for publication here. While it is too early to call these trends, it certainly has been a refreshing change, at least for me!

As you read this we will likely have selected or be on the verge of selecting which article from Volume 2 of the Newsletter the Forum/ APS Chapter will be submitting to the American Philatelic Society for posting on its website as our 2018 APS Article of Distinction. Not only does this enhance the standing of our Chapter and provide us with increased exposure, it also provides recognition of the article's author. To find which article is our 2018 "best" you'll have to go to the Forum and check the "[Articles of Distinction](#)" board.



In closing, I'd like to share some data received from Google Analytics regarding traffic to the Forum. During August, the last full month for which I have data, 1,196 users visited the site on at least one occasion. Of that number, 1,099 were first time visitors. The map depicts the geographic locations of those users with the most (610) being from the U.S. I can't vouch for the accuracy of the user numbers but the geographic locations are valid.

Steve Tomisek Forum Administrator/APS Chapter Ambassador

In This Issue	Contributor / Member	Page
Cinderella Stamps of Canada	cindykan2	3
In the Beginning; Certified Mail Service	Tomiseksj	6
Stamps with Stories: Madras to Vordingborg	theamateurphilatelist	10
God Hides in the Small Details	kostia84	14
Scinde Dawk: First postage stamp of India	rabi	15
How I Started Collecting Stamps	Nikhil	17
The Joy of Collecting (Postage Due)	wgthomus	18
10c Prince Consort - Collecting the Imprint Positions	JimJung	21
Cinderella Corner, Part 11	Londonbus1	25
Did You Know	Editorial Staff	30

Cinderella Stamps of Canada

By: Ronald G. Lafrenière (cindyca2)

Quebec Federation of Fish and Game Associations

The Quebec Federation of Fish and Game Associations (QFFGA) was a sportsmen's organization formed in November 1946 in Quebec City that represented over 400 different hunting, fishing and conservation groups in the province of Quebec. One of its major activities was to help federal and provincial authorities to develop wildlife and habitat conservation policies. Towards this goal, the federation issued and sold stamps as early as 1952 to help raise funds for special projects and to educate the public about wildlife and habitat conservation. It also produced a conservation manual¹ that was distributed to members of the Quebec 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and a few other organizations.

From about 1957-1959, the QFFGA headquarters were located in Montreal, in Room 265 at 1700 Berri Street, in the newly constructed Union du Commerce building. From about 1960-1964 the headquarters were in Room 210, 1600 Berri Street, in the Palais du Commerce building². In its bilingual newsletter "*Federation News*" ("*Nouvelles de la fédération*"), published beginning in 1947, the QFFGA provided its members with updates on efforts to eliminate any political influence in wildlife management, to empower guards and legislators to combat poaching and mismanagement of resources³, and to encourage responsible behaviour among hunters and fishermen. The newsletter also reported on fishing tournaments, sportsmen's shows, and activities from its affiliated hunting, fishing and conservation associations.

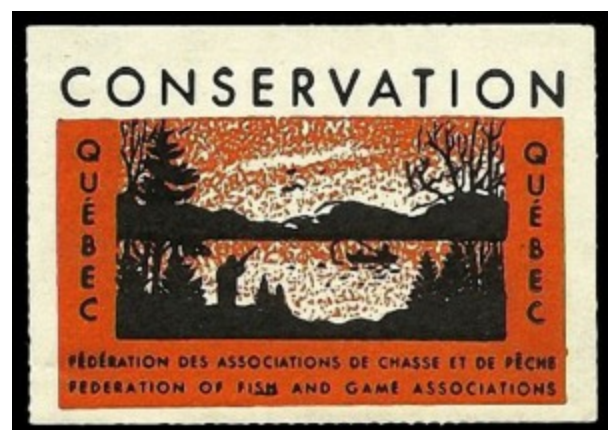
A total of 25 different stamps have been documented from this organization. The stamps are quite scarce nowadays. Some of the stamps are catalogued in van Dam's *The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue*⁴, in the 10th edition of Holmes' *Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America*⁵, in Rubec's *The Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Stamps of Canada*⁶, and in the *Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada*⁷ by the author. None of the stamps are dated, although the year of issue is printed in the selvage of some of the sheets.

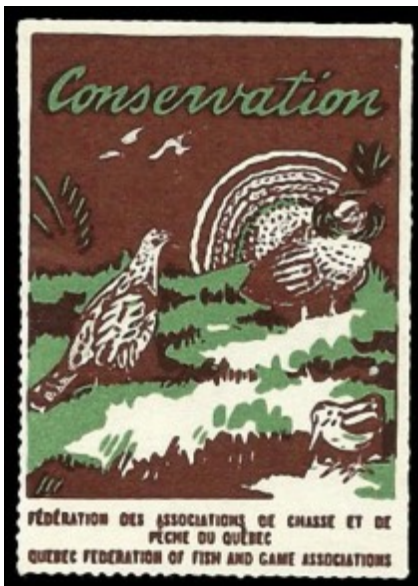
Without exception each stamp has the word "CONSERVATION", with or without the name of the organization in both French and English. The stamps were produced by the QFFGA's Conservation Stamp Committee, led at least in the late 1950s and early 1960s by Mr. Benoît Bertrand. The stamps were mailed to QFFGA members, requesting a minimum donation of \$1 per sheet⁸. They were also sold at the annual Montreal Sportsman's Show, and advertised for sale in *Federation News*. Stamps from 1952 and 1960 were perforated, the others were rouletted.



The first stamp, issued in 1952, featured a salmon in pink on blue paper, with black text. Five thousand sheets of 50 stamps (5 x 10) were printed⁸.

A lakeside hunting and fishing scene printed in red and black on white is featured on the stamp issued in 1953. Five thousand sheets of 25 stamps (5 x 5) were printed⁸.





The stamp issued in 1954 was printed in reddish-brown and green on white and featured a ruffed grouse, wild turkey and snipe. Ten thousand sheets of 25 stamps (5 x 5) were produced⁸.



A bull moose printed in olive green and black on white is featured on the stamp from 1955. Twenty thousand sheets of 25 stamps (5 x 5) were printed⁸.

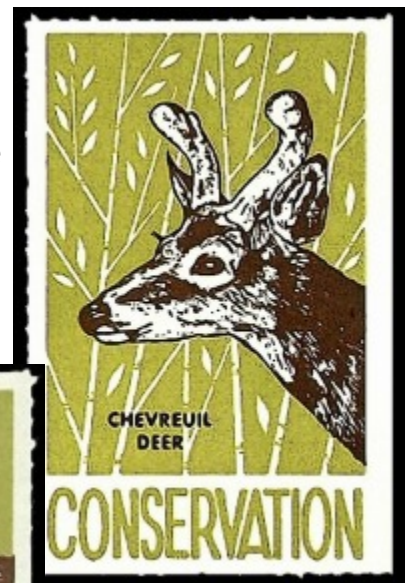


In 1956, four different se-tenant stamps were issued, featuring different trout species. The stamps were printed in blue-green, black and pink and feature (left to right): rainbow trout, brown trout, speckled trout and lake trout. They were printed in sheets of 20 stamps (4 x 5), but the quantity printed is unknown.



A nasty-looking wolf is featured on the stamp issued in 1957. It was printed in brown and pink, in sheets of 20 (5 x 4).

Se-tenant stamps each featuring a deer or a caribou were issued in 1958. The stamps were printed in green and brown in sheets of 20 (5 x 4; deer stamps in rows 1 and 3, caribou stamps in rows 2 and 4).





In 1959, the QFFGA re-issued stamps from 1954 through 1957 as a single sheet containing two sets of the trout stamps, and four each of the wolf, moose, and grouse stamps. This was in an effort to reduce the costs of producing the stamps⁹. Two sheets that have been seen have serial numbers of 15017 and 15951, suggesting that possibly more than 16,000 sheets were printed.



In 1960 a sheet of stamps was issued that featured 14 “well-known Canadian birds in their natural colouring”¹⁰. The stamps feature paintings of the following birds: song sparrow, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, robin, pine warbler, bluebird, scarlet tanager, golden crowned kinglet, brown thrasher, starling, bobolink, meadow lark, cardinal, and winter wren. The stamps were issued as a sheet of 25 (5 x 5), with the 14 designs in rows 1-3, and some of the stamps repeated in rows 3-5. The stamps are perforated and have the French and English names of the federation.

Though the 1960 conservation stamps continued to be sold well into 1963, it appears no new issues of conservation stamps were produced. Late in 1961 it was announced¹¹ that, due to a severe illness, Mr. Bertrand would step down as Chair of the Conservation Stamp Committee. In fact, no such committee would be active in the QFFGA in 1962 or subsequent years. These 25 stamps thus likely constitute the complete set of conservation stamps from this organization.

In March 1965 the QFFGA changed its name to *Fédération québécoise de la faune*. In 2008 it became the *Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs*. Still active today, it represents about 235 different associations and counts over 125,000 individual members throughout the province of Quebec.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author thanks Mr. Clayton Rubec for early discussions on QFFGA stamps, and Mr. C. Ron McGuire for the 1960 stamps. Articles from *Federation News* were from microfilm A2256 available from the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) in Montreal.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Legendre, A. *Nature Out of Doors! Conservation Manual*, (J. Emile Roy & Sons, Montreal, 1958).
2. Lovell Montreal Directories. <http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html>.
3. *Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs* website. <http://www.fedecp.com/la-federation/historique/>.
4. van Dam, E.S.J. *The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue*, (The Unitrade Press, Toronto, 2017).
5. Holmes, L.S. *Holmes' Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America*, (The Ryerso Press, Toronto, 1963).
6. Rubec, C. *The Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Stamps of Canada*, (British North America Philatelic Society, Ancaster, Ontario, 2011).
7. Lafrenière, R.G. *Field guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada*, 2nd ed., (Bird Bear Press, Verdun, 2015).
8. Nadon, E. *Quebec Conservation Stamps*. *BNA Topics* **135**, 105 (1956).
9. Board of Directors Meeting: Conservation Stamp Committee. *Federation News* **Jan-Mar**, 4 (1959).
10. Order your conservation stamps now. *Federation News* **Jan-Mar**, 4 (1960).
11. President Leclair Reports: Wildlife Conservation Stamps. *Federation News* **Oct-Dec**, 17 (1961).

In the Beginning; Certified Mail Service

By: Steve Tomisek (tomiseksj)

Background

During February 1955, then Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield announced the details of a proposed new mail service, to be known as "Certified Mail."

This new service was intended to reduce the cost to consumers who wanted proof of mailing and delivery of letters having no monetary value without having to pay the added expense of securing Registered Mail.

Removing this type of mail from the Registered Mail service would also allow the Post Office Department to enhance the security provided to letters having real monetary value.



FEDERAL REGISTER

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 36

1934

Washington, Saturday, February 19, 1955

TITLE 7—AGRICULTURE

Subtitle A—Office of the Secretary of Agriculture

PART 8—4-H CLUB NAME AND EMBLEM

REGULATIONS GOVERNING USE

Sec. 8.1 Policy.

tion of the Secretary or his designated representative.

(b) The 4-H Club name and emblem may be used by authorized representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges, and the Cooperative Extension Service, in accordance with the regulations in this part for serving the educational needs

CONTENTS

Agricultural Marketing Service	Page
Rules and regulations:	
Citrus fruits grown in certain States; limitation of shipments and handling: California and Arizona.	
Lemons	1070



POSTAL BULLETIN

INFORMATION FOR ALL POSTAL EMPLOYEES



Proposed Certified Mail Service

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield disclosed on February 15 details of a proposed change in the registered mail service which would reduce cost to patrons and speed delivery on at least 25 million letters a year now sent by registered mail. He also announced the new service would not become effective until the mailing public has had an opportunity for 30 days to make com-



CERTIFIED MAIL

Submission of Postal Accounts by Postmasters

The POSTAL BULLETIN of July 29, 1954, contained instructions requiring the postmaster at each first-class post office to submit the postal account each month in time to reach the Regional Accounting Office by the **third calendar day** following the close of the month. It is found that some postmasters are not meeting the requirements set forth in the previous Bulletin notice in this regard.

New Mail Service Announcements

Rather than the minimum charge of 30 cents for Registered Mail, this new mail service would initially cost 15 cents to provide a sender with a certificate of mailing and have the letter carrier take a delivery receipt from the addressee. The certified service was to apply only to domestic First-Class letter mail with no indemnity value claimed. The 15 cent charge would be in addition to the regular First-Class or Airmail postage rate; Special Delivery service would also be available at that additional rate. The sender could request a return receipt for an additional charge of 7 cents; otherwise, the delivery post office would retain proof of delivery for a period of 6 months. During those 6 months, the sender would be able to request proof of delivery, if needed, for an additional charge of 10 cents.

A special stamp in the 15 cent denomination was to be provided solely for use for the certified service, but ordinary postage stamps would also be accepted in payment. Commercial mailers would also be permitted to pay the fee and postage using meter stamps or permit imprints. Similarly, mailers could use firm mailing books (Form 3877a) to get bulk mailing receipts from the sending post office clerk. The justification for the new service resulted from a simplification study conducted by the Post Office Department which showed that the deficit in operating the Registered Mail service could be reduced by eliminating the security handling precautions for mail with no monetary value.

The proposed rulemaking for the Certified Mail service was published in the Federal Register on February 19, 1955, allowing postal patrons a 30 day period in which to comment on the proposed regulations. The May 17, 1955 Federal Register announced that the Certified Mail service would be adopted without change from that proposed, effective June 6, 1955 for the Washington, DC Post Office and elsewhere on June 7, 1955.

Certified Mail Stamp

The May 10, 1955 Postal Bulletin announced that the Department would be issuing a 15 cent stamp for use in conjunction with the new Certified Mail service being inaugurated through the Washington, DC post office on June 6, 1955. The stamp would be red in color, oriented vertically, and measure 0.84 by 1.44 inches (approx. 21 by 37 mm). Printed by rotary press and electric-eye perforated (10.5x11), the stamp would be issued in sheets of 50. The stamp's design would portray a uniformed letter carrier against a light background; *Certified Mail* would appear across the top of the stamp in dark gothic and *U.S. Postage 15¢* across the bottom in white-face gothic.

The stamp is identified in the Scott Catalogue as FA1. As the only stamp issued by the U.S. for the Certified Mail service, its longevity was short. The October 24, 1957 postal bulletin announced that the stamp was no longer available for requisition; however, the service remains in effect to this day.

The Certified Mail Process

The process for handling Certified Mail was first explained to postal employees in the May 17, 1955 Postal Bulletin. Post Office Department Form 3800 was used by most postal patrons when preparing a mailing using this service. If the mailer wanted a postmarked receipt, they would complete the recipient's information on Form 3800 and affix the gummed label to the address side of the cover, leaving the form attached. The clerk would postmark the receipt portion and give it back to the mailer. If no postmarked receipt was desired, the receipt portion of the form was to be detached by the mailer prior to handing the letter to the clerk. The accepting post office was not required to maintain any record of mailing and the piece was handled and dispatched as ordinary mail.



*Certified Mail Stamp
(Scott FA1) Issued June 6, 1955*

Certified Mail for delivery by carrier was cased with ordinary mail with no record being made.

The carrier would deliver the certified letter to the addressee or his authorized representative and obtain receipt on Form 3870 (Notice of Arrival of Certified Mail) and on Form 3811 (Return Receipt (Domestic)), if requested.

If the certified letter could not be delivered, a notice of arrival was left on Form 3870 and the mail was returned to the post office to be held awaiting call. No further attempts to deliver were made by the carrier unless requested by the addressee.

In the event that the Certified Mail piece was refused it was to be so endorsed and returned immediately to the sender.

Delivery receipts were kept on file by the delivering post office for six months.

Post Office Department Form 3800, April 1955

RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL—15¢		POSTMARK OR DATE
No. 968228	SENT TO	
	STREET AND NO.	
	CITY AND STATE	
If you want a return receipt, check which <input type="checkbox"/> It shows to whom and when delivered <input type="checkbox"/> It shows to whom, when, and address where delivered		
P00 Form 3800 Apr. 1955		

1. Stick postage stamps to your letter to pay:
 15-cent certified mail fee
 First-class or airmail postage
 Either return receipt fee (optional)
 Special-delivery fee (optional)
2. If you want this receipt postmarked, stick the gummed stub on the address side of the letter, leaving the receipt attached, and present the letter to a postal employee.
3. If you do not want this receipt postmarked, stick the gummed stub on the address side of the letter, detach and retain the receipt, and mail the letter.
4. If you want a return receipt, write the certified-mail number and your name and address on a return receipt card and attach it to the back of the letter.
5. Save this receipt and present it if you make inquiry.

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1952 35-71547-1



First Day of Issue Cover with Art Craft Cachet

Some Modifications Over Time

Beginning July 19, 1955, for a fee of 20 cents in addition to the Certified Mail fee, the sender was allowed to restrict the delivery of a certified article at the time of mailing by conspicuously endorsing it on the address side **Deliver to Addressee Only** or **Deliver to Addressee or Order**.

On August 2, 1955, postal employees were instructed that, effective immediately, anyailable matter of no intrinsic value on which postage at the First-Class rate had been paid may be sent as Certified Mail.

The regulations required that delivery receipts for Certified Mail be filed chronologically. Postmasters at larger offices complained that the time spent locating receipts when large numbers had been filed was greater than that saved when filing them chronologically. Effective September 15, 1955 postmasters at First Class offices were allowed to file the delivery receipts numerically by the last two digits of the certification number.

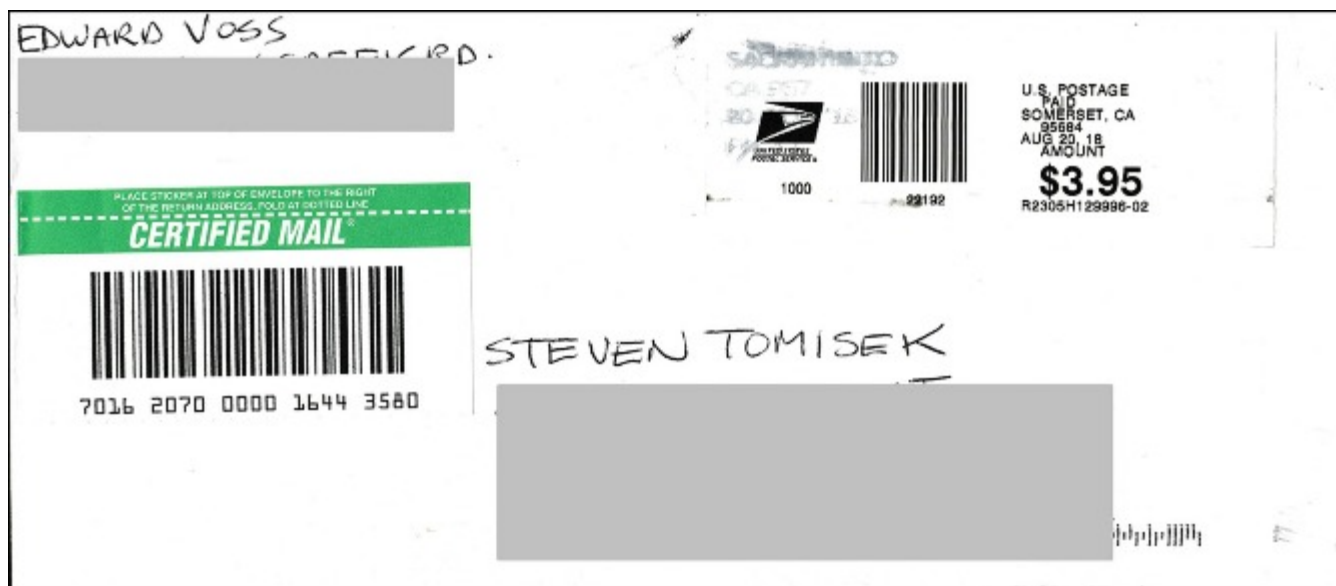
The exchange of Certified Mail between the postal services of the U.S. and the Canal Zone commenced on November 1, 1955.

Form 3800 was initially changed when the Certified Mail fee was raised to 20 cents plus postage, effective July 1, 1957. The form has continued to evolve over time, with the current form being shown here.

Also on July 1, 1957, the 10 cent fee that had been charged for delivery inquiries was eliminated and senders of Certified Mail were allowed to request a return receipt after mailing after payment of the fee prescribed for "return receipts" -- 25 cents at that time for a receipt showing to whom and when delivered.

Current Form 3800

Today, only mailable matter that has been prepaid with postage at the First-Class Mail, First-Class Package Service, or Priority Mail (excluding Critical Mail) prices may be sent as Certified Mail. Certified Mail is still dispatched and handled in transit as ordinary mail. No insurance coverage is provided when purchasing Certified Mail, except for Priority Mail pieces with included insurance. The fee for Certified Mail service is currently set at \$3.45.



My Kansas-Nebraska Issue Arrived By Certified Mail

References:

- Federal Registers 20036 (Feb 19, 1955) and 20096 (May 17, 1955)*
- Postal Bulletins 19820 (Feb 24, 1955), 19841 (May 10, 1955), 19843 (May 17, 1955), 19861 (Jul19, 1955), 19865 (Aug 2, 1955), 19876 (Sep 8, 1955), 19894 (Nov 10, 1955), 20033 (Jun 20, 1957), 20034 (Jun 27, 1955), and 20053 (Oct 24, 1957)*
- Domestic Mail Manual, Postal Explorer, USPS.com*

Stamps with Stories: Madras to Vordingborg

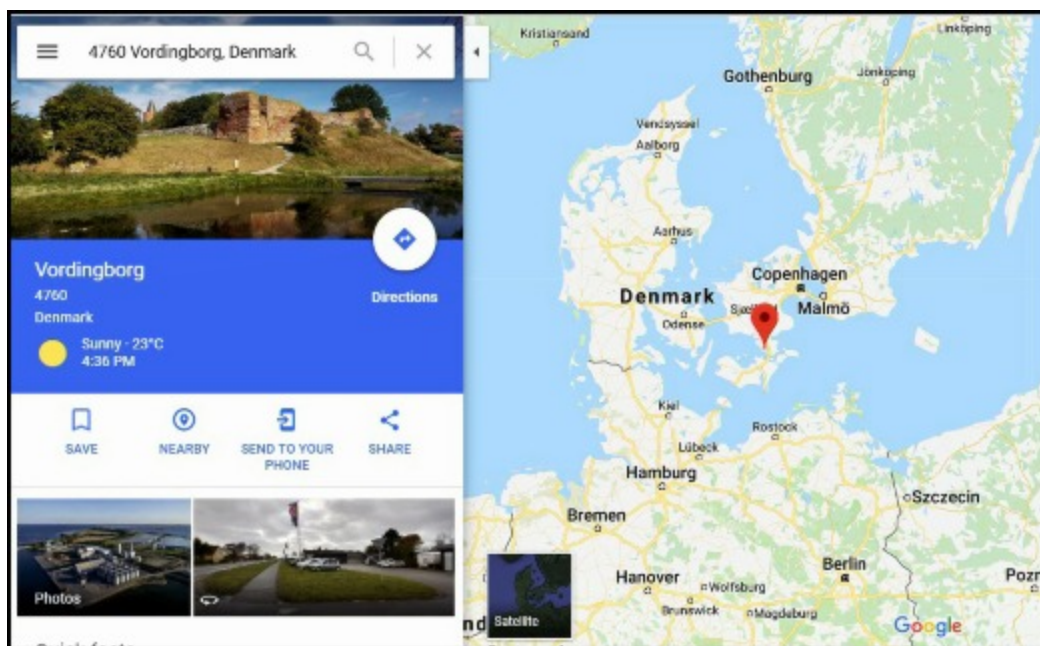
By: Manish Mohan (theamateurphilatelist)

Stamps, postmarks and covers can be the source of fascinating stories. I let my imagination run wild when I get a good postmark or cover. I acquired this lovely cover recently and was fascinated by its journey. Starting from Madras, India (now named Chennai) as registered post on 19 June 1907, reaching its destination Vordingborg, Denmark on what looks like 7 July 1907.





Vordingborg is an old ferry town in Vordingborg Municipality in Denmark. It has an inner urban area population of 11,843 (1 January 2015 census) and a total population of 17,714 including the satellite towns Ørslev, Nyråd and Stensved. These satellite towns have evolved during the last decades, due to three large estates surrounding Vordingborg and therefore prevented a collective development of the town. Vordingborg Municipality (Kommune) has a population of 46,000. I am guessing that in 1907, the population was perhaps even less.



With a little help from a fellow philatelist, Rasmus Kloster Jensen on Facebook, I figured that it was sent to a Customs Manager (“Toldforvalter” in Danish) in Vordingborg, Denmark. I searched a little more about the name of the Customs Manager. I found J Blom in a Krak’s directory listing “Address book of both women and men of all classes that others would have an interest in knowing about.”



Given the seal used on the envelope, I would imagine it contained some sort of government official correspondence. In my imagination, perhaps the letter was inquiring about a Danish ship that might have docked in Madras – who knows. It's a pity there was no sender's address.



“God Hides in the Small Details”

By: Constantin Itin (kostia84)

This is an Israeli postage stamp issued on the 19th of June 1963, commemorating 100 years of the Hebrew press. The first newspaper printed in the Hebrew language in the future state of Israel (then part of Ottoman empire) was called “Halbanon” and it saw light on the 20th of February 1863.

The stamp depicts a Jewish man at his work as a typesetter. We catch him, as he collects carved letter stamps, preparing for newspaper printing. Although, this is a beautiful miniature, worth our admiration of the artist of this stamp, the more interesting part for the philatelist actually hides at the background. There, in a bright orange, we see words in a strange language. That is Hebrew. As a native speaker, I have no problem reading and understanding the words, but they actually make no sense, they are just a bunch of words put together in lines.

Well, every philatelist is also a curious detective, and so, as I first encountered this stamp, I could not rest until I understand the reason for this curious design. But nothing could prepare me for things to come.

Image Source - The Israel Philatelic Federation



In order to solve this mystery, at first, I tried to look into the hidden details. I’ve read the word sequences, tried to rebuild the sentences and understand the text, but without any success. And then something amazing happened. While looking at the duplicate of this stamp I saw something unbelievable, that was beyond the rational thinking. There it was, the Jewish man, standing in front of little cubicles, reaching out his hand, but look behind him, look closely. There, in bright orange, were the words in Hebrew, but they were absolutely different words. Lines of words, each one easily understandable, but brought together without any meaning. How can this be, I thought to myself, how can the same stamp have different backgrounds. Well, as a good philatelist, you know what the next step of this detective story would be. To the catalogue!

Here it is, here is the stamp. With the man and the cubicles and the words in the background. And, as you probably have already guessed, absolutely different words and still without any meaning. But the loyal catalogue never disappoints, just listen closely to its wisdom. Under the picture of the stamp, a full sheet of 16 stamps is presented. Now you see the full picture, and the solution to the mystery strikes you.

The background of the full sheet is a representation of the first page of the first issue of the first Hebrew newspaper “Halbanon”. It is the same stamp, with the same catalog number and yet there are 16 unique stamps. Each one is without a meaning but put them together and a piece of history is born. A real philatelic jewel!

This story happened to me as a child, when the Internet was only revealing itself, the Google was yet to become the window to all knowledge, the forums were only being opened and Facebook was yet to be invented. At that time, I was aided only by the hard copies of catalogues and other philatelic literature. This was my greatest philatelic accomplishment then, and without a doubt there will be no other that will make me prouder. And, if one asks me what is the thrill in stamp collecting, I’ll tell him this story.

Wishing you to never lose the thrill. Sincerely, Constantin Itin

Scinde Dawk: First postage stamp of India, as well as, of Asia.

By: Rabirashmi Roy (*rabi*)

The word “dak” in several languages of the Indian sub-continent means Post. In English pronunciation, that became Dawk. Scinde refers to the province of Sind under the administrative control of Bombay Presidency, British India. So, Scinde Dawk is Sind Post.

The first postage stamp of India was issued under the authority of a provincial commissioner, instead of the highest authority of the country, the Governor General, that too, in a remote province, far away from the capital city Calcutta.

A brief examination of the administrative condition of Sind just prior to this historical event may help in understanding its significance. British rule was established in Sind in the year 1842.

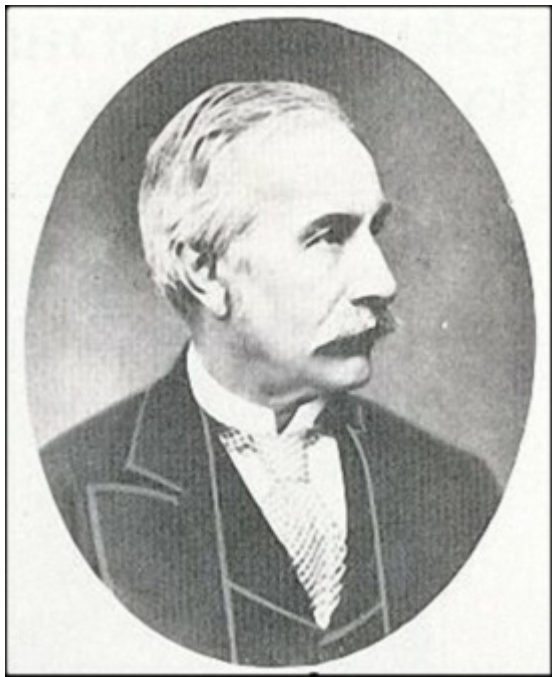
The region, for centuries, had been under the domination of tribal chieftains. It was not an easy task for provincial officers in the British administration to keep these tribal chiefs out of state affairs. The postal system of Sind bears testimony to this situation.

In 1850, there were four post offices in Sind - Sukkur, Shikarpur, Hyderabad and Karachi to collect the mails and forward to Presidency capital Bombay by a “Kasid”, a mail runner by foot.

The route between Karachi and Bombay was divided up in small stages of 7 or 8 miles apart, which distance was run conveniently by the Kasid and the mail handed over to another waiting Kasid who in his turn would do the same till the whole route was covered by successive relays and the mails delivered in Bombay in about nine days time.

The contract for supplying these postal runners was given to Jam of Jokhias, a tribal chief, by Sir Charles Napier, the administrator of Sind.

Owing to many frauds perpetrated both by the officials and the contractor, the former by conveying letters from others with their own which were allowed free under a special privilege and the latter by including several letters addressed to several people in only one letter, thereby paying charges for that only one caused the postal system to be run at a loss.



Sir Bartley Frere

Postal reforms were introduced in Sind in 1851 by laying down important postal lines all over the province to connect the outlying districts with the headquarters. This reform was introduced solely for the purpose of improving official communication.

The presidency Government at Bombay, however, believed that the upkeep for such a network of postal communications would be too heavy to be borne by the Government itself and directed Bartley Frere, the then commissioner of Sind, to popularize the postal system amongst the public of Sind.

Bartley Frere, himself a great admirer of Rowland Hill’s Penny Postage, was spurred by the order.

With the help of Karachi postmaster, Edward Lees Coffey, he designed the first postage stamp of India, now famous as the Scinde Dawk stamps.

It is not known where these first Indian stamps were printed and by whom. It is said those were printed in London by Thomas De La Rue Company but no authentic confirmation is available.

The stamps were embossed and issued in red, white and blue. The design adopted was a circular belt with a buckle downwards with the words "Scinde District Dawk" inscribed in a round circle and in the centre space, an embossed arrow of the English East India Company.

These stamps were issued on 1st July 1852 and were withdrawn on 30th September 1854. The stamp was in circulation only in the province of Sind.



Images from public auctions

How I Started Collecting Stamps

By: Nikhil Esteves (Nikhil)

A few months back, after I finished my (tiring) Board examinations conducted by the education Board, I did not have anything to work with. Of course I collected coins and banknotes but that was only when some Uncle or Aunty of mine visited a foreign country and they brought coins and notes for me.

So how did I start collecting stamps? On 23rd March 2018 my father received a letter from the U.S. which had some stamps on it. I was so fascinated by it that I decided to start collecting these small colorful "bits" of paper. At first I didn't know how many varieties of stamps existed. Soon I started to read a little from a book bought online – *The Complete Guide to Stamps & Stamp Collecting* by James Mackay. This book contained a lot of information for a beginner like me. Also, I bought myself some stamps from one of the few stamp shops existing in India today. The shop's name is stampexindia in Meerut. I ordered some stamps through their website.



Very soon I started researching stamp forums online and particularly one forum caught my eye – of course it's The Stamp Forum. When I joined the forum, at first I had many questions, but soon the wonderful members guided me and answered my questions. Also, many members sent me some stamps to help me in this Hobby of Kings.

Almost every stamp collector has a particular field of interest. I have decided to collect worldwide but I'm more interested in older issues, pictorials and British Commonwealth nations. The images on this page are my some of the first stamps that I bought for my collection.



The Joy of Collecting (Postage Due)

By: William Thompson (*wgthomus*)

One of the challenges I have come across deals with postage due covers. I do not have very many of them in my collection, they seem to be harder to find than basic covers. Being just a collector of German stamps, my library is lacking pertinent information about postage due in other countries, specifically postage rates, which is required to figure out the proper amount due.

Moreover, in some cases, postage due is required for a specific service and not for insufficiently applied postage. The UPU guidelines have a generic formula used to figure out postage due amounts, but it seems that postal clerks in different countries applied amounts due randomly.

Figure 1 is an example of a 20 gram foreign letter sent to Milan, Italy on the 29th of October, 1923. The 30 Millionen Marks applied is the correct rate for foreign letter, though 30 Centesimi has been assessed as postage due. This letter was sent via "Fermo in Posta", Poste Restante (general delivery), hence the postage due for this service. I do have several other of these covers in my collection. The rest of them have been sent with the added service of express mail and have not been assessed the postage due for Poste Restante (general delivery). I have not been able to confirm the proper fee for the general delivery, though I have come across a number of examples where this postage due has been added for the service on non-express mail.



Figure 1

This next cover, Figure 2, is under franked by 500 Millionen Marks (16.6%), a 20 gram foreign letter, sent at the special rate of 3 Milliarden Marks (this cover only franked at 2.5 Milliarden Marks) to Budapest, Hungary on the 11th of November, 1923.

It was assessed with postage due of 500 Korona for the deficient amount. My research found that this is the proper postage due by convention agreement between both countries, under the minimum postage due rule, which is equal to the foreign postcard rate of the period.



Figure 2

This next item, Figure 3, is a bit more of a challenge. The foreign postcard rate was 24 Milliarden Marks during this period, so it is under franked by 4 Milliarden Marks (.16%), sent to Zurich, Switzerland on the 16th of November, 1923. The postage due assessed was 25 Centimes, which was the full foreign postcard rate at the time (Switzerland's international UPU postcard rate). It is possible that a minimum postage due rule applied to this postcard, I have not been able to confirm that though as the actual foreign postcard rate from Switzerland to Germany was only 15 Centimes (as border mail) at the time. Based on the UPU guidelines formula, a postage due fee of 8.33 Centimes would have been the correct amount to assess. This is an example where the postal clerk might have assessed the wrong amount due as the guidelines were confusing.

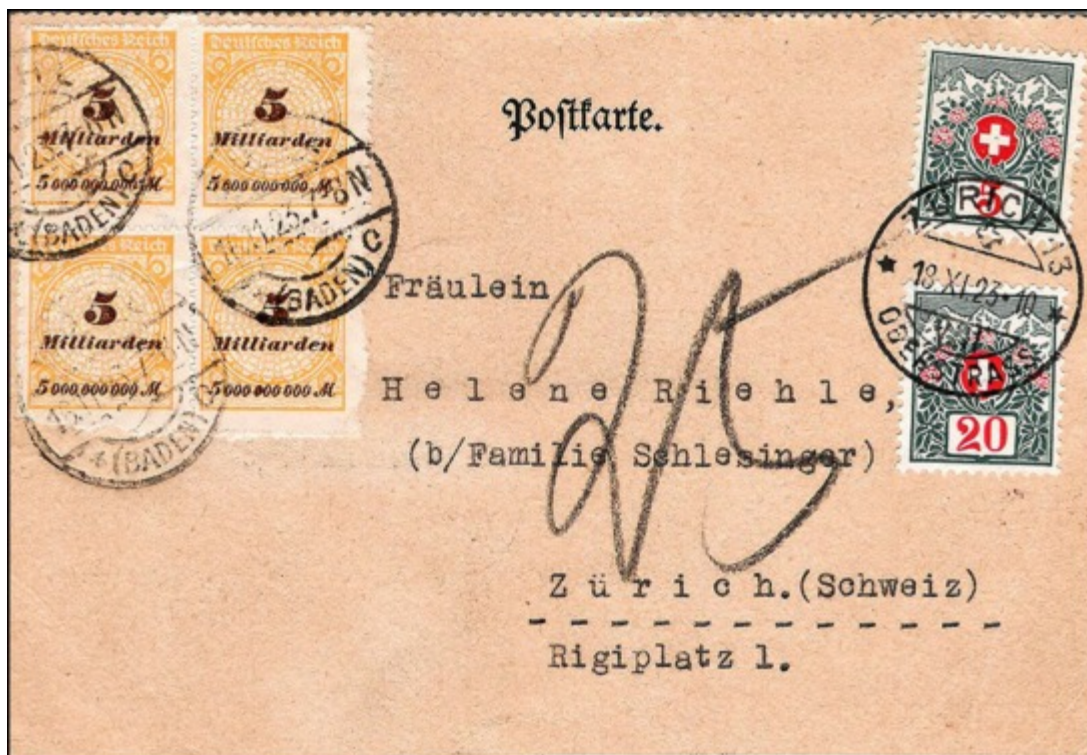


Figure 3

The 4 Times period of the inflation produced some confusing examples not only with postage due, but standard mail as well. In Figure 4, this foreign cover (sent to Kilchberg, Switzerland on the 28th of November, 1923) is under franked by 50%. The correct postage should have been 320 Milliarden Marks (80 Milliarden Marks times 4) so this cover is only franked with 160 Milliarden Marks (40 Milliarden Marks times 4). By the UPU guidelines, this cover has the proper postage due of 40 Centimes. This is figured by the UPU guidelines formula as follows; 160 Milliarden Marks (amount short) X 40 Centimes (basic rate times 2) X 2 divided by 320 Milliarden Marks (proper rate) which equals 40 Centimes due.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Sometimes, you get a cover (Figure 5) that just defies any logic. Though not quite in my collecting field of inflation, this does have a rosetten stamp on it, which is what I collect. This was initially sent as a 20 gram inland letter to Zoppot, Germany (which is now Sopot, Poland) on the 11th of April, 1924. It was forwarded to Budapest, Hungary on the 14th of April where it incurred postage due. The blue "20" must have been placed on the cover in Germany, the foreign letter rate was 30 Pfennigs, though the special rate of 25 Pfennigs should have applied, so the cover would have been short 15 Pfennigs. In Hungary, a postage due fee of 4,100 Korona was assessed. I have not really fully figured out how this amount was derived. The closest I am able to come up with using the UPU guidelines formula is 3,600 Korona postage due and the additional 500 Korona assessed for a Poste Restante (general delivery) fee. The backside has 2 separate dates initialed off, by postal clerks possibly, of the 14th and the 17th of April. The 21st of April shows the ÉRVÉNYTELEN markings indicating the postage due fee was vacated as unable to collect and the letter was returned to sender in Berlin. The green/tan label affixed to the cover simply indicates the reason for the return as receiver unknown. There are a few marks I have not really figured out, the crossed out "VII / 4" and the "V" after Budapest. I think these refer to 2 different districts in Budapest, which actually border each other, but I am not sure.

I do have a few other covers, but they are similar to the ones already posted above. I'm always looking for others to add into my collection and hopefully will be able to add new additions to future articles.

10c Prince Consort – Collecting the Imprint Positions

By: Jim Jung

While looking through a Dealer book at the annual Royal Philatelic Society of Canada Show, I came upon this 10c Consort stamp showing part of the Printer's Imprint described as Position 9. I've been slowly putting together an album page with Imprint positions of the 10c Consort stamp and need this position for my collection so I purchased it. For each Imprint, there are two positions and there are eight Imprints on the sheet so when I complete the collection, I'll have 16 stamps.

Many of the Imprint positions on the 10c Consort sheet have some sort of flaw or small variety. Position 9 looks like Position 3 displaying the right half of the Imprint but Position 3 has the String of Pearls variety. Position 9 has the C Flaw, but the C Flaw only appeared after the first general repair of the plate was done during the 17th Printing Order. This occurred in late summer 1864 with first stamps observed in Oct – Dec 1864.

A cursory check of the stamp did not show the String of Pearls variety. Even though I know that the variety is sometimes weak and difficult to see, there doesn't appear to be any dots that are not part of the postmark. But collector friends who looked at the scans I sent out gave the nod to Position 3 because the Imprint was added after the first general repair to the plate, believed to be in the 18th Printing Order. There is clearly no C Flaw on this stamp and the C Flaw is quite strong on the Position 9 stamp as shown on the Proof.

There is a 2nd difference between Position 3 and 9 that was found during this study. When you look at the comparison done by Scott Robinson below, you can see the Position 3 Imprint on the right being slightly higher than the Position 9 Imprint on the left. The left and right images taken from the Proof Sheet. My stamp, shown in the center matches the stamp on the right. This is conclusive proof that this is a Position 3 stamp with a very difficult to see String of Pearls variety.



Top Left: Difficult to see String of Pearls. Lower left: Scott Robinson's Imprint comparison showing pp3 at right, pp9 at left and my stamp in the center. Right: The stamp I purchased as Position 9. Lower right: Position 9 from the Michael Smith's Proof Sheet showing the C Flaw clearly. Special thanks to Scott Robinson, Michael Smith, Jim McCormick and Earl Noss for their contributions to this Plate Study.

Since there are two Plate Imprints on each side of the sheet, how can you tell when you have a stamp from one or the other?

On the 10c Consort stamp many of the stamps with Imprints have some small Constant marks that are very interesting to see. Here are two stamps with the left side of the imprint. One is from Position 2 and the other from Position 8. The Position 2 stamp has three dash marks in the upper left corner.

Earlier printings of the Position 2 stamp have the Hair Flaw with a white area to the left of the Consort's head. The Position 8 stamp has a dot in the upper left and a larger mark in the lower right.

Position 21 and Position 81 on the left side of the sheet both have the bottom half of the Imprint. Position 21 has a constant reentry on the left edge of the oval and the vertical frameline to the left of the C of CANADA. Position 81 has a reentry in the Imprint itself.



Top: Position 2 Dashes at upper right. Middle: Position 8 dot upper left and flaw lower right. Bottom: Position 2 with Hair Flaw.

As we move to the right side of the sheet, position 20, the upper half of the Imprint has the Chin Flaw on some later printings. This flaw is usually very clear. If it is not on your copy then you should check for the dot in the N of TEN. This dot is constant in all printings.

The Position 80 upper half of the Imprint has a noticeable strength "C" Flaw. Note that the position dots at 3 o'clock are also in different positions. This position dot can be useful in plating the right column of stamps.

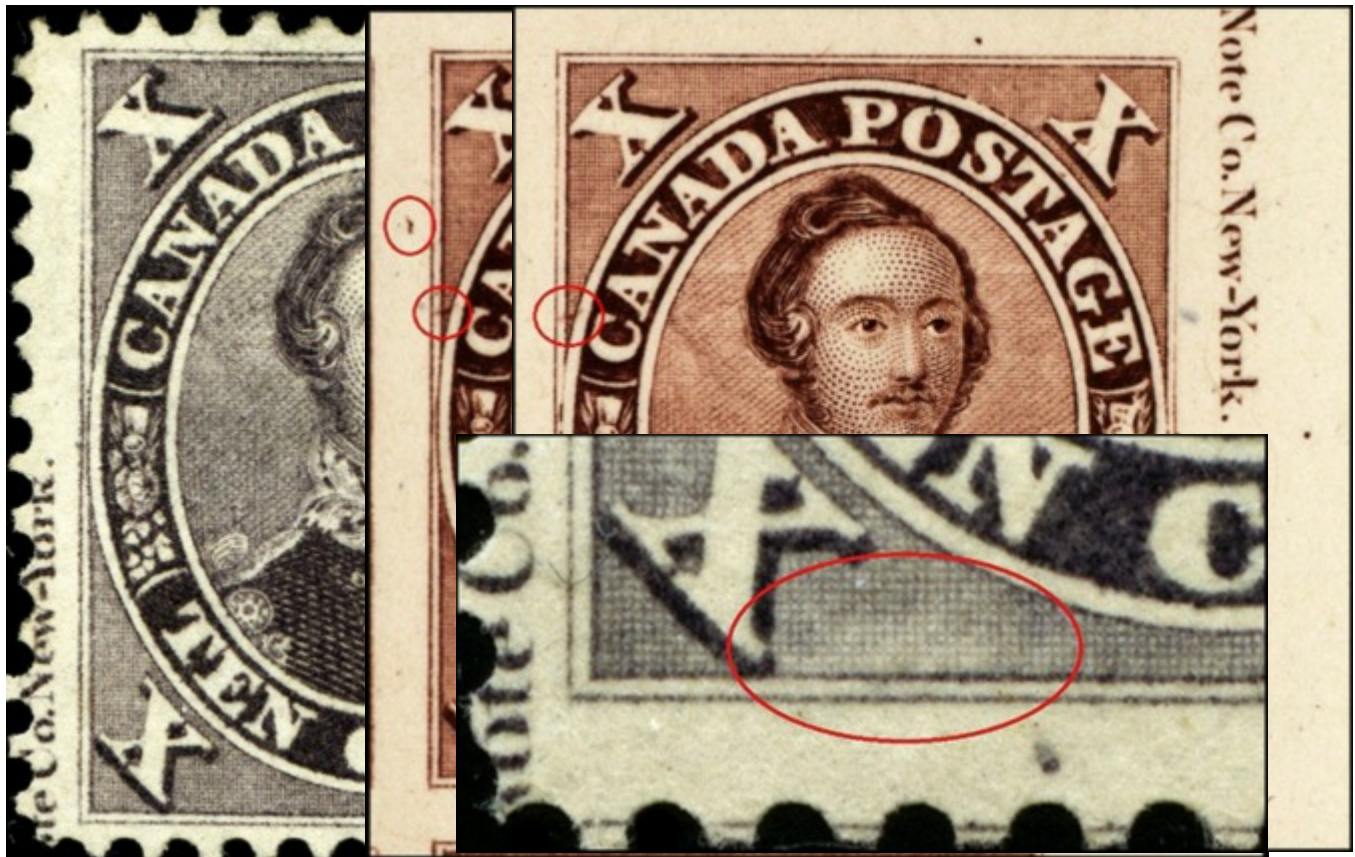


Left: Position 81. Middle: Position 81 closeup of Imprint reentry. Right: Position 21 with reentry left oval and vertical frameline.



Left: Position 80 "C" Flaw with closeup inset. Right: Position 20 with the Chin Flaw (closeup is from a Proof.).

The big difference between the Position 11 and Position 71 upper half Imprint is the Short Transfer at the lower left spandrel. On the bottom half Right Imprint, both stamps have the "C" Flaw with Position 30 being slightly stronger. Position 30 also has a small dot in the margin above and to the left of the "C" Flaw. If you compare the position of the imprint, you'll find the Position 30 Imprint is slightly higher than the Position 90 Imprint.



Left: Position 11 Imprint. Bottom Right: Position 71 Short Transfer. Top Middle and Top Right: Positions 30 and 90 "C" Flaws respectively. Top Right Inset: Left: Position 30 and Right: Position 90. Proof scans are courtesy of Michael D. Smith.

The Position 92 left half Imprint has a large Plate Flaw in the lower right corner that goes through the Imprint. This is only on late printings of the stamp. This is extremely rare to find on a stamp. The two dots in the lower left margin are constant and this is a better indicator of this plate position. The right dot is also on Position 98. The bottom left half Imprint has a dot under the "a" in "Bank" at Position 93. At Position 99, there is also a dot but it is in a slightly different place.



Thanks to Michael Smith, Scott Robinson, Jim McCormick and Earl Noss for their input

Top Right: Position 93 dot under "a" in "Bank".
 Middle Right: Position 99 dot. Bottom Right: closeup pp92 Plate Flaw
 Lowe Right: Position 92 with Plate Flaw at lower right.

References:

Plating the 10c Prince Consort Scott #17 by Kenneth Kershaw Ph. D. D. Sc. F.R.S.C. (Published by the British North America Philatelic Society)

The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-68 by Geoffrey Whitworth

Write for The Stamp Forum Newsletter

We are always looking for articles of a philatelic nature for publication in the Newsletter. They can vary in length from 1 page to several and can cover any topic imaginable as long as there is a philatelic connection. Well-researched articles, tips for collectors, stamp collecting memories, stamp show and philatelic book reviews, etc., are all welcome. Just send a text file with some supporting image files and we'll take care of editing and layout. The Forum and its Newsletter need your support so please help us!



Cinderella Corner, Part 11

By: Michael Hide (Londonbus1)

Putting the regular Cinderella Corner aside for this month as I embarked on what turned out to be a very enjoyable trek through some unusual and interesting 'Philatelic Events'.

Stamps in a Suitcase

It seems a long while ago now since I set off from my home in search of Family, friends...and stamps. As my train journey to Provence in the South of France marks the last leg of the trip, I can only look back on the last 3 weeks with pleasure, with memories a-plenty to take back and to remember. Not since London 2010, A Festival of stamps have I attended or taken part in so many events and Philatelic 'occasions'. Large or small, busy or quiet, I have enjoyed them all in some way....but then what's not to enjoy when it involves the hobby you love! Yet it all started off so badly.....

I landed at Luton Airport and it was raining! Yes it was. There had been no rain in the South of England for nearly 2 months. Unprecedented weeks of dry hot weather from which the land turned yellow and the population short-tempered and here I was on my first day and.....rain!!

As it turned out, it actually had an effect on my itinerary....I never made it to my very first scheduled 'event'!! It rained so hard the day after landing in England that the Motorways closed, traffic was at a standstill for long periods and getting anywhere on time was only by pure fluke! I wasn't that lucky and my favourite UK monthly event, The Strand Stamp Fair in London was not to be. Indeed, those first two days of my trip were so bad that there was a point when I wanted to turn around and go back home!!

I am happy that I didn't.

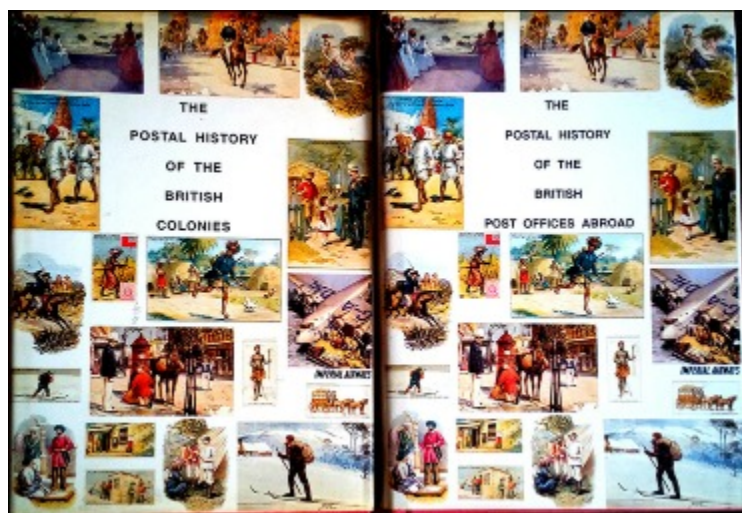


Chelmsford Stamp Fair

The sun eventually came out two days later for my 'local' Chelmsford Stamp Fair. Once a much busier and livelier event, a couple of the more popular dealers upped and left a while back and so now without refreshments or atmosphere and a lack of interesting dealers, the Conservative Club resembled a quiet corner of a library, with the few collectors present burying their noses in the stock books and checking items off from their lists. One dealer had some nice Cinderella items and even recognized me from previous visits, so a good price was assured. But after the disappointment of 'The Strand', the short trip here felt like scant consolation. I left feeling that more exciting occasions were still to come.....and I would be right about that!!

Two days later I found myself on the road at the crack of dawn to visit David, the auctioneer of the Cinderella Stamp Club. The main reason for my visit was to view the lots for the upcoming auction but I knew that there would be boxes of Cinderella material lying around for me to pick at and purchase at a very good price, always one of the more exciting times during recent UK trips! I was not disappointed and you will find a couple of items shown at the story's end. Others you will find in future TSF Newsletters. It was also a chance to meet and renew the friendship with his wife and family and enjoy a lovely lunch in the garden. Those first two days of the trip began to fade from memory! And I was happy about that.

The next day was special in other ways. I had arranged to meet Tina, the wife of our recently departed member Clive (Anping - see In Memoriam, TSF Newsletter Vol 2, Issue 4).



From Clive's library

We chatted about Clive and collecting, it seemed that stamps stole the day again and I learned so much more about the man I admired and had the pleasure to call my friend. Later in the day I saw some of his collection and library and helped Tina with some general sorting out of recently acquired items that had gathered on his desk. It was a bittersweet visit, filled with emotion and tinged with sadness but I left feeling I had made new friends, helped a little and was happy that I had the chance to meet the family of our popular TSF member. I will return to see more of his collection on my next visit.

For as long as I can remember, the weekly 'Charing Cross Collectors Market' has been held at the same venue in London. Since 1990 I have been visiting this event whenever possible and always on at least one occasion during visits to the UK, do I make it a 'place to stop'. This time was no different.

I awoke at 5am for the 20 minute drive to the outskirts of the city. All was quiet, eerie kind of. Then an Underground ride in to the centre for 2 hours of (hopefully) fun. The things us Stamp Collectors do to get our 'fix'!! I arrived just before 7am and as you can see from the picture, even at that hour, the



Flyer for Charing Cross Collectors Market



Charing Cross Collectors Market, 7am and already busy!!

die-hard Philatelists were hard at it. It never ceases to amuse and amaze me, it does so every time. If this market ever ceases to exist, I fear the hobby will die too. At least it feels that way!! I poked around for a time, purchasing a few oddball items, mostly forgeries, then took a coffee break at Costa's as the tiredness began to set in. Then I went back for more! It's what collectors do it seems. It was very busy by now with more dealers arriving and I managed to find a few decent items before departing with a sigh of relief from my wallet!! If all else fails in one's search for stamps, there is always Charing Cross!!

Having said my farewell to Mum, it was time to take the Hire Car back before continuing my journey by Bus, Rail and Air. As luck would have it (it was good planning if truth were told) there was a Stamp Fair on this 19th August 2018 not very far from the Airport Car Hire centre ! Would you believe it??!! It was small and cozy, only 5 dealers and all of them were chatty and friendly and I enjoyed a nice couple of hours inside the tiny Village Hall of Slip End, Bedfordshire. But on the Cinderella front there was almost nothing to look at, let alone purchase. But if one looks hard enough, something will turn up. So I managed to find a recent Machin Forgery and 4 Kyrgyzstan Philatelic Publicity sheets. That was all. But I enjoyed my little detour to see something new and supporting these type of events is crucial for dealers, organizers and the hobby at large. Never miss an opportunity!



Slip End Village Hall....very Patriotic!

A couple of days later I found myself in the company of another David, this one a collector, like myself, of British Philatelic Exhibition Sheets and Labels. We had arranged to meet to exchange material and after a nice lunch he hosted our exchange and stamp chat at his home just outside London.

It is always nice to meet collector friends for the first time and this was no exception. We exchanged not only stamps, but also views and ideas. I also learned a thing or two about some items which will appear shortly in the appropriate forum thread! Then it was off to London for the 'biggie'.....my first view of the Commonwealth collection I would be valuing and selling. The train journey to the big city was filled with excitement! (Yes, we collectors do get excited about our hobby!!)



The Commonwealth Collection

Some years ago, a man from Canada contacted me about selling his collection of stamps as he was no longer able to continue his hobby. It turned out to be the Uncle of a good friend I have known for over 40 years and with whom I frequently stay with in London during trips back to England. This visit would be a bit different though as I would be seeing for the first time the Stamp Collection that had taken over 4 years to arrive in London!! I guess Collectors can also be indecisive!!

I spent a good part of the next 24 hours condensing the stamps into a manageable size for taking back home. This was no mean feat as there were many albums and thousands of stamps and room in my meagre suitcase was limited. But I got there in the end, leaving some empty albums and stock books behind. This collection was to be the source of my pleasure and interest during the days to come.....on the way to Catalonia and the South of France.

You may have read a short piece about Artesa de Segre, a small Catalonian Village, in Newsletter Vol 2, Issue 3 March-May 2018. I mentioned then that I might pay a visit later in the year and so it was with great excitement that I arrived in Barcelona to begin my 4-day visit. I had never before met my host in person, only online, but having gotten to know each other so well, even if only via a computer or smart phone, for over 10 years or so it really did feel like we had always been friends. And so it proved. Walking tours around the City were interrupted with stories of Barcelona and Catalonia Cinderellas and Political History, the narrow streets producing an atmosphere like nothing else can. Plus, I was given a whole bunch of local labels as a welcoming gift! What could top that?



Artesa de Segre

Artesa de Segre. This small village lies 130kms north from Barcelona, on the way to Andorra. The drive through the Catalonian countryside was just wonderful, with lovely views of the Montserrat Mountain, tiny villages and ornate churches. It really didn't feel like we were en route to a Philatelic Event! It was a busy weekend, with the Annual local festival in full swing, music and stalls selling all kinds of local produce.....including Melons! But the tiny Community Centre had an altogether different kind of produce.....Stamps! This little space has been reserved for stamps and other local memorabilia since 2011, the brainchild of local Stamp Collector Bernardi Mota who confused everyone when he set up a stamp Table that year!! But it has grown in popularity since and is now well attended with 4 stamp dealers present, displays and talks. The place was buzzing. But there were more surprises to come! I had a nice meeting with the Mayor, who was very enthusiastic to meet an 'out-of-towner' and thanked me for supporting the Festival and the Catalonian people. At Bernardi's stamp table I was given a nice bag of Cinderella stamps, a gesture that had been pre-arranged with my host, Joan. In this bag was a set of Limited edition Commemorative labels that Bernardi produces for every Festival.

The 2017 issue was shown in the aforementioned Newsletter article. I met lots of other Stamp enthusiasts too including Jose Luis who, together with Joan, Bernardi and others, is producing a catalogue of Barcelona and Catalonia Cinderellas. After a truly scrumptious lunch (which included my favourite, Paella) I got a preview of the Catalogue so far and I put my name down for a copy. The pictures show a few scenes from the day.....a day I will never forget and would love to experience again. Who knows?



The bustling Community Centre



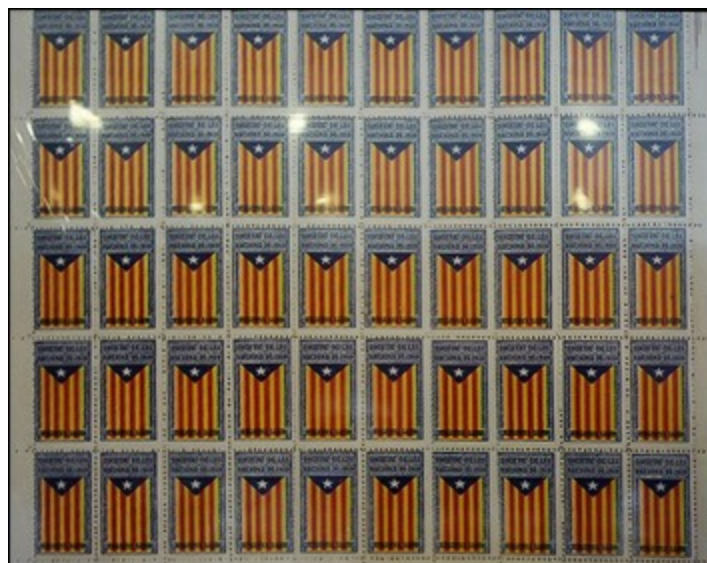
Bernardi's Stamp Table



Lunch with fellow Cinderella collectors



Melons



Sheet of scarce early National Flag Cinderellas

Next stop, Aix en Provence! The last of my Philatelic events for this trip. Will Beryllium Guy be there to meet me I wonder?

"So I'm an 'event' am I?" said Chris, jokingly. Well yes, he was I guess. When you meet a fellow collector for the first time, you talk stamps. So for me it was an event. I am back home now, having made some corrections in the fabulous Rome Airport terminal. I could use that age-old saying "Save the best 'till last" but that would be unfair on the rest of the trip, Catalonia in particular. But the last 3 days in Aix with our own TSF member Beryllium Guy and his charming wife were a fitting and memorable end to my 2018 Stamp tour. We chatted about stamps, looked at the Commonwealth Collection and of course paid a visit to the local market.....where the Stamp dealer forgot the Cinderellas!! But it was all good, lots of laughs both Philatelic and not and I travelled home with such good feelings as well as memories to treasure. Even packing and unpacking stamps from the suitcase was something to remember!! Would I do it all again?



Tweezers ready, its stamp time

Absolutely!

TSF Newsletter Giveaway No.11

There will be a slight change here in that I will be joining the previous Giveaway (No.10) and this one together giving those who have not yet submitted an article for the Newsletter, a chance to do so. The prizes remain, and the good news is that they will be split into TWO prizes so TWO names will be drawn from the hat. By the time you are reading this, the forum thread for 'TSF Newsletter Giveaway No.10' will have been updated. So please write something for our Newsletter and join in the fun with the chance to win some nice prizes. I will be adding to that list the 2017 Limited Edition Artesa de Segre Cinderellas. Now you wouldn't want a chance to miss that would you!!?

Cinderellas from the Suitcase!

A Cinderella corner just wouldn't be the same without some examples to view would it? No. So below you'll find a few items I picked up from my travels, in no particular order. I will be writing more about them and lots of others that I acquired in future Newsletters and Forum Posts.



Until then and until next time, Happy Collecting.

FORT BLISS Centennial

A THREE CENT (3¢) POSTAGE STAMP ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN 1948 TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF FORT BLISS IN TEXAS, PROVIDES IN THE DESIGN A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE FORT, ONCE KNOWN AS CAMP CONCORDIA.

1 ONE SEGMENT OF THE STAMP SHOWS A GROUP OF SOLDIERS, A REMINDER THAT FORT BLISS WAS ONCE A HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.S. ARMY.



2 ANOTHER SEGMENT SHOWS A COVERED WAGGON DRAWN BY A TEAM OF OXEN TO ILLUSTRATE THE PIONEERING ERA OF THE MID-19TH CENTURY WHEN THE GREAT WAGGON TRAINS PASSED THROUGH THE TERRITORY ON THEIR WAY TO THE PACIFIC COAST.



3 ANOTHER SEGMENT DEPICTS COWBOYS AND A STAGECOACH, A LATER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORT BLISS AREA.



4 A CAMEL IS ALSO FEATURED AS A REMINDER OF THE TIMES WHEN THEY WERE USED FOR CARRYING GOODS AND MAIL.



9 TWO CHILDREN WATCH THIS CAVALCADE OF PROGRESS AS A HUGE CORPORAL MISSILE TAKES OFF AT FORT BLISS DEMONSTRATING THE MODERN IMPORTANCE OF THE BASE AS A ROCKET EXPERIMENTAL STATION.



6 HORSE DRAWN ARTILLERY DEPICTS DAYS GONE BY.

7 WHILE A TANK REPRESENTS THE ARMoured UNITS STATIONED AT THE FORT DURING TWO WORLD WARS.

5 THE TROUBLES WITH THE INDIANS IS SYMBOLIZED BY A GROUP OF REDSKINS SITTING BY A CACTUS.

8 THE ROCKET AGE COMES TO HISTORIC FORT BLISS BY ROAD TRANSPORT...

THE STAMP FORUM



The Stamp Forum Newsletter is a publication of The Stamp Forum. Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the forum and the forum cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information printed herein.

FORUM STAFF

FOUNDER: Jack Witcher (irishjack)

ADMINISTRATOR: Steve Tomisek* (tomiseksj)

MODERATOR: Michael Hide (Londonbus1)

EDITOR: Nelson Laviolette (nl1947)

*APS Ambassador/Chapter Representative

Forum staff may be contacted using the Forum's personal message system or by email to stampforum.net@gmail.com



Membership is free; apply online.

Use our image host or one of your own choosing.

Once you have made your introduction, staff will add you to the ****Members**** group. You will then be able to post in all of the boards except the Buy Sell and Trade (for this you will need 50 quality posts and membership for at least two weeks).

We are a Chapter of the American Philatelic Society.

Send information requests to stampforum.net@gmail.com