

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 4

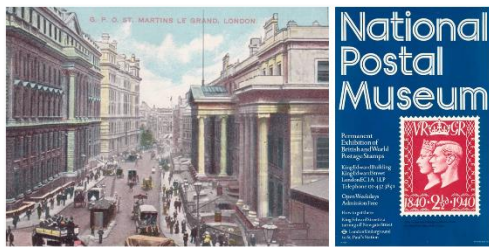
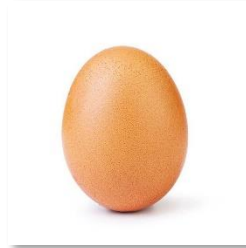
APS Chapter 1591

July - September 2022

IN THIS ISSUE:



LONDON 2022: A CURATE'S EGG?



THE POSTAL MUSEUM

LONDON 2022: AN ESCAPE FROM COVID?



PLUS: 2022 APS ARTICLE OF DISTINCTION SELECTION
SHOW PURCHASES AND IMPRESSIONS
SEA MAIL: AUXILIARY MARKINGS

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Steve Tomisek (*tomiseksj*)

ASSISTANT EDITORS:

Jerry Bodoff (*JerryB*)

Peter Ware (*brightonpete*)

FORUM STAFF

FOUNDER: Jack Witcher (*irishjack*)

ADMIN/MODERATOR TEAM:

Chris Dorn (*Beryllium Guy*)

Michael Hide (*Londonbus1*)

Ryan Davenport (*Ryan*)

Steve Tomisek (*Admin/tomiseksj*)

The Stamp Forum (TSF) Newsletter is a quarterly publication of The Stamp Forum. Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the respective authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Forum. The Forum cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information printed herein.

Editorial and Forum staff may be contacted using the Forum's personal message (PM) system. The Editor and Forum Admin may also be contacted at stampforum.net@gmail.com.

Established in 2013, TSF is an online stamp club with a worldwide membership. The Forum is also Chapter 1591 of the American Philatelic Society. Membership is free and application is made online at <http://thestampforum.boards.net/>

The Stamp Forum (TSF) and this Newsletter are wholly member supported.

Write for Your Stamp Forum's Newsletter

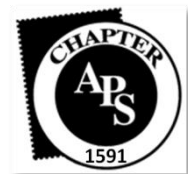
We are always looking for articles of a philatelic nature for publication in the Newsletter. These can vary in length from 1 page to several and can cover any topic imaginable as long as there is a philatelic connection. Well-researched articles, tips for collectors, stamp collecting memories, stamp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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Forum & APS Chapter 1591 Update (Admin)</i>	p. 2
<i>TSF's APS Articles of Distinction (Editorial Staff)</i>	p. 3
<i>London 2022 Exhibition, A Curate's Egg? (vikingeck)</i>	p. 4
<i>London 2022: A Visit to the Postal Museum (BerylliumGuy)</i>	p. 6
<i>London 2022: Show Purchases and Impressions (BerylliumGuy)</i>	p. 12
<i>From the AP Archives (Editorial Staff)</i>	p. 18
<i>Navigating Our Forum – Search Function (Editorial Staff)</i>	p. 19
<i>London 2022: An Escape from COVID? (Londonbus1)</i>	p. 21
<i>“SEA MAIL” Auxiliary Marking on a Letter from Japan (DavidMFrye)</i>	p. 29
<i>Write for the Forum's Newsletter (Editorial Staff)</i>	p. 32
<i>In Closing... (Admin)</i>	p. 33

Forum & APS Chapter 1591 Update

This issue of the Newsletter closes out Volume 6. It contains several articles about the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition that we had originally intended to run as a special issue released shortly after the Exhibition's conclusion. Had we followed that plan, this issue would likely have been yet another with only one or two member-submitted articles. If you haven't yet tried your hand at philatelic writing, I encourage you to do so. Please consider what you might be able to contribute for inclusion in a future issue, and then start "[putting pen to paper](#)."



Since the last issue, I've continued deleting the accounts of inactive members who have only posted in their introductory threads – almost 100 so far. I wish I knew how to maintain the interest of such members but I'm at a loss for what else can be done. Fortunately, we continue to add new members and are seeing more of them online and participating. As Summer unfolds for most of us, I hope you'll find time to visit the Forum and let us know what stamping activity you've been able to accomplish.

The selection of the elective officers of the APS concluded and the newly-elected officers will be installed on August 27th, in Sacramento, California, following the general membership meeting conducted during [Great American Stamp Show 2022](#). For those who couldn't get enough of London 2022, tickets for [STAMPEX 2022](#) are now on sale.

Lastly, you'll read on the next page about this year's process for selecting our APS Article of Distinction.

Steve Tomisek
Forum Admin/APS Chapter Ambassador

TSF's APS Articles of Distinction

By Editorial Staff

To date, our Forum, APS Chapter 1591, has submitted five articles for publication on the American Philatelic Society's [website](#). All have been posted and each of those has a link that will bring readers to our Forum. Our most recent submission is currently featured on the website's [Collecting Insights](#) page

In addition to the recognition afforded The Stamp Forum, the articles' authors receive a certificate of achievement from APS.

The articles chosen to represent our Forum in each of the annual competitions conducted thus far are shown below, and each may be viewed by clicking on their respective link.

- 2017 [The 1926 Madrid-Manila Flight – A Pioneering Journey](#)
- 2018 [Visiting Stamp Shops Around the World](#)
- 2019 [USS Constitution – America's Ship of State](#)
- 2020 [Philatelic Travelogue: Paris and Its Stamp Market](#)
- 2021 [SAMOA, 1840-2000: Transition from Chiefly Fiefdoms to Nationhood](#)

The 2022 selection will be made during September and your participation is essential in helping to identify the best of the best. Four articles will compete for the distinction of being selected as The Stamp Forum's 2022 APS Article of Distinction – one from each issue published that year.

A poll will be created to allow you to select your favorite article from this issue. That poll, and the one for Issues 1 and 3, will close on August 31, 2022 at Midnight, New York time (no poll was created for Issue 2 as there was only one member submitted article). Please take the time to read (or re-read) these issues to pick your favorites. You may make your selection(s) by clicking [here](#).

If you enjoy reading the Newsletter, please show its contributors your appreciation by making your selections known.



London 2022 Exhibition, A Curate's Egg?

By Alex Walker (vikingeck)

I arrived with great expectations and anticipation, ready for three days browsing the stock of familiar dealers and checking out a dozen or so exhibits from the catalogue which I felt had particular interest to me. Having been at Internationals in København Denmark, and Malaga Spain, as well as exhibiting at London Stampex on three occasions and the Internationals 2000, 2010 and 2015. I reckoned I needed the three days to do it justice. On balance, I have to confess the actual show was something of a let-down.

The crowds just were not there. There was a distinct absence of buzz. By the entrance Royal Mail had their usual team selling current products: FDCs, special cancels and a souvenir minisheet overprinted for the event. At past Exhibitions there would have been queues of 50-100 collectors in line. There was no line, just a couple of customers at a time. Dealers were not busy and by afternoon many sat in solitary splendor with no callers. Several were optimistic and said they had good sales from the few customers, as most had come, like me, determined to spend. Those with cheaper stock, who normally need a lot of modest purchases to cover costs, must have suffered from the low numbers round their tables.

My normal plan is to hunt out a few big purchases on the first day, and I have a pretty good idea from the past shows which half dozen dealers get first dip in my wallet. Two I expected were not there. I did, however, manage a trade with one whom I know well. I sold some Victorian Valentine cards of my late wife's, bought £100 of Tobacco covers and ephemera and came away with £160 cash! That didn't last long. My next two purchases were with established British dealers for Cape of Good Hope, along with Chris (Beryllium guy), LB1 and Michael H, which completely emptied my wallet. Thanks to said Michael H leading me astray to a third dealer, who emptied my checkbook as well, for a very early Missionary Letter out of Samoa. All done by Lunch time.



Bishop: "I'm afraid you've got a bad Egg, Mr Jones!"; The Curate: "Oh no, my Lord, I assure you! Parts of it are excellent!" (True Humility by George du Maurier, originally published in Punch, 9 Nov 1895)



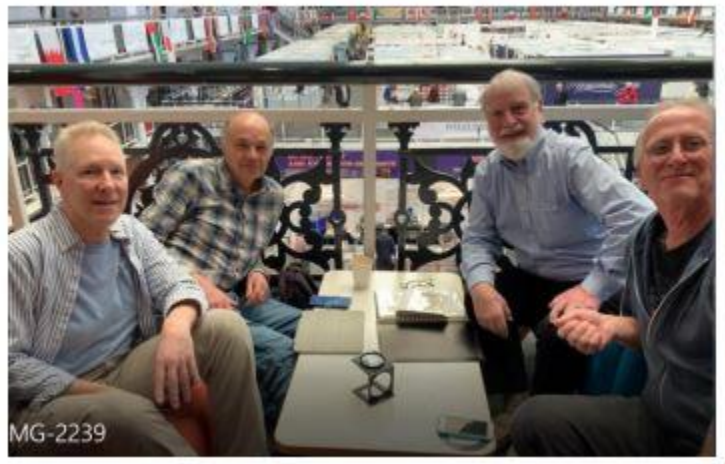
As I advance in years, I had hopes of discussing prospects for selling my collections in the right markets by talking to two non-UK auction houses, from whom I had bought, who regularly had my kind of material on sale. Neither was able to attend due to Covid hassles. The usual Australian and New Zealand dealers didn't travel and there were practically no Europeans with whom I hoped to spend some spare Euros, just one French and no Scandinavians, Netherlanders or Germans.

My phase 2 plan for next day (with replenished wallet and modest budget) was to rummage for interesting but more modest items of postal history. Somehow, what with company and chat, I achieved very little rummaging.

I did spend most of the afternoons checking out the exhibit frames and some were splendid, eye catching and mouth-watering. Some exhibits so fabulous that admiration and wonder were tinged with envy and regret that a normal income can never hope to emulate. Not even close! There were apparently 3000 exhibit frames, which is a big show, but finding those I wanted to look at more closely proved irritatingly difficult. The numbering system was confusing and the exhibit numbers (small white letters on a magenta background) were hard to read for those of us of average height or less.

So far then, some disappointments but some positive trading and viewing, and on the other hand...

I knew the big thing from this show, after my widowhood and Covid since 2010, was always going to be social even more than philatelic, and so it proved. I reckon over the three and a half days I had conversations lasting 20-30 minutes each, with at least dozen friends from the stamp world. Sharing a hotel with three TSF friends and making acquaintance of two more was a great pleasure. Each evening was a blast, great company, good food and wine, in an eclectic mix of restaurants, and most of all, laughter!



Chris, Michael, Alex and Michael, at London 2022

London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition: A Visit to The Postal Museum

By Chris Dorn (*Beryllium Guy*)

A number of interesting places were visited in conjunction with the London show, but probably the longest-awaited one for me was a trip to The Postal Museum. Michael (*Londonbus1*), my wife Amy, and I comprised the group for this side trip on Saturday afternoon, after the Charing Cross Collectors' Market in the morning, followed by a lunch back at the show venue café.

Location and Brief History

Great Britain's General Post Office (GPO) was already an official government department in 1838, when the passing of Public Records Acts first underscored the necessity of keeping records and maintaining them in an archive. By the 1890s, a Records Office was established at the GPO Headquarters, and that office is now considered as the earliest predecessor to what would eventually become today's Postal Museum [1].

In 1969, Queen Elizabeth II opened the first National Postal Museum in London, in the basement of the GPO Headquarters, but that building was sold in 1998 and the museum was closed. Fast forward to 2004, when the British Postal Museum & Archive was founded. In 2016, the organization was renamed The Postal Museum (TPM) and moved to its current location in central London and re-opened in July 2017. TPM is run by the Postal Heritage Trust, a private charitable organization, which runs a couple of other sites as well [1][2].

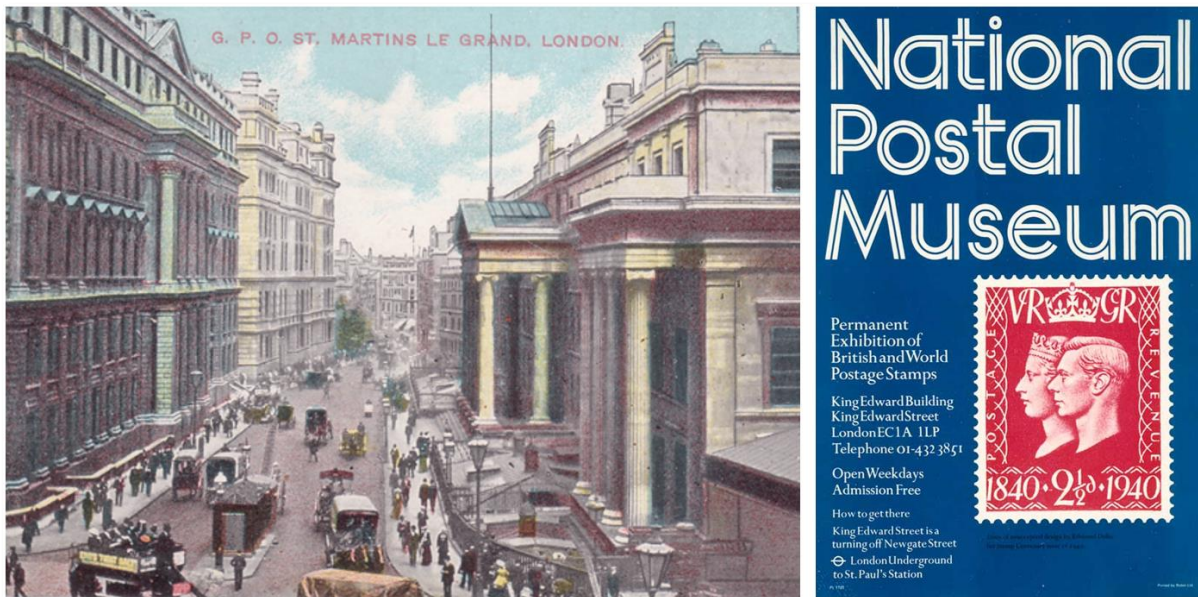


Figure 1. Left: Cropped image from a vintage postcard showing the GPO Headquarters in Saint Martin's Le Grand. The building opened in 1829, and the National Postal Museum was established in its basement in 1969. Image credit [3]. Right: Advertising poster from the National Postal Museum, 1969-1998. Image credit: [1].

According to their website, the Postal Heritage Trust considers TPM to be "...an ambitious, forward-thinking institution with an amazing story to tell" [4]. As a philatelic devotee, I wanted to explore the museum and find out for myself! One thing is sure, which is that while TPM does have traditional static displays that one would typically expect in any museum, the overall program is much more active and interactive than one might imagine for a museum focused on postal-related history.

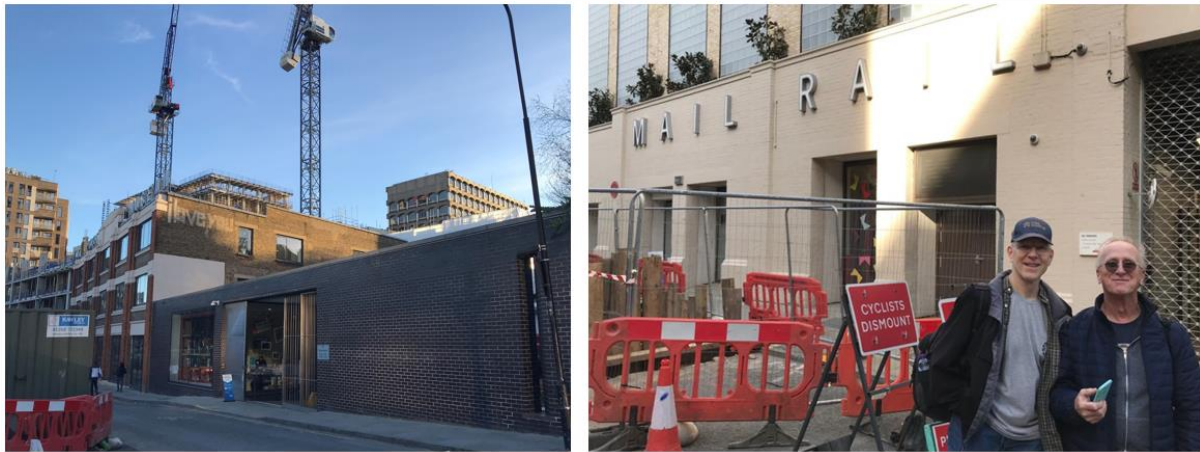


Figure 2. The area around TPM is currently undergoing major development, with elements of heavy construction to be found everywhere. Left: The rather unassuming entrance to TPM as it looked on the day of our visit. The way in is located just to the right of the blue-and-white folding sign. Right: Just down the street from TPM is the entrance to the Mail Rail facility, where we went on a very interesting underground train ride.

London’s Underground Postal Railway

Before spending any time looking at TPM exhibits and displays, we used a special part of our ticket which was good for a ride on the old “Mail Rail” system. This was a fascinating aspect of the British postal service history about which I had never heard much before.

It seems that back in 1911, the GPO decided that there were unacceptable time delays in moving mail between sorting offices through the congested streets of London. So, a plan was devised to create a driverless, narrow-gauge railway system to transfer mail between eight sorting offices across London. The railway would cover 6½ miles (10.5km), starting from the Paddington District Office in the west and reaching the East District Office in Whitechapel at the other end [5]. Please see Figure 3 below for a map.

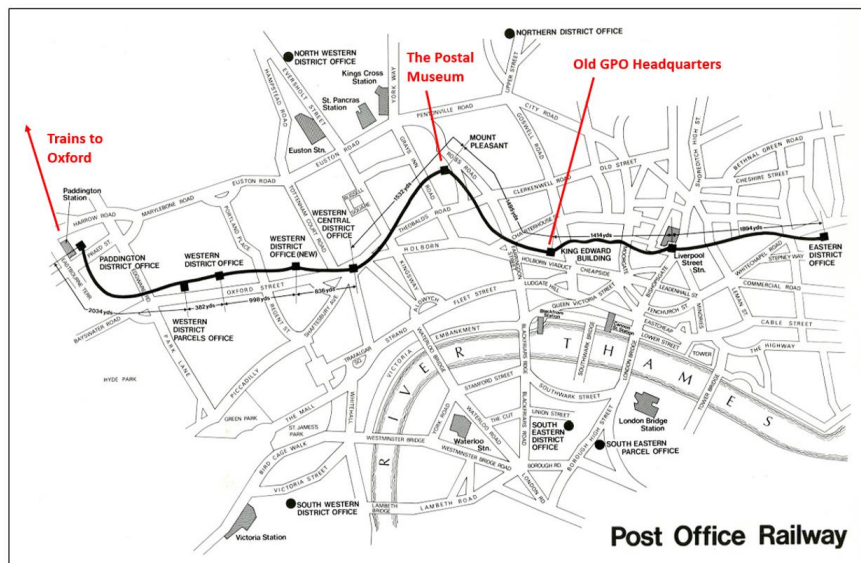


Figure 3. Map of the Mail Rail, showing the eight sorting offices on the route. The western end is near Paddington Station, which is where trains to and from Oxford arrive and depart. TPM and the Mail Rail ride are near the Mount Pleasant station, and the King Edward Building is the old GPO Headquarters shown in Figure 1.

Construction of the Mail Rail was delayed in part due to World War I. Consequently, the system first started to move mail in 1927-1928, and it remained in operation until 2003. By that time, only three of the original sorting offices were still located near the rail stations, so it wasn't practical to keep the system running any more. The tourist trains were installed in 2016 to run in a circular route, which became operational in 2017, around the same time that TPM opened in its current location [5].



Figure 4. Left: The Mail Rail tourist cars ready for boarding on the day of our visit. Right: Londonbus1 seated in his car and ready to roll! As the railway was originally intended exclusively to transport mail, the cars are quite snug, as are the tunnels through which they travel.

Although the train cars were small and the tunnels similarly so, the work areas where the cars would have been loaded and unloaded by GPO employees seemed as large as regular Underground stations designed for human passengers. For the tour, the train was stopped in one of the station/ work areas, and there was an audio-visual (AV) program that was projected onto the tunnel walls that showed the history of the Mail Rail system through the decades.

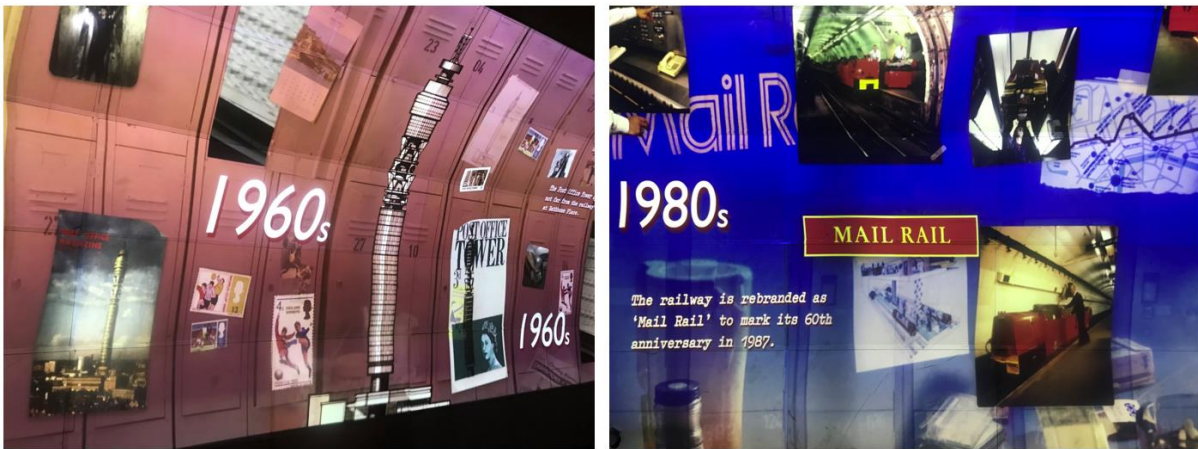


Figure 5. Left: The AV movie projected on the wall of the Mount Pleasant Mail Rail station, showing some of the historical events of the 1960s. Right: Later in the program, it was explained that the name "Mail Rail" was first introduced as part of a 60th anniversary re-branding campaign for the system in 1987.

The Postal Museum Courtyard

Just inside the brick wall entrance to TPM, but before entering the building where the indoor displays are housed, there is an outdoor courtyard with a couple of interesting features of its own.



Figure 6. In TPM's courtyard area. Left: Michael and yours truly flanking a GVR postbox and stamp-vending machine combination built into a telephone box. Stamps were no longer sold from the machine, but any letters mailed from this box would receive a special TPM postmark. Right: A vine-covered wall featuring examples of different styles of wall boxes serves as the backdrop for an outdoor seating area.

Inside The Postal Museum

TPM has some nice historical exhibits, including some with audio capabilities and interactive features. Based on some of my previous TSF Newsletter articles, readers will know that I have recently been enjoying tracking down unusual postboxes here in the UK, and TPM did not disappoint in that regard. There were several rare and unusual postboxes featured in the displays.



Figure 7. Some TPM postboxes on display. Left: 1850s green hexagonal pillar box from the island of Jersey. Middle left: 1879 ornate hexagonal QV pillar box. Middle right: 1930s GVR blue air mail pillar box complete with signage on top. Right: GVR pillar box as it would have been painted during World War II, with a white band at the bottom to prevent accidents during blackouts, and with a special gas detector paint on the top cap [6].



Figure 8. Left: Large "Type A" EVIIIR pillar box display. Of the 171 postboxes installed during his short reign in 1936, only 16 were this large size [6]. Inset: Close-up of the EVIIIR cipher. Right: TPM information panel titled "The uncrowned King" tells some of the history of these postboxes. Note the interesting comment in the text that: "When EVIIIR pillar boxes went for repair, the initials would be changed to those of the new king." Such a practice would have further contributed to the rarity of finding EVIIIR postboxes.

As much as I enjoyed seeing these rare postboxes on display in all their glory, I was also very impressed by some of the interactive stations set up for visitors. These included question-and-answer quizzes to test one's ability as a post wagon delivery driver in the 19th Century, working pneumatic tubes for sending capsules with messages between different parts of the museum, as well as a video screen set up to enable visitors to design their own stamps. Given my recent penchant for making my own Cinderellas, which I design using MS PowerPoint, this latter activity seemed right up my alley.



Figure 9. Left: Michael looks on as I determinedly make a fool out of myself using the touch-screen at the "Design your own stamp" activity station. Right: Here is the product of my labors. The system is set up so that the image you design can be emailed to you afterwards as a souvenir. I don't think I will be printing up any of these!

Concluding Thoughts

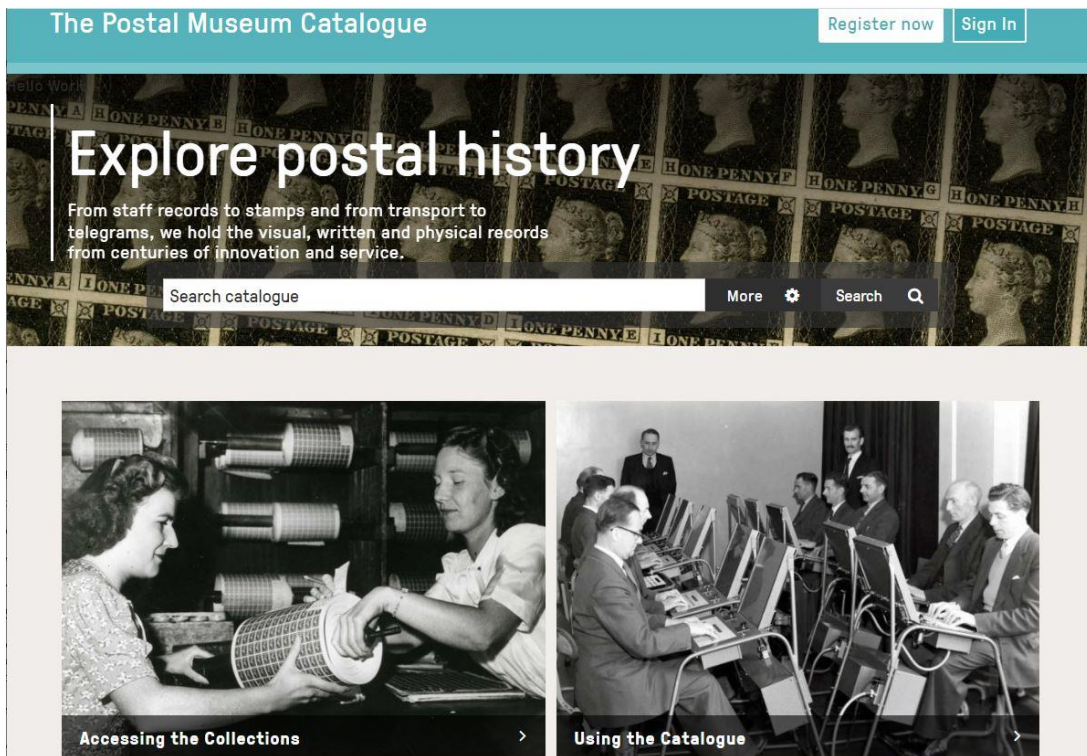
Our visit to The Postal Museum was excellent. Unlike publicly funded museums, which are free of charge, admission to TPM costs £16 (about \$21 USD) when booked in advance, but it seems worth it when you consider that it includes the Mail Rail train ride and that the ticket is valid for free entries to the museum for a year. The interactive parts of the program helped to make it more fun than just static displays, and we saw plenty of kids and families enjoying the activities. All in all, I found it to be a great way to wrap up our trip to the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition.

Acknowledgements

I would once again like to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of my lovely wife Amy, who not only booked all the tickets and planned the visit, but she also took the majority of the photos during the visit and helped with proofreading the draft article.

References & Credits

- [1] *Our history*. The Postal Museum: <https://www.postalmuseum.org/about/our-history/>.
- [2] *Postal Museum, London*. Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_Museum,_London.
- [3] Image credit: *GPO St. Martin's Le Grand London Postcard*. The Philatelic Database: <http://www.philatelicdatabase.com/postcards/gpo-st-martins-le-grand-london-postcard/>.
- [4] *About*. The Postal Museum: <https://www.postalmuseum.org/about/>.
- [5] *London Post Office Railway*. Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Post_Office_Railway
- [6] Information placard at The Postal Museum.



London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition: Show Purchases & Impressions

By Chris Dorn (Beryllium Guy)

When it comes to attending stamp shows, I always try to have a budget in mind for how much I plan to spend on acquisitions, and London 2022 was no exception. Although I did not originally intend to spend my budget in a particular fashion, I find that what works best for me is that I spend 90% of my funds on more expensive, major items at the outset of my visit, and then after that, I spend what remains on inexpensive stamps.

Almost invariably but without deliberate intent, I spend that 90% fairly quickly, in relatively short time and acquiring just a few items. Once I am down to the last 10% of my funds, I spend hours sifting through bargain bins and discount lots looking for good deals. It is perhaps an unconventional way of buying, but it seems to have become a habitual sort of pattern with me, as will be seen in what follows.

First Purchase: Cape of Good Hope Triangles

TSF Members have commented on my Cape of Good Hope (COGH) triangles that I should include some postal history to go with the stamps as a part of my collection. Up to the time of the show, I have resisted doing that, simply because I generally don't collect covers. But when shopping together with Alex (vikingeck) at the show, I got swept up in the moment when he was buying a Cape triangle cover and pair, and I decided to buy a cover, too.

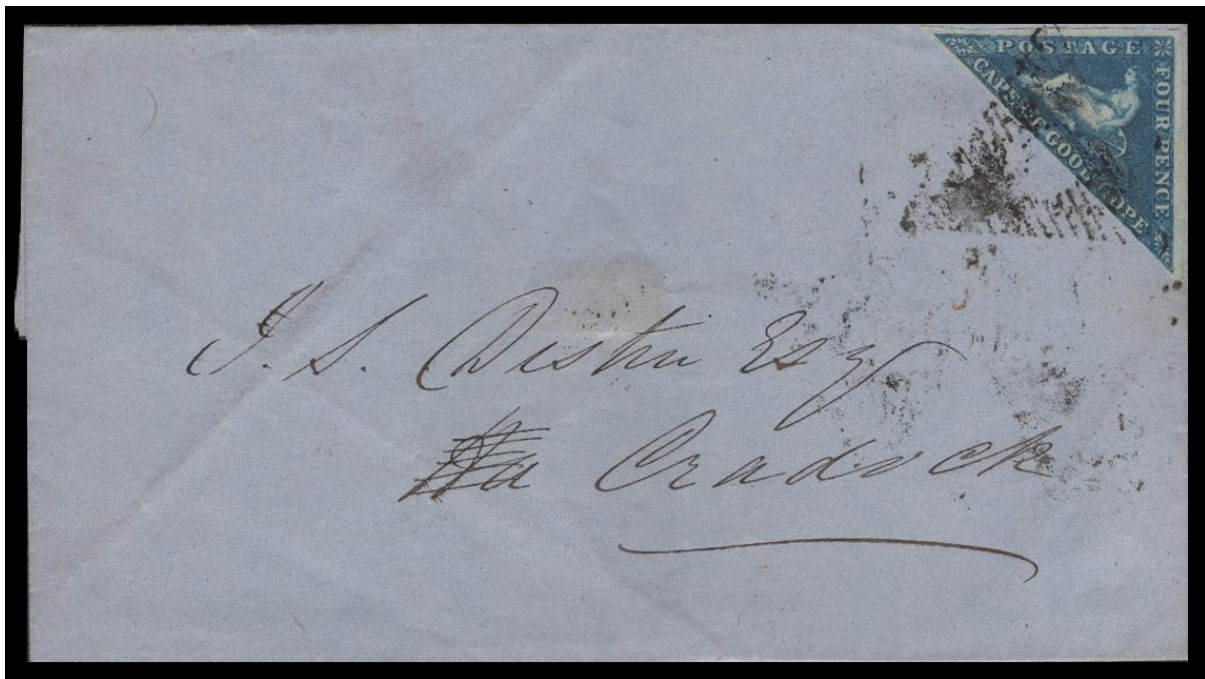


Figure 1. Cover featuring COGH 4-pence blue SG6 struck with small-triangular obliterator cancel. This item was purchased from dealers Richardson & Copp, to whom I was introduced by Alex. The stamp is not a full 3-margin copy, as it is slightly cut in just under the word HOPE, and the cover is not complete on the reverse, but I am still satisfied with my purchase, as I just wanted a nice-looking representative example for my collection.



Figure 2. Front and back of a COGH SG6 4-pence blue, with 3 clear margins and relatively light, face-free cancel. I was pleased to learn that some dealers are willing to sell what I would consider a prime example of its type for as low as £20 (around \$26.50 USD). Current SG Catalogue value is around £95 (around \$125 USD). On auction sites like eBay, in my experience, an SG6 in this condition will typically fetch closer to \$40 USD (about £30).

Second Purchase: Lebanon Hejaz Railway Revenue Stamps

I have only ever been a dabbler when it comes to revenue stamps, but I can still remember when I first learned on TSF about the Lebanon revenue stamps that are overprinted and surcharged copies of France's ubiquitous *La Semeuse* ("The Sower" in English). To the best of my knowledge, it was Jad El Husseini (Bombadil), who was living in Lebanon at the time, who first really posted about these issues in January 2018. Jad later sent me one of these stamps as a very kind and generous gift, and I have been on the lookout for them ever since.

Jad wrote: "The Hejaz Railway was originally built to transport pilgrims from Syria to Madinah (aka Medina), where they would travel on to Mecca for the Muslim Pilgrimage. Another reason was to strengthen Ottoman control over the most distant provinces of the empire. The route was a narrow-gauge railway that ran from Damascus in Syria to Madinah, through the Hejaz region of present-day Saudi Arabia, with a branch line to Haifa on the Mediterranean Sea."

Revenue stamps were used to indicate payment of an additional fee on letters and parcels that were transported on the Hejaz Railway, and I have come to learn that there are issues from other entities aside from Lebanon, such as Syria, Ottoman Empire, etc. It is clearly a vaster area than I had imagined, as it so often is with things philatelic, but it is the issues from Lebanon that interest me the most, as they comprised my introduction to these stamps, and I have a decided weakness for overprints and surcharges of European stamps used abroad, as these were.



Figure 3. Stamps of France overprinted for use in the state of "Greater Lebanon" (G.L., which is Grand Liban in French) for revenue purposes on the Hejaz Railway. The first two are surcharged in the denomination of 1 Piaster, and the second two at 2 Piasters. The fourth stamp is also overprinted Z.O. rather than G.L. The seller told me that Z.O. stands for either Zone Ouest or Occidentale, meaning Western Zone, but this stamp would still have been used in Lebanon.

Over the past few years, I have seen only occasional offerings of Hejaz Railway stamps on auction sites like eBay, and in those cases, the prices are pretty substantial at around \$75 USD for individual stamps, and into the hundreds of dollars for used items on cover. But I have tried to remain on the lookout for

finding any of these stamps available at affordable prices. Thanks to Michael ([Londonbus1](#)), I was lucky enough to meet a knowledgeable dealer in revenue stamps who was able to help me find what I was looking for.

Third Purchase: Rhodesia King George V and Queen Mary Double-Heads

Although I haven't posted anything about this collecting area on The Forum to date, I have been accumulating material from this set, the stamps of which were issued from 1910-1913, early in the reign of King George V. In looking at the SG Catalogue, there appear to be 18 major catalogue numbers in this set but many more color, perforation, and constant flaw varieties that make the set comprise around 90-100 issues if all of the minor catalogue numbers are included.

For my purposes, I have decided that I will be very happy to try to get one nice copy of each of the 18 major SG catalogue numbers to make a set for my one-stock-sheet WW classics collection. To that end, I was able to acquire a few new additions to my growing accumulation from a company called First-4-Stamps (website: <https://www.1st4stamps1840.co.uk/>).

I recognized their name because I had purchased from them on eBay in the past, and when I told them that at their stand, they told me politely that I would get better prices if I bought from them directly, as they don't have to pay eBay sellers' fees that way. Of course, that made perfect sense, and with the slightest bit of chagrin, I vowed to myself to be more vigilant in the future.



Figure 4. From left to right: Rhodesia, SG122 ½-penny dull green, SG130 2-pence black and grey-black, and SG141 5-pence purple-brown and olive-green. All stamps are in mint, hinged condition with original gum.

Fourth Purchase: Panning for Gold in the 12-for-£1 Bin

There's a bit of a funny story with this one, and perhaps not so much literally funny, but more on the order of funny meaning strange, and a little disappointing. I mean disappointing in the big-picture sense, not for me personally. For me, as you will see, it worked out great, and I had a good time.

My arrival at the show was on Thursday morning, 24th February. At that point, the show had been going on for 5 full days, and this day was the sixth. After making my first purchase with Alex, as I have already mentioned, I wandered around just to walk by all of the stands and see what was there. At the far end from the main entrance, I came across the Youth Philately area, which occupied some real floor space. The organizers of the area had set out 4-5 long tables, and there were shelves with kids' books about stamps and history, some writing supplies, and other things for activities.

On a couple of the tables in that area, I spied some large plastic bins full of stamps. There were signs and envelopes that indicated that kids could choose 20 stamps from the bins as a free gift, which I

thought was very nice, and similar to what I had seen at some other stamp shows in the U.S. It was all very nice, but there wasn't a single kid in sight anywhere.

So, I ambled up to the welcome desk, and I asked the person manning the stand if it would be possible for me to have a look through the bins, if I was willing to pay or make a donation to cover any stamps that I wanted. He asked me: "You don't have any kids that you can bring to the area?" I replied that sadly I did not. He returned my reply equally sadly and said that he was very sorry, but the stamps were for the kids, and he wouldn't be able to allow me to buy any.

I took this rebuff, polite and kindly delivered though it was, in stride, and I moved on to other stands and spent my time elsewhere. After truly spending at least 90% of my budget, I walked past the Youth Area again, relatively late on Friday afternoon, and what did I see? Why, it was an adult collector, of all things, rummaging through the bins and looking for stamps. I also noticed that the signs had been revised to indicate "10p each or 12 for £1".

I presented myself again to the staff member at the desk, and I was informed that it was now indeed all right for me to buy stamps from the big bins, just as long as I was not depriving any kids from choosing their 20 freebies. As once again, there were no kids in sight, I proceeded to dig myself elbow-deep into a large plastic bin of stamps—finally!

Not long into my digging, Michael (Londonbus1) walked by, and I encouraged him to join in the fun and have a rummage. I knew that he was looking to find postally-used Belgian railway stamps for anglobob on The Forum. I promised to look for those as well, while I was sifting through the mass, hoping to find other items of interest. As I mentioned on TSF, Michael claimed that he saw a particular gleam in my eye as I searched through the bin, one that he had not previously noted. I suppose it was the treasure hunter in me that had come to the fore.



Figure 5. In the Youth Philately Area at London 2022. Left: Large plastic bin with tens of thousands of stamps that I had been itching to go through since I had first seen them on Thursday morning. Right: A friend of Michael's and yours truly taking turns sifting through large handfuls of stamps looking for inexpensive treasures. At less than 10p each, there were definitely treasures to be had! Photo credit: Michael Hide.



Figure 6. Above is a sample of about one-third of the WW classic stamps that I bought from the 12-for-£1 bin in the Youth Philatelic Area. Not necessarily any high catalogue values here, but well worth the price to me.

Overall Impressions

The London 2022 was my second international stamp exhibition. My first one was in New York City in 2016. Other than those two, I have only attended U.S. national or regional events. I had a great experience at the show personally, but I will admit that foot traffic seemed light to me given the size of the venue and the number of dealers there.

From the dealers we talked to, I sensed mixed feelings and experiences. Some said it was very slow and did not justify what they had paid to be there, while others said that they had sold some big-ticket items and were doing all right.

I did manage to see a few of the exhibits together with Alex, which was quite good, especially since Alex was acquainted with many of the higher-echelon British philatelists, thanks to his exhibiting at international-level competitions for many years. I was totally impressed by how many people he knew or recognized while we were at the show in general, but especially in the exhibit area.

Due to what I would call “a COVID hangover effect,” there seemed to be a larger-than-usual number of late cancellations of planned exhibits and dealers. Sadly, Richard Debney, a noted U.S. expert on Cape triangles, was among those who ended up choosing not to come. There was, nonetheless, a superb exhibit on Cape triangles displayed by a Mr. Joseph Hackmey, which contained several items that are considered as one of a kind. As luck had it, Mr. Hackmey himself was showing his exhibit to someone else while Alex and I were there, so we had the good fortune to hear his personal comments about his own collection.

I am sorry to say that despite the fact that I took photos of all the frames of the Cape triangle exhibit, upon later, closer inspection, I realized that none of those photos were of suitable quality for posting on TSF or including in this article.

Acknowledgements

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the help of my lovely wife Amy, who fully supported my attending the show and handled most of the arrangements. I would also like to thank all of the TSF members who took the time to come to the show and meet up for some excellent philatelic socializing: [vikingeck](#), [Londonbus1](#), [michael](#), [daniel](#), and [wakeybluenose](#).

The stamps were great but getting to meet all of you in person was the real highlight for me. With a total of six TSFers in attendance, it was to my knowledge, the largest in-person gathering of members that we have had in our 9-year history. Thanks to all of you for making it possible. I can't wait until the next time!



GASS 2022 is co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society, the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society. When: August 25-28, 2022. Where: SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, Hall C & D, 1400 J St, Sacramento, CA 95814.

From the Archives – A Window to the Past

By Editorial Staff

IS PHILATELY A SCIENCE?

WILLIAM HIRSH, A. P. A. 1085.

There is one problem, which, ever since I began to take an interest in philately, has occupied my mind; namely, whether philately is really a science, and if it is not, what would be the most suitable and best means to attain this end.

I deem it necessary to state a fact, which, although disagreeable to some, is, nevertheless true; that is, that anyone critically studying the present state of affairs, and not afraid to express his opinion, will admit that the majority of stamp collectors in this country are very little inspired by scientific motives in their pursuit, but rather mostly by a certain fancy, which in many cases develops into a passion.

The number of such collectors who know how many stamps were printed in a sheet of the Providence Locals, is much smaller in proportion to those well posted on their price, according to Scott's Catalogue.

I have recently read in a pamphlet, that about forty out of every one hundred collectors, try their luck at some time as dealers, and I fully believe this to be the case. Now, is this not the best proof that the commercial side of our hobby attracts the interest of a larger number than the endeavor to make a scientific study of philately?

The term "scientific" can certainly not be applied to the knowledge of the market value of the objects we collect, but only to the systematic study of the history of every stamp, comprising its issue and career, as well as all other details incidental thereto.

Of course, many consider a thorough knowledge of the market value of stamps a science in itself, but such knowledge is surely nothing but a certain mercantile ability, just like that required for any other kind of trade.

A great deal has been done already towards the firm establishment of philately as a science. Take for instance, Mr. Tiffany's work on the history of the stamps of the United States, containing many historical notes on so highly interesting a subject.

There is little doubt that if a man, in no way concerned in philately, reads this book, he will be so favorably impressed by its contents, that he will not deny a scientific side to our pursuit.

Again, present to the very same man one of those so-called philatelic magazines, published partly out of a desire for notoriety, partly out of speculation, in which half the space is taken up by advertising matter, and he will come to the conclusion that most of the collecting is done out of a mere rage, to swap and trade, and he is certainly not to be blamed in this case, for not considering philately a science. For this reason I think collectors, who have the real interest of philately at heart, should refrain from supporting small speculative publications, and thereby enforce a certain centralization of refined knowledge and genius into the foremost acknowledged publications. The effect of this movement would certainly be a step further toward success.

The above article appeared in the June 10, 1892 issue of The American Philatist (V6.6 p.93)

If you find articles such as this of interest, you may find more in The American Philatelist Archive, hosted by Smithsonian Libraries, at <https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/american-philatelist>.

Navigating Our Forum – Search Function

Techniques, Tips and Reminders

Finding a Specific Thread or Post

The forum has a unique live search system built in that allows you to search for topics or posts quickly, and will allow you to see results as you type. You can locate the search bars in the top-right hand corner of a topics listing in a board on the forum, or in the top-right hand corner when viewing a topic.

To search for a specific topic, click into a board that you think may have the topic that you are looking for. Once you're on the topics page in a board, find the search bar located just above the Last Post column on the topics page. Click the search bar to activate it and then begin to type. You can type in either something that you think may have been in the title of the topic you are looking for, or you can search for key words that were used in posts of the topic that you are looking for. The search results will update automatically after each keystroke you make to show you the topics that contain the keywords you are looking for.

The same can be done within a topic itself as well. If you are wanting to look for a specific post in a topic, but don't want to go through all of the different pages to look for it, you can use the search bar found in the top-right hand corner of a topic, just below the Reply button if available. Simply begin to type the words you're searching for that the post contained and the topic will update automatically to show the posts that contained the keywords.

If you need to further fine tune your search, click the magnifying glass icon found to the right of the search bar for more filtering options. Otherwise, if you conduct some searches and are not finding what you are looking for, it's possible that what you're searching for is in a different board or topic on the forum. You can use the Search button found in the menu bar at the top of the page to conduct a forum wide search and you may be able to find what you're looking for using the global search tools there.

Finding Content Using Keywords

While the live search bars available in boards and topics are useful if you know the general area that you are searching for content, if you want to search for something that you're not exactly sure where it's placed you can use the forum search system by clicking the Search button found in the top menu bar. Once on the search page, look for the "What to search..." area found in the top-left hand corner of the page. In this area you'll see search boxes for the following:

"with at least one of the words" - Type in any word or phrase that you think was used in a post or topic on the forum that you are looking for. The search system will search for all of the words that you use here, but the results you get back may omit one or more words that you have provided in the search box if content is not found for those words. For example, you could type in the quick brown fox in the box provided, and you will receive search results back for any content that contains any of those words.

Forum Help Guide

Please click any of the listed topics below for a detailed explanation of that topic. If you still have unanswered questions or need additional assistance, please visit the ProBoards Support Board.

<p>User Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account Creation and Logging In • Threads, Posts, Polls, and Attachments • Bookmarks • Post Options • Search • Calendar • The Members List • Avatars • Viewing Profiles • Your Profile Information • Social Websites • Profile Preferences • Profile Privacy • Notification Options • Keyboard Shortcuts • Glossary 	<p>Admins and Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Forum Settings • Boards and Threads • Moderation Options • Login and Registration Settings • Themes and Styles • Custom Pages • Plugins • Headers and Footers • Member Groups and Rankings • Managing Members • Security • Upgrading Your Forum • Theme and Plugin Libraries
---	--

So, you could receive a search result back because it has the word fox in it, even if the content does not include any of the other words that you provided in the search.

"with all the words" - In the text area here, type in any words that you are certain was used in the post or topic that you are looking for. The search results you get back will only be for content that includes all of the words you typed into the search box. For example, you could type in the quick brown fox in the box provided, and you will receive search results back for any content that includes all of the words in your search regardless of the order that the words are placed in the posted content.

"with the phrase" - If there is a phrase that you know was used in the topic or post that you are searching for, type it into the box provided here. The search system will look for the words used in the phrase you typed and will return results based on the phrase.

"without the words" - If you have filled out one of the other search boxes in the "What to search..." area of the search page, this box will become available to use. Type in one or more words that you know the content you're searching for does not contain.

Once you have one or more of these search boxes filled out, you can continue on to choose how you want your search results to be viewed as and then click the Search button found at the bottom of the page to get results. Otherwise, you do have the option to use one of the other search filters as well in the other search categories if needed.

Choosing How Results Are Displayed

When using the forum search option, done by visiting the Search button found at the top menu bar of the forum you're visiting, there are a couple of different ways to have your search results display depending on what you're looking for.

Once you have filled out one or more of the search options on the search page, at the very bottom of the page you'll see one last option for "How to search...". This gives you the options for "display results as posts" and "display results as threads". If you choose the "display results as posts" option, after you click the Search button the search results will display individual posts that contain the items that you are searching for. This view is best used if you're trying to find a specific post that was made on the forum. Otherwise, if you're just wanting to find a topic rather than a specific post, use the "display results as threads" view option. When this is selected, the search results you get back will list out the individual discussion topics from the forum that has content which contains the items that you are searching for.

Other Options

You also have the ability to search for content posted by a specific member, or by date and time. Instructions for using these options may be found in the [Forum Help Guide](#).

London 2022: An Escape From COVID?

By Michael Hide (Londonbus1)

It seems so long ago now that I was planning, along with other TSF members, to be in London for the big International Stamp Exhibition at the British Design Centre (BDC). Flights and Hotels were booked and the excitement building. That was back in the early days of 2020 for the big event in May of that year.

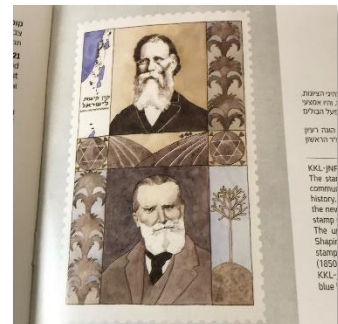
Then came Coronavirus! The pandemic that affected everyone the world over. Some more than others. But it wasn't going away and slowly at first, then more rapidly, everything began to close. Shops, offices, restaurants, factories...and events. It wasn't too long before the 'London 2020' organizing committee announced the postponement of the International Stamp Exhibition and tentatively re-arranged for February 2022, the nearest available date at the BDC. So, we cancelled too as the excitement turned to disappointment. But we promised to be there in 2022 if that was ever going to be possible.



What a joy it was to receive this pin badge for 2020. Sadly, it wasn't to be.

Stamping in Lockdown

Those who know me, especially my Philatelic friends, understood how difficult it was not to be able to enjoy a Stamp Exhibition or Fair. Many of my past holidays, especially those in the UK, have been arranged around Stamp events of one kind or another. Meeting 'Stamp Buddies' on the way made those trips all the more worthwhile. Take those away and take away visits to family and other friends and what is left is a void that is hard to fill. It's true, the immediate family were around me and life is never boring when you collect stamps. But there was always, in the back of my mind, that little something missing.



One of the avenues to the departure lounge extolled the importance of the Jewish National Fund by way of large posters. JNF stamps were part of the display.

Of course, there was never any shortage of stamps and the advent of 'Zoom' meetings meant that stamp chats were never far away. Then there are online forums, especially our own TSF. But having been a stamp fair and exhibition addict since my early collecting days, there was a little part of me that could not be fulfilled. And then there were health and other personal issues which clouded the sky in grey for so long. The loss of my Mother in the UK when I couldn't go to say goodbye; the



Since my last flight, peace has come with some Arab Nations including the UAE. Here is their Etihad Check-In!

deaths of four dear friends, one tragically; and a 6-month fight with my knee which I eventually won after some excruciatingly painful times. Come January this year I was ready to travel! While some around me thought it unwise to go, I decided it was time to use my dusty old Airline voucher from 2020 and set foot into the outside world. The UK had been relaxing their Covid restrictions and would do so further by departure time, so in my eye all was ready. It was time to travel again. It was time for London 2022, International Stamp Exhibition! Having not flown for so long, I did notice some new additions to the departure terminal at the airport!



Left: Front cover of the Exhibition Catalogue, published by the 'Stamp Collector' magazine. Right: A welcoming sign at the BDC entrance. Finally, a stamp event!

Business Design Centre

The BDC, as it is affectionately known, is conveniently situated at the Angel in Islington just north of central London. Close to hotels, shops and a plethora of eateries, it is a great part of London to spend a few days....especially when something Philatelic is on the menu!



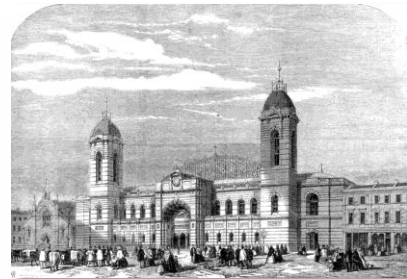
A busy entrance for 'London 2010', A Festival of Stamps

The Centre, formerly the Agricultural Hall was built during the early 1860's for the Smithfield (cattle) Show. It was completed in 1862 and since became the venue for many cultural and entertainment events such as exhibitions, circuses, walking races as well as other agricultural shows. The first Crufts Dog Show was held here in 1891. After many visits from royalty and nobility, it gained royal patronage in 1884 and was thereafter named the Royal Agricultural Hall. It hosted the UK's major military show, the Royal Tournament, from its inception in 1880 until it moved to Olympia in the early 1900's. The 'Aggie', as it was commonly called, became one of the most prestige exhibition centers in Europe but fell into decline after World War Two. It was taken over by the Government for use as a parcel sorting center during the war after Mount Pleasant Sorting Office was destroyed by bombing.



Examples of Poster Stamps produced for events at the Royal Agricultural Hall.

Post-War it remained mostly unused save for a few small events (including Bingo !) until the 1980's when it was purchased by businessman Sam Morris who converted it into the Business Design Centre seen today. Much of the original ironwork was used during the renovations.



Left: Stained Glass window commissioned for the Royal Patronage can be seen high up above the inside entrance hall. Center: The entrance to the Royal Agricultural Hall was in Liverpool Road which is now the rear entrance of the BDC. Today, the visitors entrance is in Upper Street. Right: The Liverpool Road entrance from the 1860's.

This is the 2nd time a major International Stamp Exhibition has been held at the BDC. The exhibition for the 2010 'Festival of Stamps' was also held here. The center is also the regular venue for the bi-annual Stampex event (now Stampex International).

Stamps & Friends

My time in London took off on Wednesday, February 23rd, meeting old friends and new and being united at last with a number of very exciting lots from recent Cinderella Stamp Club auctions. It was nice to meet up again with David, the auctioneer, who had been looking after my winnings for me. More on those later! As I stepped into the hallowed hall the quiet was deafening! There were no queues, no customers at the Royal Mail stand (normally buzzing with buyers) and a first quick walk around told me that dealers' numbers were well down, even on Stampex levels. I found a seat without much trouble in the cafeteria where I had a chance meeting with an Israeli couple who were well acquainted with family members! It's a small world. I sat talking while wondering if I was really at an international event. But did that really matter? I wasn't here to judge but to enjoy, and there was still much to enjoy, especially the exhibits which covered three large areas of the Hall.



Left: Partial view of the main hall with exhibits in the foreground. Center left: Near the entrance there was a special display of the 1924 Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Center right and right: One of my favorite displays was that of Mulready and other caricature envelopes.

Good images were difficult to take but there were some truly remarkable exhibits, including Orange Free State and Cape of Good Hope to name but two. While I no longer collect postage stamps, my interest has never waned and I always get great enjoyment from these exhibits. I still wonder though if one needs to have a relatively large budget for stamps to produce some of the displays seen? Much of what I saw included special items that many collectors could not afford.

Late on Wednesday, I attended the Cinderella Stamp Club meeting, which was hard to find and not in

the advertised meeting room! The poor turnout was in keeping with the day as a whole but, here again, there were some very nice displays and talks, ably organized by John Aitchison (of Lundy & British Locals fame). As a collector of British Stamp Exhibition Cinderellas I was excited by one display of such material which included a few items I had never seen!



Left: Waterlow & Sons die proofs of dummy stamps which were overprinted for the 1932 Pageant of Postage Stamps Exhibition at Dorland Hall. Note the curious 'issued circa 1934'! Center: 1940 Exhibition Souvenir Sheets overprinted in Gold for the postponed 'London 2020' event. Right: Award certificate for the 1890 London Philatelic Exhibition, the first major stamp exhibition in Britain. A beauty!

Later, on Wednesday, it was a pleasure to meet TSF member vikingeck and enjoy a meal and stamp chat which really got the mood for stamps going. The following three days amongst friends and collectors would more than make up for any disappointments about the Exhibition itself. The hobby, after all, is not just about the stamps!

The following morning, Beryllium Guy and his wife, Amy, arrived. Having met them in both Aix-en-Provence and Oxford, it was nice to meet in London and at a Stamp Exhibition. The day was spent chatting, searching for good deals and enjoying the exhibits. The evening, and the following two evenings, were spent in fine restaurants for which Amy must take full credit. Her choice of eateries and organizational skills are second to none and she is to be commended.



We had the odd tipples or two as well!



Good food and good wine.



It's 'hello' from me.....

A Chance Meeting

Back at the Hotel, we befriended a dealer who I mistakenly assumed to have had a beer too many. That was my mistake. It was late and the bar was closed but he did get a beer. He thanked us for helping him and offered to get us a pass which we could use to get in the Exhibition early and get a discount at the local pub. He also told Chris (Beryllium Guy) that he would check his stock of Cape of Good Hope stamps and would give him a good deal. We did get our passes but they were of no use at all! But the

meeting proved to be a lot more than useful.

Friday & Saturday



A pass we couldn't use



Making deals and borrowing money!

TSF member (michael) joined us for the entertainment on Friday, the highlight of the day being the meeting with the dealer we had chanced upon the night before. He was joined on the stand by his boss who was busy chatting with Alex (vikingeck) whilst Chris was haggling over the price of a very nice example of a Cape of Good Hope triangle (SG7c Slate-Lilac on slightly blued paper) with the boss's nephew. The original price was £325 and the young guy seemed to get his math a little wrong when offering a 15% discount for £240! It all seemed confusing and somewhat unreal and even more so when the boss, who had been oblivious to the aforementioned haggling, piped in with "What's the price? £240? £200 for cash!" More amusing scenes ensued when Chris's half-empty wallet meant he needed loans from fellow members with Alex using every penny in his wallet to reach the target. Looking on from the back for the most part, I found this half hour or so, hugely entertaining and it will live long in the memory. And Chris got a bargain and a gem all in one go!



Left: The now famous (to me) SG7c alongside one of very few purchases I made at the show. A Chinese cloisonne enamel and brass stamp box, Circa: 1950's. My wife's reaction to the box "Ugly"! You can't win 'em all! Center: Many dealer stands remained quiet but there was some haggling and jostling for position on occasion! I blame the TSF members for that! Right: One dealer had a full sheet of German Propaganda Forgeries which was amazing to view and hold. Each forged KGV1 definitive had a different overprint. It was the first time I'd seen a full sheet. Sadly, it was way out of my league.....and budget!

Youth Philately

I am always a little saddened to see a lack of youth attendance at UK shows. Back in 2010 I volunteered on the last day of the Exhibition on the 'Stamp Active' stand where I was joined throughout the day by fellow Philatelists which made for some pleasant and invigorating conversation. It was a Saturday but there was still a distinct lack of visitors to the stand. To say it was quiet all day is an understatement. So, it was at London 2022 also. Same superb set-up by Youth leader John Davies and his team but with the same result.

I remember the stamp shows at Wembley back in the 1990's where there was an emphasis on youth. Penny auctions, fun topicals, design-a-stamp, children's displays and lots more besides. Enough in my view to attract young collectors. And they did. Sure, times have changed since then but the Stamp Active stand apart, there was little for Children & Youth to be encouraged by in my view.



The Stamp Active stand included a replica postbox for the Children's 'Lucky Dip'. You can see one 'child' slipped in and had a sort through one of the many mixed stamp boxes ! You'll see a couple of other big 'kids' in an article elsewhere!

In these days of phone games, X-Box, Dragon Ball and other such after-school activities, I can understand why Youth attendance at Stamp Events is minimal. But I do think more can be arranged to turn the tide, if only a little. I live in Israel and have been to every National and International Exhibition since I came here in 1991. The Events open the doors to the public at 10-10.30am. But they open them to pre-arranged School parties at 8.30am, the school start time. There are talks, special displays and visits to dealer stands as well as the youth stands. The place is crowded with Kids, young and old designing stamps in a special 'Art' corner. In a way, they bring back memories of those events at Wembley. So why can't school visits be arranged elsewhere including in the UK. How many budding collectors would be found if hundreds of kids had an Exhibition Hall to themselves for an hour or two? But I digress...back to London 2022!

Snippets and Opinions

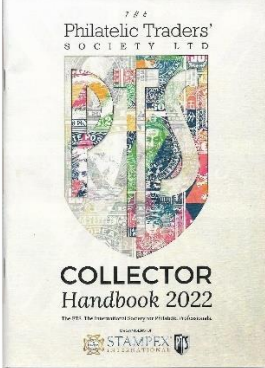
The displays of Philatelic material are so many these days that the frames are changed mid-week to accommodate them all. Certain categories can be seen from Saturday to Tuesday and others from Wednesday-Saturday. So, I was a little irked when at 11am on the Friday (25th) there was an announcement asking for volunteers to take down the frames from Mid-day, fully 1½ days before the Exhibitions end. Those coming on the second Saturday would surely have been in for a big disappointment. So, I went off in search of answers and was led to believe that this re-arranged event was given a time slot just before another show which was setting up on Sunday. But surely it would have been better to have arranged for a team to take down the frames on the Saturday evening? Maybe I am asking too much for these Covid-restricted times? In any case, I was irked just as I was when I found it

difficult to locate dealers only to find out that a good number had changed stands (and stand numbers) without any formal notice. So off I went to look for some stamps for (Anglobob) and it took me an age to find the dealer who I was told did not attend!

It was disappointing that no show souvenirs were made available, at least not to my knowledge. Not even from Royal Mail. For a Cinderella collector, maybe even a little sad. More recently, it was also sad to note that the Chairman of the London 2022 Committee, Frank Walton, had passed away. I met Frank briefly many years ago at the Royal and he seemed like a very committed Philatelist and nice guy. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

Praise for TSF

The third edition of the Philatelic Traders' Society Handbook included a section entitled "What is a Philatelic Forum?" One of their favorite forums turns out to be our very own TSF! It was nice to read whilst walking around the stands. The PTS are the organizers of the Stampex events held bi-annually at the BDC.

	<p>You can comment anonymously or you can create a pseudonym for yourself. Many forums allow you to add a picture of yourself or an avatar. If you have a question or need specific information about something then a forum is a wonderful place to start.</p> <p>We love the internet but like anything there rules you should follow. Here are our top tips on forum etiquette.</p> <p>1. Most forums have their own rules. Ensure you have read them before you start. Many forums will stop you from chatting/ commenting if you break the rules.</p>	<p>OUR FAVOURITE PHILATELIC FORUMS:</p> <p>STAMP BOARDS www.stampboards.com</p> <p>STAMP COMMUNITY www.stampcommunity.org</p> <p>THE STAMP FORUM thestampforum.boards.net</p> <p>HIPSTAMP FORUM www.hipstamp.com/forums/categories</p> <p>STAMP MAGAZINE FORUM www.stampmagazine.co.uk/forums</p>
--	--	---

The PTS Collector Handbook 2022. Read rule 1 and let me know what forum they are alluding to!!

Charing X Collectors Market

A Saturday in London would not be the same, for a Stamp or Coin Collector, without a visit to the Charing X Market. Held every Saturday from 7am-2pm in an underground Car Park beneath the arches of the main railway Station, it is a haven for Philatelic bargains. Spending 4 or more hours there would not be beyond most die-hards and so it was that bright and early on Saturday, 26th February we set off for such a venture. As you can see from the image, Chris had barely set foot inside when he was sitting down delving through the boxes of stamps and Covers. I don't think he moved from that seat for over an hour! Later Alex and Daniel turned up for what might be termed "The TSF Car Park Meet"! At least I managed to find an item or two for my collection.



Don't bother a Beryllium Guy when there are boxes of stamps!

Later, Chris, Amy and I went to the relatively new Postal Museum. But I will leave Chris (Beryllium Guy) to tell you about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

All in all, it was a good show made better by the meetings with friends and forum members. It was nice to meet those who until now had been a name on a forum post or a 'like' on Facebook. A few more images below to remind us of some good times.



Gotta be a fantasy stamp? A Museum bit of fun!



Friends, food, forum members.....and a Machin made from buttons !

An Escape from Covid?

Sadly not. When I wrote the title to this Exhibition piece, it was to take on a very different meaning. But two days after returning from London and having avoided the virus for two years, I became infected! So, I added a question mark. I had to cancel my flight and re-book and since getting back home to Israel I have had what might be a form of Long Covid along with other ailments. It has not been fun and has caused the delay to these 'London 2022' Newsletter specials. My apologies for that. My purchases and auction lots are still on my desk after 6 weeks and it's time to sort, to scan and to get active again. Memories of the event are still clear and all that was experienced, both good and bad, will long be remembered. Would I do it again?

Without hesitation!

Londonbus1

Acknowledgments:

Business Design Centre, Philatelic Traders' Society (UK), TSF members, Amy Dorn, Cinderella Stamp Club, Richard O'Shea

'London 2022' TSF Giveaway

A mystery parcel of goodies will be on offer soon which will include an item or two from this event. It will be in the form of a giveaway and will be announced in the Giveaway section of the board. I wish I could post it from a parcel postbox...



A Royal Mail Parcel Postbox opposite the entrance to the Charing X Collectors Market.

“SEA MAIL” Auxiliary Marking on a Letter from Japan

By David M. Frye (DavidMFrye)

Introduction

Most postal services have provided faster—and costlier—handling of the mails by offering transport by air. In contrast, surface mail has offered slower—and, therefore, cheaper—service. While air-mail letters typically have carried a designation to note their transport by air, the use of the qualifier “surface” has implied movement of the mail either by land or sea. Mail that has traveled between locations on different landmasses has occasionally borne an auxiliary marking to note the particular type of surface mail service needed to complete delivery: Sea mail.

This portrait of one cover presents an instance of an auxiliary marking that tagged a piece of business correspondence as a piece of transoceanic surface mail. It also provides an estimate of its date of mailing. The reported dimensions of the cover and its auxiliary marking were obtained using a 0.5-mm-graduated metric rule (H-3412A, Shinwa Measuring Tools Corp., Schaumburg, Illinois).

Sea Mail

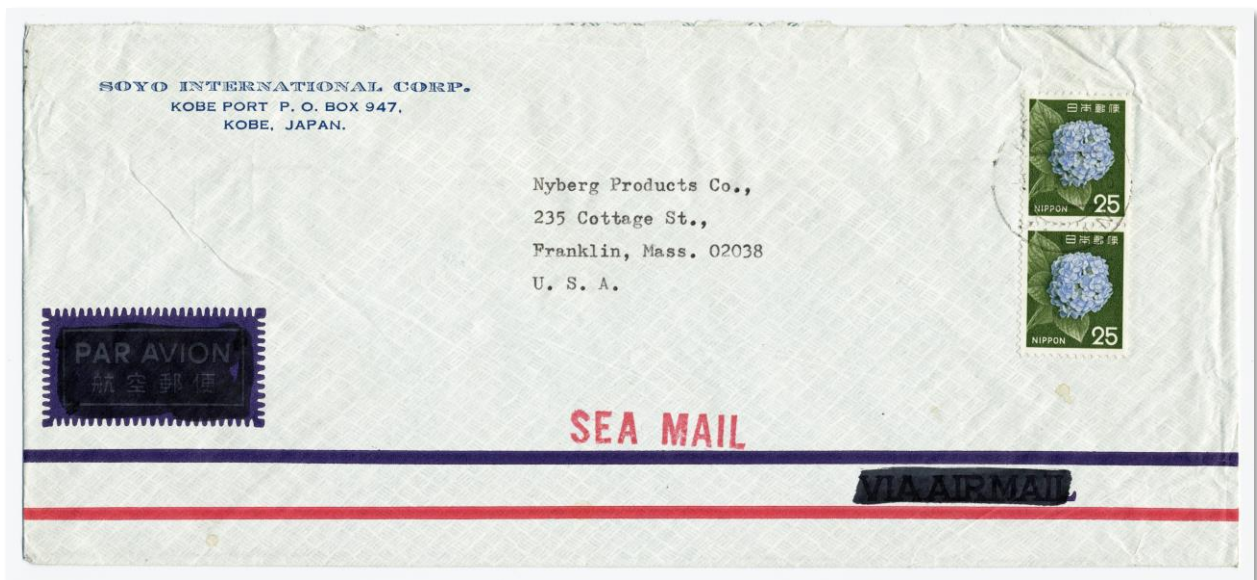


Fig. 1. Kobe, Japan, to Franklin, Massachusetts. A business-letter envelope (original: 234.0 mm × 104.0 mm) bears two 25-¥ *Hydrangea* definitive stamps, issued 1 July 1966, which paid the international surface-mail letter rate of 50 ¥ for the first 20 g. The rate took effect on the day of the stamps' issuance. (Wawrukiewicz and Beecher, p. 304).

Figure 1 presents a business letter envelope mailed from Soyo International Corp., Kobe, Japan, to Nyberg Products Co., Franklin, Massachusetts. A partial duplex cancellation on the back of the envelope shows the letter arrived in New York in 1969. The lack of clarity displayed by the circular date stamp (CDS) applied to the vertical pair of stamps on the front of the “SEA MAIL” Auxiliary Marking on a Letter from Kobe, Japan, to Franklin, Massachusetts envelope does not permit easy reading of the month and day of mailing. The pair of images presented in Fig. 2, however, shows that using the service provided by RetroReveal.org can aid in reading the details of the postmark.



Fig. 2. Postmark details of the vertical pair shown at 2 \times . Left: Original color scan. Right: Rendering of the original color scan in the LSHLab colorspace with the H channel isolated (retroReveal, 2019). The resulting contrast between the postmark and the stamp enables one to discern the month “II” to the left of the hydrangea in the top stamp.

Covers mailed in Japan in the late 1960s, which are plentiful on Web sites like eBay.com and Delcampe.net, use CDSs that render mailing dates in the form XX.Y.ZZ, where XX, Y, and ZZ give the day, month in Roman numerals, and year, respectively, and where Hindu–Arabic numerals render the day and year. Thus, the colorspace image in Fig. 2 (right) shows “??..II.69,” which indicates the letter entered the mail in February, 1969. The indicator of the day straddles the left-hand border of the stamp and is illegible.

Either the sender or a postal clerk used black ink to obscure the printed French–Japanese air-mail etiquette and the phrase VIA AIR MAIL.

This cover’s SEA MAIL auxiliary marking appears in Fig. 3 below.



Fig. 3. SEA MAIL. Auxiliary marking (original: 33.5 mm \times 6.5 mm) uses a sans serif font and all caps.

One article in the collected issues of Auxiliary Markings reports a Sea Mail auxiliary marking. This marking, reproduced in Fig. 4, below, presents the same message but with different font, ink, and punctuation.

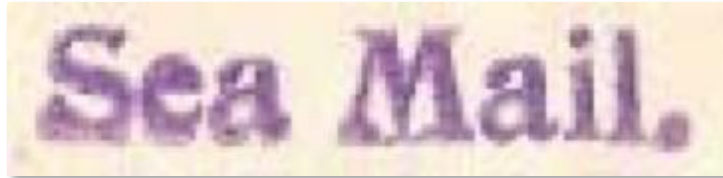


Fig. 4. Sea Mail. Auxiliary Marking on a cover “posted from Bombay, India to Boston MA 1947” (Breske, 2012).

Conclusion

This Kobe–Franklin cover demonstrates the use of a SEA MAIL auxiliary marking in 1969. The cover itself does not provide enough evidence to establish who converted a preprinted air-mail envelope for sea-mail transport. The identification of a non-air-mail envelope mailed from Japan to a transoceanic destination would provide evidence of whether or not the SEA MAIL auxiliary marking appeared on sea mail generally or was confined, perhaps, to envelopes that appeared, at first glance, to merit air-mail service.

References

Thomas Breske, “Maritime Ship Auxiliary Markings—Passenger and Crew,” *Auxiliary Markings*, Vol. IX, No. 4, Issue 36, October 2012, pp. 4–8.

retroReveal, retroReveal.org; accessed 18 August 2019.

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872–1996*, Portland, Oregon: Cama Publishing Co., 1996, p. 304.

About the Author

David M. Frye collects items to inform his study of U.S. postal history of the 1960s and Tanzania’s post-colonial postal history. His writings have appeared in *The Airpost Journal*, *Auxiliary Markings*, *B.E.A.—The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle*, *Postal History Journal*, *The Postal Label Bulletin*, *The United States Specialist*, and *The Vermont Philatelist*. A member of the Board of Directors of the Postal History Society, he lives in Franklin, Massachusetts, and works in nearby Framingham as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service.

Join APS
Begin receiving member
benefits today!

Join Now ▶

Support Your Forum by Writing for Its Newsletter

By Editorial Staff

The simple truth is: since all of the Newsletter material is written by members, the survival of this Newsletter is entirely dependent upon member contributions.

We welcome articles written on any area of philately, as long as they are original works.

For instance:

- How did you come to be a stamp collector? Tell us about it...
- Did you attend an interesting philatelic exhibition or stamp venue? Tell us about it...
- Do you have expertise in a particular area? Tell us about it...
- Have you had a positive or negative online buying or selling experience? Tell us about it...
- Do you belong to an interesting stamp club? Tell us about it...
- Do you have a favorite stamp? Tell us about it...

If you are able to make posts on the Forum, you have the ability to prepare articles for this publication.

In addition to supporting the Forum, submitting material provides the opportunity for recognition by the American Philatelic Society through its Articles of Distinction program.

Submitting an article is easy—all we need is the file containing the article's text, annotated with suggested image locations, and the images sent as separate files.

If you'd like to have an article published in the next issue of the Newsletter (V7.1), please attach the text and image files to an email and send it to stampforum.net@gmail.com by not later than September 4, 2022. If files are too large for submission by email, use the free and secure file transfer service at WeTransfer.com. Text files in Microsoft Word are preferred.



In Closing...

My thanks go to those who have contributed content for this issue and all of the previous issues. As was stated in the last issue, if you review the names of the authors, you'll see that it is a relatively small proportion of our membership.

I'd also like to thank our assistant editors, Peter Ware (@brightonpete) and Jerry Bodoff (@JerryB) for their help in pulling each of the Newsletter issues together.

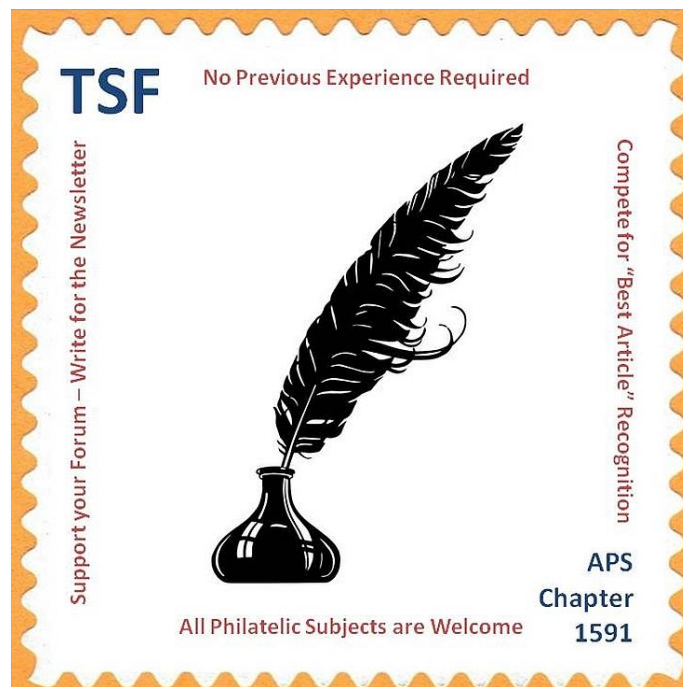
Member support is essential if we are to continue publishing a Newsletter. Any contributions of a philatelic nature will be considered for inclusion in a forthcoming issue (e.g., a catalog or book review, what I collect and why, a stamp show or bourse review, an intro to my local club, etc.).

Please consider trying your hand at writing something for publication. If you aren't sure how to go about it, contact one of the editorial staff and we'll be happy to assist.

We're on track for having each Newsletter published the week prior to the period covered. To continue meeting that target, we'd like to receive your submissions not later than September 4, 2022.

When contributing material, Microsoft Word files are preferred, with images submitted as separate files. Although we can work with PDF files with embedded images, it makes for a more tedious process.

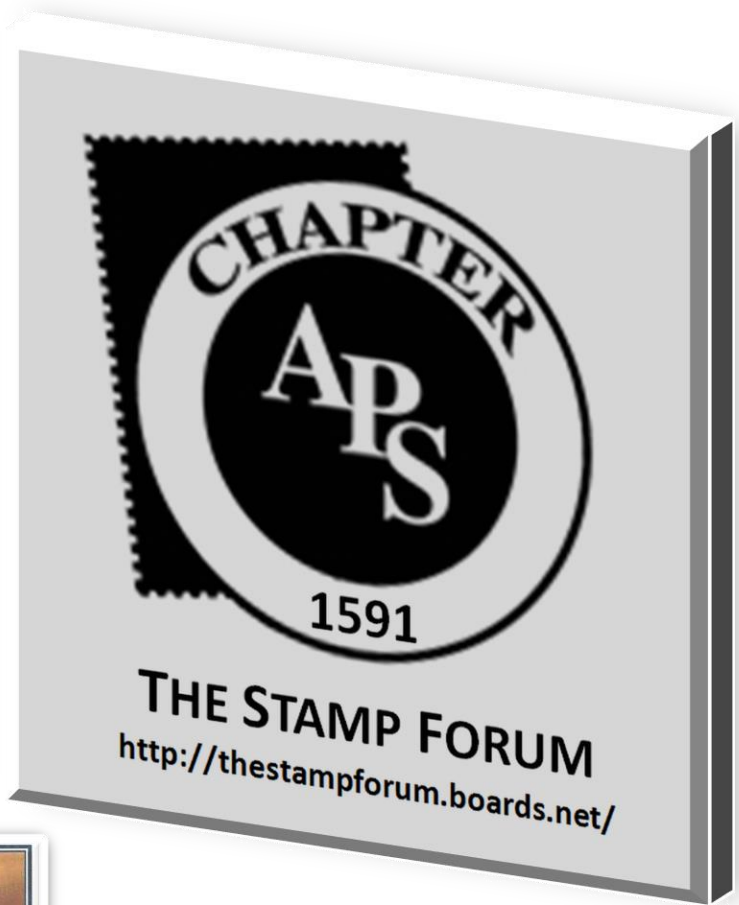
Thanks for your continued support!



The Stamp Forum became a Chapter of the American Philatelic Society on February 28, 2014. A requirement of that membership was our obligation to abide by APS' [Philatelic Code of Ethics](#).

While most of the benefits of Chapter membership are best-suited for physical stamp clubs, there are several that are applicable to us. For example, we are listed in the APS club directory, are able to participate in the [Articles of Distinction](#) program, and receive a copy of [The American Philatelist](#), the monthly journal of the Society.

If you are not an individual APS member, please consider [joining](#) the organization. If you are going to apply for membership, indicate Chapter 1591 as your sponsor.



**It's Time
for a Stamp
Club Meeting**

Join us!

- Would you like to join a stamp club but you either can't find one or its meeting time doesn't fit your schedule?
- Would you like to discuss stamps with other collectors at any time you choose, day or night?
- Do you have questions about your stamp collection that you'd like to have help in answering?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we can help! The Stamp Forum, Chapter 1591 of the American Philatelic Society, meets online, 24/7 at thestampforum.boards.net. Feel free to check us out. If you have questions, please send them to us at stampforum.net@gmail.com.

