



## DEAR READER,

If this isn't brinkmanship I don't know what is,

I write this only a few hours before we are due to go to press. The Jamboree is over, the holidays long past, and the bloody clocks go to winter time at the end of the month.

And still we haven't finalised the designs for the notes.

Some yes, but not all, and Alan, Colin, and I have worn numerous pencils to the stubs, and still there is so much to do before they will be ready to show Terry & the rest of the world.

With a few exceptions I think our stamps have been, are, and will always be, some of the best designed and produced sticky bits of paper in the world.

They are complex enough, but bank notes are in another league. Their complexity of design & print is awesome, and because we have made such a huge success of creating stamps these notes have to be as good as it is possible to get, without of course the resources of a national mint. Recent (and somewhat painful) history has proved that everything had to be of the best. To see fabulous artwork compromised due to someone else's lack of care is painful enough with stamps, to go through that with very clever bits of paper 15 times the size, well I think you understand why I'm on such tenterhooks over this project.

So my friends, wish the chaps in Norfolk all the very best of British luck, and forqive me if you haven't seen my head

much above the parapet lately.

Thank heavens for miss 'H' I say, not only does she keep the home fires burning, she also looks after you splendid lot. All the very best b

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## THE RED BALLOON

The Jamboree set in motion a riot of stamps: the 6d, the 6d sport, seven 1/stamps, the 1/- sport, the other 1/- sport, and the tent triangle. But rarest of all is the stamp linked to the closing ceremony. On the gloriously hot and sunny Sunday afternoon, more than 300 red balloons were launched into a clear blue sky. Every adult at the Jamboree, and anyone who'd bought a Jamboree Goody Bag in advance, was eligible to enter the balloon race. All the labels for non-attendees were filled out on their behalf, but it seems that many who were there on the day didn't get around to completing their labels - must have been too busy enjoying themselves - and many balloons remained uninflated.

We offered an inducement for the return of labels - the finder of the most distant balloon would receive a prize, \$100 in cash, and they started arriving within a few days, from Wiltshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, then Nottinghamshire, and ultimately Yorkshire. The winner ended up in Pickering in North Yorkshire, 250-odd miles away from Wincanton, and the lady who returned it was duly sent a fat cheque.

The owners of the returned balloons had their label restored to them, but with the addition of an 'air mail' stamp attached to it, and they were also sent a mint example. These are not, of course, Discworld stamps, and Mr Howler has been very indulgent allowing them space in this Journal. But Discworld or not, they will be rare - only 14 labels were returned to us. So that's 14 stamps attached to labels, and 14 mint, and a lot of people who were at the Jamboree are now wishing they'd taken time out to fill out their label.

The stamp was designed by Bernard, and if anyone wants to have an 'aaah' moment, just check out the label that's tied to the balloon.

Is black the new black?

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Bernard's black V stamp was attached to the certificate - 56 stamps have been released in this way - but it just might reappear in other circumstances....

## Coming soon to a stamp album near you....

You will recall that the Watch raided the attic room of Mr Owlswick Jenkins and found sheets of forged halfpenny reds hanging up to dry. It is believed that a 'few hundred sheets' were confiscated, but of course it isn't known how many may have gone into circulation before he was apprehended. The quality of detail cannot be denied, but his attention to detail leaves something to be desired - a 50p green Tower of Art? - so it's not surprising that Mr Jenkins' fraudulent activities were uncovered. Evidence from the trial has been released to Mr Stanley Howler in his professional capacity, and we will shortly be able to release some of this material to interested collectors.

The annual meeting of the Cabbage and Brassica Growers Association is traditionally held this month, so it is a fitting time for the relaunch of two of Discworld's more cabbagey stamps. The Field of Cabbages will be re-released as a 25p stamp and in a spirit of cooperation across the Sto Plains, Two Shirts is issuing a new 2p stamp. October will also see the release of the final transition of the Bonk 1 bizlot stamp, and there will be a very limited edition commemorative cover bearing all stages of the transformation.

More from the Sto Plains in November, when Sto Lat adds a 2p and a 25p stamp to the existing 1p. We understand that sponsorship may have come from Apsleys Commercial Bank.

Two Hogswatch stamps will be released towards the end of the month probably Monday November 26 with a first day cover issued at the same time. And we understand that Klatch will be issuing stamps which we hope to bring to you in January.

We're not planning any stamp retirements at present.

Cabbage Count

The Cabbage Seed Packets were withdrawn at the end of July. The final count of each design is as follows:

<b>Big Hearted Arthur</b>	61
Kendle Green	60
Savoloy Special	60
Helit Prize	59
Kings' Snivel	70

A new trading item will be added to the Snail Mail envelopes in the near future

### PRINTING TECHNIQUES AN APOLOGY

Those of you who have followed this Journal from the beginning will know that we have always sought to make Discovorld stamps as 'real' as possible, both in terms of design and execution. We have tried to stick to methods which Messrs Teemer and Spools might not necessarily be able to use themselves, but would understand. This hasn't always been possible, and increasingly we have had to rely on a form of printing they would not recognise but which gives for the most part good quality detail.

The hunt continues for a more Discworld option letter press would be the most appropriate, but, sadly, far too expensive - so we have always hoped to use more offset-litho printing to create a much more old-style look which we know many of you appreciate. Usually the print-run required as a minimum makes this impossible, but we were approached by a local printer who offered an offset-litho print-run we could live with and we were seduced by it. The Lawyers' Guild penny stamp looks fine for a penny stamp, and the 'small print' comes out well, but significant detail has been lost on the \$5 and we were wrong to release it. So it's back to modern production methods for now, but the search continues for an offset-litho printer who can produce the quality that you and we expect.

## A Flagrant Offer

This issue's special offer is a proof sheet created by Messrs Teemer and Spools to clarify the exact nature of the activities of the 'Cabbage Field Two'. We trust it will finally put to rest the need for any further discussion on this indelicate matter. To order your copy, which will be sent in a plain brown wrapper, you will need the password: wowwow

### Advertisement section

Parker and Son's High Clas's Greengrocer's are proud to support the Cabbage and Sprout Fair, Sektober 1 - 3 at Big Cabbage. Award winning brassica's are now in stock. 1 Lobbin Clout, Ankh Morpork

Revelation Joe Pizza Parlour, Sto Lat Sektober special: All-On Pizza with Extra Peppers, plus side order of pickled cabbage. Buy one get one free.

Apsley's Commercial Bank, Sto Lat For all your banking requirements. Like Sto Lat, a bank that's as solid as a Rock

## NICHE COLLECTING By Colin Woodhouse

This article has had a very long gestation period, and has been the direct cause of a lot of apologies from me and much disappointment for our Hilary. So I have been suitably chastised! <hangs head in shame>

Anyway, here it is, at last! A pretty poor effort you might think, but it's the best you are going to get, so ... here goes:

What, exactly, is the hobby of 'Collecting' ... well, let's see what that completely accurate and wholly reliable source Wikipedia has to say ...

### Collecting

From Wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collecting) The hobby of collecting includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloging, displaying, storing, and maintaining whatever items are of interest to the individual collector. Some collectors are generalists, accumulating Star Trek merchandise, or stamps from all countries of the world. Others focus on a subtopic within their area of interest, perhaps 19th century postage stamps, milk bottle labels from Sussex, or Mongolian harnesses and tack.

That just about sums it up for me ... a clear definition of 'collecting as a hobby', and some neat examples of 'niche collecting' referred to rather dismissively as 'focus on a subtopic within their area of interest' ... so this is going to be a very short article! What else is there to say?

### THE END!

Well, perhaps there is just a little more ...

Almost everyone reading this will be a Collector of something ... probably including those small but beautiful Works of Art we call Discworld Stamps.

Some of us ... yes, I could name names ... you know who you are - suffer from an incurable desire to own the Full Set - every single variety of stamp, in every single variation, deliberate or accidental, sport or just printing variance. Ladies & Gentlemen ... I give you THE COMPLETIST.

Becoming a Completist may be a goal shared by many, but ... realistically ... it is just not possible for most of us ... maxed-out credit cards, loved ones with big sticks, finger-nail grips on sanity ... all have this way of getting in the way of achieving this particular holy grail.

What is the alternative, I hear you ask ... (or am I just hearing The Voices again ...) Anyway, even if you didn't ask, I am going to suggest an answer ... become a NICHE COLLECTOR.

I believe being one of these is legal in most areas of the world (unless certain varieties of sheep are involved), it's certainly less trying on your credit card, your sanity and your loved ones, and ... like many other addictive habits ... it can be curiously satisfying! And you don't even have to admit to it in public. However, the niche collector does need to have a strong will, nerves of steel and the ability to show great self control ... it's very easy to slip back into the old habits of 'I want EVERYTHING ... and I want it NOW! An in-depth understanding of the full meaning of The P-Word also comes in handy! Of course, we all understand that these essential characteristics are not easily found in our little world of Flataly. I never said it would be easy, did I?

I suppose, Dear Reader, that if you are into collecting for gain, hoping to sell on later at a big profit, niche collecting might not be for you, but if you just want to indulge and enjoy your obsession hobby, picking your niche and sticking to it could be the way for you.

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Niche Collecting can be applied to any form of Hobby Collecting, but is particularly useful in our own universe of Discworld Stamps. Here are a few of my suggestions ... not a complete list, the possibilities are endless ... but I believe there is a choice to suit every pocket.

1st Day Covers I like these, they are usually a limited edition, attractive works of art, which look very good in a suitable album.

Full Sheets suitable for those who desire a larger collection, but who can't be bothered with sorting through piles of single stamps.

Single Stamps collect ONLY ONE of each stamp issued

Stamps with Selvedge Attached a bit more esoteric than single stamps, with an added interest in the markings in the selvedge. These form a subject of study in themselves.

Corner Stamps - one stamps from each corner of the sheet, with selvedge attached to two sides, or ... to be a bit more 'exclusive top left, bottom rights, or ... well, you can work the rest out for yourself! This is a variant of the above, but a bit more exclusive.

SPORTS ONLY - not for the weak-hearted, cash-strapped or those of questionable sanity! Ok, I recognise that covers most of us ... so be warned! This is a dangerous option!

NO SPORTS - one of my favourite niches ... I'm good at this one, without having to try too hard.

Stamps of your Favourite Colour - For instance, I like black ... yes, really - I do.

Commemorative & Special Issues similar in many ways to First Day Covers, but could include all the 'one-off' stamps that appear from time to time.

LBEs don't bother with the stamps, just admire and file away the artwork that is the LBE design.

Hilary's Notes similar to the above, but even less stampy!

None of the above \*

Of course, even following the tightest guidelines in your own little niche will result, inevitably, in the acquisition of a number of items which don't fit your exacting requirements ... but, as you all know, this can be turned to your advantage! Swapsies! Or, to use a technical term ... Items for Trade. This is where you need to keep an eye out for the requirements of your fellow niche-collectors. Your 'unwanted rubbish' is almost certainly someone else's highly desired possession ... so TRADE! And it's a good way of making new friends too!

Above all, I recommend, Dear Reader that you try to remember one small but vitally important point.

Especially in the mad world of Flataly ...

Collecting is supposed to be FUN! So have fun!

This brings me back to my final niche suggestion ....

\* just collect what you can, when you can, and be proud of your unique collection! To be sure, no-one else will have one exactly like it!

Enjoy!

## Auction Price-Watch By Gavin Arnold



With the majority of sports and specials now selling for less than the price of a Little Brown Envelope I thought that it was time for a change. Rather than simply give a table of figures, I thought that it would be much more interesting and useful to single out a few of the higher priced stamps and covers and show the prices they are fetching (just a quick reminder that the prices given do not include postage which can be as high as £5 an item extra). I've tried to concentrate on the high price items and those that show some of the price variations that are part and parcel of auction sites. A good example is the way in which the once prized Red Nosed Patrician, Lancre Artifact and Civic Proof Sheets have fallen in price, while the 50p Hogswatch sport and the green Tower of Arts sports have held their price quite nicely.

The Jamboree gave us a number of new stamps and covers along with a large number of sports and specials, many of which have found their way to the auction lists. Once again the rarer stamps such as the Balloon Race stamp have fetched high prices but the more common ones such as the Green Triangle and One Shilling floorboard sport have reached quite high prices. Although more recently a Jamboree Green Triangle went for as little as £5.90 and a floorboard sport only made £12.40!

Rarity still commands a premium and the First Proof of Artwork sheets illustrate this quite nicely – as some of the Assassins First Proof of Artwork released as competition prizes filtered their way through to the auctions the prices fell to as little as  $\pm 56.00$ . By comparison an example of the recently released, albeit in very small numbers, Bonk Proof of Artwork (the only one to come up for public sale went for  $\pm 103.01$ . I've also included the various 4p and 6p Thieves Guild prices to show the way in which thins can and do differ.

Finally for this issue I would like to acknowledge the small number of dedicated regular sellers without which 'the other place' would be a very slow and unexciting place as far as Discovorld Stamps are concerned. I try very hard not to call them dealers as most, if not all of them, are very dedicated collectors (who just happen to have an LBE addiction). The best testament to these people was in a recent thread on the Discovorld Stamps forum that asked 'How did you start collecting Discovorld stamps?' The number of people replying that they were enticed through a certain auction site or a certain seller was quite surprising. The only down side to their hard work is that it takes me a lot longer to keep track of prices.

**Discworld Stamps Resale Price Guide** (~ based on average auction prices in July, August and September 2007)

Item	Average Price (£)	Number Sold
Jamboree Shilling Floorboard Sport	29.98	3
Jamboree Triangle	17.85	4
Balloon Race stamp	83.01	]
Balloon Race stamp - on card	25.00	1
Early Bird stamp	17.72	3
Jamboree Special Cover Design A	53.51	1
Jamboree Special Cover Design B	29.99	1
Bonk Proof of Artwork	103.01	1
Assassins Proof of Artwork	63.00	2
Hogswatch 50p sport	96.33	. 3
Red Nose Patrician	45.36	3
Purple Triangle	13.77	6
Green Susan	8.73	3
Lancre Artifact	36.76	2
Assassins Zombie	15.50	2
Assassins Un-gummed	26.01	1
Assassins Antidote	37.83	2
Civic Proof Sheet	18.34	3
Twinning Cover	104.52	1
4p Original Thieves Guild sport	38.00	1
4p Original Thieves Guild sheet	46.05	1
6p Original Thieves Guild sport	77.03	1
6p Original Thieves Guild sheet	46.02	1
4p Revised Thieves Guild sport	3.20	1
6p Revised Thieves Guild sport	24.78	1
Bad Blintz Rat Stamps (all types)	34.43	6
Customs Clearance Duty Stamp	19.99	1
Cabbage Seed Substitute x2	92.00	1
Cabbage Seed Substitute single	13.39	1
TOA Rainbow (various)	25.25	2
TOA Green – Falling man one flat bird	82.00	1
TOA Green – Bigger splash	132.00	1
TOA Green – Weathervane	97.00	1
TOA Brown	24.99	1

With the revelation that a certain Mr Owlswick Jenkins has been tried for the forgery of Ankh-Morpork stamps, Darren Hill takes a timely look at the dark world of fakery.

When is a stamp not a stamp? By Darren Hill

In many cases cinderella stamps are inspired by their real, postally valid brethren, rather than copies. A similar, less wholesome but still collected variant of this is the world of fakes, forgeries and counterfeits.

For the philatelist, a fake is a genuine stamp which has been altered to appear as something else, a forgery is a stamp produced to fool collectors and a counterfeit stamp is one produced to defraud a stamp-issuing government or similar body. And, as always, as soon as there were collectors there were people who wanted to make money out of them. After the first stamp was issued in Great Britain in1840, it took a mere 20 years for the first forged stamp to appear in the collector market.

In most cases, simply making a counterfeit stamp for postal use would not be financially viable, but the collector market and the extremely high value of certain rare stamp issues however have made it a lucrative field for criminals. As mirrored by the Discworld stamps, real stamps which have abnormal (or missing) perforations, gums, overprints or colour changes can command a hugely increased value over their common counterparts. This can even extend to faking postmarks on both stamps and covers.

The modern collector culture has even widened this to include other popular brands and themes. The most famous of these happened in 2003, when there appeared stamps purporting to be from the Russian state of Kyrgyzstan featuring Harry Potter. They were widely distributed and sold before the Kyrgyz postal administration belatedly announced that they had not issued them and they were entirely fake. Indeed as no royalties were paid to the film producers whose images they used, they



were doubly illegal.

And indeed even the Discworld stamps have occasionally had their fakes and forgeries, albeit mostly as a homage by fans and collectors without malicious intent. It can almost be viewed as a sign of the quality and appeal of the endeavour. It could even be a scheme worthy of von Lipwig...



IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN FIND IN THE GUTTER By Keith Bywood and David S Waskett

In Journal 11 Zach told us the incredible tale of the James Farley US reprints and their gutters. You wouldn't believe that someone in a position of trust could deliberately print errors (sports) in order to make money from gullible customers. And now, we realise, you are gasping to know more about gutter pairs.

Gutters were not invented. Like all the best things, they just happened. Early stamps were printed a sheet at a time on flatbed presses. They had margins (selvedge) all round but no gutters. Then rotary presses replaced flatbeds. These can print many sheets on a continuous roll of paper. The gaps between the panes or sheets of stamps are called gutters.

Generally the rolls of sheets are cut down to handy sizes for post offices and the gutters are no more. But not always. Gutter pairs are two stamps from different sheets which are still joined by the intervening gutter.

The gutter, like all sheet margins, is used to carry information of use to the printer or post office and this information is of interest to philatelists as well. For example French stamps after 1907 included the last digit of the year of printing, others have traffic lights, printers names, printing date and lots more. All are highly collectable and the gutter and/or information can add a considerable premium to the value.

One spectacular variety is the crossed gutter block. This occurs where 4 panes of stamps join. The intersecting margins (gutter) form a cross and a stamp appears in each corner.

There are three varieties of gutter stamps. Horizontal pairs as we have in the new Thieves Guild set, the cross, and vertical pairs. A DW sheet that includes crossed gutter pairs would do great damage to our bank accounts as everyone would need at least 2 sheets one to keep whole and one to tear up into the 3 versions. Let's hope the Artificer never thinks of it!

# Competition Results

In the last issue, Lucy Jefferies suggested a competition to find the most appropriate collective noun for flatalists. Well, that really got you all going. Ye gods, there are some of you out there who really do not recognise the concept of self-editing, leaving me to do all the work (as usual).

David Waskett submitted 12 suggestions including a stout and a morpork. As did John Moores, at the last minute I might add, whose offerings included a sufferance, a persistence, and a pitfall. Nigel Rogers topped that with 13, but he did at least distil from them his two personal favourites: a charming, neatly exploiting the cinderella connection, and an intimacy, for those who specialise in seamstress guild stamps and keep them pressed closely together between sheets in the dark. Nigel, I think you need a cold shower.

Martyn Ransom was not content with anything less than 26, one for each letter of the alphabet, starting with an asylum and ending with a zealotry, passing swiftly through a debauchery, a tyranny and, not surprisingly, a hugfest, en route.

Audrey Longhurst provided six, including the delightful bleat of Iwantones. (But it's supposed to be Flatalists, Audrey.) Gavin Arnold also came up with the six, including a waiting, not to be confused, he says, with patiently waiting. James Page confined himself to four, including a naivety, a comedy, and a complaint. Jonty Hird proffered just five, including a murmuration (which I think in this context is another word for 'grumble'), a pandemonium, and a frenzy. But that didn't stop him listing all the ones he'd rejected as well. Heather Avigdor kept it down to four, but one of them was An Abomination Unto Nuggan of Flatalists, so she made up for it in length. Natalie Smith was very restrained with just three: a glut, a league, and a horde, which also featured in several lists.

Danny Hyam, being a geologist, came up with a melange (a disordered mixture), or an orogeny, which is, apparently, a geological episode normally involving mountain building. In flataly terms, it could be, for example, a Hogswatch Orogeny. (Certainly Hogswatch does appear to feature the discovery of orogenous zones among some flatalists, especially after the pubs close.) Sue Hyam meanwhile seemed more interested in food, suggesting a salmagundi, or a smorgasbord. Between them they thought up a clamour, a generosity, and a poverty.

Heather Avigdor, Nigel Rogers and Geoffrey Forbes all suggested a perforation, with Geoffrey adding the explanation that it doesn't take much to tear them apart. He also added the 'smart-arse entry', a falanx of flatalists (both should be spelled with a 'ph'). Thank goodness for the few who restricted themselves to just one entry. Amongst these helpful souls were Zach Agatstein, who also suggested an asylum, Karen Carr who came up with an album, Kindra Jones with a bankruptcy, Per Stalby with a fortune, John O Neill with an embassy, and there were two neatly alliterative suggestions from Julian Fagandini; a flamboyance, and from Brian Delaney with a flatulence of flatalists.

Larry Hart and Darren Hill both offered a sheet, and Darren also suggested, among others, an issue, a complaint, and an impatience. Impatient? Flatalists? Perish the thought. Karen Richardson illustrated her proposals with pretty pictures, including a swarm and another alliterative suggestion: a flutter of flatalists.

Pete Elliott, Martin Stewart and Audrey Longhurst all came up with a lick, but Peter also came up with the longest, a floccinaucinihilipilification. It apparently means the action or habit of estimating as worthless, which I have to say doesn't instantly suggest flatalists to me, who often seem to estimate surprisingly great worth to small bits of sticky paper. But it would be a great coup in Scrabble, not least because it probably uses up the entire collection of 'i' tiles.

### But the 10 prizewinners are:

Jonty Hird: a ponder Because it has a strong Discworld connection...

Audrey Longhurst: a bleat Because... well I'd better not say why...

Karen Carr & Gavin Arnold jointly: an album Because it strongly suggests a collection. And stamps.

Sue and Danny Hyam: a clamour Because it could be used just as well as a collective noun for my email inbox on a Monday morning

Geoffrey Forbes: a Stanley Because flatalists have been known to have 'little moments'

Nigel Rogers: a charming Because of the Cinderella connection

James Page: a lamentation Because it sounds so much like a classic collective noun, and is what usually precedes a 'little moment'.

Steve West: a stampede Because it's very clever. Corny, but clever.

Pete Elliott: a tavernful Mine's a G & T please, Pete.

And Lucy Jefferies for coming up with the idea in the first place.



'Lucy could never understand why people were put off by her dancing at the Falatalist Ball'

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# Your Editorial Team Editor in Chief Mr Stanley Howler

Sub Editor	Miss Hilary Daniels	
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	Mr Keith Bywood and	
	Mr David A Waskett	
Financial Editor	Mr Gavin Arnold	
Art Editor		
(and for the foreseeable future night soil collector) Mr Bernard Pearson		

# Journal 12 Competition

The Royal Bank of Ankh-Morpork has written to tell you that your account is overdrawn, and that a penalty charge has been deducted.

Write a reply in not more than 100 words, justifying why you were overdrawn, or explaining why you shouldn't be penalised, or both. Consideration will be given for brevity, wit, and bare-faced cheek.



To be received at the Royal Bank of Ankh-Morpork, Ankh-Morpork Consulate Branch, not later than 4 January 2008







2007

ALL ABOUT STAMPS FROM THE HOME OF STAMPS

# FREE WITH THIS ISSUE: THE SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE BIG CARBAGE

# STAMP Helen Hill's stamp update Darren Hill's LBE update



If any of these items are missing from your Journal, please contact the editor, who will make the usual excuses.

Kindly address all correspondence, abuse, valedictory communications, or marriage proposals to:

## Hilary Daniels, The Stanley Howler Stamp Journal. c/o 41 The High Street, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 9JU

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