





DISPLAYED USING LITTLE BITS OF LIGHT



Published in Ankh-Morpork by the Post Office Press Printed by Teemer & Spools, Ankh-Morpork







Edited by: Mr Stanley Howler Assisted by: Steve James and others

The Coachman's Cautionary

Working on the Discworld Atlas, we've been exploring the existence and nature of Disc-wide transportation as a matter of course. Discovering more about the terrain between various towns and villages has increased our awareness of the treacherous routes traversed by the humble mail coach, made only more dangerous by bandits and unfavourable conditions.

This brings to mind a little landmark that I encountered on a recent trip to the Welsh Valleys. Now, I'm unsure where Von Lipwig stands on the matter of drunk mail coach drivers, but given the upstanding reputation of his operation at the A-M.P.O I'm sure he'd approve of the Victorian monument that stands on the A40 between Brecon and Llandovery.

The limestone pillar seems fairly unassuming at first glance, but its isolated location and lengthy inscription inspires a closer look. The 'Mail Coach Pillar' was 'Erected as a caution to keep from intoxication' in the 1840s when, at the helm of an



inebriated driver, a coach 'Went down over the precipice 121 feet where at the bottom near the river it came against an ash tree when the coach was dashed into several pieces'.

The details of the incident, complete with passenger locations at the crash site are

also carved into the stone, which is grade two listed and cared for by The Royal Mail Hertage Trust. As stated in the inscription, the stone was 'Suggested designed and erected by J.Bull inspector of mail coaches' with contributions from forty one public 'subscribers'. Speaking to BBC Radio Wales Llandovery town councillor Gill Wright said: "If it isn't unique, it' certainly very rare".

In our safety conscious world It is perhaps easier to imagine such a cautionary monument being erected by the Patrician after a driver's fateful visit to the Mended Drum, but the Mail Coach Pillar is a lasting reminder of the perils of drink driving and highlights the key role of the Post Office in promoting safety on the roads in the nineteenth century.

- Reb

New Lands and Untold Stories

The City of Ankh-Morpork is pretty well documented. Long before we worked with Terry on The Compleat Ankh-Morpork there was an established city whose landscape, highways and byways were known and featured in many stories. We may have put in a few back stories and filled out the details taking as our guide Georgian and Victorian London, but it was undisputedly there.

Information about the rest of the Discworld is much more patchy and apart from the areas around Ankh-Morpork the vast majority of the landscape is uncharted. Discworld is a place of un-named rivers, unpopulated forests and unknown landscape. It is from the journeys described: Ankh-Morpork to Lancre, Lancre to Genua. Ankh Morpork to Quirm or Bonk or Klatch that we are starting to put together the Compleat Discworld a companion volume to the Compleat Ankh-Morpork.

Just as Roundworld was mapped by the explorers who appropriated and named the lands they discovered, much of the Geography of Discworld, as we know it, is from the accounts of Explorers (or Trespassers as they are termed by Lord Vetinari)

The stories that led to the real Roundworld places called Doubtful Sound, Cape Tribulation and Poverty Bay can be guessed at, and by extrapolation will have their equivalent on Discworld. It is those stories that we are now unearthing. They will of course lead to the documentation of many new Countries and that of course means many new stamps – so watch this space.

Journal Offer

We have long ceased taking subscriptions for stamp journals, opting for this highly convenient and thoroughly free digital format instead. There are of course those who've waited many long months for news of what may become of their existing subscriptions, and to these patient people we're going to send free journal offer items until their subs expire in place of the journals themselves. If you have an incomplete subscription or need to make an enquiry please contact reb@discworldemporium.com

And so, to the offer itself...

We're celebrating the release of this new-fangled issue with the Year of the Frog Ascendant Stamp Sheet; twenty beautiful, hand perforated stamps that made their initial appearance in the first LBE of the year - The Year of The Frog Ascendant LBE – for only £6.00.

To purchase this exclusive sheet head to the <u>Stanley Howler Stamp Journal</u> <u>Section</u> of our website:

Minor Guilds of Ankh-Morpork

There's something wonderfully satisfying about a well organised, well planned and fully thematic suite of stamps that forms a coherent collection... Apparently. The trouble is, the structure of our stamp design meetings often mimics a sort of Brownian motion usually reserved for drunk four year olds. However, the Year of the Frog Ascendant is upon us, a new year, a new start... a new range for Discworld Stamps. Our new mini-sheet collection is aimed at providing a way for you to own tons of new Discworld Stamps in a simple, inexpensive and thematic way. Periodically we will be releasing multiple mini-sheets of

stamps in a series, the first set, for instance, will be the 'Minor Guilds of Ankh-Morpork'. Each instalment of this collection will comprise a mini-sheet set of 6 stamps and a presentation card with information about the guild. THE GUILDS OF ANKH-MORPORK COLLE INFOR GUILD

Shown here is the Guild Of Archaeologists sheet. The very first instalment features Mr. Robinson, head of the guild (showing his full range of 'comical pullovers sporting witty mottos') on a tuppeny stamp from the AMPO. The sheet is A6, as is the presentation card with all you need to know about the guild, so they display well side by side in a standard A4 stock book.

All of the stamps featured in the mini-sheet collection will be exclusively sold in mini-sheets. Not appearing in LBEs, GCTS, journals or anywhere else... for the equivalent price of an FDC you'll be getting 6 variants of an exclusive stamp and the presentation card. You are guaranteed to get the set, the whole set and nothing but the set. What could be simpler? The Guild of Archaeologists mini-sheet will be available in February, further releases will follow periodically and include such august organizations as Guild of Barber Surgeons and the Guild of Armourers. More details will follow upon release, we hope you enjoy learning more about some of Ankh-Morpork's more modest guilds and that you'll consider building these little asides into a cohesive collection over the course of the next few months.

CLUDIT PLATEIS

- lan

Discworld Cryptic Crossword

Some clues are easy and fun, some are anagrams or quotes, some seek to be worthy of the devious mind of Grace Speaker herself - enjoy!



Across Down

1. Suicidal bulb planter (4) 4. "Whose frosty tints illuminated" Wyrd Sisters (9) 7. Noise? What noise? Play on! (4) 10. Old Holy Horns (2) 11. See 16. Across 12. Me? No, you want my cousin (4) 13. & 11. Down: The place to irritate a rodent (3.5) 14. Fall in laughing? Ask Mr Johnson (2,2) 16. & 11 Across: Sweet siblings (5,7) 17. It's their duty to visit the infidels with explanatory pamphlets (7) 20. A young one, an old one and a long one in short (4) 21. Plain Helit (3)

- 23. & 26. Across: If it ain't broke..... (3,8)
- 25. What the reckless do at Haga's (3)

- 26. See 23. Across
- 27. Lucky to begin with see, we hear (3)
- 29. Rex guondam, rex futurum? Rex hic et nunc!

- 30. My first comes before the ring and expensive
- centre, we hear (5) 31. Photographic buddy? (3)
- 32. See 19. Down
- 36. Go a mile to send a letter (4)
- 37. Fixed the barrel (6,4)
- 41. In short, nothing like a nerdy professor (5)
- 43. One I say, fool ! (4)
- 45. Put hand to cheek, they're both in the pink (5)
- 46. What do you do in the rain? Me, sod all ! (8) 47. Put a curse on you? No, it will work it out (3)
- 48. Explored up and down (2,2) 49. See 37.

- Down
- 2. A tart golom, or a lady perhaps? (10) 3. A horse, a horse, this kingdom for a horse! (5) 4. Fallen hero of the Glorious Revelotion (6,9)
- 5. Not re a fume farm (7) 6. & 24. Down: This sweet and cloying path
- belongs to me (7,4,4)
- 8. Upwards? Downwards? Outwards? No (8) 9. A tyrant by another name (3,8)
- 11. See 13. Across
- 15. An absence of these can cause deep
- psychological problems
- in the residents, poor dears (7) 18. High energy computer worker (3)
- 19. & 31. Across: ".....and coloured the midnight snows" ibid
- (6,8)
- 20. Just a tiny piece of cake, to begin with (3)
- 21. Lupina mater (8)
- 22. He's up the river without a paddle, we hear (4)

24. See 6. Down 28. My last is in Monkey, but never Lilbrarian! With my beginning he will greet you, but only from behind. My whole is a place almost impossible to find (4) 33. Rust, Downey, Winder, Snapcase - Gentry all 34. Like father. like son (6) 35. What a total whittle! (5) 37. & 49 Across: There's weeds in the grass. doctor! (5,4) 38. Mostly human. Allegedly (5) 39. The never sleeping arm of the law (5) 40. Throw an offering to the Lady (4) 42. Mad, bad and dangerous to know, just ask 5. Down (4) 44. Will his Mrs let him come out to play in the end? (3)

The password to unlock the solution is the first letter of : 15, 36, 25, 5, 49, 35 (UPPERCASE)

Developing a Stamp Album

I'm lazy. It has been my method of working for over 40 years. I do what I have to do and avoid additional effort. I build systems that eliminate as much error as possible.

I adored the stamp albums I saw posted on the forum. They were works of art. I also realised there was a great deal of effort making each page.

Did I say I was lazy?

I didn't want to spend ages designing and creating each page. By this time the stamps issues were already close to one hundred. This was a lot of individually crafted pages.

I first tried developing an automatic album generator using Martyn's stamp spreadsheet but it lacked one important component - images. However, the work was not wasted; it taught me a lot about layout and page construction.

When Martyn handed over the role of 'Keeper of the Stamp Rolls' I spent a lot of time considering how to create the ultimate Discworld Stamp Catalogue. It needed images, it needed an index and it needed to be easily available.

Being a programmer I did what came naturally; I created a database and I wrote an application, in MS Access, to manage the whole thing. Took quite a while to scan the stamps and put together the information. Unfortunately there was a lot of missing information. The date of withdrawal was not available for all stamps so I decided to put it to one side; concentrating on indicating if the stamp was available or not.

It took me four years before I found the time to start to develop the album.

The design needed to take the size and number of stamps together with the stamp information. The positioning of the stamp images; horizontal, vertical or in a block needed to be made on an individual basis. All this has to be built into the stamp database.

Ok I am not that lazy. I just try to see the easiest way to achieve something.

I created a form which allowed me to enter and maintain the stamp details. Then I wrote the code which would create the album pages. After a few false attempts, crashes and a lot of wasted paper I was ready.

Bugger!

The web pages looked great, but the stamps didn't look right. Minor differences in scan resolution and image size were magnified when printed resulting in misshaped stamps. The Farthing Merchant stamp was a total failure. Back to the drawing board; I had to scan most of the early stamps and adjust the dimensions; I learnt about pixels, millimetres and twips.

I could now create the stamp album at a press of the button. I use Word to generate the catalogue and save the pages in PDF format.

Ok it wasn't a work of art that I had seen created by others but it was somewhere I could place my stamps.

I printed out a few test pages only to discover that you must ensure to set the output print parameter to Actual Size otherwise the stamps images will be shrunk.

From now on life will be easy. Once I have added the stamp details and images to the web site I just click a button to create the new album pages.

For ease of downloading the album is split into year sections.

For my album I use Ryman's White Hammer Finish A4 100gsm paper and the various clear Hawid Mount Strips which I cut to size. If you wish to buy ready cut mounts may I suggest you check out Murgatroyd's excellent stamp mount chart which is exclusively available from the Catalogue web site. I then put the page into a acid free plastic folder.

At the moment you get what I create. You take it or leave it. I think it is a bargain because you don't have to do anything. Did I say I am lazy?

However, in the near future I am intending to release a version the code so you can modify the page layout as long as you know a bit about Word styles and VBA code. The images will be linked to those on the Catalogue web site.

Watch this space...

- Steve

Journal 26 Competition entries

Winners will receive a strip of the portal properties duty stamp (shs0294.html)



Yael Kellman and Taly Spitz





Alexander Kosach



a.m

Canyou handle:

Rocks Trolls with sticks All sorts of Dragons Mrs Cake Huje green things with teeth Rains of Spaniels Any kinds of black dogs with orange eyebrows fog Mrs Cake

fonty

p.0.

And know your way around Then we at the A.M.P.O.

NEED

YOU !

For careers information and vacancies apply to Miss Maclariat at the Ankh-Morpork Post Office.

12

PONY EXPRESS

INKH-MORPORK TO GENUA

in 10 days or less.

YOUNG, SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS

not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week.

APPLY, MOIST VON LIPWIG, POSTMASTER Ankh-Morpork Post Office, Widdershins Broad Way

Julia Fagandini

Jonty Hird



Are you bored with your life?

Then the Ankh-Morpork Post Office is the place for you. At Post Office Counters you can be kind and helpful to pleasant customers. You can help them with their enquiries and send them off feeling happy with a smile on their faces. You can be officious and obstructive to obnoxious customers and send them to the back of the queue because they filled in the form wrong and put a smile on your face.

At the end of the day you can have a laugh with your colleagues and go home knowing you will be happy going to work the next day.

ARE YOUR TALENTS BRING WASTED?

Then the Ankh-Morpork Post Office is the place for you. You can be assured that the Post Office has a challenging job for you, both inside and outside.

Inside you can develop your skills in stamping, franking, punching and tossing fragile parcels around. Outside you can traverse the streets of Ankh-Morpork[§]. You can bring joy to people by delivering birthday cards and presents and bring joy to yourself by delivering bills and tax demands. There is nothing more enjoyable than folding the large cardbacked envelope and forcing it through the letterbox. Sexcluding The Shades

ARE YOU BEING HELD BACK?

Then the Ankh-Morpork Post Office is the place for you. Starting at the bottom is a problem if you know you won't

 always be there.
Our youth training scheme is one of the most comprehensive

in Ankh-Morpork. You will be placed on a 1 hours training course moving up from making tea all the way to collecting the bacon sandwiches from Gimlet's Hole Food Deli. In time you may be allowed to carry the money. You will be trained how to spot where dogs lie in wait for the unwary trouser-wearing person, to recognise those letterboxes fitted with sharp edges and strong springs. It is a man's life on the postal service. You must remember this is a long term position and you will be following in the steps of more experienced colleagues. In time you will be able to accompany more experienced personnel on their rounds and if you show the aptitude you may be permitted to put a letter through a letterbox, after careful inspection.

Your future is in our hands

The Ankh-Morpork will make a man of you regardless of gender or species. The Ankh-Morpork is a cradle to grave employer. Leaving us will not be easy.

Apply in person to the Ankh-Morpork Post Office and ask for the Post Office application form reference AMPO7-1 a (revised 1875)

Steve James

Comings and goings...

There have been changes and transitions aplenty this year, as we streamline the Discworld Stamp range to make things a bit simpler for our collectorship and in order to better manage our production schedules to fit amongst the Emporium's other commitments, whether it be Atlases, Bestiaries, convention appearances, shop duties, or hearty pub lunches.

Since journal 26 back in May we've said farewell to last year's Definitves; the Guy De Yoyo \$1; Lawyers Guild 1p; 50p Cabbage Field; Llamedos Ffyrling and Fourecks 5 Squid. Now-retired limited editions include the Omnian Quisition one Obol; Mr Tiddles 5p; Castle of Bones 50p and Post Early for Hogswatch minisheet. In the endangered section of our site rest the Assassins' Guild 20p, Hippo \$1 and Uberwald 10 Bizot. We've also welcomed the Blind Io 5p; Seamstress 2p; Aniger 3p; UU Half Farthing and Penny Farthing; the \$5 Least Gate Triangle; Agatean Half Rhinu; new Llamedos Ffyrling; Dollar Civic to coincide with the release of The Compleat Ankh-Morpork, and a new Definitives range for the Year of the Frog Ascendant.

As this journal issue has been badly affected by temporal distruption, by the time these words are digested the new 50p Red Cabbage Field and Fourecks issues will no doubt be in circulation. The decision to go red was inspired by recent research on the town of Big Cabbage; home of The Biggest Cabbage in the World, and, er, Cabbage World - with so many varieties of this wonderful vegetable to be found on the Sto Plains, why stick to common green?

We know how difficult and costly chasing variants of stamps in LBEs can be which is why we've launched our new Minisheet Collection, to be released periodically and cover various themes per collection. Beginning with Minor Guilds of Ankh-Morpork series, this is an affordable way to build collections of Discworld stamps in favour of more expensive First Day Covers and proofs which will soley be reserved for very special occasions. The first issue concentrates on on the Guild of Archaeolgists and can be found in the Minisheet Collection category of our website - http://www.discworldemporium.com/discworld-stamps/Discworld%20stamp

We may have missed a traditional release for Valentines Day due to preparations for the Australian Discworld Convention, but we're busy working on an LBE for April Fool's Day, a date that we'd be foolish to miss!

For more information on releases past and present visit the <u>Discworld Stamp</u> <u>Catalogue</u> at http://www.discworldstampcatalogue.co.uk/index.html

- Reb



Competition

To celebrate the visit of Ian and Reb to the Australian Discworld Convention, Nullus Anxietas IV, we want you to conceive and create a postcard to those who remain back home.

Beware of Imitations

We have been producing Discworld stamps for nine years come the 9th July this year, and for the last five years they have been designed solely here in Wincanton under an exclusive Discworld license.

I still have the note on my wall setting up the launch at Bath Postal Museum where

Terry and I perforated those very first stamps on that old Victorian machine. We really don't know how many stamps we have produced but it is in the millions, it has to be judging by the amount of paper we have got through.

The first and most important requirement from Terry when the whole idea of stamps was being discussed was that everything we produce must be done correctly. We still use real security-issue gummed paper not some licky-sticky back A4 sheet. Our artwork has the backing of Terry himself and his new licensing company Narrativia Ltd.

The stamps are printed professionally by a

company that has over forty years of experience in the print trade and uses machinery that in some cases dates back to the turn of the century. Most importantly of all when you collect our issues you are buying into a tradition of quality and originality that you can sell on or trade, safe in the knowledge that it is the real thing even if the places don't exist.

Furthermore, when we say that an issue has been sold out, that issue is indeed sold out; extra editions are not found in the back of filing cabinets or down the back of the sofa.

I suppose that old adage "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" does hold good to a value of good, but when I was shown examples of "so-called" Discworld stamps, purporting to be the real thing I can understand why the lawyers of Narrativia Ltd might well be interested.

Narrativia Ltd. was set up late last year to oversee the Discworld Brand and its licensing to film companies on the one hand and producers like us on the other. It employs top entertainment and copyright lawyers to protect not just Terry and his work but also all who share in the copyright. We would be grateful if you would continue to let us know if you are offered anything you suspect may not be licensed product. We have a responsibility not only to Terry and his successors but also to our collectors who have invested so much of their hard-earned cash in our products. By safeguarding Terry's interests we serve our own and that of our collectors. It is a responsibility we have been instructed to take very seriously. Everything will be dealt with in the strictest confidence, and we would like to thank all those who have alerted us to such issues in the past.



Contact us

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints please place them on a piece of paper and send them to

Editor, Stanley Howler Journal c/o The Emporium, 41 The High Street Wincanton Somerset BA9 9JU



Alternately you can contact us electronically using the Contact Form.

Discworld ® is the registered trade mark of Terry and Lyn Practhett: Text and Images Copyright 2010-2013 © Discworld Emporium

- Bernard

