

A message from our resident philatelist. Stuart Urighton, who's here to make sure we get our stamps and suchlike absolutely 'right' from the start.

It is with absolute pleasure that I have been offered, and gladly accepted, this role as sub-editor to Stanley Howlers' Stamp Journal. To be able to combine two hobbies and tell others without them nodding off the moment the words stamp and collecting (or collector) are uttered.

So how did I get into stamp collecting (or hoarding as my wife may suggest)? I suppose I should thank my father for getting me started with my first collection, probably with a view that it would give me something to with my hands and keep me out of trouble (though not necessarily at the same time) and might prove to be educational as well.

Since then it has been filling the gaps. Nothing beats the sensation of completing a set or a run of stamps covering a number of years. Equally looking at the gaps in one's collection is not so good. Those of you who don't have the \$5 "Blue" I know how it feels!

I would like to collect every individual stamp out there as each is unique having been on different envelopes, to different towns, cities and countries and licked by who knows who! This is clearly an impossible dream so I now specialise in the stamps of five countries and correspondence from the valiant men who fought in the Great War.

As your sub-editor I hope to bring you many articles of interest that will allow you to understand and appreciate your collection even more. Such articles include;

Varied methods of mounting your stamps Stamp tweezers through history The Knife and Fork cancellations

Stuart Wrighton

In the next issue we will introduce you to Colin Edwards & Alan Batley, the boys who do all the drawing & clever stuff that takes an idea into something you can lick the back of. And it is to them we dedicate this first issue.

Editor in Chief: Mr Stanley Howler Our resident Mr Stuart philatelist & Wrighton cub editor. Office manager. Uncle Steve post boy & sub-sub editor Art editor. Bernard trainee post boy Pearson & bookies runner Granny Pearson Everything else

Nour Editorial Team



DEAR READER,

This is the first of the quarterly journals of DISCWORLD Stamp Fanciers.

The fact that you have purchased a full years subscription, entitling you to four full issues tells the world a lot about you.

But fear not, we shall not share this information with anybody unless required to do so by law or money.

For at the heart of it, this little journal is all about **FUN**, the sort of clean wholesome fun that Terry and others of our generation grew up with in the nineteen fifties.

If you have been there then you will know that **FUN** was simpler then.

Fun was squeezed into life past boiled cabbage, scratchy underwear, and grownups who went on and on about the war.

FUN happened in America and was seen when you or a neighbour had television. It was experienced briefly at Saturday morning pictures, and at home in collecting Stamps or some other easily swapped item.

In short, we are going to take some of you on a journey into your past, and others on a journey into history. And all the while telling you about the wonderful world of DISCWORLD Stamps.

So do write in with your problems for the **PROBLEM PAGE**.

Make use of the **SWAP SHOP**. You can swop stamps, lawn mowers, bicycle parts, old money etc. Lets stuff e-bay and swap like we used to in the playgrounds of yesterday.

And then there is fun & games to be had on the **PUZZLE PAGE**.

And of course we have a real clairvoyant who will use her wiles to tell us all things we need to know. Put worry aside, grasp our tweezers in hand, and really get that fun into our lives that goes along with collecting lovely stamps.

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PLUS ... THE STANLEY HOWLER JOLLY PUZZLE & COMPETITION



STAMP FACTS

Stamps have always fascinated me, I have never really collected them as such, but I have always liked looking at them. They seem to have such an air of authority about them, in the same way that real money used to have, when a ten shilling note could spell a night of solid drinking, and you only saw a fiver on pay day. Money with style and real gravity, serious bits of paper that had to be housed in wallets the size of a wardrobe.

Stamps were like that, but with the added mystery of 'foreign'.

Stamps with the heads of kings, queens, dictators, presidents, with strange devices and flags, and all in the sort of colour you didn't get every day.

Of course all you ever saw in stamp books were fuzzy black images at the top of the page, it was in the cellophane packet that you got with it that had the real thing. Stamps that had presided over letters of introduction, letters of love, letters of pain, letters of plenty, and of course letters of intent both good and bad.

You've only to read "Going Postal" to realize the degree of collaboration. As Terry was writing the book, so I was suggesting ideas and producing drawings. Some of the images were suggested by Terry and others resulted from deep and meaningful consultations over a pint or two.

We consulted print historians, philatelists, stamp dealers and museums to get the design and production right.

From my rough sketches and layouts Colin Edwards; who knows the print game inside out, and is a bit of a lad with a Mac, knew a man who could wield a mean quill called Alan Batley.

They could do all the things I couldn't and between us we created the stamps you see today,

It was thanks to the rather splendid Bath Postal Museum I found the last ever, lineal perforator. It dates from Victorian times, and with our help they have got it working again.

That's the good part; the bad part is that this machine like so many of its era does not work on electricity, in fact its leg power, just like a treadle sewing machine. Not only that, the single sheets of stamps have to be fed in by hand, and lined up by eye, not just once of course, but for every line of perforation at each side of the stamp.

The majority of the stamps have been produced in the traditional manner, on old fashioned gummed paper, by a very old and respected company who normally print stamps for entire countries rather than a small outfit in Somerset.

The Half Penny Post Office Red.

The original drawing was produced for a scale model of the Post Office. This included a floor plan as well as information on the loading bays and great courtyard. When a Half Penny Red was suggested Terry specified the post office. It was only when it had been drawn up that he thought a fifth floor might need to be added, so adjustments were made, and the Ankh-Morpork Post Office is now a small piece of art, imitating fiction.

The Penny Patrician Black.

It was the first stamp I created after that fateful meeting with Terry in November 2003 when we all thought it would be such fun to 'do' some stamps. I had the profile of the Patrician on file, as played by that well known thespian Mr Stephen Briggs.

It was the matter of a moment to drop it on to a picture of a 'penny black' and it certainly showed promise. I e-mailed it to Terry who was delighted, and so it all started.

Of course there is absolutely no truth in the rumour the Mr Briggs in any way resorts to hair colouring save when he his treading the boards as an actor. However, when it is put to 'one' that it would be a 'jolly lark' to have just a few of the Patrician Penny's with the hand of time, restored to his tonsureal splendour, then who am I to gainsay it. And thus it was done.

The Ankh Two Penny Purple.

This was probably the easiest stamp to design in principal, but a right bugger to get to look 'right'. It works visually because it contains classic elements of stamp design, a foliate border rich in detail and a coat of arms that when examined closely is so far off the wall as to be pure heraldry.

The Five and Ten Penny Morporkia's

I had constructed the figure of Morporkia from a brief from Terry some time ago. She first saw

the light of day on a song sheet of all things, that had the Ankh-Morpork National Anthem that Terry had written. When I dropped her; gently I must add, on a stamp Terry came up with the lovely idea of her holding a toasting fork rather than a trident. He also stated a preference for a 'coal scuttle' helmet. When I got Alan Batley to engrave her I suppose I should have pointed out that 'coal scuttle' in this context should be a form of military helmet. Being a Norfolk boy with a keen sense of humour, he put on her noble head a coal (keep the home fires burning) type scuttle. Terry liked it, and thus, forever it is.



The Fifty Pence Cabbage Green.

This stamp was being written in the book as I was putting it together, and when I showed the rough drawings to Terry I knew it was a winner.

There has been a plethora of cabbages of late, and it would be safe to say they seem to have propagated in almost every crevice of Discworld art, literature, and science. It was not surprising therefore that we just had to have at least one stamp that rejoices in this fact.

Once I had constructed a suitable frame I then added a small-engraved vignette that Shelia Watkins had produced for the Almanak, and lo and behold, after the magic touch of Colin Edwards, a really perfect truly Discworldian stamp.

Bugger me it was so good that Waterstone's chose it as their exclusive for their first day cover.

The \$1 Tower of Art.

If there is one stamp that sums up just what Discworld Stamps are all about it is the \$1 Tower of Art.

It is probably the most unusual stamp that has been produced to date; Terry Pratchett himself sketched its design out when the idea of Discworld Postage Stamps was first being discussed.

The concept was worked up by Bernard Pearson before being given to Alan Batley; the artist engraver, who gave the design the superb look you see now.

If you have good eyesight you can see the falling man and the splash as he hits the river Ankh. The view of the Unseen University in the background is as accurate a depiction you can get, without being there, and of course from the sketch on the back of an envelope came the words in the book, and thus a small piece of gummed paper that is the essence of Discworld.

The \$5 Brass Bridge Blue Triangle.

All right, we admit it, this stamp bears more than just a passing reference to the other blue triangle stamp which is worth a packet of cash. Apart from the colour, venue, and value, Alan had a clear hand. Clever little sod, it needs a good glass to see all the work that has gone into this. Wanted something very special to be 'our' blue triangle, and bless him, he did it.

FUN WITH STAMPS

Things to do with stamps Number 1.

In the olden days when stamps were first about some people did some very funny things with stamps. Because they were sticky, small, and made a regular pattern they used them as wallpaper, lampshades and the like.

You can try this for yourself, but don't expect to be able to do it with the \$5 Blue Triangle.



WHAT'S NEW

We are working on the Guild Stamps at the moment, and the ramifications of this are awesome.

Terry has, as usual, turned a simple tune into a magnificent symphony, played by an orchestra of hundreds, and a dog with a tin whistle.

Below is his description of the assassins guild stamp, need I say more.

The Assassins Guild: the Post haste Black (v. rare). Very few Assassins Guild Stamps were sold gummed after it was rumored, without hard evidence, that the Guild was using some to poison 'clients'.

After the outcry and a possibly coincidental funeral, the remaining gummed stamps were withdrawn and only ungummed ones are now sold. A few un-used gummed stamps have found their way onto the market and of interest to collectors, but a sealed transparent envelope is advised.



The Merchants Guild.

This Guild embraced the idea of postage stamps and their value as currency with remarkable speed. It is entirely possible that one or more of the senior officers of the guild share the same lodge, as does Mr Spools of Teemer & Spools the only authorised stamp engravers and printers.

Whatever the method used to facilitate the speedy design and production of their stamps they are now widely in use both as a medium of postage and an ad hoc currency.

It is calculated that their stamps change hands at least six times before they are used for the purpose of actual postage. It is entirely possible that the larger denomination stamps never in fact see the inside of a postman's bag.

Being merchants and tradesmen who know the true value of everything they are printed on the thinnest paper possible, with whatever inks Messers Teemer & Spools have on the plates at the time.

The denominations are:

The One Farthing.

Sponsored by the candlewick makers and oilmen.

The Penny Farthing

Sponsored by the Grocers and Purveyors of Dry Goods.

The Three Penny.

Sponsored by the Fish Mongers.

The Fifty Penny

(Half dollar) sponsored by the Butchers & tripe merchants.

The Five-Dollar Merchants Guild Special.

Which in postal terms will carry a small package to Genua and back, and can therefore be regarded as a de-facto promissory note against Guild funds.

The Beggars Guild

Almost impossible to catalogue as any stamp or even sweet wrapper is utilised as free postage by this guild.

We advise careful hygiene in the handling of these stamps as weeping sores and chancres are not just for cosmetic effect but can also provide a usable adhesive.

Following on from these will be other Guilds and then the adjacent Kingdoms.



And for HOGSWATCH 2004

We will be producing a yearly Hogswatch Stamp plus a First Day Cover. For this year we have been given permission to use Paul Kidby's rather fine drawing of the Hogfather. Needless to say there will be sausages somewhere on the stamp and the envelope will also have the festive trotter somewhere I'm sure.

The stamps will be available throughout the year but the first day cover will be on sale only during December. Of course as pals of Stanley Howler, you get the first chance to collect them.



OUR STARS AHEAD



UNCLE HENRY'S

THE

where

The oldest

to be found

working lineal perforator is

ORNER

Madame De La'Perfforrate' a renowned mystic, clairvoyant, and specialist in 'adult' wreki, has cast her eyes skywards to read from the stars our paths ahead.

> **Predictions for November 2004 to January 2005** For those born between January and March. Roughly the house of Io, but don't take my word for it.

For the ladies, stay at home, its just toooo cold, wrap up with something warm. For the gentlemen amongst you, get real, get rough, get ready. Lucky stamp the 10p Morporkia, it will bring you wealth. Lucky colour, well anything that goes with your eyes darlings. Lucky fabric, silk my dears, always silk. For those born between April and July.

Well more of the same really, but do keep wrapped up. Mink is so good for this, especially as they hibernate, at least I think they do, mine are certainly very still at the moment.

The stars are clouding over now my dears, and Hans has got a little drink waiting for me, so I must go and see to him, the dear boy.

Let me know if any of you have any 'special' problems, and I'll see what I can do, the stars always have an answer you know.

Yours, as ever, Simone de la Perreforrate.

mystic to the stars



So send in NOURS

PROBLEM PAGE Of course, we will be offering special PRIZES for the 3 best problems in the next issue

Write your answer on a postcard, with your name & address and send it to:

Uncle Henry

The Cunning Artificer's

41 The High Street, Wincanton. Somerset, England. BA9 9JU.

All replies received by Jan 2005 will be placed in a postman's sack, and the first 3 correct cards will receive a mint set of all the \$1 Tower of Art stamps.

SWAP SHOP

Gets to the parts e-bay can never reach ... and it's all free. Just send details of what you wish to swap together with your name & address to: The Editor The Stanley Howler Stamp Journal 41 The High Street,





BON'T FORCET TO ORDER YOUR



MR TERRY PRATCHETT



The only place for a **DI/CWORLD** /tamp

A message from our Editor in Chief. Stanley Howler.

Stamps are fun, stamps can tell you all about the world we live in without going out of your home. Stamps are friends that will always stick by you, and never let you down. Stamps are important, they are little coloured carriers that tell our brave postman that the letters they so wonderfully embellish are special and must always get through. And even when a stamp has done its job, its still there for us 'stampers' to keep and cherish. So in this journal Mr Henry and his merry helpers will tell you all about our STAMPS, how they are made, what is special about each and every one of them, and all the interesting facts about stamps from all over the Dysk.

Have fun everyone, and keep your sunny side up, just like our stamps eh. Yours truly

Stanley Howler.



If you would like a pen friend, or just tell the world about your collection, ask the experts, have a moan, then put the pen to the paper, and write. Snail Mail only.

Please Address all correspondence to:



The Editor The Stanley Howler Stamp Journal 41 The High Street, Wincanton, Somerset. England. BA9 9JU



If you are amongst the lucky first 500 you will have this stamp enclosed.

It is the only un perforated Patrician Black. You will note that it has slightly greyer hair than the normal PB. In fact it was the first 'Eminence Grey' that we showed Terry. He suggested that there were some modifications, but due to a cock up some were already in print.

So we thought, they are rare, special, can be identified with a good magnifying glass, we'll give them to friends.

Thank you for being a friend and ordering our journal.

This Issues FREE stamp The very rare Patrician Penny Red.

When the first stamps were being printed at Teemer & Spools they tried a variety of inks before settling on black as being water proof, permanent, and cheep.

This Penny Patrician was a trial, and very few actually found there way on to any envelopes. Mr Lipwig kindly allowed the Editor to appropriate the print run, which he has kindly passed on to us for discreet distribution amongst his fellow 'stampers' We hope you will cherish and enjoy this fraterna

We hope you will cherish and enjoy this fraternal offering.

ALL ABOUT STAMPS FROM THE HOME OF STAMPS Number



The Editor

2004

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