



## DEAR READER,

## A word of advice ....

As you get older you hear the same bloody thing being said by yourself, that your parents uttered.

At the time, you possibly thought it a load of rubbish, got on with your like, and consigned it to the meaningless mumble of the old and farty. My father was an old soldier, and a boxer, and a wily old sod to the end. He always used to say, attack with all you've got, and never, never, fight on two fronts.

Over the years there has been occasion when I have passed on these little pearls of wisdom to my own children, and you would have thought that I might have learned from them myself.

Did I hell!

For the past three months or so, we have been busily engaged on three major projects. All at once, at the same time, with not a fag paper's thickness between the seams.

1. The Jamboree 2. The stuff for Making Money. 3. A new web site. Did we plan it this way? No. But it happened, and all of us have been running like stink to try and catch up.

So I would like to say a huge, public, thank you to Hilary, Isobel, for doing such a splendid job in spite of me, and to Colin & Alan for all the really great stuff on the stamps & covers. To Fi, Ken, Aine & Mark, and all the others who have pitched in to lend a hand, take the weight, move the mountain, to get this Jamboree on the road.

So remember my dear friends,

Do as yer old uncle Bernard says, not what he has just done.

Keep it simple, one big job at a time...

Just the one. O.K.

#### Yours as ever - b

PS.

Uncle Toms has become a smoke free zone, all you can hear is the slow sighing of old smokers as they shuffle off into the yard for a puff. Oh the indignity, the shame, a Cider House that has reeked of old tobacco smoke for over 250 years now smells of the bar keepers 'Lynx' aftershave and old Jimmers sox.

The England of my youth, oh how I long for thee..

#### Dear Reader

With the days to the Discworld Jamboree counting down, we're starting to feel in-tents, so unsurprisingly this issue has a strong scouting theme. Scouting and stamps have of course been linked for many years, as Darren Hill recalls on page 8.

We also have a commemorative theme. We've just celebrated the third anniversary of Discworld stamps, another milestone along this particular trouser leg of time, though sadly we were all too busy to stop for jelly and cake and blowing out of candles. We remember instead Sir Rolande de Colline, warrior-knight turned postmaster, on page 5.

As ever, we are indebted to our stalwart contributors. Zach Agatstein has contributed a story of political corruption - with stamps - in the USA, and Gavin Arnold has once again produced an Auction Watch report.

Finally, you will be pleased to note that the Editorial Office of the Stanley Howler Journal is now a designated No Smoking Environment. So no more kippers for breakfast.

Assistant Editor

## CONTENTS CONTENTS

- Page 2 Promises, promises
- Page 3 All of us are in the gutter
- Page 4 Guttergate by Zach Agatstein
- Page 5 Remembering Sir Rolande
- Page 6/7 Auction Price-Watch by Gavin Arnold
- Page 8 Scouting for Stamps Darren Hill
- Page 9 The Baden-Powell stamp and other useless information
- Page 10/11/12 Competition results
- Inside back cover New competition

## Promises, promises

The more observant among you will have noticed that we planned to release Genua stamps in May, and a \$5 Lawyers Guild stamp and a Musicians Guild stamp in June. But bear in mind that in Journal 3 we promised Clacks stamps, a large small god stamp (if you see what I mean), and a stamp sponsored by the Beggars' Guild. And look how long it took us to get round to producing the Bonk stamps we scheduled in the same issue. And then of course there's the funny story about the Guild of Heralds stamp which we got as far as printing and perforating before abandoning. Oh you'll laugh when you hear that one - which you will, one day.

Well the Genua stamps did appear, albeit not until June, and there will be a \$5 Lawyers Guild stamp, but in August, and, at some stage, a Musicians Guild stamp. Life is full of little uncertainties, and we do our best to add to them whenever possible.

On the plus side, the Sir Rolande de Colline \$2 commemorative was right on schedule. Which was just as well, because it won't be around for long - we plan to withdraw it in September. Sir Rolande was of course the first Master of the Post, a fitting subject for a stamp issued to mark three years of Discworld stamps.



### LAST ORDERS

The Cabbage Seed packet will only be available for trade for Green Cabbage Trading Stamps until the end of July, and stocks of the 'Snail Mail' series of envelopes are running low. But apart from Sir Rolande, and the usual round of Little Brown Envelopes, nothing else will be withdrawn in the near future.





## All of us are in the gutter...

Ankh-Morpork's first 'gutter pair' stamps have recently been introduced for the Thieves Guild 5p and 7p denominations. Gutter pairs have a long history in Roundworld philately - US examples date back to the 1930s, though they only became prominent in the UK in the 1970s. Chairman of the Everywhere Else Branch, Zach Agatstein, writes about them in this issue.

... but some of us are looking up at the stars

Two Jamboree stamps will be launched on August 3 though these will not, strictly speaking, be Discworld stamps. The Royal Mail has agreed to create a special commemorative frank for the event and this will be used on a First Day Cover. The wicked Mr Edwards has also suggested a third Jamboree stamp provisionally entitled the Tent Triangle. There will be but 500 of these, which will start appearing in random Jamboree LBEs and will continue in subsequent LBEs until they are all out in circulation.

The next transition of the Bonk 1 Bizlot Blue werewolf stamp will start appearing in random LBEs from Friday July 20, followed by transition 5 on August 21, transition 6 on 22 September, and the final transition on Wednesday October 24.

As already 'promised', we hope to introduce Lawyers Guild stamps in August, and in September we're planning something associated with banking to mark the publication of 'Making Money'.



Then in October we have in mind to re-introduce a Two Shirts stamp and an Ankh-Morpork cabbage fields stamp. But we reserve the right to change our minds at a moment's notice, just to be contrary.

Thanks to Steve James for sending this and helping it happen.



Gutter Pair: two stamps separated by a small perforated label usually containing text or 'stoplights', or color swabs. The label/tab is not valid for postage.

The new 5p and 7p Thieves' Guild stamps join a section of Philately that Roundworld philatelists should know well: gutter pairs. The first gutter pairs were issued by United States Postmaster James Farley in a set of stamps known to US collectors as 'Farley's Follies'. Farley was postmaster-general of the United States from the late 1920s until the late 1930s, and was well known for his generosity to his friends! He tried to create several philatelic rarities for political friends and allies, rather similar to the First Proof of Artwork sheets given as prizes in the various Journal competitions, except that the 'gifts' were not based on merit, but rather on who could best further Farley's ambitions!

When the outside world, in the form of the American Philatelic Society, got wind of this, there was a public outrage! Farley was forced to order special printings of his gifts for sale to the general public. These 'Farley's Follies' sheets are now rather common, as they were issued for every stamp type for which Farley had created special proofs, and they were kept as a style of souvenir sheet to commemorate Stamp Shows in the United States right up until the 1950s.

Other countries have issued gutter pairs, Israel among the most prolific. Each commemorative or special issue is a gutter stamp with an informative label attached. Often, Israeli First Day Covers have a Gutter Pair of two stamps with the informational tab between them.

"Gutter blocks," are four stamps, each of which has a tab/label between the stamps. However, these are less common as fewer stamps can be printed per sheet. That means that there is less chance of a profit for the issuing postal agency, and as most postal services are in the business of making money, it is not in their best interest to issue these sheets. That's a basic introduction to the world of Gutter Pairs. If you want more information, try contacting your national or local philatelic society.

Zachary Agatstein

## REMEMBERING SIR ROLANDE

July 9 2007 marks the third anniversary of the first Discworld Stamps, and a lot of stamps have flowed under Brass Bridge since then. Isobel tried to count how many, but ran out of fingers.

It seemed appropriate to mark the date with a stamp commemorating Sir Rolande de Colline, Ankh-Morpork's first Master of the Posts. He was appointed on 4 October 1530, 'with a salary of three shillings a month, plus two rabbits, a pound of turnips and a flagon and a half of ale'.

Sir Rolande had a colourful history, he had been a warrior-knight alongside Sir Gyles de Murfoote, founder of the Assassins' Guild. According to the Official Post Office Handbook 'this high-profile link helped to ensure that the Royal Mail Posts were not subject to attacks by would-be thieves. This system worked quite well, and the term Red Letter Day comes from the fact that the mail was often delivered stained with blood.'

The free stamp with this Journal is a special printing exclusive to subscribers, and the special offer is an A5 proof sheet showing both the standard and the exclusive versions. This is a limited edition of 500. More details are on the website, and the password is **turnip** if you wish to order.



Once again we see the genius of Mr Batley, allied to the fiendish cunning of Mr Edwards that conjoined produce some of the best artwork that has ever been licked.

Shown here is the image that adorns the First Day Cover.

## Auction Price-Watch By Gavin Arnold



Stamps sales continued to fall over the last three months with the value of sales for the quarter on the "other place" (as it is often referred to on the Discworld Stamps Forum) dropping by half, to  $\pounds4,212.68$  and the number of items sold by a third to 333 items. The selling price of just about all stamps dropped with some old favorites being particularly hit - six months ago a Purple Triangle would have fetched  $\pounds50.13$  now it is averaging  $\pounds23.99$ . The Assassins Postage Paid Zombie which once was fetching over  $\pounds50$  is now selling for an average of  $\pounds10.70$ . In all though this is good news for the new collector. Someone just starting out should be able to amass a good collection at little cost provided that they don't go to mad.

So what has happened? Why are stamp prices falling?

Three years have passed since Discworld Stamps were released on an unsuspecting world and while there are always new devotees finding the attraction of small flat sticky bits the real hardcore flatalists have been around for some time (certainly long enough to have an LBE addiction) and most have fairly complete collections. They only resort to the "other place" to fill gaps (a sure sign of frustration after having bought stacks of LBE's only to find them either full of commons or containing sports they already have five times over). They also tend to bid for the rarer items such as the set of five green Tower of Art sports that sold for £206 last month or the Assassins First Proof of Artworks that have been fetching anything around £100 each recently. Added to that a number of the early collectors are continuing to sell their collections and the laws of supply and demand are taking over.

If you take a look at round-world stamp prices, particularly Cinderellas you will see that most stamps are available for a few pounds each or less. As a general rule it's only the very rare stamps that have been out of circulation for tens of years that fetch the high prices. While Discworld Stamp prices have been falling when compared to other stamps they are still generally a little dearer. Basically all that is happening is that they are maturing as a collectable and becoming more mainstream!

It will be interesting to see if prices keep falling – my prediction is that they will for a little bit longer but nothing like as much as they have been doing. I've been reporting on auction prices for a year now and over that time 1798 items have been sold for just short of £29,000. I doubt if next year will beat that in terms of either items or value but I cannot see Discworld Stamps exiting the "other place" for a very long time.

So what has been selling? And for what? Apart from the items mentioned earlier the new Tower of Art sports are selling well fetching anything from £36.00 to £51.00 depending on the colour combination, an unfranked joined pair went for £137.01 and a franked pair for £103.51. GCTS sheets continue to sell for around the £100 mark. An unopened Dragon Sanctuary envelope fetched £69.99. Interestingly the Eaten by Snails and Dribbled on by Toads seem to be fetching similar prices to the opened Dragon Sanctuary envelopes – anything between £ 32 and £39.

As time progresses some items are beginning to achieve a set price with Blue Triangles selling at around the £25.00 mark (there's no real price difference between the type of perforations) and a sheet of the 2004 3p Hogswatch stamps now going for around £300.

This edition's buyer's tip – if you have gaps in your collection particularly the older discontinued stamps – now is a good time to buy, but be careful with some of the newer sports; hardened flatalists are known for their aversion to the 'p' word and will often bid high to get a complete set of sports or a rare stamp as early as possible.

To give you a better idea of how on-line auctions have been faring, here's the figures for the last quarter.

	Apr	May	Jun
Items Sold:	147	81	105
Total Value of Sold Items:	£ 1624.19	£ 852.56	£1735.93

#### **E-Bay Trading**

#### Value of Sold Items

Value	Apr	May	Jun
Less than £10.00	106	59	71
£ 10.00 to £ 24.99	27	14	20
£ 25.00 to £ 49.99	7	5	8
£ 50.00 to £ 99.99	5	2	3
£ 100.00 to £ 149.99	2	1	1
£ 150.00 to £199.99	0	0	0
£ 200 +	0	0.4	2
Total Winning Bids	147	81	105

## Scouting for Stamps (1)

In our younger days, aside from collecting stamps as a hobby, many boys and girls devoted their time to those great institutions, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides. This year marks the centenary of the movement, founded by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour in Dorset was the venue for the first true scout camp, and his experience there led to the Scouting for Boys handbook and onward to the whole movement as it is today.

Given the popularity of both activities with the young, it is no surprise that there is a strong linkage between the scout movement and philately. There have been many examples of Scouts and similar youth organisations being featured on stamp issues around the world. The Royal Mail for example has issued two sets of stamps with this theme, with a third coming out this year. These have all commemorated significant anniversaries of the movement, the first in 1957 (50th) and the second in 1982 (75th).

This year's 100th anniversary has led to a large number of issues from postal authorities all over the world, reflecting the global popularity of the movement itself. Some carry images of Baden-Powell, others of the boys and girls themselves, and others abstract images, cartoons and other designs. Without fail, though, they all carry the distinctive fleur-de-lis symbol of Scouting, a logo which is recognisable all over the world.

Within philatelic circles, the theme of scouts and similar youth movements appearing on stamps has its own dedicated collector-base. Indeed it is large

enough to support the Scouts on Stamps International Society (SOSSI), whose website is a treasure trove of information on stamps, covers and franks related to the scouting movement. It is an American organisation, founded in 1947 and with strong links to the Boy Scouts of America.

And of course, with such a dedicated following within philatelic circles, it was only to be expected that with the Discworld Jamboree, the Ankh-Morpork Post Office would also be joining in the celebrations with a commemorative issue of their own.



Young Darren being chided by his Mother for playing with his stamps when he should have been eating his supper.

Darren Hill

#### Scouting for Stamps (2)

#### The Baden-Powell 'Cinderella' Stamp

Boy Scout Founder Baden-Powell had a long association with stamps. His face first appeared on one while he was still a colonel in the British army. The small town of Mafeking was under siege. The garrison commanded by B-P had no field guns, little food and few resources. and were at the mercy of the Boer guns. The largely civilian population was obliged to live in dug-outs in a state of constant vigilance. B-P conducted a brilliant campaign of camouflage and subterfuge to confuse and discourage the enemy. while keeping up the morale of the townsfolk with concerts, a camp



Baden-Powell

newspaper, and a postal service to allow people to communicate with friends when it was too dangerous to leave the safety of their dug-outs.

The 'postmen' were local boys aged 9 and upwards, and they were smartly kitted out in khaki uniforms. At first they would be given a small cash fee for the delivery, but this led to confusion, and a postage stamp was soon suggested. The designer, a Captain Greener, produced a design with B-Ps head, much to his subject's consternation, but it was explained to B-P that the Queen's head would be inappropriate on stamps to be used only on mail moving between one dug-out and another. In later years it was said that Queen Victoria was not amused, and that her displeasure hindered B-P's promotion, but this seems unlikely. He only resigned from the Army some years later when his activities with the newlyformed Boy Scout movement needed greater attention.

#### A B S Jamboree

The Delhi Boy Scouts Jamboree in 1937 witnessed a bizarre postal experiment, when the Boy Scouts Association was asked to demonstrate the practicability of rocket post. Twelve rockets were prepared, six for mail, six for propaganda leaflets. Unfortunately, white ants ate through the magazine chamber of one rocket before it could be used, but the other 11 were fired successfully over the course of 3 days. A month later, two more mail rockets were fired at a Girl Guides rally in Bengal.

The Journal 10 Competition, to report amendments to the Post Code Book, proved very popular with lots of entries. Peter Chapman pointed out an oversight in the post codes book: 'I was most dismayed to find that an whole section has been omitted. I refer of course to the section covering Cats.' Su, Danny and Josh Hyam also had feline problems, with a giant white kitten wreaking havoc in the city. (I didn't think Josh was old enough to remember The Goodies!)

Alarming changes in the area of the Unseen University was a regular theme. John Moores noted that the wizards had been particularly hard at 'work', and warned of postal workers reporting in with 'more limbs than usual.' Dave Sherman reported a temporal shift in the space/time continuum behind the High Energy Magic Building. To avoid teleportation, he advised postmen to tie themselves to a lamp post when delivering to numbers 79 - 92.

The Assassins' Guild was blamed for very little, presumably for fear of reprisals, but James Page risked it with sketches of the entrance to the Assassins' Guild. 'The gates of Death are always open. Better to pass at a run and throw letters at porter's lodge.' Examinations at the Fools' Guild were blamed by Natalie Smith for an outbreak of 'quirks' including a flagstone with surprise fountain, a trip wire and booby trapped custard pies.

The Watch had their share of problems, not just 'the iniquitous night-time theft of the Brass Bridge' recorded by David Bennett. 'We are assured that parts not already melted down will be re-erected within the month.' In his illustrated newsletter, John O' Neill noted a classic Watch misunderstanding: 'One policeman suggested: 'Let's go out and paint the town red. Detritus was halfway down Lower Broadway with paintbrush and barrel of paint when the others came back.' ' Al Maskrey reported an unfortunate case of collateral damage from the same officer's crossbow: 'until further notice, Mr Meeks of 3 Mincing Street will not be receiving mail owing to the fact that the letterbox is damaged, owing to the fact his front door is missing, owing to the fact that the front wall is missing'.

The Seamstress' Guild has much to answer for. One of Nigel Rogers' four report cards mentions a shrine to Petulia in Sheer Street 'popular with members of the guild. Deliveries should not be attempted without the protection afforded by being sewn into official post office issue Dreadnought protective underwear.' Peter Elliott described taking a short cut down Sweetheart Lane: 'I espied a large amount of work being undertaken around Mrs Palm's front entrance.' I'm sorry to say that the rest so embarrassed Mr Howler that he refused to publish it.

Doug Ward proposed REDS, the Rodent Express Delivery Service, which would guarantee delivery within half an hour by accessing underground tunnels. Somehow he avoided using the words 'rat run'. David Waskett went for 'a Rapid Action Traffic Slowing or RATS', and the unfortunate effect it had on postal worker E N Velope (known as Buffy). Laura Clarkson described a temporary barrier of 'intricately woven debris' on Cable Street outside Gimlet the Dwarf's Delicatessen.

Heather Avigdor noted that : 'Along the Street of Small Gods between Leaden Lane and Upper Broadway a shop called Skillet, Wang, Yrxlelyt, Bunglestiff, Cwmlad and Patel has appeared. I could have sworn it was just a wall the other day.' Fortunately, she later reported its re-disappearance.

#### The Finalists:

Steve James noted the effects of a recent explosion at the Unseen University to a street off Sator Square. 'A number of people using the street have met a terrible fate. The street is only 50 feet long and at the far end is actually only 1 foot high. By the time a person gets to the other end they shrink to just 2 inches high. They will be unaware of this shrinking as they will be in perfect scale to the buildings either side.'

Per Stalby had problems delivering mail to Ankh-Morpork's most famous explorer. 'The late Sir Roderick Purdeigh still gets a lot of mail. Mainly natives of the disc wanting apologies for the mad things he said. Communicating with him was much like the shopping channel. Much talk but nothing that you want.'

Susanne Vanden Bosch sent a sample of a substance produced in a different explosion, at the Alchemists' Guild: 'It is pink in color, and vaguely smells of cinnamon. All Postmen should be advised to carry survival provisions into this area, as once you've stepped in it, you're adhered to the cobbles for some time. May I suggest this be listed under Miscellaneous Malicious Phenomena in the next Codes book?'

Larry Hart in a suitably 'snotted' report, notes that the house of 'popular exterminator' Rattus Rattuson (catchphrase 'I've started so I'll finish') had slipped onto the Ankh, where it remains on the mud-encrusted top layer. Jonty Hird described crossing 'an adventure playground for the Shamlegger Street Kindergarten trust that has been erected to promote 'play' and friendship among the little ones (2 to 4 years old). My injuries resulted in 3 weeks' sick leave and the temporary loss of my postbag which I managed to pass and retrieve just last week.'

Martyn Ranthom, sorry, Ransom, had vithited the Foolth' Guild: ' I wath dithturbed to notithe that they hath changed the uthual "Cuthtard Pie and Bucket of Whitewath" routine. They hath now added a large Bell Pull with a thign "Ring for Attention" directly above it. Under no thircumthtanceth pull the cord, for it ith attathed to a boxthing glove on a thpring that ith thtrong enough to break your ruddy noth.'



But the overall winner is Julian Fagandini with his report and illustration: 'Please note that a new semi-permanent commercial and/or residential property has recently appeared between Moon Pond Lane and Seven Sleepers in Postal Scode D24. It is a tall rectangular box, approximately ten feet in height and largely blue in colour. It may be a wandering shop and you will in this context note that the name of the proprietor as stencilled in white over the main door may be Mr (or Dr or Mrs) Police Box.'

Prizes for everyone, with an extra something to the Finalists, and an extra extra something for the overall winner. Late entries are still arriving if there's space they'll go into the next issue.

# Your Editorial Team Editor in Chief Mr Stanley Howler

Your Editorial Team Editor in Chief Sub-editor **Roving** reporters

Mr Stanley (Flatalist Troop) Howler Miss Hilary (Arkala) Daniels Gavin (Ready for Anything) Arnold, Darren (Dibdib) Hill

Art Editor Everything else

Guest Columnist Zachary (Looks good in shorts) Agatstein Bernard 'Mind my woggle' Pearson Isobel 'Camp commander) Pearson

# Journal 11 Competition

This is a lovely idea, suggested by Lucy Jefferies, to come up with a suitable collective noun for Flatalists. You know the sort of thing: A murder of crows

A pride of lions

An exaltation of larks

What would be appropriate for Flatalists? An impatience, perhaps?

Over to you. Please make sure your entry reaches us by September 16, so for some of you that means you'd better do it RIGHT NOW!

A young Flatalist on opening his LBE and finding the new Scouts Triangle







ALL ABOUT STAMPS FROM THE HOME OF STAMPS

# HOME OF STAMPS Free with this issue:

The special issue commemorative Sir Rolande de Colline \$2



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

Tel 01963 824 686

E-mail: hilary@cunningartificer.demon.co.uk www.discworldstamps.com

Back Jssues of the Journal , together with free stamps while stocks last, £4.00 per issue.

All stamps and ancillary designs are the copyright of Discworld Stamps and cannot be used without express permission