

THEMATICS

Nr 183: DECEMBER 2023

Newsletter of *Thematics Southern Africa*/Nuusbrieff van *Tematika Suider-Afrika*

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ARTICLES FOR THEMNEWS

Most of the articles which appear in **Thematics** are sourced from a variety of available philatelic magazines; however, it would be wonderful to use more local articles. I have adjusted the newsletter to allow for local and longer articles. The request for articles remains as strong as ever.

FROM THE EDITOR OF THEMATICS

Dear Thematicists,

This has not been a good month here in my study. By this time I should be making the last touches to this month's newsletter. Instead I am still steaming in an effort to get it ready by the end of the week. That is the aim although I am not sure that I will make it. I should know this from all the November months over the last years, that this month is stacked full of appointments during the last two weeks. Everyone is trying to complete their work for the year, while the various clubs have their year-end functions. And then there the household requirements. All in all, a busy time. I suppose that in a way I am begging forgiveness for being late with this newsletter. I have included an article which appeared in Gibbons Stamp Monthly in April 1970, which addressed the oft stated problem of catalogue values. This remains a confusing issue for many collectors and new entrants to the hobby. I have always regarded the catalogue as a guide, and never as binding. I have been to too many auctions where prices achieved were nowhere near the prices in the catalogue. The article explains the workings of the catalogue in some detail, and hopefully this clears up many misconceptions. Before concluding, I would like to wish all the readers a very Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. May 2024 be the year where you add that most wished for item to your collection. As usual, there will be no newsletter for January, the next newsletter being February 2024.

Editor

THEMATIC MEETINGS / TEMATIESE BYEENKOMSTE

***First Saturday of the month** – The Pretoria Chapter meets at **10:00** in Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner of Lynwood Road and Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate).

Contact: Helena Snyman 012-803-8922, 083-990-8953 or helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za.

***First Saturday of the month** – The Western Cape Chapter meets at **09:30** in the Church Hall of the DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

Contact: Reanie de Villiers at 082-567-0353 or Reanie.devilliers@gmail.com.

STAMP FAIRS

***First Saturday of the month** – The **Cape Stamp Fair** @ DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma and St Andrews Streets, Oakdale, Bellville, Cape Town. **Contacts:** Ken Joseph 072-597-1287 ken@philatelicfriends.co.za Robbie Harm 082 925 7103, robertharm9@gmail.com, from 08:30 until 12:30. Please confirm the date of the next Stamp Fair, although reminders are sent via SMS/E-mail.

***First Saturday of the month – Pretoria Stamp Fair** @ Pretoria, Greek Orthodox Church, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate) **Contact:** Paul van Zeyl at 012-329-2464 or randstamps@gmail.com. From 09:00, auction at 11:00.

***Last Saturday of the month – Edenvale Stamp Fair** @ Edenvale Bowling Club, 6th Avenue, Edenvale. **Contact:** Kenny Napier Kenny.napier@mweb.co.za. From 09:00, auction at 11:00.

***Last Sunday of the month – Sunbird Stamp Auction** @ 1st Hillcrest Scout Hall, 16 Shortlands Road, Hillcrest from 09:00 until 13:00. **Contacts:** Kim Breytenbach sunbird.stampauctions@gmail.com.

THEMATICS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Pretoria Chapter – 4 November 2023

No meeting was held.

Helena Snyman

WC Chapter – 4 November 2023

No report was received.

Reanie de Villiers

FACTS AND FEATS: THE POSTAL SERVICES

The most prolific stamp designer family was from the USSR. Viktor V. Zavalov was responsible for no fewer than 577 designs between 1925 and 1973. His sons A.V. and I.V. Zavalov, individually or together produced a further 118 designs between 1954 and 1974. The whole family collaborated on the designs for the Russian Navy Series in 1973. The only other example of a family designing stamps together occurred in 1921 when Frank Cundall had overall responsibility for the Jamaican pictorial series. The 1d and 5s were designed by his daughter and the 3d was designed by his wife. The frames for all 13 stamps were drawn by Miss Cundall and Miss Wood.



The first woman to design stamps was Miss Devine who produced the 2d and 8d stamps in the New South Wales centenary series in 1888.



Two husband and wife design teams were Michael and Sylvia Goaman and David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease (since divorced). Both couples have designed stamps together or individually since 1953.

The first designer to have his name on any stamps was Louis Yon whose name appears in the grapes forming the head-dress of Ceres on the Bordeaux lithographed series of 1870. Six years later both J.A. Sage (designer) and Eugène Mouchon (engraver) had their names prominently inscribed in the margin of the Peace and Commerce definitive stamps of France, while Sr de la Pena had his name on the Benito Juarez definitive stamps of Mexico in 1879. The first designer to have his name on British stamps was Clive Abbott, whose two stamps marked the inauguration of the Post Office Tower in October 1965.



TIMELINE – SURPRISE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOUR



On 7 December 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbour in Honolulu, Hawaii. The United States was a neutral country at the time; the attack led the U.S. to formally enter World War II on the side of the Allies the following day.

Photograph of Battleship Row taken from a

Japanese plane at the beginning of the attack.



Japan intended the attack as a preventive action. It aimed to prevent the United States Pacific Fleet from interfering with its planned military actions in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and those of the United States. Over the course of seven hours, there were coordinated Japanese attacks on the U.S.-held Philippines, Guam, and Wake Island and the British Empire in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong. The base was attacked by 353 Imperial Japanese aircraft (including fighters, level and dive bombers, and torpedo bombers) in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers.[16] Of the eight U.S. Navy battleships present, all were damaged, with four sunk. All but **USS Arizona** were later raised, and six were returned to service and went on to fight in the war. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, and one minelayer. More than 180 US aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded, making it the deadliest event ever recorded in Hawaii. While there were historical precedents for the unannounced military action by Japan, the lack of any formal warning as required by the Hague Convention of 1907 and the perception that the attack was unprovoked, led then-U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the opening line of his speech to a Joint Session of Congress the following day, to famously label 7 December 1941 "a date which will live in infamy".



The **USS Arizona Memorial**, at Pearl Harbour in Honolulu, Hawaii, marks the resting place of 1,102 of the 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on **USS Arizona** during the attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941

and commemorates the events of that day. The memorial, built in 1962, is visited by more than two million people annually. Accessible only by boat, it straddles the sunken hull of the battleship without touching it. Historical information about the attack, shuttle boats to and from the memorial, and general visitor services are available at the associated USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Centre, which opened in 1980 and is operated by the National Park Service. The battleship's sunken remains were declared a National Historic Landmark on 5



May 1989. The USS Arizona Memorial is one of several sites in Hawaii that are part of the Pearl Harbour National Memorial.

International Society of World Wide Stamp Collectors and Wikipedia
All Naval warships visiting Pearl Harbour salute this memorial – Ed.

WHAT DOES 'CATALOGUE VALUE' REALLY MEAN?

'Sapiens' looks at the stamp market

The author is not really surprised when new collectors get confused about catalogue prices, especially when for sixty shillings one can buy a packet of 2,000 all-world stamps which, catalogued separately, amount in 'value' to over £100. At the other end of the scale, the experienced collector usually has no trouble in accepting that very rare items, of which perhaps one, two or three exist in the world, can have no fixed value attached to them - it depends on how and when they are offered for sale, how many people want them and can afford to pay for them.

Apart from these top rarities, stamps fall into five main categories, and different considerations affect the value of each class. The author will look at these in a minute, but first, we should get a few general misconceptions out of the way. For a start, the prices quoted in Stanley Gibbons catalogues are those at which that firm would sell the stamps, at the time the catalogue is revised, provided that they hold adequate stocks. Other catalogues exist, mostly edited by non-dealers who base their prices either on what they consider the open market reflects at the time of preparation or on what they think the stamps *ought* to be worth. Interestingly though such lists may be to the specialist, they cannot speak with the authority of 'dealer-backed quotations' based on actual stocks of stamps.

An important point lies in the words '*at the time the catalogue is revised*'. However quickly a new edition may be produced, it sometimes happens that the catalogue falls behind the market, and that the publishers' selling prices have been altered between the time the catalogue has gone to press and its eventual publication. Many important changes during that time are set out in the *Stamp Monthly* Supplements, but where the market is particularly rapid in its fluctuation (as happened not long ago with the stamps of Papua and New Guinea) it is just not possible to update prices in print month by month.

Given then that the catalogue is a price list, the question arises: how does the publisher arrive at the prices he quotes? Stamps appear first as 'new issues' which normally are available from the issuing authority at standard prices, to which the seller must add his handling charges -postage, poundage, overheads and so on. Occasionally inadequate warning is given of a new issue, or stocks may be too small to supply all the immediate demand; in such cases of course the stamps command a premium from the start. Once a stamp is withdrawn from public use, prices normally rise since no new stocks are available; the same quantity of stamps is changing hands and copies are being absorbed into collections all the time, driving up the value of the remainder. It is this which normally brings the first increase in catalogue demands. Apart from this period of initial issue, the five categories which the author mentioned earlier apply to stamps in the catalogue. These comprise Classics, straightforward rare stamps, cheaper common sets, odd elusive stamps where the catalogue does not reflect their real scarcity, and very common stamps: each of these demands a closer look.

Classics

These are the more valuable stamps of the earliest days of philately, which exist in small quantities and where *condition* is a paramount consideration. The problems of waxing and waning popularity rarely affect these issues – they have a built-in demand by virtue of their connoisseur appeal and their scarcity. The catalogue here cannot, however, accurately indicate value, since the difference in width of margin for an imperforate, the degree of off-centre perforating of later issues, the heaviness of a postmark or the clarity of a rare cancellation, the degree of wear of the printing plate or the overall cleanness and freshness of each copy, all enter into its valuation. I recall a recent case where an imperforate stamp was catalogued in *normal* condition at 7s. 6d.; a magnificent corner single stamp with massive margins and a superb cancellation was sold for £85! Stamps of this type which are still tied to their original covers or entirely often carry a very high premium over used stamps *off the cover*; on the other hand, poorer copies - heavily postmarked or cut into or badly off centre, for example, may be offered at perhaps one-tenth of the catalogue price.

Other rare stamps

Examples of this type are the stamps of the reign of King Edward VII; they appear frequently in action or on the open market, and they thus acquire an established price. This may vary slightly with the ebb and flow of popularity which will affect the immediate demand for them, and many are still in a class known as *sleepers*, stamps of considerable scarcity but in small demand where a change in the public fancy may force the price rapidly upward. Where the classics are the *blue chips* or philately for the really serious specialist and the top-rank investor, these later rare stamps offer a tremendous field for careful investment by the ordinary man who wants to feel that he owns really fine stamps with a relatively assured future (and perhaps a few real surprises to come!) but who cannot aspire to the rarefied air of the classic world.



Cheaper common sets

Commemorative stamps of the present reign, and such old favourites as the George VI Health stamps of New Zealand, are typical examples of this category. Here the stamps are being constantly bought and sold in large quantities, then the full potential is adequately assessed, demand is known and is usually stable, and catalogue quotations are therefore well in line with the market. Such stamps are the mainstay of the hobby and deserve a place in every collection. We cannot exist purely on a diet of caviar we all need stamps we can *play with* and not only do many of these more common sets offer the more modest collector the chance of really specialised study at a small cost, but occasional swings in popularity may bring solid advances in the prices or even such mundane material. In any case the demand for stamps grows year by year as new collectors come along; many newer collectors do not treat their stamps well, with the result that many millions of copies may be '*consumed to destruction*' over a period of years, increasing the value of the remaining stock. One really regrettable situation is that which arises when after the issue (and perhaps even after the withdrawal date) of a set, cancelled-to-order copies appear on the market in vast quantities, sold cut-price by the official trading organisation or agency. Obviously, this can completely destroy the value



of the genuinely used stamps, and the practice of this slick marketing technique should immediately warn the sensible collector to keep away from future issues of the country until their policy is changed.

Elusive stamps

Certainly, a word of explanation is needed where for example a stamp exists in large quantities of mint, where genuine postally used copies are as scarce as hen's teeth - and where the catalogue price does not reflect this real scarcity. This is particularly true of certain K.G. V Key Type varieties, and the reason for this apparent discrepancy is twofold. First, where the variety is distinguished by its shade or paper colour, used copies may be misleading and so must be regarded as of the cheaper variety; admittedly this decreases even further the number of identifiable used copies available, but it also deters the collector from taking these up when offered thus scarcity is off-set by a very small demand. Secondly, identification may depend on minor differences in the design; again these are far more easily distinguished from mint examples, and so again demand for the used stamps is small.

A more general situation exists with modern issues of unpopular foreign countries with a very small external mail. Here, mint and used stamps often have the same catalogue valuation, although used copies are extremely elusive. The reason again lies in the lack of demand: the market here caters primarily for thematic and other mint-only collectors. It may be that in years to come one or other of these *forgotten countries* may endear itself to a wider public, with consequent increased demand for the elusive used copies, but such developments are problematical, and meanwhile, the catalogue reflects current demand and not actual scarcity. If through this apparent anomaly you are lucky or clever enough to pick up a really rare stamp at a low price, your own expertise will inform you of your luck, and another specialist collector may be prepared to make you a good offer to fill a longstanding gap in his own collection. It is this sort of occurrence which encourages the serious collector to carry on studying and searching, and he deserves the profit which comes from his own experience.

Very common stamps

These are what is often referred to as *packet material* - stamps so common that they can be offered in cheap packets at a price which works out to perhaps a tenth of a penny each. It is here that the problem the author mentioned at the beginning of this article crops up when the collector turns to the new catalogues he will find the figure of 5 new pence quoted as its value. Of course, the stamps are not worth 5p each. If you try to sell them to a dealer, you will find that he is not prepared to give them any value at all. Why then the apparently high catalogue price? The answer is simple: it is the firm's *handling charge* - what it costs on average to check, store, keep, find, identify again and sell to the man who walks into the Shop for it or who receives it mounted up in an approval selection. If the firm charged less than their catalogue price, they would lose money on every single transaction. This of course explains why a set of ten stamps, each priced at 1s., may be given a *set price* of only 4p.

Tailpiece

In this short article the author has tried to explain how the catalogue compilers assign prices to stamps they list, and why these change over the years. In every such

explanation, there are exceptions, and no editor can be right all the time. Price revision goes on all the time, with the assistance of experts all over the world. But at least I hope you will no longer be like the new collector who recently wrote to a dealer: *Why do you keep putting up the prices of your stamps? I can't keep up with them: why don't you just keep them at the same prices all the time, then we'd know what we were doing and I could buy a lot more stamps from you!*

An article by Sapiens in Gibbons Stamp Monthly of August 1970

PLIGHT OF THE BUMBLEBEE

Bees are vital to the pollination of plants, including the crops we eat. But with numbers plummeting around the world, the future of the bee, and ourselves, looks uncertain. The author provides a thematic guide to these industrious and vital creatures in a hope to further highlight the plight of these amazing insects.

Bees are small flying insects which play a vital role in the pollination of plants. They help produce three-quarters, or more, of the world's most important food crops and account for, roughly, one in every three mouthfuls of food we consume. In addition, valuable quantities of honey and beeswax are produced, useful for candles, cosmetics and polishes. There are over 19,500 known species of bees and they are found on every continent where there are habitats containing insect-pollinated flowering plants. There are bumble bees, carpenter bees, leafcutting bees, mason bees, mining bees, orchid bees, stingless bees and many others. Some species, including honey and bumblebees, live socially in colonies, with a queen and workers, and thus lend themselves to human care through the skills of beekeeping or apiculture. Specially constructed hives encourage colonies to thrive and expand their benign activities. A strong hive may hold as many as 50,000 individual worker bees, all sisters who do not breed but devote themselves to looking after their mother, the queen. She can produce up to several thousand eggs per day, the offspring requiring feeding by honey.

Unfortunately, bees are under threat today. Known causes of their numerical decline include modern farming practices which leave few flowers, changes in land use, habitat loss, diseases, pollution, pesticides and climate change. The use of a nicotine-like pesticide (*Imidacloprid*) on crops such as oilseed rape has been particularly controversial. All in all, life has become pretty tough for bees. There is an urgent need to reverse damage to the environment and to protect bees as key players in the world's ecosystems. Pollination strategies should be adopted globally to ensure that our basic food plants continue to be nurtured through the beneficial touch of these remarkable creatures. Numerous countries have opted to show bees in their stamp issues. A selection of these are now featured, drawn from several continents.

Europe

A set of six stamps illustrating bees was issued for the island of Alderney in 2009 (**below**).



The low value 36p stamp shows a Tawny Mining bee (*Andrena fulva*) gathering nectar atop a yellow daisy. The 43p stamp depicts an Early Bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*). The

51p stamp illustrates a Bug Mining bee (*Colletes daviesanus*), while the 54p stamp shows a Cuckoo bee (*Nomada goadeniana*). The 56p stamp depicts a Solitary bee (*Halictus scabiosae*) foraging in clover against a fortress background, while the high-value 77p stamp shows a Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) alighting on some strawberries. The Honey bee is a native of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and it is now, perhaps, one of the most widespread organisms on earth—apart from ourselves—although its numbers are threatened. The Honey bee will reoccur in subsequent stamp illustrations.

A Bulgarian set depicts four different bees (**below**). The low value 20st. stamp again shows the Western Honey bee with a small pellet of pollen attached to its leg. All worker bees tend to collect both nectar and pollen from flowering plants; these are brought back to the hive to help create and fill the honey-filled cells which make up the colony. The 30st. stamp illustrates a Wood Carver bee (*Anthidium manicatum*); the curious name denotes its ability to collect hairs from plant stems which are then used to build the brood cells of the hive. The 36st. stamp shows the fat, furry White-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus subterraneus*). These are among the most familiar, endearing and recognisable of the insects. Their year begins in early spring when the huge queens emerge from hibernation after some seven months underground. The high value 5st. stamp features a Blue Carpenter bee (*Xylocopa violacea*).



The GB bees

A colourful set of six stamps and a miniature sheet with a further four stamps was issued by Royal Mail in 2015 (**left**).



In the main set, the lowest value 2nd class stamp features a Scabious bee (*Andrena hattorfiana*) which, as the name suggests, collects pollen virtually exclusively from scabious flowers and close relatives. The 1st class stamp illustrates another Bumblebee—a great yellow (*Bombus distinguendus*). This handsome straw-coloured insect has a long tongue and prefers deep flowers such as red clover and tufted vetch. The £1 stamp shows a small Northern Colletes bee (*Colletes floralis*), associated with flat coastal plains and sand dunes which support a diverse flower community. The £1.33 stamp portrays a Bilberry Bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) which is arguably the most handsome of the species, with its yellow stripes and red posterior. It tends to frequent upland areas around Britain such as the Scottish Highlands, the Lake District, the Peak District and Dartmoor. The bee can thrive in cold climates, right up to the Arctic Circle but, with impending climate change, its numbers may be adversely affected. The £1.52 stamp features a Large Mason bee (*Osmia xanthomelana*) a rare, almost extinct, species to be found only along coastal cliffs in North Wales. It needs wet mud to construct its nest and feeds on plants such as birds-foot trefoil and horseshoe vetch. The high-value £2.25 stamp shows a Potter Flower bee (*Anthophora retusa*). This large black creature is also in danger of extinction, being found in small populations along the south coast, although it was once widespread in England.

The accompanying Honey Bee miniature sheet (**below**) contains two first-class and two £1.33 stamps. Foraging worker bees have evolved a clever mechanism for finding nectar and pollen-producing flowers. Depicted in the left-hand 1st class stamp, this is the

effective 'waggle dance' performed by a worker who has found a good source of flowers. She communicates the direction of and distance to, the find by making distinctive movements, keenly observed by other bees in the hive. The second 1st class stamp



illustrates the act of pollination by bees. As they seek the flower's nectar, pollen from male and female plants is transferred, enabling fertilisation and reproduction. The first £1.33 stamp features a typical bee hive, with several drawers in which the colony can transfer nectar into honey and store it in wax honeycombs. Honey reserves are built up to feed the growing population during the summer months and as a valuable cache in the winter when the colony is dormant. Apiarists have learned to harvest only limited amounts of combed honey so that the hive's prosperity is assured. The second £1.33 stamp shows a section of honeycomb with larvae being fed by two worker bees. A special royal jelly forms their diet for the first three days. Those fed for longer can become new queens and, when a colony eventually becomes too large, a swarm of bees occurs when a new queen flies off to mate and create a new settlement.

Poland's pollinators

Marking Apimondia '87, the International Bee Keeping Congress held in Warsaw, a set of six stamps was issued in Poland in 1987 (**three**



shown left). The first of two 10z. stamps feature a queen bee. Located at the heart of a colony, served by numerous female workers, she is responsible for the growth and well-being of the community. The next 10z stamp shows one of the many worker bees responsible for foraging for

pollen and creating the beeswax storage facilities within the hive. The first 15z. stamp portrays a male drone whose duty it is to offer service to the queen. The next 15z. stamp depicts another characteristic bee hive. This comprises several wooden layers and is located in a nearby orchard. The 40z. stamp shows a female worker bee gathering pollen from a clover flower, while the high value 50z. stamp illustrates a farmer collecting honey from a wild bee's nest set within a forest. In 2013 Portugal issued, in a large horizontal format, a set on beekeeping entitled Apicultura



(**right**). The low value 36c. shows the hexagonal pattern of a honeycomb on the left of the stamp and, to the right, a beekeeper appears wearing full protective gear. The 50c. stamp depicts a group of bees at the entrance to their hive. The 70c. stamp shows female worker bees in flight, while the high-value 80c. issue portrays two bees gathering pollen from a flowering plant. Set against an appropriate background of a



hexagonally-shaped comb, a set of four stamps illustrating Honey bees was issued by Romania in 2010 (**left**). The insects are all identified as species of *Apis mellifera*, named as *A.m. mellifera* (50b.), *A.m. ligustica* (21.10), *A.m. carnica* (31.10) and *A.m. caucasicus* (41.30). While the stamps were issued in a

square format, additional hexagonal perforation appeared around each bee, but this is surely meant only as a decorative device.

Further images of Honey bees appear on Russian stamps issued in 1989 (**below**). The low value 5k. stamp pictures a healthy male drone. The 10k. stamp shows worker bees hovering above some attractive flowers, with a hive in the lower left-hand corner. The 20k. stamp illustrates another worker, pollen-laden, while the high value 35k. stamp shows a sturdy queen bee being fed by two sister workers. A Slovenian



miniature sheet (**left**) of four stamps features Carniolan Honey bees (*Apis mellifera carnica* Pollmann). The 24t. stamp shows a worker bee gathering nectar from a yellow flower. The 48t. stamp depicts a queen bee being attended to by her drones. The 95t. stamp illustrates the queen, workers and drones on the edge of a honeycomb, while the 170t. stamp portrays, in the foreground, a substantial swarm of bees about to initiate a new colony.

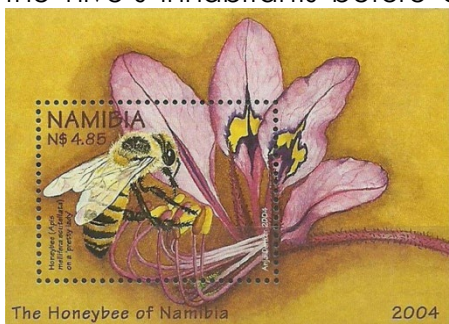
A second issue of bee stamps from Slovenia appeared in 2012, featuring close-up images of some of that country's bumble bees (**left**). The low value 40t. stamp shows a *Bombus lapidarius*; the 44t. stamp illustrates a *Bombus pascuorum* while the 77t. stamp portrays a *Bombus humilis* and the high value 92t. stamp a *Bombus lucorum*. A single 85c. bee stamp was issued by Switzerland in 2011 (**right**). It shows a worker bee collecting nectar from a flower; the stamp is cleverly shaped to resemble the hexagonally-shaped structure of the wax cells within the colony.



A large miniature sheet released by Ukraine in 2011 shows many aspects of beekeeping. Six 50k. stamps are included showing: a worker in action; products resulting from the activities of the hive; a bee at work on the honeycomb; a queen bee, the top of a hive and a humble drone bee. The frame of the miniature sheet contains illustrations of the search for wild honey and several aspects of domesticated beekeeping (apiculture). A final illustration of a bee stamp from a European state comes from Yugoslavia (**left above**), issued in 2000, it marked the 13th meeting of the Slavonic Beekeeping Association (Apislatvia). The stamp depicts a worker bee accumulating pollen and nectar from a bright red flower.

African bees

A set of four stamps devoted to apiculture was issued by Mozambique in southern Africa in 1985 (**right**). The low value 4mt. stamp depicts a fully protected farmer applying smoke to calm the hive's inhabitants before collecting some of their honey. The 8mt. stamp offers



another illustration of a worker bee collecting nectar and pollen, while the 16mt. stamp shows a male drone participating in a similar activity. The high-value 20mt. stamp portrays an egg-laying queen upon a network of wax cells while, in the background, is a nest of wild bees attached to a host tree. A set of five stamps, plus a

miniature sheet with an additional stamp, was issued by Namibia in 2004 (**left above**). The miniature sheet featured a Honey bee settling upon a pretty Lady Flower. A miniature sheet featuring five bees of Africa was issued by Sierra Leone in 2012 (**right**). The stamps, all valued at 5000l, include Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and a Leafcutter bee (*Megachile latreille*). This insect famously cuts discs out of leaves, glueing them together with saliva to build the cells in which their larvae live. Also depicted is a Maranga bee (*Meliponula cockerell*), which belongs to a group of Stingless bees. Found largely in the wild in Africa, its honey is traditionally harvested in a destructive and non-sustainable manner. The last stamp is also a Stingless bee (*Hypotrigona cockerell*) which is an important pollinator of crops; occasionally it is domesticated but, more often, it is raided in the wild for its honey.



The Near East and Far East



A single stamp to mark beekeeping was issued by Iran in 2001 (**left**). It shows bees busy upon a honeycomb within their hive. The brood cells are created from pollen pellets, filled with nectar and bee secretions, following which the queen lays her eggs on top. Two stamps to commemorate apiculture were issued by Iraq in 1999 (**right**). Valued at 25d. and 50d., they feature an identical scene of bees working on a honeycomb in their hive, similar to the picture in the Iranian stamp. The second Arab Beekeeping Conference, held in Jordan in



1998, was marked by an issue of three stamps and a miniature sheet (**left**). The stamps, valued at 50f., 100f., and 150f. all feature a composite picture of a lively bee, a piece of hexagonal honeycomb and a flower. Three North Korean stamps illustrating bees and orchids were issued in 2013. The Honey bees are all *Apis mellifera* and they are busy collecting nectar and pollen (leg pouches featured) from a colourful array of orchids. The role of butterflies in pollinating plants is also recognised in the selvedge of the 30w. and 110w. stamps. A set of four stamps and four miniature sheets was issued by Thailand in 2000 (**right**). The stamps are all valued at 3b. The first depicts a Small dwarf Honey bee (*Apis florea*), one of two species of small wild Honey bees found in SE Asia and the most primitive of the living species of *Apis*. The remaining three stamps feature clear illustrations of further *Apis* species found in Thailand, another Dwarf bee (*Apis andreniformis*), an Asian Honey bee (*Apis cerana*); and a Giant bee (*Apis dorsata*).



The Pacific

A set of five stamps and a miniature sheet devoted to Honey bees was issued by New Zealand in 2013 (**left**). The 70c. stamp again shows a bee gathering nectar; the \$1.40 stamp depicts a group of worker bees returning to the hive after their search for nectar; the \$1.90 stamp shows the insects transferring nectar into honey storage within the hive; the \$2.40 stamp illustrates a beekeeper removing a honeycomb, while the high-value \$2.90 stamp reveals a rich store of honey within a comb. A final choice of stamps, illustrating beekeeping, comes from the remote Pitcairn Islands in the eastern Pacific (**right**). Four stamps offer



neat illustrations of various aspects of apiculture. The low-value 20c. stamp shows a small group of beekeepers setting out their hives. The \$1.00 stamp depicts a bee gathering nectar from a passion flower; the \$1.80 stamp shows bees at work on a honeycomb, while the high-value \$3.00 stamp portrays a bee on a flower, a small jar of 'Mutineer's Dream' honey and, in the background, a profile of the main Pitcairn Island. Like the stamp from Switzerland, the stamps are cleverly shaped hexagonally to resemble the pattern of cells within a honeycomb.

Summary

There can be little doubt about the enduring value of bees in their vital role as nectar and pollen collectors in nature, and the industrious manner in which they build and maintain their hives to store honey. With their dwindling numbers due to man's aggressive technical exploitation of farmed landscapes and the use of both fungicides and herbicides, our concern must certainly be over the future of these fascinating insects. Apiarists have even reported thefts of queens from hives as unscrupulous individuals try to benefit from the deteriorating scene. While, to be sure, there are many potential crises facing mankind in the near future, some glaringly urgent such as refugees seeking to escape from violent persecution, the fate of bees should not, and cannot, be overlooked. Sensible, practical measures need to be pursued to ensure the survival of bees and their prolonged welfare in the years ahead. We may claim that thematic collectors of the bee have a role to play in promoting the well-being of these benign creatures.

An article by Barry Floyd in Gibbons Stamp Monthly of January 2016

THE DOG: 'MAN'S BEST FRIEND'

With so many stamp issues depicting the wide variety of dog breeds, a collection of stamps featuring man's best friend offers the thematic collector a wealth of collecting opportunities. Using stamp issues from around the world, Barry Floyd provides a philatelic survey celebrating the companionship of dogs and their working roles.



Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) have lived and worked with humans for many thousands of years, earning the nickname of 'man's best friend'. Resulting of selective breeding, a very wide selection of domesticated dogs is available to mankind today (**three illustrations shown**). They show more variations in appearance, size and behaviour than any other domesticated animal. They have been bred as hunters, herders of livestock, safeguards of settlements, pullers of loads, controllers of rodents, supporters of the police and the military, and space heroes (**Belka** and **Strelka** the Russian space dogs)—all in addition to their role as companions and pets to humans. There is some disagreement



among archaeologists and biologists as to the dating and location of the domestication of dogs. DNA studies have offered a wide range of possible dates for the divergence of dogs from ancestral wolves—from 15,000 to 40,000 years ago. Initially, the domestication may have occurred in separate areas in Europe and Siberia. But the cohabitation of humans and dogs would have greatly improved the chances of survival for early *homo sapiens* and may possibly have contributed to their cultural advancement in the centuries which lay ahead.

Today, the most widespread form of inter-species bonding occurs between humans and dogs. People and dogs have become increasingly integrated and implicated in each other's lives. As companions and pets, they can actively shape the way a family and

home are experienced. The luckiest dogs end up in homes with people who appreciate that they have to invest time to earn the extraordinarily wonderful rewards that come from living with canine companions. An interesting statistic reveals that the average British dog owner walks their pet some 538 miles over a year—as far as from London to Aberdeen. A special feature of dogs is their ability to respond to voices and to use the same parts of the brain that humans use. This gives dogs the ability to recognise certain human sounds and to respond positively, making them the friendliest of social pets. There is something about the constancy and fidelity of dogs that is deeply reassuring: you can trust their integrity. Scientific evidence is at present inconclusive as to whether the companionship of dogs can enhance human physical and mental health. Some studies have shown that people keeping dogs as pets have tended to exhibit better health than those who have kept no pets, and they were less likely to visit their doctors or take medication. Most dog owners are likely to endorse such positive conclusions. However, another recent study has found no positive correlation between the reduced use of general practitioner services and the physical and psychological benefits on health of dog ownership for older people. Thus, the jury is out at present on this emotive issue.

In addition to their ubiquitous role as domestic companions, some breeds of dogs act as service or working animals - guide dogs for the blind, assistance and hearing dogs and psychological therapy dogs - providing help to individuals with physical or mental disabilities. Some examples of such working dogs are the Labrador Retriever, German Shepherd, Great Dane, Saint Bernard and Siberian Husky. Apart from pure-bred dogs, there are numerous cross- and mixed-breed dogs, with a variety of nicknames such as mongrels, mutts, curs or, more amusingly, Heinz 57 (**right**). Hybrid vigour may result from cross-breeding and the resultant offspring can fulfil many of the functions and roles of the more privileged purebreds.



Dogs have been featured philatelically by many states, both Commonwealth and foreign, although some of the canine breeds illustrated are seldom if ever, viewed in the countries of issue. We examine a selection of dog stamps, **firstly** as household or companion dogs and **secondly** as working animals. At times, of course, while historically bred to undertake specific jobs, today's dogs often fulfil dual or even multi-functions, so the boundaries between their roles is less apparent.

Companion dogs

The 900r. Cambodian stamp **left below** shows a Boxer, a high-energy breed that thrives on play and physical activity. As Boxers are often fearless risk takers, they need responsible owners to curb their excessive natures and require lots of training. The 1500r. stamp **left centre** depicts a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, a small dog originating in Pembrokeshire, Wales, and the younger of two Welsh breeds, the other coming from Cardiganshire. While originally a herding dog, it is now largely kept as a pet. Corgis have been favoured by British Royalty for over 70 years. The 4000r. stamp **above right** illustrates a Basset Hound which began life hunting rabbits and hares but is more of a popular family pet today. It is another short-legged breed, with a curved sabre tail curbed over its back. It is noted for its hanging skin structure: the facial wrinkles and long floppy ears may make the animal look sad but,



according to its owners, this adds to the breed's charm. The 500r. stamp **shown right above** shows a Shih Tzu, a fine little urban house dog whose ancestors came from Tibet, although the modern animal is a result of breeding in China. It is a lap-loving, affection-seeking animal with a dense, thick and long coat. The facial hair is often tied back to



improve vision. The 900r. stamp **left** features a Tibetan Spaniel, a breed of small, assertive and intelligent dogs originating in the Himalayan Mountains of Tibet. It is not a true, Spanish-style gun dog but is considered a spaniel due to a similarity with lap dogs/house dogs/even bedroom dogs such as

the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. The 1500r. stamp **right** portrays a Lhasa Apso dog, a similar, but slightly larger, breed to the Shih Tzu shown in the 500r. stamp. It earlier served as an interior sentinel in the Buddhist monasteries of Tibet, alerting the monks to any intruders. The name simply



means a 'long-haired or woolly Lhasa dog'. The 4000r. stamp **left** shows a Tibetan Terrier, a medium-sized dog with abundant hair; the Tibetan name 'Tsang Apso' means roughly 'shaggy or bearded'. It was misnamed by European travellers who thought it resembled a terrier. Used as a watchdog and for herding sheep in earlier times, the modern Tibetan Terrier is an amiable and affectionate family dog, sensitive to its owner.

The Cuban 5c. stamp **right** offers a side view of another Boxer dog. The 10c. stamp **below** shows a fine Great Dane, a popular heavyweight



animal, typically weighing as much as their owners and almost invariably much less active. They are inclined to live at a leisurely pace and are surprisingly adept at city life. The 30c. stamp **right** depicts three varieties of popular little



Dachshunds: long-haired, short-haired and wire-coated. This is the ultimate urban sophisticate, fitting well into city life since it needs little space. At times temperamental and quite challenging, ground clearance is a problem, but longer limbs from selective breeding are useful recent traits. The 35c. stamp **below left** illustrates a Dobermann, a dog with a somewhat negative image, guarding its territory



with an intimidating bark and aggressive to other dogs. Yet, it is one of the easiest breeds to train and is remarkably reliable with its human family. The 40c. stamp **right** shows a Fox Terrier, one of several terrier dog types formerly and widely employed to chase quarry into burrows and dens, demonstrating the instinctive terrier behaviour of 'going to earth'. Today this little fellow – with a nice stance and upright tail – is widely appreciated as a pet



dog and is a regular winner of championship awards at dog shows. The 50c. stamp **left** portrays a Poodle, another family dog derived from water dogs, trained to retrieve ducks. Generally good-tempered, relaxed and highly trainable; some owners engage in silly canine topiary, but simpler clipping is preferable.

Several family-style dogs are featured in the Gambian mini-sheet (**right**). All four stamps are valued at 40d. The grey, short-coated Weimaraner was once a dual-purpose tracker and retriever dog, but the vast majority are now bred and raised for companionship. It is easy to train and is a handsome town-and-country dog. The Schnauzer is a German equivalent of the West Highland White Terrier. It is a popular breed not only in Europe but also in North



America. Noisy, energetic and playful, the Schnauzer is a reliable companion for families with caring children.

The Chow Chow is one of the few ancient dogs still existing in the world today. It evolved from wolves in the high steppes of Mongolia or Siberia and originally acted as a guardian to temples and palaces in China, while also herding, hunting and pulling sleds. A sturdily-built dog, light brown in colour and with a very dense double coat, it is now widely bred (10,000 Chow Chows are registered every year) which makes it a popular domesticated breed today. The Boxer stamp offers a side view of the animal depicted from the front in



the 900r. Cambodian stamp. The 22p stamp **left** shows a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel; a small, responsive, affable breed which thrives on affection and settles into a family as one of the kids. It has been described as being as 'happy on a couch watching a natural history TV show as it is in the park chasing squirrels or playing with other dogs'. It is a soft-



eyed, cuddly, teddy bear of a pet. The 27p stamp **right** offers a close face-up of the Schnauzer already shown in the 40d. Gambian stamp. The 40p stamp **left** displays a Cocker Spaniel, another very popular UK dog - loving, friendly and always ready for affection from its owner. While a popular family dog, Cockers are still bred as show animals and working dogs, trained to flush out and retrieve woodcock and



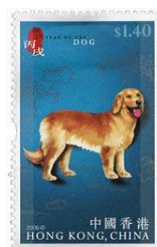
other wildfowl. The 45p stamp **right** shows a West Highland White Terrier, described as a 'solid bundle of playful, yappy muscle, an active participant in all activities and a joyous family companion'. Bred as a hunter of rabbits it is now a responsible domestic pet, requiring frequent bathing since its white coat can get a bit grubby due to its lively excursions. The 65p. stamp **left** depicts another Dachshund to match those in the Cuban 30c. stamp.



The \$1.40 stamp from Hong Kong **right** shows a Labrador Retriever. These affectionate dogs can take several years to mature, remaining Peter Pans: lifelong joyous juveniles. Labs have a relatively relaxed attitude to life though they can be quite energetic, coping well with the unexpected. They love affection, asking for it frequently and sometimes plaintively. As will be noted, Labradors also serve as working dogs in several capacities. The



\$2.40 stamp **left** shows a Pekingese Dog on the occasion of the Chinese 'New Year of the Dog'—2006. This 2000+-year-old breed was favoured by the royalty of the Chinese Imperial Court as a companion and lap dog; the name refers to the city of Peking (Beijing). The flat face and large eyes of the Pekingese are its most obvious characteristics. They should not be kept outside



because breathing problems associated with their flattened features make it difficult for them to regulate their body temperature in hot or cold weather. All sorts of colour combinations occur in today's breeds although the majority are gold, red, cream or sable. The \$5.00 stamp **left** portrays a Beagle, a companionable family dog but also a working animal, used for hunts and quarantine inspection due to a brilliant sense of smell. Patient with children, the word 'merry' is often used by breeders to describe the Beagle. *Marching to their own tune*' may be equally appropriate. The 60p stamp **right** shows an Irish or Red Setter, a family dog which is also bred as a hunting or gun dog. We



consider it here as a household canine. It gets along well with humans, including children, and any other household pets. Unlike certain other domesticated dogs, it also greets visitors quite warmly. Irish Setters are



active animals and require long daily walks. The 68p stamp **below left** illustrates a Kerry Blue Terrier. As the name indicates, it originated in Ireland and was intended to control 'vermin', including rats, rabbits, badgers, foxes and otters. It also became a general working dog, herding livestock and guarding buildings. Today, the Kerry has spread



around the world as a companion dog, admired for its soft curly blue coat - the texture is similar to that of fine human hair—and distinctive head shape. However, it remains an unfashionable breed. The 80p stamp **right** portrays a Pomeranian dog which, while looking like a soft, warm powder puff, is a feisty animal with a mind all of its own. It is one of the smallest of breeds but has inherited a strong, even bossy, attitude. Their owners often appear willing to be bossed. Pomeranians



have a reputation for being yappy and snappy. The 88p stamp **left** shows an Afghan Hound, one of the oldest breeds of dogs in existence; genetic testing, according to some markers, has shown minimal divergence from wolves. Developed in the cold mountains of Afghanistan, the Afghan is a large animal with a thick fine silky coat and long floppy ears. Their attractive appearance has caused them to become highly desirable pets and show dogs, recognised by all the major kennel clubs in the English-speaking world.



The 70c. Monaco stamp **shown right** shows a spotted Dalmatian dog, perhaps one of the most well-known breeds in literature thanks to **The Hundred and One Dalmatians**. The coat is one of the most recognisable physical appearances of any dog in the world. Their area of origin is debatable but they early served, among other jobs, as carriage and guard dogs. Today, they are intelligent, affectionate and playful animals, liking nothing more than a lounge and hugs with their family on the



sofa providing they are regularly exercised outdoors. The Montserrat set (**left**), all with a value of \$3.00, shows four distinctive breeds of great appeal to a range of owners. The Siberian Husky is predominantly a working animal, described later. The French Bulldog or 'Frenchy' is a small breed of domesticated dog, a cross between bulldog

Ancestors from England and dogs from an ancient Greek tribe. They are often known as pig dogs in the UK due to their appearance and snorting noises. While loyal and affectionate, and ultimately making good companions, they are not easy to train when young, requiring both patience and understanding. Remarkably, according to the American Kennel Club, it is among the most popular breeds in the USA. The Chihuahua officially comes from Mexico, but the breed as we know it today is the result of mixing with dogs brought by Europeans into this mid-American country. It was introduced into the USA in the 1850s from the neighbouring state of Chihuahua, hence its name. A very small breed it can be both playful and excitable. Some owners claim to detect a Napoleonic complex within its mind, which means that it sometimes shows its authority through displays of snappy aggression towards other dogs and strangers. Yet it is generally affectionate to its largely female owners and even willing to be transported in shoulder bags by what they consider to be their human slaves! The Basset Hound offers another image of the Basset Hound, seen in the 4000r. Cambodian stamp.

The mini-sheet from the Solomon Islands features four \$7.00 stamps (**below right**). The Dalmatians are companions to the dog shown in the Monaco 70c. stamp while the French Bulldogs offer a match to the same breed shown in the \$3.00 Montserrat stamp. The Shar

Peis come from China and are among the world's rarest dog breeds. They have wrinkly skins and high-set tails and, historically, served as guard dogs. They are often suspicious of strangers, can be stubborn and strong-willed, yet are extremely devoted, loyal and affectionate to their families. The Basenji originated in Central Africa as a breed of hounds or hunting dogs with a pariah lifestyle: free-ranging and foraging on waste from human settlements. Bush dogs, but content to be around people, they have an unusual yodel-like sound when calling to others. The 35c. stamp **far left below** depicts a Papillon



dog. The name is from the French word for butterfly, but it is also called a Continental Toy Spaniel. It is one of the oldest of the spaniel-type dogs—a very intelligent and self-assured animal, sociable with children and

strangers and swift to learn new tricks. The Papillon is widely known as a great companion dog, with the spirit and energy to keep up with active families. The 90c. stamp **near left** illustrates another Chihuahua dog, with smoother hair and a darker coat than that shown in the Montserrat miniature sheet.



Working animals

We may now view a selection of stamps which dominantly focus on dogs which are support or working animals for humans.

The stamps **right** features the famous St Bernard dog, a search and rescue animal from the Swiss and Italian Alps. The name originates from the Great St Bernard Hospice, a traveller's rest centre in the, often treacherous, Great St Bernard Pass in the Western Alps between Switzerland and Italy. A huge and very sturdy dog, it assisted in saving the lives of many mountaineers caught by rock falls and avalanches, although many of them perished in the effort. One of the most courageous, named Barry, was responsible for saving up to 100 lives. His body is preserved in the Natural History Museum in Berne. St Bernard dogs are no longer used for mountain rescues but the hospice maintains a number of the dogs for reasons of tradition and sentiment. A related Barry Foundation trains the dogs to participate in a variety of dog sports including carting and weight pulling. The dogs featured **left** are all playing supporting roles. The 75c. Argentine stamps show a German Shepherd searching atop a pile of debris and a guide dog assisting a blind woman. The 17f.+4f. Belgium stamp (with face value embossed in Braille) depicts a Labrador trained to assist the blind. The 1978 13c. Cuban stamp shows a Frontier soldier and guard dog, commemorating the 15th anniversary of while the 2001 65c. stamp illustrates an



Frontier Troops, Alsatian dog sniffing luggage for possible illegal drugs. Huskies are featured in the stamps shown in Fig 16. Their name refers to the type of dog used to pull sledges at fast speeds in high latitudes. They were widely used by the Innu in northern regions, helping them to survive in the harsh winters. They were later transferred to Antarctica to assist in exploring the southern continent. In recent years, huskies have been marketed for tourist treks using sledges or for other adventure travellers in snowy regions. Energetic and athletic, with thick

double coats, they are ideal work dogs, thriving best in the outdoors, especially in crisp cool to cold weather. Huskies make good pets for retired travellers and those with a particular affection for these fine animals.

The Australian Antarctic Territory set of several denominations shows huskies pulling sledges, in harnesses and on leads; it commemorates the departure in 1994 of these sturdy dogs from the Australian Antarctic. The 1000r. Cambodian stamp features the image of a Siberian husky, hardly likely to be a working dog or a pet in Southeast Asia. The 4fo. stamp from Hungary celebrates the Antarctic achievements of the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. His image is shown above several active huskies. The 90c. stamp from Monaco marks the centenary of the epic journey to the North Pole in 1903, also by Amundsen. He is pictured above a lengthy line of huskies pulling a heavy sledge. The Romanian 3l.40 stamp shows a strong team of huskies headed by a leader, while a 6k. Slovakian stamp celebrates the 2002 European Sled Dog Race Championship, held in



Donovaly. The German Shepherd or Alsatian appears again on several stamps such as those shown **left**. They rank among the world's leading breeds, numbering in their millions and all descended from a small number of working dogs in northern Germany, originally intended for herding sheep. Since that time, and due to their intelligence, strength and trainability, they have assumed many other types of work, including search and rescue, police and military roles, and even acting (*Rin Tin Tin* and *Strongheart*).



The well-bred German Shepherd makes a good family dog, easy to train, reliable, obedient and dependable with children. Two essentially guard dogs are featured **right**: the 200r. stamp showing a Rottweiler and the 500r. stamp depicting a Beauceron. The Rottweiler is a big bruiser of a breed, one of the strong silent members of dogdom. It is an impressive watchdog with a natural inclination to dominate and pick fights with other dogs but, if carefully raised with a family, a Rottie may be a reliable friend. The Beauceron is a working guard dog whose origins lie in Northern France. It was used to herd sheep and cattle, and it was once a guard against the threat, now long gone, of wolves. The breed served in both world wars to deliver messages, to carry supplies and to engage in landmine detection. Today, the Beauceron is a search dog, and a police dog and may



engage in rescue work. The stamps shown **left** feature a selection of working dogs within Hungary, assisting with herding and the reclamation of game. The 50fi. Stamp depicts a shaggy-coated Hungarian Puli sheepdog, facing up to, in this instance, an aggressive-looking bull.

The 80fi. stamp shows a Hungarian retriever; the 1f stamp portrays a retriever carrying a mallard duck; and the 1fo.50 stamp illustrates a Kuvasz sheepdog with a cottage in the background. Many activities undertaken by working dogs are featured in the Romanian stamps (**right**). The low value 55b. offers a dramatic scene of a child being rescued from the sea. The 1l. stamp shows a shepherd and his dog; the 3l. stamp illustrates a sportsman and his gun dog; the 4l. stamp depicts a dog assisting its owner with a shopping basket in its mouth; the 4l.80 shows a dog assisting its blind mistress; and the 5l. stamp shows a loyal Dalmatian dog watching over a little girl playing with her doll.



Summary

We have reviewed a fair selection of dog stamps in this article, although many more might have been included since the theme is a popular one among collectors. For those who already feature dogs in their displays, we trust this review may have proved of some interest. To those philatelists who may be contemplating a new topic to pursue, whether or not they have a treasured pet around the house or an animal trained to assist with some disability, we hope they may be encouraged to start a dog collection and to get as much pleasure from their efforts as the present writer achieved from preparing this review.

Acknowledgements

A most useful book for describing the behaviour and characteristics of dogs is by Dr Bruce Fogle, *New Dog*. Choosing wisely and ensuring a happy ever after. It was published by Mitchell Beazley in London in 2008 (ISBN 978 1 84533 323 2). Dr Fogle is a practising vet and has written quite a few books about dogs—their history, variety, health, nutrition and about how they think.

Dogs Today is a monthly magazine for pet owners which provides helpful information concerning current trends in dog care and handling (www.dogstodaymagazine.co.uk).

An article by Barry Floyd in Gibbons Stamp Monthly of March 2016

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Orangeburg Coil

The **Orangeburg Coil** is one of the major rarities of US philately and is certainly the rarest of all US coil stamps. The design of the 3¢ stamp is the familiar Washington Head. It is a flat-plate printing on single-line watermarked paper and is perforated 12 vertically. It was reliably reported that only one line was produced. It was sold in 1911 to the Bell Pharmaceutical Company of Orangeburg, N.Y., which used it to mail out examples of patent medicine to doctors. One of the recipients, Dr Jason Samuel Parker of White Plains, N.Y., a keen collector, noticed the new variety and wrote to the company. Max G. Johl quotes in *The United States Postage stamps of the 20th Century* of 1935 from a letter from Dr Parker in which he reports having received a mint pair from the president of the Bell Pharmaceutical Company in response to his inquiry. Johl notes that the stamp was printed from plate #5126.



ORANGE FREE STATE



Now a province of the Republic of South Africa, the Orange Free State was one of the destinations of the **Great Trek** made by the dissatisfied Boers from the Cape Colony. They established the Free State with the capital Bloemfontein, which the British annexed in 1848. They gave it up 6 years later. This state, together with the Transvaal, was involved in the Anglo-Boer War (now called the South African War). Following the war, the province was one of the states to form the Union of South Africa. The first stamps were issued in 1868 and feature the Free State's orange tree emblem. A large number of surcharges followed, and even some revenue stamps were authorised for postal



purposes. In 1900 the state was occupied by the British forces and the orange-tree emblem stamps were overprinted **V.R.I.**, and surcharged. These were followed in 1903 by stamps depicting the profile of King Edward VII inscribed **ORANGE RIVER COLONY**. The area now uses the stamps of the Union and now the Republic of South Africa.

ORANJE VRIJ STAAT

This inscription identifies the stamps of the Orange Free State.

Orchha

Orchha is an Indian Feudatory State, which issued its first stamps in 1913. These remained in use until 1950. They were valid only within the state. Tikamgarh was the capital city of the state. They now use the stamps of the Republic of India.



ORDINARY



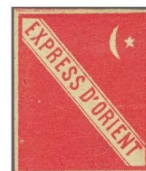
This is an overprint which can be found on Official stamps of Liberia to convert them to regular postage stamps. The issues of 1901-02 were used for this purpose.

Ordinary paper

The term refers to plain wove paper, as distinct from watermarked, tinted or chalk-surfaced paper.

Orient Express

Collectors with a taste of the romantic and exotic will be intrigued to know that during the 1880s Hungary, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, issued revenue stamps to indicate the prepayment of transit charges by the Orient Express. In the Barefoot catalogue of Hungarian revenue stamps, three issues are described, 1880, 1884 and 1892. The issue of 1880 consisted of two stamps inscribed **Dazio**. The second and third issues, comprising six and two stamps inscription **Expres d'Orient**, which was used on mail posted at foreign post offices in that country that was to go by train rather than ship.



ORO PASTAS

This is an inscription which can be found on the air mail stamps of Lithuania.



ORTS-POST



The inscription **ORTS-POST** is found on one stamp of the first issue of the Swiss Federal Administration in 1850. The other design bears the inscription **POSTE LOCALE**.



O.S.



This is an overprint which can be found on the stamps of numerous countries to designate Official stamps. The letters stood for *on service*. Between 1913 and 1931, Australia perforated these initials on its official stamps. The letters

O.S. also appear on the upper corners of some Norwegian Official stamps. They stand for *Offentlig Sak*, the designation of a Norwegian Official stamp.

O.S.G.S.

This is an overprint which can be found on some Official stamps of Sudan.



OSTEN



This inscription together with a surcharge appears on German stamps for use in occupied Poland in 1939

Ostland

The word **OSTLAND** overprinted on stamps of Germany indicates stamps produced for use in the German-occupied areas of the USSR. A set of 20 stamps of Germany were overprinted in this way and released in 1941.



Ostropa sheet



This is the nickname given to a souvenir sheet issued by Germany on 23 June 1935, to mark the international stamp exhibition held at Königsberg, East Prussia. The expensive has gained notoriety because the sulphuric acid content of the gum has destroyed several of them. Many collectors have already removed the gum and thus saved sheets from further destruction. It is, however, a classic illustration of the harm that gum can do.

OUBANGUI-CHARI-TCHAD



Stamps bearing the overprint **OUBANGUI-CHARI-TCHAD** were for use in the French colony of Ubangi-Shari. The overprint was applied mostly on the stamps of Middle Congo, but the Colonial Exhibition



key type of 1931 was overprinted **OUBANGUI-CHARI** and French postage due labels were overprinted **OUBANGUI-CHARI A.E.F.**

OUS

The abbreviation stands for Oxford Union Society and was described as part of College stamps.

Outer Mongolia

This was described as part of the Mongolian People's Republic.

Compiled by Robert Harm 10 Sep 2023