



The “Not Going To Happen” Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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**Most Meetings Held the first Tuesday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Site: Berkshire Commons, 5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422)
Turn North on Lincoln opposite of the Dairy Queen.
Proceed 300 feet, turn left on Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.**

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

From Celine Poulin-Lape

COVID-19 HEALTH CARE HEROES

3 countries have issued stamps for solidarity and thinking of our health care heroes: Switzerland, Viet Nam and Iran. At this time, according to Mystic Stamps, dealers cannot get these stamps before 6 months or later.

I am in the process of ordering some directly from the Switzerland postal office. Will see how much it costs in USD and will send a picture when they arrive.

Any others out there???

I have no Club News as no one has written to me. I trust you are all safe and have not contracted the virus. If you hear of a club member who has let me know.

The next few pages are articles I have stumbled across this evening!

Read on and Enjoy!

Post modern: why millennials have fallen in love with stamp collecting

Philately is gaining popularity with younger hobbyists, who are drawn to its vintage - and Instagram - appeal

Nicole Mowbray

Shares
1,101



Illustration from The Children's Golden Treasure Book for 1937. Today people share their stamps via Twitter and Instagram. Photograph: Getty

It was once a byword for boring, but it seems stamp collecting is finding a new – young – audience, despite the fact that some hobbyists have never actually posted a letter.

Philately is gaining popularity among millennials, many of whom see the creative pursuit as an escape from their screen-based lives, says 37-year-old Suzanne Rae, from North Yorkshire.

“Philately is tangible: it’s relaxing and unplugged. It’s also very Instagrammable,” says Rae, who is only the second female chairman the Philatelic Traders Society has had in its 91-year history. “Twitter and Instagram enable young collectors to find people like them, and see that it’s not only a geeky old man’s pursuit.”

Rae gave up her job as a management consultant two years ago to make her hobby her business by starting an online stamp shop, Art Stamped. “We were one of the first stamp businesses using social media,” she says..”

Nicholas Challinor-Halford, business manager at stamp auctioneer Harmers of London, believes that part of the millennial boom is the result of romantic notions of pre-digital life. “For Generation Y... [stamp] collecting is escapism with a nostalgic slant, giving collectors a physical link with the past.”

Sadie Medhurst, a 31-year-old fan, agrees: “Stamp collecting is presumed to be a solitary endeavour reserved for the older members of society, but this could not be further from the truth. Each stamp tells a story: I often like to think of the many hands they have passed through.”



**FacebookTwitterPinterest
Instagram stamp art by Suzanne Rae**

Rae’s love of stamp collecting was instilled in her as a child, thanks to her grandparents.

“I grew up in Edinburgh where there was – and is – a stamp shop just around the corner,” Rae says. “I started off buying British stamps with my pocket money. As I travelled for work, I built up a Ghanaian Gold Coast collection. More recently, though, I just collect what I like – stamps that tell stories or are graphically appealing.”

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This feeling is echoed by 29-year-old Constanze Dennis, a senior auctioneer at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions in London, who says stamp collecting ties together many elements she loves. “I have a scientific background, so the analytical side really appeals,” she says. “My personal philatelic interest is crash mail, envelopes salvaged from plane crashes. Definitely morbid but equally fascinating.”

One of the highlights of the stamp collectors’ calendar is the Stampex show, held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London every autumn. “There are lots of younger people there,” says Rae. “It’s not fuddy duddy; it’s engaging. You can ... spend a lot of money but it’s a hobby you can enjoy inexpensively too.”

“From the outside looking in, stamp collecting makes no sense,” says 34-year-old collector James Leigh, who also works at stamp dealer John Curtin Ltd. “Why are people spending sometimes vast amounts of money on little bits of paper that look almost identical? [But] I find them utterly fascinating and I don’t care who knows it.”

“Stamp collecting is so much more than a hobby,” says Medhurst. “It’s a lifestyle, a community.” And, perhaps, the perfect salve for these constrained times.

The Large Dragons of China

Imperial China had a long history of an organised postal system. The Imperial government developed a system of routes, messengers and posthouses over centuries. Until 1878, that system was used only for government purposes while messages for citizens were carried by private couriers. During the 4th year of the Emperor Guangxu, a modern postal system was set up and in July of 1878, the first set of three stamps was released.

Thin Paper, Large Dragons

The stamps had a design of a large dragon in the centre, surrounded by a boxed frame with a bilingual inscription of "CHINA" and the local denomination "CANDARINS." Stamps were in different colours: 1 Candarin in green, 3 Candarins in red and 5 Candarins in Yellow.

This first issue was on thin, hard unwatermarked paper. The stamps were in sheets of 25 (5X5), spaced 2.5mm apart on all sides and perforated 12½.



Wide Margins, Large Dragons

In 1882, the second set of Large Dragons was issued. They were printed on thin or pelure paper, using the same colours and currency. This time, the stamps were spaced 4.5mm apart and arranged in sheets of 15 (5X3) for the value of 3 Candarins, while the other values were arranged in sheets of 25 (5X5).

A rare find: The value of 1 Candarin and 3 Candarin with part of watermark of the paper maker's name (MONCKTON KENT). The 1882 set is called "Wide Margins, Large Dragons."



Thick Paper Large Dragons with Clean Cut Perforations

In 1883, a set of Large Dragons was issued, printed this time on thick, opaque paper with the stamps printed 3,25mm apart arranged in sheets of 20 (4X5) with clean-cut perforation. The 1883 set is known as “Thick Paper Large Dragons with Clean Cut Perforations.”



Thick Paper Large Dragons With Rough Perforations

In 1885, the perforation machines, due to the mechanical wear, gradually started to have their needles blunted. The result was that the stamps began to appear with rough perforation, a subtype of the previous issue so can be distinguished.



The wide range of cancels, shades and variety opens up various possibilities for collectors to study and collect this fascinating first issue of China.

This article is written by Specialist Auction Describer Michele Martini.

Courtesy of Stanley Gibbons, London England

Queen Elizabeth's £100 Million Stamp Collection Features Rare Finds, but It's Missing the World's Most Famous Stamp

[Amanda Harding](#) |

April 30, 2020

Queen Elizabeth is well-known for [collecting corgis](#), horses, and brightly colored outfits, but royal fans may not realize that she's also an avid stamp enthusiast. The 94-year-old monarch is quite proud of her collection and as it turns out, the hobby isn't just a bit of fun — it's [also quite lucrative](#).

In the unlikely event that the [monarchy was abolished](#) tomorrow and taxpayer funding dried up overnight, the queen would have to draw upon her personal wealth for survival. And besides her properties, art collection, and pricey cache of jewels, Her Majesty also has about [\\$100 million worth of assets](#) in stamps.

Queen Elizabeth loves showing off her stamp collection

Most visitors to Buckingham Palace will expect to be [offered a cup of tea](#) with the queen, but they might be slightly surprised when Her Majesty trots out her impressive stamp collection to show off. Yet according to one royal expert that's exactly what she loves to do.

"The queen loves showing her stamp collection to visitors, say heads of state who stay at Buckingham Palace," Phil Dampier told Fabulous Digital, [as The Sun reported](#).

"It is one of her pride and joys, not only because she owns some of the world's most valuable stamps, but also because she has built on a family treasure and feels she has done her father and previous monarchs who owned it proud."



Queen Elizabeth | Lisa Sheridan/Studio Lisa/Getty Images

The queen does not own the world's most famous stamp

Though her collection includes multiple rare and valuable finds, Queen Elizabeth lacks one very famous stamp that she'd no doubt love to own. This is the highly coveted British Guiana 1c magenta from 1856, of which there is only one surviving version in the world.

The stamp most recently sold for \$9.8 million at Southeby's to [famed shoe designer](#) Stuart Weitzman. Like the queen, Weitzman is an avid collector, a hobby he's been keen on since childhood.

One rare stamp would complete the queen's collection

British Guiana One-Cent Magenta stamp



It's not just that Her Majesty wants the stamp because of its value — that single stamp is the final piece to complete her collection of British

Imperial stamps. This is a collection of stamps related to the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth.

Though she wasn't prepared to spend more than \$9 million on the missing piece, Queen Elizabeth no doubt covets that single missing stamp for her very impressive collection.

The royal stamp collection has been passed down through generations



George VI | Kurt Hutton/Getty Images

Though Queen Elizabeth has expanded her stamp collection, the majority of her treasured stamps came to her through inheritance.

Members of the royal family have been collecting stamps since 1864 and the first noted collector was Prince Alfred. He eventually sold his collection to his brother Edward VII, who then gave it to his son, George V. The treasured stamps were so valued that each monarch has employed an official curator to manage them.

George V was also a serious collector and was elected honorary vice-president of what later became the Royal Philatelic Society of London. His son George VI was Queen Elizabeth's father and eventually, the stamp collection made its way to her through him.