



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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Meetings held at Calvary Lutheran Church, 1009 Elizabeth Avenue in Laureldale. Elizabeth Avenue crosses Kutztown Road in the Muhlenberg Township area. Most meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. See you there!

Tuesday, September 5th

"CINDERELLAS"

Bring any Cinderella Stamps that you may have to share with your fellow members.

This is a really broad topic and subject to much discussion as to what is or is not a Cinderella.

What's is your view?

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of July 31: Account Balance \$ 946.27. CD as of 12/31/2022 # 3,076.00

Stamp show money received to date but not banked as of July 31st: 260.00

Is Stamp Collecting a dying hobby?

It depends in what part of the world you live in.

Taipei International Show Draws 180,000

Taipei 2023, the 39th Asian International Stamp Exhibition, closed on Aug. 15 after drawing more than 180,000 show-goers over five days. According to Chunghwa Post, one of the show organizers, this year's exhibition marked the largest international event since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It not only serves as an international exchange platform for philatelists but also allows people of different generations and ages to appreciate the art and culture of stamp collection, which will in turn promote the philatelic culture in Taiwan and leave a lasting impression on all the participants,” according to a statement issued by organizers.

Philatelists from 26 countries affiliated with the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately participated in the event, which featured about 1,050 exhibit frames with material from around the world, including Canada. Chunghwa Post, Taiwan's official postal service, issued several sets of stamps in conjunction with the exhibition's theme, “Stamp Day.”



Special mini sheet issued for the show

During the show, organizers also offered several interactive and hands-on activities, including custom postmark production.

Another observation:

Tony Shields (Shields Stamps, Melbourne, Australia) posted on his Facebook page that “The final attendance at the stamp exhibition was 330,000 people. Total cost of the show was nearly A\$2,000,000 which was mostly paid by Taiwan Post Office, and their sales were A\$5,000,000 at the exhibition. What a stunning set of figures.”

ICELAND POSTOFFICE BACK TO ISSUING STAMPS?

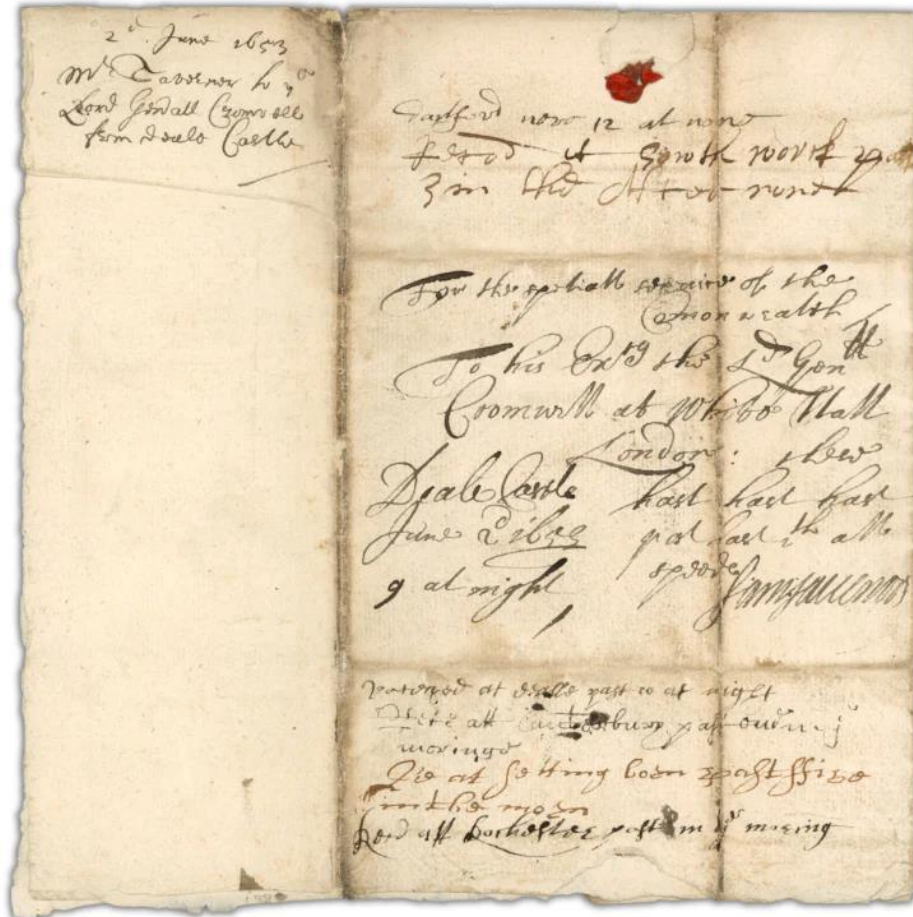


Almost three years after Iceland Post announced that it would stop issuing stamps, the postal authority has revealed the design of a four-stamp miniature sheet produced to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the country's first stamps, known as shilling stamps, which were released in 1873.

The mini-sheet of four self-adhesive stamps includes two values at 50g and two at 100g, and features drone photography of fire, ice and the northern lights, capturing the ‘variety of Icelandic nature’.

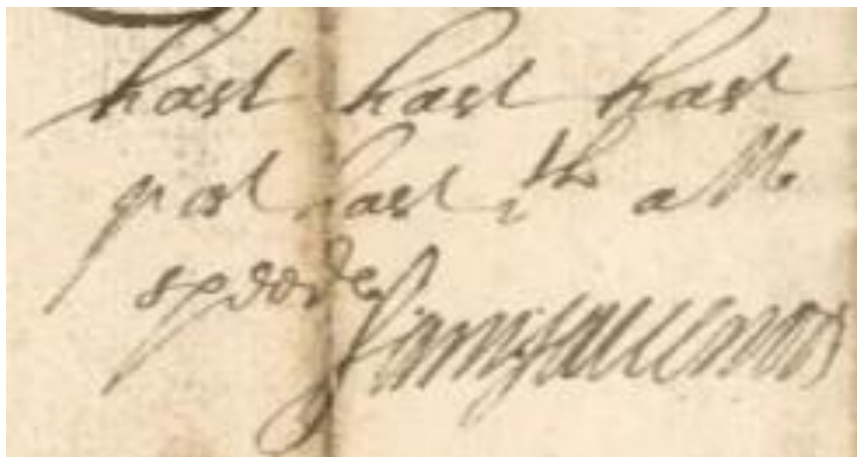
A PIECE OF RARE ENGLISH POSTAL HISTORY

2 words written on this 370-year-old envelope transform it into an extraordinary philatelic treasure



Those two words being "Post Hast".

The actual phrase being "Hast Hast Hast Post Hast with All Speed' in the letter from Deal Castle to Oliver Cromwell as Lord General in London.



This envelope contains two special words. And those words make it a piece of huge rarity.

'Post haste'. A phrase we still use today.

It's what senders would write on envelopes 400 years ago. To instruct the post boy this was an urgent letter and to ride at top speed. These post haste letters are so rare that we are talking a handful at most. Most were thrown away immediately after being read. And most that remain are now in postal museums or archives.

Post haste letters - the dangers of being a post-boy

- Only important government officials could use the "post haste" instruction to transform a regular letter into an express delivery.
- And legend has it that a post-boy could be imprisoned (or worse) if he didn't get the letter to its recipient in time.
- The post-boy would gallop through the countryside, changing horses every few miles at the next post office. And everywhere the post-boy stopped, the postmaster would write the time and location on the letter. In this way, these post haste letters were an early form of recorded delivery.

Such repetition of 'haste' is almost unheard of, and indicates the extraordinary importance of this letter's recipient and contents.

2. The recipient of this envelope is among the most important and notorious men in British history.

Oliver Cromwell.: The man who tried and succeeded (for a while) to rid Britain of its monarchy. The letter is from 1653. The same year Cromwell is named Lord Protector. And just four years after he executed Charles I and seized power for himself. and this is the only post haste letter to Cromwell that is known.

3. History-changing content

Yet what does the letter state? That's so important it must go with such haste?

The letter contains news for Cromwell of the Battle of the Gabbard

This letter is how Cromwell heard that the Battle of the Gabbard (June 2 and 3) was underway. The British Navy routed the Dutch fleet off the coast of Suffolk. Eight Dutch ships were sunk or burned, and 11 captured. No English ships were lost or seriously damaged. And

Important details you should know:

The letter was sent and signed by 'Sam Tavenor' (Governor of Deal Castle in Kent). He has addressed it: 'For the special service of the Commonwealth, To his Exly the Ld Genal, Cromwell at White Hall, London'. The envelope records a detailed account of the letter's journey. You can follow its progress from Deal on the Kent coast to Southwark on the edge of London.

- D'atched at Deale past 10 at night
- Recd att Canterbury past one in the morning
- R'd at Setting Born past five in the morn
- Recd att Rochester past 8 in ye morning
- Dartford now 12
- Reced at South Work past 3 in the Afternone
- From Southwark it is just 2 miles across London Bridge to Westminster.

From Deal Castle to Oliver Cromwell in London in 18 hours - good going.

Editors Note: This is a wonderful and unique piece of Postal History and it was put up for sale in April 2023 with a price tag of only £14,995 (approx. £18,500).

U.S. Postal History

NEW ORLEANS POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL



- On 1 June 1861, the use of US postage stamps was stopped in the Confederate post offices. The first Confederate Government postage stamps were only released on 16 October 1861. In the interim period, numerous southern postmasters issued provisional stamps, most of which are extremely scarce but hugely popular.
- J. L. Riddell was the local postmaster in New Orleans, Louisiana. He issued a number of stamps with denominations of 2 and 5 cents in the second half of 1861 and in early 1862. The US *Scott Specialized Catalogue of US Stamps & Covers* lists seven different stamps, most of which are major rarities on cover.
- On 2 January 1862, Riddell issued a red 2c stamp.
- Content continues after advertisements
- Exactly the same stamp had previously (14 July 1861) been issued in blue color. In mint condition this is the New Orleans stamp with the lowest catalogue value. However, US specialized dealers of Confederate stamps have very few on offer, which suggests that the stamp is rarer than the catalogues indicate.
- In fault-free condition expect to pay some £150 for a mint copy. As the stamps were printed close together it can be difficult to locate a copy with four clear margins.
- It should be noted that forgeries exist of this New Orleans stamp. It should only be acquired from dealers who know and guarantee what they are offering.
- Today most stamps sell for far less than catalogue value but there are notable exceptions including the postmasters' provisionals issued during the first months of the Confederate States of America.

ZEPPELIN LOVERS: IMPORTANT EVENT

Smithsonian to host lecture on U.S. zeppelin stamps



The rarest and most expensive of the 1930 Graf Zeppelin stamps. (Courtesy of United States Post Office.)

A retired chief curator of philately at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum will give a lecture on U.S. zeppelin stamps as part of the 20th Maynard Sundman Lecture in November.

Chery Ganz, the current president of the American Philatelic Society (APS) will speak on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m. EDT at the museum and also online on Zoom. Admission is free, but [reservations](#) are required.

There are a lot of collectors of zeppelin stamps from the 1930s. But why did the Post Office Department issue four zeppelin stamps to subsidize a German aircraft's operations during the Great Depression? Why were the values of these stamps so high and who received all that money? How did the rates and routes change from 1930 to 1933? Why were zeppelins important to transoceanic mail service?

The lecture audience can learn the stories about these zeppelin stamps that are so iconic to philatelists today. Ganz will trace the production of the issues at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing from source materials to die proofs to certified plate proofs with marginal markings. The first days of issue examples will cover the various city postmarks and private cachets. Finally, she will illustrate when and where Graf Zeppelin flew mail with U.S. franking and the many ways that passengers, crew and collectors sought to create varieties.



Dr. Cheryl R. Ganz, president of the American Philatelic Society and Curator Emerita Smithsonian Institution.

Ganz is a social/cultural historian and lifelong stamp collector. These two interests have directed her research in both local postal history and zeppelin posts.

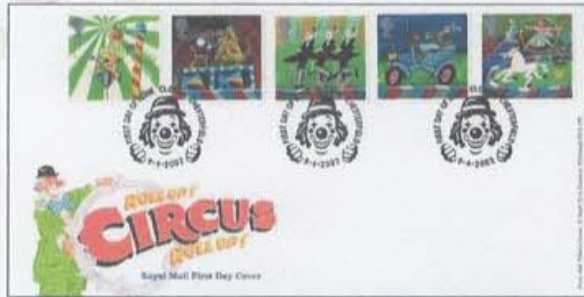
Ganz is a Smithsonian curator emerita following her retirement. Besides serving as the APS president, she is also the USA North Central representative of the Royal Philatelic Society London and a member on the U.S. Postal Service's Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee—the committee that selects subjects and reviews designs for U.S. postage stamps.

Ganz's exhibits, publications and talks focus on her specialty of zeppelin posts and memorabilia worldwide, especially from U.S. airships, the 1933 Graf Zeppelin Chicago flight and Hindenburg. She founded and administers the Facebook group of Zeppelin & Airship Collectors and edited and co-edited "The Zeppelin Collector" for 37 years. In addition to zeppelin material, she collects Wisconsin postal history, Germany, Switzerland and China.

National Service Award, USPCS Distinguished Philatelist Award, Elizabeth C. Pope Lifetime Achievement Award, FISA Gold Medal, Canadian Aerophilatelic Society Award, Chris Hunt Award, Newberry Award and the Single Frame Champion of Champions. Ganz earned a doctorate in U.S. history from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her publications include *The 1933 Chicago World's Fair: A Century of Progress, Delivering Hope: FDR & Stamps of the Great Depression, Fire & Ice: Hindenburg and Titanic, Favorite Finds, Pacific Exchange: China & U.S. Mail, Every Stamp Tells a Story: The National Philatelic Collection, Zeppelin Hindenburg: An Illustrated History of LZ-129* and *U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail Flights* plus more than a hundred articles.

TOPICAL TIME: CLOWNS

Courtesy of "Allaboutstamps.co.uk"



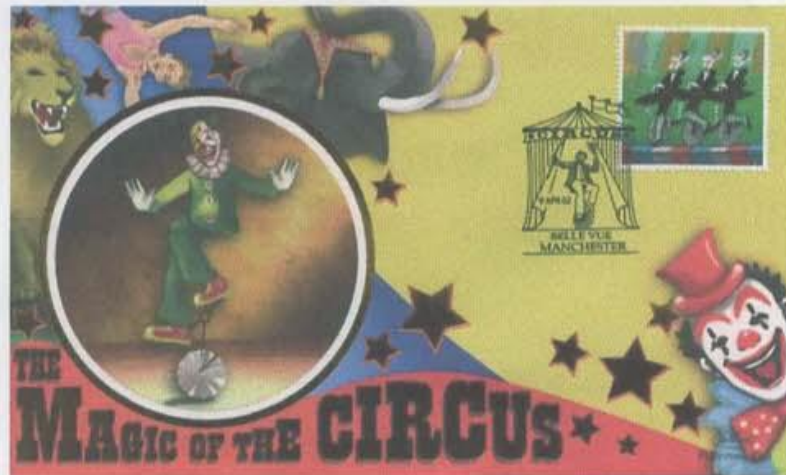
KEEPING IT TOPICAL

Clowning about with stamps

With International clown week approaching, now's the time for a bit of slapstick with your stamp collection, as our thematics guide reveals

Look away if you suffer from coulrophobia, or fear of clowns, because in the coming three pages you will be facing your worst nightmare. You are about to be slapped in the face, nor with a custard pie, but, striking terror into the hearts of coulrophobic philatelists everywhere, with images not just of clowns, but clowns on stamps. The week of 1-7 August is International Clown Week, and in America, 7 August is National Clown Day, so let's lace up our slap shoes, pull on our big clown's pants and tiptoe through the tulips of a thematic that is either happy and jolly (if you like face-painted funny people) or utterly horrific (if you don't).

Perhaps the best-known clown stamp is the 1966 5c issued in the USA on 2 May to commemorate 100 years of the birth of John Ringling, who founded the Ringling



Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the American travelling circus that traversed the country on its own train that transported its 'big top' tents and an immense cast of performers, and

was known as 'The Greatest Show on Earth'. The clown depicted on the American Circus Commemorative stamp is Johann Jacob Ludwig, professionally known as Lou Jacob, who performed as an auguste (the style of clown who performs slapstick comedy in facepaint, is usually in the receiving end of the joke, and the most familiar type seen in circuses). Each auguste develops their own individual look, and Lou's included a red nose, check suit, baggy trousers, big shoes and a small umbrella with a 10-foot handle. Lou, who performed with Ringlings for sixty years, was particularly associated with the clown





car, which he'd ride into the ring, furiously honking the horn – an act which can be seen in Cecil B. DeMille's 1952 movie *The Greatest Show on Earth*. The stamp showing Lou Jacobs is a great starting point for anyone interested in a clown or circus thematic, and circus fans might also want to look into covers relating to the issue, including one from the St Louis Carnival Supply Company showing a photographic image of Lou in his characteristic clownface.

The UPS also commemorated the 200th anniversary of the first circus performance in the USA with the 6 April 1993 issue of four 29c se-tenant stamps, featuring a poster-style illustrations designed by Steve McCracken of a ringmaster, aerialist, elephant, and of course, a clown.

Celebrity clowns from Europe, with its own long circus tradition, are celebrated on the 2002 Europa

stamps, which had the theme of 'The Circus'. The Famous Clowns set designed for Gibraltar by Antelmo Torres featured Joseph Grimaldi as the 30p value. Grimaldi was Britain's most popular comic pantomime entertainer of the Regency era, a harlequin (superior, whiteface) clown in whose honour harlequins became known as 'Joey'. One of his catchphrases was 'here we go again' – used in pantomime to this day. The 40p stamp features the Swiss Grock (1880-1959), who was a European circus performer from childhood, and became known as 'King of the Clowns' for his trademark act which combined pantomime and musical mishaps. The clown in the 42p stamp is probably the best-known clown of all, Coco, aka Nicolai Poliakov (1900-1974). Young Nicolai ran away to join the circus when he was eight, and learned his trade in the great Russian

circuses. In December 1929 he first appeared in the UK, with Bertram Mills in Manchester. Coco the



Clown, who performed as an auguste, went on to become the most famous clown in the UK, and was awarded an OBE in 1963. The final stamp in the set, the 52p stamp, depicts Charlie Clairoli (Hubert Jean Charles





Clairol, 1910-1980), who was born into an Italian circus family and began performing in Blackpool just as the Second World War broke out. He stayed in Blackpool for the rest of his life, performing in a red nose and Charlie Chaplin-style bowler.

The 2002 Europa stamps offer rich pickings for anyone assembling a clown thematic. The French Europa 2002 set included two clown stamps; one depicting an auguste and the other showing a clown in white face. Ireland's set featured an illustration of an auguste. Denmark and Andorra both featured childlike drawings of clowns. Royal Mail's 2002's Circus set designed by R. Fuller for the Europa theme included a zany illustration of a clown in a 'Krazy Kar' (45p), and the First Day Cover featured quirky

images of a whiteface clown riding a unicycle and a grinning auguste in top hat and bow tie. There are many more, amusing, delightful – and collectable. Anyone wanting to follow this thread can see a full gallery of the 2002 Europa Circus stamps here: <https://philatelylately.com/2020/09/27/europa-cept-2002-circus-on-stamps>

Generic clowns have made frequent appearances on postage stamps in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The Royal Mail's 1991 Greetings Smiles series included a 1st class stamp illustrated with a broadly grinning red clown mouth over a spotted bow tie – guaranteed to induce the frights if that sort of thing gives you the heebie-jeebies to start with. The cover of the booklet featured an altogether more endearing harlequin, holding a letter and



smiling in a way that welcomes, rather than terrifies. The 2001 commemorative Punch and Judy set designed by Keith Bernstein using puppets by Brian Clarke included a 1st class clown – in traditional Punch and Judy shows, Joey the Clown (named after Grimaldi!) is an intrinsic part of the performance, his arrival heralding the production of a string of sausages. A really lovely clown image was delivered as part of 1995's Greetings – Art set: the 1st class 'Circus Clowns' by Emily Firmin and Justin Mitchell.

Widening the search, clowns abound worldwide, particularly in stamps designed with children in mind. There's an appealing clown depicted on a Romanian stamp from 1969 – available on eBay at the knockdown price of £1.35. Germany's 1993 'Fur Uns Kinder' stamp has an illustration of a singing clown that, combined with the photographic clown on the FDC (available on eBay for £1.40) will haunt your waking dreams. An altogether more approachable clown, merrily playing a saxophone, is illustrated on Deutsche Post's 1989 stamp. And there are more – if anyone is growing a sub-thematic of children's stamps with clowns on them, the amount of German issues makes you think that someone in the Bundespost might be moonlighting in whiteface.



EDITORS NOTE: I really don't like clowns but it was a good topical article.

