

Stamp collecting starts here.

An introduction to philately from Britain's leading stamp club.



A Message from the National Philatelic Society President.



I wish a warm welcome to you all. I hope that those of you who are Re-discovering stamps – or discovering the hobby for the first time will enjoy participating as much as we do.

The National Philatelic Society was founded in 1899 as the

Junior Philatelic Society and we are particularly keen to renew our links with the junior collector either directly, or through Dad, Mum, Grandad, Grandma or any other relative or friend who is prepared to help. My Uncle started me collecting stamps when I was seven years old and I still haven't tired of it.

Richard Pratt, my predecessor as President, left a sum of money to the National Philatelic Society to assist in promoting both the hobby and the Society. We have spent some of this in

taking a stand at the Ideal Home at Christmas Show and in producing this booklet to support it. But although the National Philatelic Society is spearheading this initiative, it would not have been a success without the help and good will of our friends in other Philatelic Societies, philatelic traders, and other organisations – most notably Stanley Gibbons, whose designers and printers have produced this book.

I hope it provides a worthwhile introduction to the hobby and a guide to where your collecting interests might take you.

And of course, if you want to know more, join a local or national stamp club and quiz your fellow-members!

So, enjoy the show and perhaps, a lifetime of stamps – and thanks for coming to our stand and taking the time to read this booklet.

CHRISTOPHER OLIVER

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Talking Stamps

These following words or phrases appear throughout this brochure and in stamp magazines and catalogues. Here's what they mean.

Cancelled to Order (CTO) A stamp that has been cancelled before it was put on sale.

Circular Date Stamp (CDS) the neat cancellation found on the highest grade of used stamps.

Commemorative Stamps The special stamp issues of a country, which are on sale for a limited period.

Cover. The philatelist's term for an envelope with stamps attached.

Definitive stamps The regular issues of a country, which are on sale for a period of years.

Entire Before envelopes became universal, people would write their letters on a sheet of paper, fold it with wax, then write the address on the outside and affix a stamp. This is known as an entire letter – or entire for short.

Line Engraved An intaglio printing process, where the ink lies in grooves on the printing plate and is drawn up by the paper. This method produces very detailed images.

Lithography A printing process which depends on the mutual repulsion of ink and water.



Machin The current British definitive issue, featuring Arnold Machin's profile of Queen Elizabeth II.

Miniature Sheet Where all the stamps in a set are printed together in a special sheet. These are sometimes sold at a premium.

Mint stamps These have not been used for postage and will have some gum on the reverse.

Mounted Mint stamps have the remains, or traces, of a stamp hinge on the back.

Overprint Additional words or figures printed on a stamp to change its value or to change the countries in which it can be used.

Perforation A method of separating stamps by punching holes in the printed sheets

Perforation Gauge The number of holes across a 2cm length of paper. Most British stamps have 14 holes over this distance and are described as Perf 14.

Photogravure (AKA Rotogravure). An intaglio printing process where the ink lies in a grid of tiny holes cut into a cylinder.

Postal History The study of rates, routes and postal markings that appear on letters and postcards.

Se tenant Where a pair, or a strip of different stamps are designed to be seen together. eg Princess Diana Memorial issue.

Surface Printing A relief printing process, the same as letterpress, where the image is printed from raised letters or blocks.

Unmounted Mint Perfect stamps with full gum – just as they left the Post Office.

Unused These stamps have no cancellations - but they may not have any gum, either. In which case, they are not very desirable.

Value Another word for a 'stamp' when that stamp is part of a set.

Watermark Letters or symbols impressed into the sheet when the paper is made.



Collection directions

Old-style collectors aimed to have 'one of everything'. But that is now impossible – there are simply too many stamps Stanley Gibbons' *Stamps of the World* set lists more than 500,000. So here are some ideas on how to specialise

One Country

This is, traditionally, the most popular option. One country collectors can start with the earliest issues – and keep up with all the new issues – or stop at any point in between. One's own country is the most usual choice – but many UK residents collect France or Italy because they go there on holiday. Ex servicemen choose countries where they've been based or seen action. Many Americans collect their former home countries – Bostonians might collect Ireland for instance while Mid-Westerners go for Sweden. Other people specialise in countries that don't exist any more. With no more stamps being issued, they can get them all.

One reign or period

Collecting more than one country means more diversity – and many British collectors try to track down all the British and Colonial stamps of George 6th for instance, or from the present Queen's reign. Stanley Gibbons still publish some vast printed albums with spaces for all British Empire or Foreign stamps to 1935 – filling one will be a lifetime's work. Some collectors scorn anything produced after 1901, while others major on the post war period; the stamps are cheaper than pre-war and these collections have a topical edge to add to the appeal of their designs.

One theme

Thematic or topical collecting is the fastest-growing branch of the hobby. Here, collectors look for all stamps with birds, or mammals, or trains. Or anything connected with nursing, or brewing, or farming, or any stamps about Shake-

STAMP STORIES No 1

THE COMMUNICATIONS REVOLUTION



The penny black was revolutionary for three reasons.

1. Senders could pre-pay postage; previously it was the recipient who paid (or sometimes, not.)
2. A single rate covered all of the UK; previously the cost depended on the distance travelled.
3. People could buy stamps and use them when required.

It was a very popular revolution; just over 68 million 1d blacks were printed in 1840 and early 1841. There was just one problem: it was printed in a 'fast' ink, so people could clean off the cancellation and use the stamp again. So in 1841, the colour was changed from black to red.

Because it was the world's first stamp, there was no need to say which country it came from. Today, the United Kingdom is the only country that does not have its name on its stamps: the Queen's face or profile is enough.

spare, or football, or space. These collections are colourful, diverse and cheap to assemble. They can include commemorative postmarks or stamp booklets as well as stamps and of course, they help the collector learn more about their chosen subject.



One designer or engraver

Many famous artists have created stamps – like David Hockney, Eric Gill or M C Escher. Meanwhile many stamp designers are famous in their own right and attract commissions from

around the world. David Gentleman is Britain's most famous stamp designer – but Michael and Sylvia Goaman's work has a substantial following – as do the outstanding engravings of Czeslaw Slania.

One issue

This is the ultimate in specialisation. Some stamp designs have a very long life; for instance, Britain's current Machin design was introduced in 1967 and the French 'Sower' design appeared in 1903 and was still being used in 1960.

These long runs bring changes to the design, the printing plates, the paper types and printing methods, not to mention all the colours and values and different usages. They may all look the same to the untrained eye – but not to the specialist.

STAMP STORIES No 2

THE MILLION POUND STAMP

In June 2011, one of 12 surviving 2d 'Post Office' Mauritius stamps was sold at auction by Spink for just over £1 million, making it the most expensive stamp ever sold in Britain. The 2d and its sister 1d stamp were the first British Colonial stamps to be designed and printed locally. It was issued in 1847 - but its existence was unknown until 1864 and ever since then, it has been the dream of every philatelist to own one.

There is one example in the Royal Collection, which is often displayed at stamp exhibitions. It was purchased in 1904 by the future King George V, who paid a record price of £1,450. This is equivalent to £619,000 today.



Storing and display

Whatever your budget – and whatever you collect, there's an album or stock book to suit you.

Junior Albums

Almost everybody starts with one of these – a fastbound album with printed pages for different countries plus helpful hints and information. Look for brand names like Worldex, and Swiftsure.

Printed Albums

These albums have a space for every stamp and often include variations in shades, watermarks and perforations, too. Supplements are produced each year for all the new issues. Printed albums are popular with one-country collectors and can be either fastbound or loose leaf. See the Windsor albums for Great Britain, the Davo range for countries around the world or the cheaper Britannia albums.

Loose leaf albums

A loose leaf system allows your collection to grow in whatever direction you choose.

Start by choosing the binding method – peg-fitting, ring-binder or springback. You then have a range of sizes and a wide choice of matching leaves. Check out the Devon peg-fitting album, the Simplex springback and the Universal ring-binder which has special leaves for covers and booklets.

Stockbooks

Most collectors have at least one of these for duplicates or newly-purchased stamps. They are all fastbound, with rigid pages, each of which has a number of strips to hold the stamps. The choice ranges from 'cheap and cheerful' to 'prestigious', with black pages and clear perspex interleaves and strips. A top-quality stockbook makes a useful alternative to a conventional stamp album. Look for Importa, Compass or Lighthouse products.

STAMP STORIES No 3

HOW MUCH TO SEND A LETTER?



In Germany, in January 1922, the basic letter rate was 2 marks. By September 1923, this had risen to 75,000 marks. Workers were being paid twice a day and people rushed to spend their money while it was still worth something.

The Post Office responded by overprinting their stocks of previous issues and by printing new stamps in a simple design which could be easily updated. The top value issued? A heady 50 thousand million marks. Each postal rate was valid for only very short time, so genuinely-used stamps are worth more than their mint equivalents.

The situation stabilised late in 1923, with the launch of the Rentenmark, or 'gold mark' which was backed by tangible assets and was itself replaced by the Reichsmark in 1924.

Stock systems

These loose leaf systems feature semi-rigid pages in stout 4-ring binders and are widely used by stamp dealers. The pages can be white or black, single or double-sided – and with 1 – 8 pockets or strips on each side. Ask for Hagner, Lighthouse or Vario products.

Hinges

You can't beat the traditional stamp hinge for fixing a used stamp to an album page. But they're not so good for mint stamps, because they damage the gum. For mint, you need a hingeless mount, which holds the stamp in place and has a gummed patch to stick it on the page. These are available ready-cut in a wide range of sizes or supplied in strips for you to cut down as required. Many De-Luxe one country albums come with clear hingeless mounts already in place.

Look first – then choose

With all this choice available, you don't want to make a decision in a hurry, so go to stamp fairs and exhibitions, look through dealers' stocks, talk to other collectors and try to see as many collections as you can. You'll soon find the style that's right for you.



STAMP STORIES No 4

OOPS!

Many of the world's most desirable stamps result from printing errors that 'slipped through the net'. For instance, the stamp shown here was issued by the Irish Provisional Government, which took over when Eire gained independence from Britain. Ireland's first stamps featured the current British definitives, which were overprinted locally with the words 'Provisional Government of Ireland 1922.' Except a few sheets were fed in to the machinery upside down – so the overprint appears inverted.



The social side of stamps

Stamp collecting is often portrayed as a solitary pursuit. Wrong!

People have been forming stamp clubs for almost as long as they've been collecting stamps and the social side is still a major aspect of the hobby.

Members get together to meet, chat and offer advice and information. Most clubs publish their own magazines. There are regular auctions, where members can buy or sell material without paying dealers' prices or auctioneers' commissions. Many operate a Club Packet as well. This is where members can put their swaps into a booklet – and 8 – 10 booklets are circulated in a packet, so other members can pick out the stamps they want, again at bargain prices.

Most clubs also organise exhibitions, where members can try their hand at displaying their collections. This is a gentle introduction to the world of competitive philately, where entrants compete for awards – at both the national and

international levels. You'll see prize-winning entries at big exhibitions like Stampex.

There are three main types of stamp club.

Local Societies

These serve a particular locality – and members frequently collect the postal history of the area as well as stamps.

Specialised Societies

These concentrate on one country or one type of stamps – e.g. France and Colonies, Italy and its colonies or British stamps overprinted for use abroad. Each club may organise meetings for smaller groups of members around the country. Their magazines tend to be scholarly and well researched. And some of them organise trips to the countries they study.

STAMP STORIES No 5

RESISTANCE - WRIT SMALL



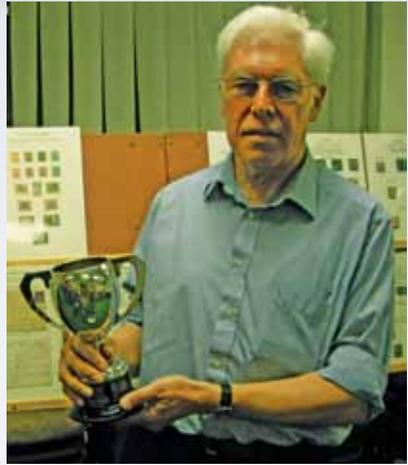
During World War II, the British Government decided that it would be impossible to defend the Channel Islands and they were duly occupied by Nazi Germany. Before the war, the islanders had used ordinary British stamps but these began to run out. So the Germans commissioned their own stamps, featuring Guernsey and Jersey's coats of arms.

The Jersey stamps were designed by a Major Rybolt and printed by the local newspaper. And if you look closely at the four corners of the penny stamp, you will see that he incorporated four tiny letter As, which stand for Ad Avernam Aetrox Adolf which translates to "to hell with the atrocious Adolf Hitler". Appropriately enough, the penny stamp was issued on April 1st, 1941.



National Societies

These are the largest clubs, catering for all kinds of collectors and with members from all around this country and abroad. Some also have a permanent 'home'. At the National PS, for instance, we share premises with the British Museum of Postal Administration at Mount Pleasant. Here, we maintain an extensive philatelic library and have monthly meetings which incorporate the members' auction. We publish a lively bi-monthly magazine and have three circulating packets for GB, Commonwealth and Foreign stamps. You can even save money on catalogues and accessories by buying from the club shop. Ask at our stand for further information or log onto our website at www.nationalphilatelicsociety.co.uk



STAMP STORIES No 6

A LONG TALE IN A SMALL SPACE

As part of their Millennium stamp programme, Royal Mail commissioned artists and sculptors to design stamps around a particular theme, or 'Tale'. First came the Inventors' Tale, then the Travellers' Tale and in March 1999 came the Patients' Tale featuring advances in medicine.

Cartoonist Peter Brookes illustrated Edward Jenner's development of the vaccine against smallpox – then a killer disease. Jenner noticed that milkmaids very seldom caught smallpox - but they had all suffered a minor affliction called cowpox, which they caught from cows and which seemed to confer immunity. Jenner tested this by injecting a young lad called James Phipps with cowpox. James was later proved to be immune from smallpox and Jenner described his treatment as a 'vaccine', from the Latin word vacca - which means 'cow'. That's quite a complicated story – 80 words at least. But look at the detail in the drawing. It's all there.



The collector's computer.

Just like any other area of life, computers are changing philately – for the better.

Communications

The internet is a worldwide phenomenon which enables collectors around the world to exchange messages in seconds. This greatly facilitates the running of a stamp club – reminders of monthly meetings, auction catalogues and newsletters can all be sent by email. There are also numerous stamp forums or 'chat rooms' specialising in stamps; one of the best is www.stampboards.com, which is based in Australia. Here, all kinds of collectors come together to exchange information and ask questions.

Research

Much of the history of stamps was written before computers were invented but more and more of it is being made available online. The indexed web contains over 10.57 billion pages –

and many billions more are stored on the 'deep web'. Private companies and individuals, stamp clubs and libraries are all uploading information on a regular basis. The websites of specialist dealers and auction houses can provide an up to the minute guide to stamp prices, as well as good quality images of the stamps, cancellations and forgeries they encounter. Other websites provide the background knowledge that brings philately alive: postal rates and routes, printing and papermaking methods and the social and economic impact of the post.

Buying and selling

Thanks to internet auctions, buyers and sellers from all around the world can do business together online. Ebay is the biggest and best-known – but you should also look at Delcampe, which caters exclusively for collectibles like stamps, coins and postcards. Both sites are free to join – and both sites offer the choice of an online auction or selling at a fixed price. But a major

STAMP STORIES No 7

PANIC MEASURES

From 1853-63, stamps for the Cape of Good Hope were printed by Perkins Bacon, in London, so the Cape Post Office always kept a large quantity of stamps in reserve. Early in 1860, stocks of 1d red and 4d blue stamps were running low and they ordered fresh supplies. A consignment of newly-printed stamps arrived but there was a problem; the vital Bill of Lading had been lost; and so the new stamps were shunted off to a warehouse while stocks of existing stamps sank to dangerous levels.

There was no alternative; they had to print their own stamps. Engraver C J Roberts made a copy of the Perkins Bacon 'Hope' design, and printing was undertaken by Government Printers Saul Solomon. These stamps are known as 'Wood-blocks' - and you will hear two reasons why.

The engravings were copied onto thin steel plates, which were mounted on wooden blocks to bring them up to the correct height.

When the stamps arrived on letters to London, they were denounced as crude forgeries, engraved on blocks of wood.



advantage of selling on Delcampe is that they do not charge the vendor if an item is unsold.

All you need to get started is an internet-enabled computer, a scanner to create good quality images of your stamps, an online payment account with someone like Skrill or PayPal – and vast reserves of patience when you're queuing with your items at the Post Office!

Displaying your stamps

Looking at old-style collections, you'll notice that many of them have headings and descriptions meticulously written-up by hand. Today, you can achieve professional-looking album pages by using your word-processor and printer. Top quality album leaves are available in A4 size and can be collated in loose-leaf albums.

Digital Microscopes.

The beauty of digital technology is that you keep getting more and more for less and less. It happened with computers and digital cameras –

now, it's happening with digital microscopes, too.

The new Pro 10 Portable Digital Microscope is a pocket-sized device that gives you 200x magnification in full colour. You can view images on a crystal-clear LCD display and upload them onto your computer – or even view them on your television.

If the Pro 10 is a little out of your price range then the Zoom Digital Microscope is an ideal substitute. Its 60x magnification will be enough for most collectors and as with the Pro 10, images can be uploaded to your computer.



STAMP STORIES No 8

VICTORIAN GREECE

Every year, thousands of British holidaymakers visit the islands of Corfu, Cephalonia and Zante. But how many of them realise that these islands were once British?

The Ionian Islands had been part of the French Empire until 1815, when the Treaty of Paris placed the 'United States of the Ionian Islands' under British protection. The seven States were Corfu, Cephalonia, Lefkas, Zante, Paxos, Zakynthos and Kythera, which lies off the South coast of Greece. The British began a programme of reform and modernisation – and postage stamps were issued in 1859.

To save money, a single die served for all three values in the set, which comprised a ½d orange, a 1d blue and a 2d carmine.

The British had always been supporters of Greek Independence, and once the pro-British George I had ascended the throne of Greece, the islands were ceded to the Hellenic Kingdom in 1864.



Stamps as an investment.

With low interest rates and turbulence in the money markets, rare stamps are attracting interest from investors, as well as collectors.

A real alternative

Stamps are a 'real' investment – an investment in tangible things as opposed to promissory notes on paper. But unlike fine wines, they are easy to transport and store. Unlike classic cars, they need no maintenance. And unlike modern art, they are not subject to the whims of fashion. Stamps can also be held confidentially – a stamp owner's name does not appear on a register of shareholders or the deeds of a property. However, rare stamps should be seen as a medium to long term investment, to be held for at least 5 years.

Diversifying the portfolio

The stamp market remains largely detached from other forms of investment and many investors see it as a useful way to diversify their

portfolios and achieve a wider spread of risk. Indeed, despite (or perhaps, because of) the recent turmoil in the world's financial markets, the stamp market has remained strong, with increasing demand for better items. In fact the GB30 Rarities Index, the Bloomberg-listed index of rare GB stamps, grew by 84% in the last 5 years and has shown a compound growth of just under 11% for the last 40 years.

Real results

Between 1998 and 2001, Bill Gross, the Chief Investment Officer of PIMCO invested \$2.5million in rare British stamps. He sold his collection in 2007 for \$9.1 million.

He was quoted in the Economist, describing the returns as 'better than the stockmarket'. Praise indeed from the man who founded one of the world's largest Bond Funds.

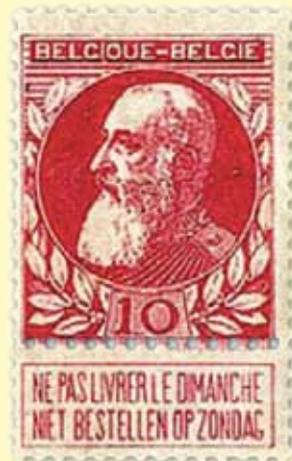
Bill Gross may be towards the top end of the scale (we don't all have \$2.5m to start with), but he's not alone. On average, Stanley

STAMP STORIES No 9

A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE

In the closing years of the 19th century, the Belgian Post Office had a problem. Some customers demanded a seven-day service, with deliveries on Sunday. However, many other customers were opposed to this, on the grounds that it breached the 4th Commandment. The Belgian authorities solved the problem by printing all their stamps with a tear-off label reading 'Do not deliver on a Sunday' – in French and Flemish.

If the senders believed in strict Sunday observance, they would leave the label intact; everyone else could tear it off.





Gibbons rare stamp investments have shown 41% growth in the last 5 years.

The worldwide demand for stamps

In the past, collectors of the rarest stamps have tended to be older, wealthy individuals pursuing the items that were out of reach when they were collecting as children. These are now the 'baby boomers' who are living longer than any generation before them and are a major factor in western economies.

When the number of rare stamps is finite and the number of collectors increases, prices will tend to rise. However, a new factor has entered the equation in the shape of India, China and the other 'Asian tiger' economies. People in these countries are showing great interest in stamps. We have already seen an increasing demand for Indian material, while prices for Chinese stamps have grown almost exponentially over the last three years. Far eastern markets are also adding to the demand for classic British and colonial material. The

recent jump in prices for the Penny Black is almost entirely due to this market.

The need for expert advice

Not all highly-catalogued stamps are rare – and not all rare stamps are highly sought after. So what looks at first like a good investment may be anything but. There is also the matter of condition, because the difference in price between top quality and average quality items is getting wider all the time. But what makes a top quality stamp? That will depend on colour, usage, centring, gum and many other factors. There are also forgeries to consider: stamps, overprints and postmarks have all been extensively counterfeited – first, to defraud collectors – and now, investors as well.

So if you want to enjoy good returns from an investment in rare stamps, you need the best advice you can get. Why not contact Stanley Gibbons for an initial chat with a member of the Investment Team.

STAMP STORIES No 10

WHO BUT THE FRENCH?

The French are well known for taking their intellectual life seriously - and never more so than in the inter-war years, when these charity stamps were issued. On top of the postal rate they carried a premium for the relief of unemployed intellectuals. Many nations have issued charity stamps – for flood relief, children's health and handicapped people. France itself issued charity stamps to benefit conventional causes like the Red Cross and orphans of the war. But the 'Chomeurs Intellectuels' sets remain a uniquely French phenomenon.



Ready – steady – collect

It's time to get Stamp Active!

Stamp collecting among young people is potentially as useful and as popular as ever. It offers a series of windows onto the whole world - a glimpse of people and places, customs and traditions, plants, animals and historical events that would take a lifetime to find on the internet or on TV.

But how will children get interested in stamps when the local stamp shop has closed and so much mail carries plain meter posting marks?

Enter Stamp Active - a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK.

Landing on Planet Stamp

The work starts with a lively website - to get children interested and help them find out more about collecting and how the Stamp Active Network can help. See www.planetstamp.co.uk.

Clubs and Organisers

A major aspect of Stamp Active's work is helping teachers and others to start and run stamp clubs in schools or other youth organisations. Their free Starter Packs provide all the basic tools like stockbooks, stamps, magnifiers, tweezers and a range of activity books. They then provide ongoing support by organising Stamp Active Days at schools and the National Youth Conference where club organisers can get together to exchange ideas

Stamp Active also runs its own postal stamp club for children between 4 and 19 years old and which now has over 1,000 members. It's called Kidstamps. It's free to join and helps kids to grow their collections with regular free vouchers

Kids Corner

Kids Corner is a regular feature at the Spring and Autumn Stampex Exhibitions held at the Business Design Centre in Islington. Entry to

STAMP STORIES No 11

AND WHO BUT THE ITALIANS?

Tax evasion is an ongoing problem for the Italian economy - but in 1953, the Government came up with a novel way to combat it. They issued a stamp bearing the inscription "Everyone must contribute to the public expense." By 1955, they tried again, with stronger wording: "The nation expects a faithful declaration of your income." It is not known whether or not this had any effect on revenues. But the approach was not repeated.





the exhibition is free and kids can see displays by other children and join in a range of other stamp-related activities.

Activity Books

These are produced in association with the British Philatelic Trust and Stanley Gibbons and are available free of charge. Each one contains a range of activities based around a single aspect of stamp collecting. The latest is on the theme of 'sport on stamps' and will be available at the Ideal Home Show at Christmas.

Competitions

Stamp Active organises two competitions a year, as competition between individuals and schools lends excitement to the hobby and helps young people refine and develop their stamp collections. The Stamp Active Competition is sponsored by Stanley Gibbons and the Great Britain Philatelic Society. The British Youth Stamp Champion-

ships are sponsored by Stanley Gibbons.

Stamp Active also organises workshops for children interested in developing their competition entries still further.

Support

Stamp Active Network is supported by major sponsors including The British Philatelic Trust, Stanley Gibbons, The Association of British Philatelic Societies, The National Philatelic Society, The Philatelic Traders Society, and The Great Britain Philatelic Society as well as many other dealers, individuals and clubs and societies.

They are always in need of financial donations or gifts of stamps, covers and other material.

For more information about the activities of the Stamp Active Network or if you would like to help in any way, contact Stamp Active, PO Box 477, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 9HD. Email stampactive@btinternet.com

STAMP STORIES No 12

STATELESS STAMPS

Many countries in the stamp album no longer exist, or no longer produce their own stamps. Places like Danzig, the German States and the Italian States have been absorbed into larger countries, while Yugoslavia did the opposite and fractured. During its life, the Republic of Yugoslavia was a prolific issuer of stamps, producing over 2,800 in a little under 60 years. This was its last issue - a Christmas set from 2001.



Whether you're an avid collector or just starting out, trust the leading name in stamp collecting since 1856

With over 150 years' experience at the forefront of the philatelic world, Stanley Gibbons offer collectors and investors all they need in the make the most of the hobby.

- **Starter packages** tailored to the novice collector of all ages
- **Specialist stamp sales** from £30 to over £400,000
- **Auction & Valuation services**, ideal whether you are looking to dispose of an inherited collection or have a current one valued for insurance or auction
- **Stanley Gibbons publications**, including Britain's leading philatelic magazine, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and our range of catalogues, using the world-renowned SG numbering system
- **Investment portfolios** to suit your needs, starting from as little as £1,000
- **Our flagship London store**, conveniently located on the Strand.

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