

# INSIDER

**SPINK**

ISSUE 22

AUTUMN 2015

STAMPS COINS BANKNOTES MEDALS BONDS & SHARES AUTOGRAPHS BOOKS WINES



## The Best Collection in 50 Years

**PLUS:** FORTHCOMING AUCTIONS • THE HONG KONG PLAGUE MEDAL • MAJEEDI DETENTION CAMP  
SUNGEI BULOH LEPROSARIUM • THE ANNIGONI PORTRAIT ON PAPER MONEY • THE LONDON MINT  
TEMPLE TREASURES • STAFF PROFILE • CHINESE BONDS & SHARE CERTIFICATES • ROBERT OWEN'S LABOUR NOTES





## FROM PARIS TO HONG KONG

PARTICIPATE IN ARTCURIAL'S INAUGURAL SALE TO BE HELD AT SPINK'S BRAND NEW OFFICES IN HONG KONG  
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5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015

**ARTCURIAL**  
in association with **SPINK**

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## **SPINK ACQUIRES ARTHUR MAURY PHILATELIC CATALOGUES TO FURTHER ENHANCE ITS STABLE OF COLLECTABLES CATALOGUES AND BOOKS**

Spink is pleased to announce that it has acquired the Arthur Maury Philatelic Catalogues.

Included in the sale are the rights to and control of the current stock and future editions of these books. The list includes the annual *Timbres de France* Catalogue, the first catalogue of postage stamps in the World, now in its 118th edition, together with the specialised editions covering *Timbres de l'ex-empire français d'Afrique*; *Timbres des Bureaux Français, Anciennes Colonies, et zones d'Occupation en Europe et Asie*; *Timbres de DOM-TOM* and *Timbres des principautés et Terres polaires*, Andorre, Monaco, Saint-Pierre & Miquelon, T.A.A.F. Europa.

The Maury catalogues will continue to provide the highest level of detail for the stamps and covers of France and the French colonies. The initial focus will be to further enhance the information on the pre 1940 issues, and all later popular specialities. The aim is to broaden its appeal via engaging top collectors and dealers to produce the ultimate reference for France and Colonies in a style similar to the book, "Coins of England", which has been for many years the ultimate reference for coins of the British Isles.

We will release the next edition of the France catalogue in early November this year, and we are also starting work on a catalogue for South America where the demand amongst collectors for a good reference catalogue is also huge.

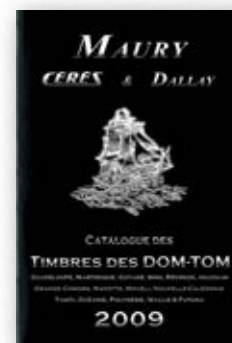
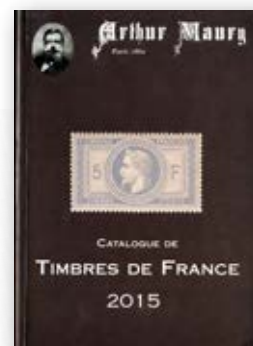
Olivier Stocker, Chairman and CEO of Spink commented, "We are delighted to have acquired this prestigious and unique list of titles, the Maury brand is legendary in French philately and it is our intention to continue to build the reputation of these catalogues worldwide as we add progressively more titles. At Spink we stand for both Tradition and Modernity, hence we hope that digital versions will also be available very soon for information on-the-go as a useful complement to the printed editions.

**All orders and enquiries for Maury philatelic catalogues should be addressed to:**

**Book Department | Spink & Son Ltd. | 69 Southampton Row**

**London | WC1B 4ET**

**Tel. (44) 207 563 4046 | Email: [books@spink.com](mailto:books@spink.com)**





# INSIDER

**SPINK**

**ISSUE 22**

**AUTUMN 2015**



**MAJEEDI DETENTION CAMP**  
**JOHORE BAHRU.**



**SPINK**

LONDON  
1666

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Olivier D. Stocker

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# A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

**Dear Clients and Friends,**

## **Spot the difference**

Before you have even started reading this you will probably have already noticed two things that are different about this issue of the Insider and some of you maybe even noticed a third?! Firstly, the redesign of the cover which we have been working towards to freshen up the look of the magazine, secondly, this Autumn issue has arrived somewhat earlier in the year than usual and, finally, this issue runs to a bumper 72-pages, the idea is to bring an ever more insightful Insider to you.

## **Singapore 50**

As we had advertised in previous issues, Spink is the proud sponsor and official auctioneer of the Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition taking place at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre from 14-19 August. During that period we are holding a series of auctions in all categories of our business including a completely new venture with an auction of antique maps with a focus on South-East Asia.

The majority of the auctions taking place during the show are, unsurprisingly, philatelic and, of those, the outstanding "Sentosa" collection is the highlight, bringing to the market a collection which has been unseen for over 50 years and which boasts some of the rarest and most desirable items from the region as the cover of this issue testifies with the \$500 (1906-12) Straits Settlements revenue stamp with top margin attached, only the second ever example to appear for sale. This collection is abundant in quality and rarity and offers in excess of 1600 lots, see pages 6-9 for a selection of the highlights to whet your appetite.

In total we have 5 auctions over the five days including banknotes, coins, medals and wine, many are featured on the first 17 pages of this issue. Not only are we running a major series of sales but we will have a major presence at the show itself with many staff from our global offices in attendance and looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. The event is set to be the biggest philatelic show ever.

We are also pleased to be launching the second edition of The Frank Goon Collection of Banknotes of British Malaya at the show. This is the first volume in our Connoisseur Series and we will shortly have news of further volumes coming in the series.

Continuing the focus on Asia we have a number of interesting articles in this issue including The Hong Kong Plaque and Medal of 1894; The Postal History of the Mejeedi Detention Camp and The Paper Money of the Sungei Buloh leprosarium.

## **Art in Asia**

Staying in Asia, we are very excited by the first of our auctions to be held at our offices in Hong Kong in association with Artcurial, the number one auctioneer in Continental Europe, in October. This is a very exciting venture between two highly respected auction houses, Artcurial with a very diversified offering but with auction rooms only in Europe and Spink with a narrow focus on collectables but with an unparalleled global reach in the industry. We are looking forward to bringing something new to our respective client bases.

## **Expansion and Acquisition**

As we approach the mid-point of our financial year it is always a time for both reflection and projection. The first six months has seen some outstanding



results in all categories of our business, the growth in Asia is encouraging and, with a great team of specialists and support staff working hard putting together a busy sale calendar, we are on course for one of our best years ever. The new offices with dedicated auction room and outside terrace provide the perfect setting for both the buzz of the auction room and a space to relax with clients.

As you will see from the announcement inside the front cover, we have recently completed the purchase of the prestigious Maury philatelic reference catalogues. The Maury catalogue of French stamps was the first of its kind in the World so, like Spink, it has a wonderful history and it is our intention to continue to build the reputation of these catalogues. We have a formidable team of experts who are already working on a range of initiatives to improve the existing catalogues and to add new volumes to the list. This will be a new foray into philatelic catalogues, after our well known successes in our numismatic publishing.

We are better placed than ever to be able to offer every client, whether buying or selling, the best possible service and experience. Whichever country you are in, you are never too far from one of our specialists who will always be happy to discuss your requirements.

## **A quick note on the markets**

On our collectables markets it is more of the same. Rare, fresh and attractive items continue to command record prices and there is no sign of slowing down, as demonstrated in our record breaking Slaney auction of English coins. At the other end of the spectrum, common items still require to be priced very attractively to be sold. I expect this trend to continue in the next few quarters. The premium for rarity and quality will continue to expand, hence our continued recommendation to buy the best you can afford and sell your more common duplicates or non core/less exciting items.

In the broader financial markets, there is still a lot of composure and optimism despite the massive shocks we have seen on European interest rates, Chinese stock markets or competitive devaluation of currencies. These are not small exotic and illiquid markets, they are the main markets. Not to mention the political chaos in Greece or the Middle East. Something is brewing and I am not sure what it is. So I buy more items for my collections and more rums and, for the first time ever, I have taken some bullion coins purchased at Spink with the intention to bury them in my country home just in case something goes awfully wrong.... I believe in hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. And I hope I will never use them and it will make the day of a metal detectorist in 500 years!

## **Happy Holidays!**

We are heading into the holiday season in Europe and I am just about to take a short break with my family. I hope that wherever you are, you are able to take some time out with your families and recharge the batteries and try to forget about the woes in the wider world for a while and, of course, hopefully find some time to play with or research your favourite collectable items.

Olivier D. Stocker, CFA  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
chairmanoffice@spink.com



# HIDDEN LETTER FROM THE KING OF SIAM

**K**ing Mongkut (Rama IV) was made famous through portrayals in books, stage and films of *The King and I*. It was during his reign that Siam first became aware of the expansion of Western trade and ideas. Mongkut embraced novel innovations and initiated the modernisation of Siam, both in terms of technology and culture. This earned him the nickname “The Father of Science and Technology” in his home country.

Recently, in London, a young lady student of Art and Design came across a striking beaded bag for sale at one of the capital's antique markets. Reputedly fabricated from beetle wings, the bag was acquired for the student's collection of unusual materials. When

she took a closer look at her purchase she found that there was “something inside”. The contents were papers that transpired were a fabulous 1850 gold-bordered letter to Major General Sir Henry Pottinger. This was signed by the Rajah of Travancore.

Additionally there was also a small red silk pouch, complete with paper label, addressed to Thomas Church, the Resident Councillor of Singapore. Inside this pouch was a lace paper holograph (handwritten by the person) letter from King Mongkut bearing two of the royal seals. The precious pouch contained a second envelope with the King's name card and yellow, gold-flecked paper bearing examples of the different royal seals, in both Chinese and Thai.





# SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

Amazingly, in this letter, the King blames himself for forgetting to mail the small envelope to Thomas Church directly. King Mongkut had just missed the mail boat to Singapore and despatched this letter "Via Chinaman" en route to Hong Kong. The silk pouch, with its paper address label, entered the post in Hong Kong. This was where it received the 'Paid at Hong Kong' crowned circle postmark in red and a circular postmark dated

30<sup>th</sup> August 1852. Letters from King Mongkut are all highly collectable, this one is particularly desirable as it is believed to be the only one that was postmarked from Hong Kong.

This intriguing item with international appeal is to be included in our special auction as part of the international stamp exhibition in **Singapore on 18<sup>th</sup> August**, with an estimate of S\$8,000 to \$10,000.



my remembrance to put two  
pairs of my cards & seals  
which I have had concerned  
in my foregoing letter per  
the Chinese junk sailed  
from hence for Singapore  
on middle part of last month.  
I could not recollect these  
two parcels which were prepared  
& put in my writing desk before  
I wrapped the foregoing letter  
& sent it away hurriedly.  
Please revive them  
which are forwarded you  
via China which I have  
met them again in my  
writing desk, and please  
do according to my request  
transmitted you in my  
foregoing letter.

your letter  
of 4<sup>th</sup> inst. sent  
me per the Florence  
was reached my  
hand. there is  
nothing to be answered.

I beg to remain  
your faithful

Si Mongkut  
King of Siam

To Honourable Thomas  
Church Esquire  
the Resident Commisnar  
Singapore  
Via Chinaman



## THE “SENTOSA” COLLECTION

*Singapore,*

*16–17th August 2015*

# THE “SENTOSA” COLLECTION

of Straits Settlements, Malayan States, British Post Office in Siam, Labuan, North Borneo and Sarawak



*1867 essay overprints*

As a key sponsor and the official auctioneer of the International World Stamp Exhibition, Spink are keen to present the exceptional sale of ‘The “Sentosa” Collection of Straits Settlements, Malayan States, Labuan, North Borneo and Sarawak’. A fine assortment of philatelic items and postal history. Not since the days when Robson Lowe sold Dr. Wood’s Collections of Malaya and Borneo in 1964 and 1965 has such an outstanding collection come onto the open market.

The “Sentosa” collection abounds in essays, proofs, specimens, stamps with many multiples and selected covers. Each Colony and State is well represented by a number of rarities, many of which have not been on the market for 40 or 50 years. The provenance list is extensive, with items from such famous collections as Dr. Wood, Charles Taylor, George Dyer, and in even more recent times, Patrick Cassels, Richard Tompkins and Walter Bickly.

From within the sale, two lots stand out exponentially; lot 260 is an 1892 – 94 “THREE CENTS” on 32c. carmine-rose, an

interpaneau L-shaped strip of three, and the upper stamp with surcharge omitted, fresh and fine mint. When Whitfield King Ltd. obtained the double pane with the upper pane without surcharge they attempted to make six interpaneau pairs but this block shows why only five can now exist. All the known pairs are creased in the interpaneau margin. Unique in this format and one of the major rarities of Straits Settlements philately. Estimated: S\$40,000-50,000

The sale also boasts an entirely unique item, lot 264 is a “THREE CENTS” on 32c. carmine-rose, an example from the top right corner of the pane with surcharge omitted, centrally cancelled by Singapore c.d.s. on 1895 (31 Dec.) envelope registered to Warwick, showing registration d.s. at left and oval Registered London d.s. (24.1) tying the stamp. This item is the only known used example of this variety. A magnificent exhibition centrepiece and one of the great rarities, not only of the Straits Settlements but also of later Queen Victoria period of the British Empire. S.G. 94a. Estimated: S\$60,000-80,000



*1867 12c. on 4a. block with surcharge double*



*Image 18 – 1935 Silver Jubilee die proof*



# SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION



1906-12 \$500



1889-92 5c. on 12c. pair, one with surcharge double, one vertical



1884 cover from Bangkok to Norway



Image 11 – 1882 3c. on 32c. with surcharge omitted, the unique used example on cover

The sale will take place during the prestigious International World Stamp Exhibition on August 16th – 17th 2015, in Singapore. Although one of many Spink sales taking place during the exhibition, it is by no means the least. The Exhibition and all of the Spink sales will be covered live by a dedicated Spink reporter on all of our social media sites and on the New Spink Blog! Estimated to set many new World Records, this sale is not to be missed!

## For more Information, please contact

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# THE "SENTOSA" COLLECTION



1932 4c. die proof



Johore 1876 2c. handstamped with Star and Crescent



1935 De La Rue 8c. essay



1948 25c. block with four showing overprint double



1897 Provisional 2c. on half 5c. and 3c. on half 5c. rejoined pair with black ink surcharge



1951-55 10c. with St. Edward's Crown watermark error



Perak, the only recorded usage of these Official stamps on cover



# SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION



1882-84 8c. orange block



1881 8c. on 12c. with surcharge inverted



1904-05 \$10 brown unused without gum as usual



1883 2c. pair imperforate between



1889 North Borneo and Straits Settlements combination cover



1914-30 12c. strip of five, one without overprint



1891 4c. hand-painted essay



## BANKNOTES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA

*Singapore,*

*16th August 2015*

The auctions run by Spink in Singapore this August are by no means limited to Stamps. Barnaby Faull and the teams in London and Hong Kong have been busy putting together a superb offering of banknotes from countries throughout South-East Asia. Some of the highlights are detailed here.

**Lots 140-142** – Malaya, two colour trials and a specimen \$10000 of 1946

As far as we know, none of these exceptionally high denomination notes were ever issued. Therefore the only chance collectors have to obtain an example is by acquiring a specimen or colour trial. These rare items are understandably very sought after and to see three in one place, as here, is remarkable. The design, showcasing minimalist Bradbury Wilkinson at its best, is a classic. Combined with the large format these notes are very striking indeed.

Estimates S\$35,000-40,000 (Lots 140 & 141) and S\$30,000-40,000 (Lot 142)





# SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION



**Lots 157-158** - Malaya a colour trial and specimen \$10000 of 1953

Upon the accession of Elizabeth II in 1952, new notes were required for Malaya. The design paid homage to the previous George VI issues in the sense that it retained its borderless and minimalist elements, but Elizabeth II was placed on the right of the note, creating an attractive asymmetry. Again, none of these notes are known in issued form, and they are incredibly difficult to find as specimens or colour trials.

Estimates S\$25,000-35,000 (Lot 156) and S\$30,000-40,000 (Lot 157)

**Lots 163-170** - Malayan rubber coupons of 1928-1941

There are several sections of Rubber Coupons in the auction, but the largest group come from Malaya. Rubber Coupons were issued to plantation owners or individual planters, and stipulated the total weight of rubber he was allowed to export. They are not actually banknotes, but the format is similar and the design clearly based on notes of the period. They are highly collectable, as dozens of varieties, colour variations, and dates exist.

Estimates ranging from S\$250-350 to S\$550-750





# BANKNOTES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA

**Lots 249-252** - Sungei Buloh Leprosarium Settlement currency

Arguably the most interesting items in the auction, these four exceptional banknotes were issued exclusively for use in the Sungei Buloh Leper Colony. Printed by the Survey Department, F.M.S. Sungei Buloh was approximately 15 miles North of Kuala Lumpur. The name Sungei Buloh translated from Malay is 'Bamboo stream' and refers to the stream running through the Settlement. The kingfisher design was proposed by the Matron at the Settlement due to the presence of this bird by the stream. Understandably, very few of these notes survive, and the fetch high prices when they do appear.

Estimates S\$14,000-20,000





# SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION



**Lot 275 (left)** – Government of Sarawak, a \$1 of 1919 with serial number 2  
Low serial numbers are always popular, catapulting a the price of common note with little commercial value to many times its original value. In this case, the note didn't really need any 'help', as the 1919 Sarawak \$1 is already a great rarity. However, with the serial number 2, this becomes a truly superb item. Very few notes were still being printed in this mainly black and white style by 1919, and the series was replaced soon after by more colourful notes with better security features, many of which are also featured in this auction.

Estimate S\$40,000-48,000

**Lot 350** – Singapore, a \$10000 from the 'bird series', 1980

Singapore is fairly unique in that its modern notes can also be great rarities. This is because it issues such high denomination banknotes, such as this fully issued \$10,000 (the equivalent of roughly £5000!), and also because there is such a large and healthy collecting fraternity looking for the same few notes to complete their collections. Singapore notes in particular are highly sought after because of their highly thematic designs. This is the highest denomination of the 'Bird Series', named for the variety of colourful birds on each denomination.

Estimate S\$12,000-16,000



# BANKNOTES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA



## Lots 378-401 - Singapore errors

Another growing field in the banknote market is errors. An error note will have some kind of defect, be it in printing, numbering, paper cutting or alignment, that means it should never have left the factory. Some of them, most often the less obtrusive numbering errors, were missed by quality control, but how some of the more obvious examples have come onto the market is often a mystery. They provide a theoretically endless source of new material for a collector, because theoretically, every error is unique. The pictured example (lot 393) showcases a spectacular misprint due to the paper crumpling in the roller during printing.

Estimates Ranging from S\$350-450 to S\$1,200-1,400

## Lot 419 – Government of the Straits Settlements, \$50, 1901

The early Straits Settlements banknotes highlight just how difficult collecting anything from this part of the world can be, simply because of local conditions. This \$50 of 1901 is only in Fine condition, and has several problems, but still commands a high price because it is virtually impossible to find one in better grade. High humidity and long circulation times, have ensured that most examples of these fragile pieces of paper that survived the recall process have long since disintegrated. This banknote, overprinted CANCELLED, was probably kept by a bank or archive as an example of past work, or to help with forgery detection, accounting for its survival.

Estimate S\$15,000-20,000







## Lot 433 - Government of the Straits Settlements \$100, 1925

This slightly later Straits Settlement note is one of the finest known for its type. To find an Very Fine example, with original and strong paper quality, is exceptional. \$100 would have been a cast sum of money in 1925 anywhere in the world, let alone here, and not many of these notes were printed. The design, as with the slightly later Malaya notes discussed above, is quite understated and lacks the traditional border element. The Tiger in the centre is hugely popular, and the many collectors of banknotes featuring animals would no doubt regard this as a jewel in their collection were they lucky enough to own it.

Estimate S\$12,000-14,000



## Lot 452 – Thailand, the Royal Siamese Treasury, 1 Att, 1874,

Early Thailand notes are very rare. This example, from 1874, is one of the earliest Spink have ever handled, and the earliest note from any country in this auction. They were issued under the Authority of King Rama V because the country was experiencing a severe shortage of copper coin. People were starting to use non-official items, such as gambling tokens, as currency, and these were not backed by the state, leading to problems exchanging them in many places. This accounts for the speed in which these notes were printed, and the accordingly poor printing and few security features.

Estimate S\$8,000-12,000



## ANTIQUE MAPS

Singapore,

16th August 2015

A fine selection of over 200 antique maps focussing on Asia are being offered in this auction together with photographs and related literature.



1542 *Tabula Asiae III* by Sebastian Munster. An interesting map of the Black and Caspian Seas. This shows an intriguing depiction of Noah's Ark floating in the Caspian Sea. Estimate S\$600 - \$800



1579 map of *Indiae Orientalis* by Abraham Ortelius. A delightful map from his "Theatrum Orbis Terrarum" which includes mermaids and a ship being attacked by a whale. Estimate S\$7000 - \$8000

1589. A very early map of China by Abraham Ortelius. This is the earliest printed map to focus on China. Note that the North is shown to the right. Estimate S\$10,000 - \$12,000



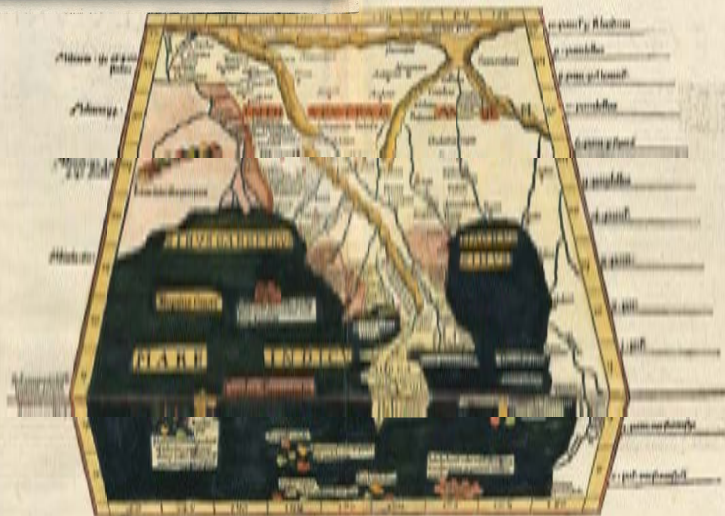


# SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION



1606 map of Japan by Mercator and Hondius. This is one of the finest Dutch maps, based on the work by Ortelius. Estimate S\$3000 - \$4000

1505 map of Malaya and Indo-China by Ioannes Groeniger based on the concept by Ptolemy. Estimate S\$1000 - \$1500



1606 map of India Orientalis by Jodocus Hondius. A fine Dutch map used in the "Mercator Atlas". Estimate S\$3000 - \$3500



*Singapore, 18th August 2015*

To conclude the sale there is a recently discovered 1852 royal letter from King Mongkut (see page 4-5 for a special feature by Neill Granger).



1899 4c. on 5c. with  
surcharge omitted

1828 entire letter from Penang to London



1913 3c. stationery card to Java cancelled by very rare Kuala Kemaman handstamp





Via Saint de Gallen

Capt. & J. Hundermann  
Steam ship "Joseph Haydn"  
Care of Messrs. Feyer Schellberg & Co.  
Colombo

Three postage stamps from Malacca are displayed side-by-side. Each stamp features a central profile portrait of a man facing right, enclosed in an ornate oval frame. The stamps are: 1. Red, valued at \$25, with 'FIFTY FIVE DOLLARS' at the top and 'MALACCA' at the bottom. 2. Blue, valued at \$100, with 'ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS' at the top and 'MALACCA' at the bottom. 3. Green, valued at \$250, with 'TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS' at the top and 'MALACCA' at the bottom. All stamps have 'REVENUE' on the left and 'POSTAGE' on the right.

S 1204.

Messrs Martin James & Co.  
124 Hope Street  
Glasgow

Via Marseilles

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# STAMPS AND COVERS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA



1864 entire letter from Bangkok to London bearing Indian values cancelled "B/172"



1893 envelope to Jersey with a rare Sarawak and Straits Settlements combination franking

1962-65 10c. strip of ten, the last two with black omitted







# THE HONG KONG PLAGUE 1894 AND ITS MEDAL

BY PETER DUCKERS

In 1894 the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong was hit by a severe outbreak of the dreaded bubonic plague – the notorious “Black Death” which had devastated Europe in the 1340s and which was a regular and devastating visitor thereafter. It was early in May 1894 that the first signs of the disease began to appear in the colony, having already spread across mainland China from its starting point in Canton. During the course of the outbreak, tens of thousands were to die in China and over 3000 in Hong Kong before the epidemic subsided in July.

The disease took hold in the poorest, most overcrowded and insanitary suburbs of the port, especially in the district of Taiping Shan (which was shortly afterwards completely demolished) and was spread, amongst other ways, by panic-stricken individuals and families fleeing from the disease in their street and taking it with them to new areas.

The colonial government was at first at a loss to work out how to stop and then tackle the spread of the plague, since both their knowledge of exactly what they could do and their medical resources were limited. Large, isolated, commercial warehouses were stripped out to become temporary plague hospitals, though these initially lacked any sort of medical facility and were often themselves overcrowded and insanitary. The administration quickly and gladly accepted offers of help that came in from military and naval forces based in

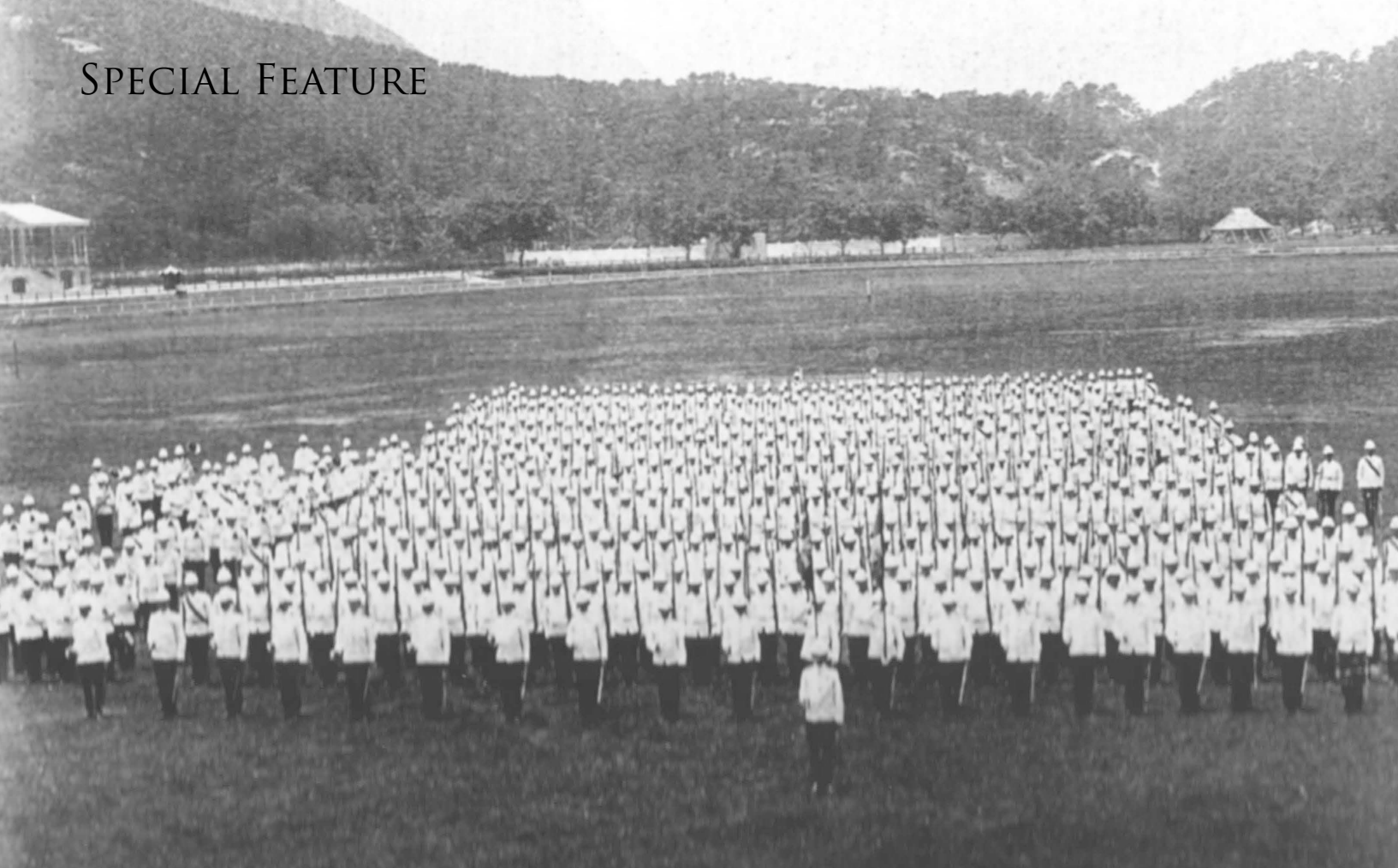
the colony. These included naval personnel from the warships in the harbour, soldiers on garrison duty, including Royal Engineers, local policemen, a few military nurses and all sorts of civilian volunteers, European, Indian and Chinese, including local doctors, nurses, lawyers, government officials, traders, customs officers etc. The work they opted to do was dirty, difficult and dangerous in the extreme.

The largest military formation in the colony was a British infantry battalion, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. After a few years in Malta, interspersed with campaign service at Suakin on the Red Sea in 1885-86, the battalion had been made “up to strength” of about 1,000 officers and men and arrived in Hong Kong in January 1892 on a routine deployment on what should have been a peaceful tour of imperial garrison duty.

The volunteers of the KSLI – apparently about 600 in number but no full roll survives – were housed in quarantined tented accommodation well away from the populated and infected areas. The KSLI volunteers – and it is presumed that other volunteer groups followed a similar routine – were split up into working parties of about 12 men under a Sergeant, with officers controlling groups of working parties. A strict regime of disinfecting and control was imposed; before setting out each day, the men stripped off in a separate room, were washed down with disinfectant and donned a set of loose working clothes.



## SPECIAL FEATURE



*Shrops. Light Infantry in Hong Kong, 1894 (Courtesy of Shropshire Regimental Museum).*

The work these men did – KSLI and others – was dangerous and unpleasant. The first party would search through the houses in crowded, infected streets, looking for sick people and families and, inevitably, for dead bodies. The bodies were put into carts and as each cart filled, the soldiers in charge took the cart to an isolated place chosen for mass cremations.

Having worked its way down a particular street, the first search party was followed by a Cleansing Party, which emptied the house of beds and bedding, clothing and other possibly infected property, which was burned in the street; they then cleansed the infected house with disinfectant and lime wash – hence their nickname “*the Whitewash Brigade*”. Every affected house in every street had to be dealt with in the same way, one by one, until whole districts were deemed to be free of the disease. It was an arduous and gruesome task.

At the end of the day, the KSLI volunteers returned to their quarantined camp, stripped off their working clothes (which were usually boiled or even burned), were disinfected and washed and, in another room, changed back into their usual clothes.

Because of the stringent precautions taken, only ten men of the KSLI contracted the “Black Death” and only one officer (Captain



*Soldiers of the Shrops. L.I. Cleaning the streets. [Illustrated London News]*



# THE HONG KONG PLAGUE 1894 AND ITS MEDAL



*Part of the crowded suburb of Taipingshan, centre of the plague outbreak (Courtesy of Shropshire Regimental Museum).*

Some very attractive pieces of Chinese silverware and specially-produced plaques were presented to the KSLI, paid for by the colonial administration and by local subscription from a grateful community. Most would be displayed in the regiment's various Mess establishments and they remain with the regiment's descendants to this day, some now displayed in the regimental museum in Shrewsbury Castle in Shropshire.

A committee had been quickly formed in Hong Kong and, working via representatives in London, invited artists to submit designs for a possible "plague medal" as a reward for the volunteers. Seventeen designs were submitted, of which four appeared on public display in the Royal Academy in 1895. The

Vesey) and one soldier actually died of the disease. The services of the KSLI were brought to notice in Parliament and the regiment received the thanks of the Colonial Secretary in London and, unsurprisingly, of the colonial government.

At a special assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1894, the volunteers were paraded before the Governor and the Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Mr. Ackroyd, said of the KSLI that "the regiment has a distinguished record which is proudly displayed on its colours... Of these records it is justly proud, but I think the day to day fight with the disease in Taipingshan in the summer of 1894 will, for courage, endurance and devotedness, compare with all their other achievements."

*Soldiers disinfecting plague houses (Courtesy of Shropshire Regimental Museum).*







*Removing and burning infected property (Courtesy of Shropshire Regimental Museum).*

accepted design was done by “Mr. Bowcher” and the dies for the medal prepared by Allan Wyon FSA – another of the famous Wyon family of medallists and designers.

Since this article concerns the medal, it may be of interest to say that its designer, Frank Bowcher (1864-1938) was (or became) a distinguished medallist and sculptor. The son of the etcher and draughtsman Henry Bowcher, he trained at the National Art Training School in Kensington and in Paris. His career took off after he produced a medallion portrait of the Khedive of Egypt in 1886 and as a result, in 1887, the Royal Mint commissioned him to produce designs for the Egyptian coinage. After that he received similar numismatic commissions - from the City of London for the visit of the King and Queen of Denmark, for the Opening of Tower Bridge and for the 1897 Diamond Jubilee; from the Geological Society for the Joseph Prestwich medal and from the Royal College of Science for the Thomas Huxley memorial medal. In 1903, Bowcher stepped in to finish the Great Seal of Edward VII. He was later one of the founder-members of the Royal Society

of British Sculptors, worked on church decoration and memorials and was a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy. As his obituary in *The Times* noted, “He was a prolific artist, but as a great deal of his work was small in scale it was not very familiar to the public.... his reputation was made chiefly as a medallist and designer of seals”.

Each officer and man of the KSLI (and the other various volunteers) was given one of the specially-produced medals to commemorate their service. The officers received their medal in solid gold and it is believed that fewer than 50 of this type were conferred; all the others were in silver. The medals had an integral (small) suspension loop at the top and were hung from a striking “specially designed” red and yellow striped ribbon; they were named around the rim in small, impressed, block capitals. It is believed that the gold medals were usually awarded in a fitted morocco case and had no suspension fitting. Because no full roll of recipients exists, it is impossible to say exactly how many silver awards were given out, but it cannot have been much more than 700.



# THE HONG KONG PLAGUE 1894 AND ITS MEDAL



*Shrops. L. I. volunteers on house-clearing duty, prior to cleansing the houses (Courtesy of Shropshire Regimental Museum).*



*Medals on display in the Shropshire Regimental Museum.*

Of standard size, the medal featured on its obverse a dramatic scene showing a doctor (or soldier) with a nurse, tending “a sick Chinaman” and warding off a skeletal figure representing “Death”, which floats in the air nearby, attempting to strike the victim with a spear. The “tools of the trade” of the volunteers - a tar brush and bucket and a whitewash brush - are depicted on the ground. The Chinese characters for “*Hong Kong*” and a Chinese scroll bearing “1894” are also shown. The reverse simply has the wording “*FOR SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE PLAGUE OF 1894*” surrounded by a band inscribed “*PRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY*”. The medal was first illustrated in Spinks’ “*War Medal Record*” in March 1896.

Sad to say, the medal, as the gift of a colonial government and not one proceeding from the state or monarch as “the fount of honour”, was not authorised for wear by serving soldiers or sailors. They could accept and retain the medal as a commemorative or gift, but could not wear it in uniform alongside any other “official” service medals they may have been awarded. As a result, many must have been separated from other awards and lost over years and certainly, apart from those which survive as issued, some to KSLI recipients are found adapted in various ways – as fobs to hang from a watch chain, as brooches to be worn by wives or sweethearts or as decorative additions set into cigarette case lids or other boxes etc. The medals have always been rather rare as collectors’ items, the gold ones exceptionally so.

As a footnote, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1894, 1/KSLI left Hong Kong for another round of imperial duty, taking it this time to India. Sadly enough, it soon became involved “in aid of the civil power” in dealing with another serious outbreak of disease, in this case of cholera in Poona and Sitapur.



(4)

HONG KONG  
PLAGUE MEDAL 1894.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ORDERS, DECORATIONS, CAMPAIGN MEDALS AND MILITARIA AUCTION

*London, 23rd July 2015*



*Group of Eight to Captain E.N. Pumphrey*

Our second auction of 2015 features 489 diverse and interesting lots of Orders, Decorations and Medals, including three specific collections. Amongst the highlights of the sale are:

- The Outstanding Second War D.S.O. and Two Bars, D.S.C. Group of Eight to Captain E.N. 'Won't-Go-Home' Pumphrey, Royal Navy, A Pioneering Skipper of Motor Torpedo Boats Who Was One of the Royal Navy's Most Successful Coastal Force Captains of the Second World War, He Distinguished Himself in the 'Spitfires of the Seas' During The First Great M.T.B. Action of the War; During a Daring Daylight Attack On The *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*; And As Commander of H.M.S. *Brocklesby* For The Dieppe Raid. He Was Wounded in Action Three Times.
- The Superb and Well Documented Great War 'Lake Tanganyika' D.S.M. Group of Four to Chief Petty Officer W. 'Brum' Waterhouse, Royal Navy, The Senior Rating For Spicer-

Simson's Epic Trek Across the Wilds of Africa, To Ultimately Gain Naval Supremacy For Britain in Central Africa

- The Exceptional, and Unique to Regiment, 1914 D.C.M. and 'St. Eloi' Dated Bar Group of Five to Sergeant J. Maher, Leinster Regiment, Who Died of Wounds, 9.5.1915, During the Battle of Frezenberg
- The Great War C.M.G. Group of Seven to Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Northey, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Taken Prisoner of War During the Boer War, and Commanded the 6th Battalion During the Great War; Wounded at the Battle of Loos, 27.9.1915, He Relinquished Command of the Battalion to Winston Churchill. Given his connection to Churchill, it is interesting to parallel Northey's and Churchill's military careers. Both men passed out of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; both, as Lieutenants, were present in the Punjab Frontier and the Tirah campaign against Afridi insurgents, 1897-98; later,



# MEDALS AND MILITARIA AUCTION



*D.S.M. Group of Four to Chief Petty Officer W. Waterhouse*

in the Boer War, both men were captured by the Boers and interned as Prisoners of War; and finally, in the Great War, both men commanded the 6th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers. Did Northey and Churchill ever meet? Almost certainly, at the historic reunion of the Regiment on the 1st July 1919, at which both were present. To believe the two commanders did not share a greeting is impossible. They had much in common. It is therefore fitting that the entire proceeds from the sale of this lot are being donated to The Churchill Centre, a registered non-profit society, to further its work.

Horse Artillery; and to Private Andrew Muir, 2nd Dragoons (Scots Greys). The market for high-quality Waterloo Medals is not surprisingly extremely strong at the moment, and this was shown to good effect back in our April auction when we sold the superb Waterloo Medal to Major Arthur Heyland, 40th Foot, for a hammer price of £28,000 (£33,600 including Buyer's Premium).



The three collections of note that we have in this sale are a Collection of Medals to the Army Medical Corps and Indian Medical Service; a Collection of Medals to the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch); and an Important Collection of Medals to the Home Guard formed by the late Norman Brooks. This last collection represents a life-time's work, by one of the stalwart figures of the Orders and Medals Research Society, and is notable for the breadth of material in it.

With medals ranging from the late 18th to the early 21st Centuries, including many that have never appeared on the market before, the catalogue for this sale is now available both online and in printed form- for more information please contact either the Medal Department or the Auction Team (or why not view our Auction Podcast?)

This year of course marks the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo, and as a result we are pleased to say that Waterloo Medals are once again well represented in the auction, including (amongst the dozen or so in the sale) those to Captain Robert Hawley, 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards; to Lieutenant John Townsend, Royal



*D.C.M. and 'St. Eloi' Dated Bar Group of Five to Sergeant J. Maher*



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*The Great War C.M.G.  
Group of Seven to  
Lieutenant-Colonel  
H.H. Northey*

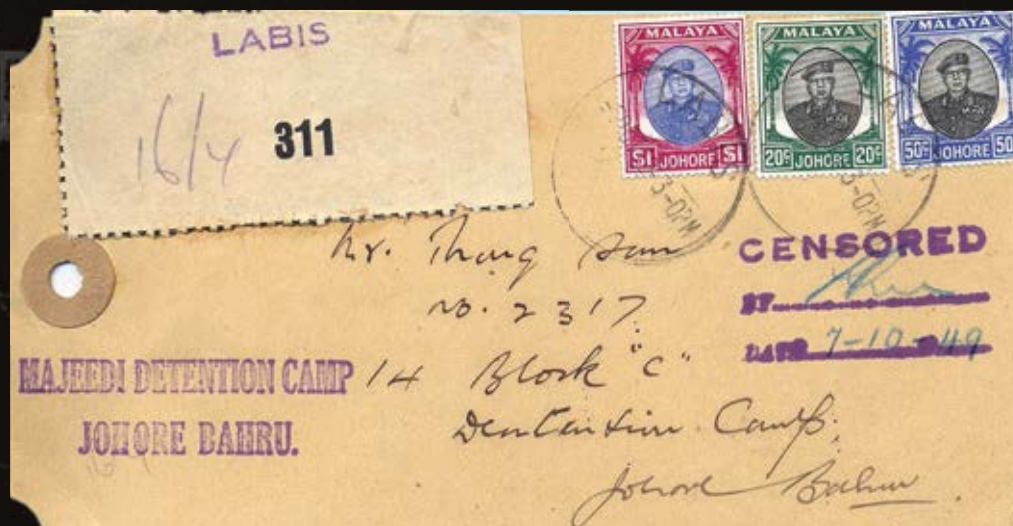


Our next sale after this is in London on the 19th November, and consignments for this sale can be accepted up until the second week in October. However, in the meantime, the Medal Department will be represented in the Spink Numismatic Auction of Banknotes, Bonds & Shares, Coins and Medals of South East Asia taking place in Singapore on the 16th August. This is part of a series of auctions and events timed to coincide with the World Stamp Exhibition,

for which Spink is the Official Auctioneer and Key Sponsor. The highlight of the medal part of this sale is the Important and Excessively Rare Collar Chain and Badge Appendant of the Grand Order of the Orchid Blossom of Manchukuo. Full details of this sale are featured elsewhere in this special edition of the *Insider*, and, in a new innovation, a Spink News Reporter will also be providing live coverage of all that is happening during the show and the auctions.



Parcel label, from Labis, Perhaps the censored mark means it was examined to ensure that nothing was hidden in the cloth. It is the only parcel label seen going into the Camp.



# POSTAL HISTORY FROM THE MAJEEDI DETENTION CAMP

BY SUSAN McEWEN

The Malayan Emergency (1948 - 1960) was a "Hearts and Minds" operation, long before the expression was used for the Vietnam War, in fact the expression was first used in the Malayan Emergency.

The campaign was successful, the Commonwealth Forces eventually defeated the Communists. It was called the Emergency as war was not declared but in effect it was a war against terrorists, some indigenous and some imported.

The successes against the terrorists, led to the Independence of the Federation of Malaya on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1957 and the subsequent formation of Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore.

As the Emergency started the terrorists, who initially were referred to as 'Bandits', along with suspected terrorists and their sympathisers were rounded up. Some who had no legal right to be in Malaya were subject to Deportation Orders and sent away from Malaya, the others were either released or held in the detention camps for a time until they were sent to resettlement camps or were released. Majeedi Camp, was one of several detention camps used during the early part of the Emergency. The camp's address "3½ miles on the Kota Tinggi road, Johore Bahru" is also its location. Distances often feature in Malayan addresses. In the 1950s Majeedi would have been a separate

village, but Johore Bahru has grown and it is now a suburb of the town.

Control of the press was an important part of the campaign during the Emergency. The Times noted on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1948 "Printing Presses Bill, newspapers in Malaya may NOT be published without a licence from the Government." A necessary move no doubt but it makes researching the events of that time more difficult. Twelve detention camps have been identified, across Malaya, many from incidental references in newspapers to budgeted repair expenditure or tenders for contracts to supply food to the camps. The Singapore Free Press noted in May 1949 that 997 detainees were held at Majeedi camp, so Press secrecy wasn't complete!

In November and December 1949 The Straits Times, of Singapore, had something about the fight against the terrorists and / or murders committed by them virtually daily.

Most of the items illustrated or mentioned here came to light a few years back, in Singapore, when the effects of a lady who had worked in the Majeedi camp office, in 1949, were cleared. Postal Historians, and Historians of the Emergency period are duly grateful that the (un-named) lady kept her accumulation of covers. They tell an interesting story.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

From China, Swatow  
franked with an  
orange local letter rate  
stamp - No Value  
Indicated - and a  
50c on \$50 Revenue  
stamp one of the  
Silver Yuan surcharges  
issued in Canton in  
May 1949. Received  
and Censored in  
Majeedi 5<sup>th</sup> October  
(1949).



### Censor mark

There was no censorship of the post during the Emergency. Two Majeedi camp censor marks are known to have been applied to incoming mail. "MAJEEDI DETENTION CAMP / JOHORE BAHRU." and "CENSORED / BY / DATE .." with room for the censor to sign and date. The parcel label shown is one of only five items posted within Malaya seen to date with the censor mark, but most of the items originating in China have this censor mark. All these marks are in purple, and by definition were applied at Majeedi.

Most of these covers are Registered or Registered AR, (Avis de Reception) and some previously unrecorded AR marks were found. It is highly unlikely that all mail into the camp was registered, I think that these covers have survived because they carried cash.

The procedure in the camp seems to have been that the cash was recorded on the envelope, usually on the registration label. Cash sums of \$2 to \$40 are recorded, this latter item is endorsed "paid directly", and one is recorded at \$200, a considerable sum in 1949. But most are \$10 or less. At that time the Malay dollar was about 2/4d. The detainees had obviously been able to tell their families where they were held, and the money being sent in was to buy extras.

The **Chinese covers** are mostly during the inflation period, before China became a Communist state. The postal rates were changing so frequently that any attempt to track the rates from these covers has been challenging.



From China, Mingteh.  
Postmarked 15<sup>th</sup> April  
1949 - the earliest date  
seen on these covers, and  
sent Registered Airmail.  
The rate appears to be  
\$23,100 including the  
stamps under the blocks  
of \$1,000 stamps.  
Amoy and Singapore  
transit marks 22<sup>nd</sup> and  
28<sup>th</sup> April.





*Mail to Camp Staff - addressed to a Sepoy with the border police, stationed at the camp. The address is correct for Majeedi but as the camp name is omitted it was routed to Kota Tinggi first. Postmarked Pakistan 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1949. (The rest of the postage stamps are on the back.)*



*From a detainee at St John's to a detainee at Majeedi. 'COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS SINGAPORE' cachet and initials showing approval. Postmarked 28<sup>th</sup> June 1949.*

Of the covers seen to detainees all except six are to Chinese names. Seven are identifiably female, addressed as Miss, Mrs or Madam. The official statistics are by nationality not race, however Donald Mackay comments that Communism in Malaya was largely a Chinese concern<sup>1</sup> so this high majority of Chinese names is not surprising.

**St John's Island** in Singapore also served as a detention camp. This piece of news reached the newspapers in December 1949. The S.S. Tyndareus, returning to Northern Malaya from the Haj, quarantined the Passengers, and presumably the crew, when a case of Smallpox was found on the ship. 130 people detained under Emergency regulations were moved to an undisclosed camp in the Federation to make room for the 868 people from the Tyndareus. The S.S. Tyndareus had been launched in 1916 and served as a troopship in both WW1 and WW2, after which she was converted to a Pilgrim ship, in which role she could carry upto 2,500 passengers.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century St John's was a quarantine island for immigrants to Singapore, then a leper colony. After the Emergency it has been a transit camp for Vietnamese boat people, a rehabilitation camp

for drug users, a holiday camp for school children and is now a holiday retreat 'away from it all'. Only 20 minutes on a ferry from Singapore, St John's has a lovely beach, a swimming lagoon, a few bungalows for hire, a camp site and nothing else. No shops, no food stalls, no restaurants, no bars, nothing else at all.

## Conclusion.

Majeedi camp closed in 1954 and the other camps closed by the mid 1950s, having served their purpose in the Emergency, and contributed to its successful conclusion.

## The Author:

Susan McEwen is currently the Chairman of the Malaya Study Group [www.malayastudygroup.com](http://www.malayastudygroup.com)

She is also a Trustee of the Stuart Rossiter Trust [www.rossitertrust.com](http://www.rossitertrust.com) and is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of Postal Historians.

## Endnotes

1 The Malayan Emergency, the Domino that Stood' by Donald Mackay.





# THE SUNGEI BULOH LEPROSARIUM

BY RICHARD UNDERWOOD

Leprosy is an infectious disease that has existed from Biblical times. It is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae* and is usually contracted by breathing in infected nasal droplets. It occurs most commonly where people are living in close contact with poor living conditions.

The disease affects the skin, nerves and eyes. The most obvious manifestation is in the skin with the presence of pigmentation loss, plaques and nodules. The nerves are frequently damaged, leading to loss of sensation, which in turn renders the sufferer more liable to injury.

The social effects are often more damaging than physical effects, as the sufferers can be stigmatised and ostracised from society. Hence the need for special institutions – leprosaria – where patients can receive adequate treatment and are protected from the devastating social effects of the disease.

In 1930, the British government founded a leprosarium in the then colony of Malaya to take care of the large number of persons suffering from the disease at that time. It was decided that this leprosarium should be as up-to-date and modern as possible and there should be the best treatments and research. It was established in a lush fertile valley along the banks of a stream and was called Sungei Buloh, which actually means “bamboo stream”. It was set up as a self-contained community where patients could live

in humane surroundings while under medical supervision. The minute a leprosy patient set foot in it, he felt hope that one day he would be fully cured of the disease and return to society.

In 1935 and 1936, a form of currency was established that could be used just within the leprosarium. It would be based on the Straits Settlement Dollar. The notes were designed and printed by the Survey Department, Federal Malay States. They were only in use for five years, being discontinued after the Japanese invasion of Malaya in 1941-2.

In 1935, a 50 cent note was issued on 4th February. It was uniface with black print on white paper. The text indicated in English that it was worth the value of 5 cents for the purchase of goods within the Sungei Buloh Settlement. Malay, Chinese and Tamil scripts for “5 cents” were included.

On 15th January 1936, three more notes were issued – 5 cents, 10 cents and 1 dollar.

Each note had text stating the value of worth for goods. The bill was of value only within the Sungei Buloh Settlement. While the main text is in English, there are versions in Chinese, Malay and Tamil on the edges of the note. The notes were only used for about 5 years, terminating with the invasion of Malaya by the Japanese in 1941/2.





The 5 cents note was printed in red on white paper worth the serial number in black. In the centre there is a lively vignette of the White-breasted Kingfisher perched on a rock. The back has an ornate design.

The 10 cents note is similar in size and design, but printed in blue on white paper.

The 1 Dollar note is larger and printed in purple on white paper. The Kingfisher vignette is much larger. The back has an illustration of a water buffalo-drawn covered cart.

Below were the obverse and reverse of each note.

### A Visit to Sungei Buloh – 31st August 1987

This is my diary record of a visit to the Sungei Buloh Leprosarium whilst on holiday in Malaysia. My wife and I travelled by taxi from Kuala Lumpur to the Sungei Buloh Leprosarium. My diary then reads thus:

“We found the Leprosarium surprisingly easily. After making some enquiries, we

were taken to meet Mr Joshua, an expat living there, whom R had been corresponding with. He was delighted to see us and we to see him. He showed us his small bed-sitter house, crammed with books and other impedimenta. He then took us on a tour round the Leprosarium while our driver waited in his taxi.

“We saw the wards – very bare and spartan, the duty doctor’s house, nurses’ quarters, a big recreation hall which Joshua had planned and organised the building thereof, the administration block and pharmacy. We then went up a small hill overlooking the valley. After driving round seeing all the different buildings we came back to Joshua’s house. He showed us an interesting old book (1942) on leprosy. Also some Hydnocarpus seeds and chalmooghra oil – which he himself took for his own leprosy and which cured him.

“We took a couple of photos of him and then said our goodbyes.”

Richard Underwood.



Antonio Joshua-Raghavar  
Photograph taken by Richard Underwood on 31st August 1987.  
In the Sungei Buloh Leprosarium, Malaya



# THE ANNIGONI PORTRAIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II ON PAPER MONEY OF THE WORLD

BY LAURENCE POPE (IBNS 7037)

During the Golden Jubilee year of 2002, at the Maastricht Paper Money Fair, I first displayed my collection of paper money depicting the well-loved portrait of the young Queen Elizabeth II by Pietro Annigoni. This world famous picture, painted by the artist between October 1954 and February 1955, became so popular with the general public that it was reproduced endlessly on stamps, memorabilia and paper money all over the world. After having gazed at extracts of it on numerous banknotes for many years, I decided to try and find the original painting.



*Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in robes of the Order of the Garter  
painted in 1955 by Pietro Annigoni (1910 – 1988)  
© CAMERA PRESS LONDON*

My quest to do so began with a telephone call to the National Portrait Gallery in London. Surely, Pietro Annigoni's painting of Queen Elizabeth II must hang in a prominent position amongst Britain's famous portraits. To be sure, they had an Annigoni painting of Her Majesty, but I was to be disappointed because the picture was a later, much less attractive, one painted in 1969. The Gallery therefore suggested I made enquiries of Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately, the general enquiry office had no idea where the painting was to be found and recommended a telephone call to the curator's office at Windsor Castle. At last, I had found somebody who knew about

royal pictures. He expressed much regret that it was not owned by the Queen and then came the bombshell: it was on permanent display in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers in the City of London. Intrigued by this revelation, I was determined to find out more about these fishmongers who seemed to have a taste for fine art as well as fish!

The story began in 1954 when the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers was looking for a reasonably priced portrait of the young Queen to hang in their great hall. At this time, Pietro Annigoni was virtually unknown as an artist outside his native Italy. However, his work was admired by

some conservative artists in England, including Sir Alfred Munnings, who recommended him to the livery company. They in turn wrote to Annigoni on their headed paper and to their great surprise heard nothing more from him. When Munnings contacted Annigoni about his lack of response, he explained that he had thrown the letter into the waste paper basket because he thought it had come from an English fish and chip shop! He was paid £2000 and, although noted for his Bohemian lifestyle, he found favour with the Queen, who granted him a total of eighteen hours of sittings, three hours more than she had given to any artist before.



## THE ANNIGONI PORTRAIT



*Pietro Annigoni –  
self portrait*

All of the type notes are available to the serious collector with an average budget, although several are very rare in uncirculated condition. In my experience, the four scarcest type notes in order of rarity in uncirculated condition are (a) Malta £5 P27, (b) Seychelles 100 Rupees P18, (c) Rhodesia £5 litho P29 and (d) Isle of Man £5 P26. The rarest varieties (again in uncirculated condition) are Malta P27b with Soller signature, East Caribbean States \$100 (P16a-e), Seychelles 50 Rupees 1969, P17b and Seychelles 100 Rupees 1969, P18b. And I have to say in nearly 20 years of collecting these issues I only ever saw one uncirculated copy of Malta P27b and never saw East Caribbean States P16a-e except in specimen format. To give some idea of the rarity of Malta P27, even with the commoner Shepherd signature, this note in uncirculated condition was fought

over by a string of bidders at my Spink sale in April 2011 and was finally knocked down to a telephone bidder at the world record price of £3200 plus premium. This is because the vast majority of the so called “uncirculated” copies of this note have been pressed, although it is readily available in original EF grade.

It will be seen that the bank note designers had great difficulty cutting and editing the portrait to fit their various designs. The main consideration here is that the Queen’s left hand protrudes from her Garter gown with her left thumb pointing upwards. As a result each country has for better or worse, extracted the top half of the picture in subtly different ways.



# SPECIAL FEATURE

(a) Extract of E.C.S. \$5 P14.



*Top of left thumb*

*Three points of Garter star*

(b) Extract of E.C.S. \$100 P16.



*Border cuts off thumb*

*Border cuts off Garter star*

(c) Extract of Fiji 50cts P50.



*Part of ribbon excluded from left shoulder*

(d) Extract of Fiji \$1 P51.



*Portrait cut to include whole ribbon but exclude Garter star and left hand*

The picture was painted between October 1954 and February 1955 and exhibited in the spring of that year at the Royal Academy in London. The response was stunning: 300,000 people flocked to the capital within the space of a few weeks to see just one painting! This was all the more extraordinary because the picture was not an old master borrowed briefly from some venerable foreign museum, but a work by an unknown contemporary painter,

specifically commissioned for permanent display. Furthermore, the people who came were not art lovers but members of the general public. An engraving of the painting published by "The Times" at the then considerable sum of 20 guineas was oversubscribed and reproductions sold out in days.

What could explain the popularity of this picture? It shows the young Queen, only eighteen months after her coronation, dressed



# THE EDITING OF THE ANNIGONI PORTRAIT

(e) Extract of I. O. M. 10/- P24(b).



*Cut to exclude left hand and Garter star.*

(f) Extract of I. O. M. £5 P26(b).



*Cut to include three points of Garter star and edited to exclude left hand.*

(g) Extract of Jersey 10/- P7.



*Cut to exclude part of left shoulder ribbon.*

(h) Extract of Jersey £10 P10a.



*Cut to include whole of left shoulder ribbon and exclude Garter star and left hand.*

in the blue and white, satin-lined robes of the Order of the Garter. Her body is turned to the side, her face in three-quarters view; the pose is regal, yet somehow expresses vulnerability at the same time. Her stature dwarfs a vaguely Italianate landscape with wintery trees by a river bend. In fact, the Queen looks more like a fifteenth century saint than the figurehead of an industrial nation. No doubt this combination of human frailty on the one hand and the weight

of history on the other, of the beauty of youth donning the mantle of royal responsibility and a note of saintliness, was what most attracted the British public. It might also explain why the royalists among them came to almost worship Annigoni's portrait of their monarch. This is what they wanted to see in their sovereign and this is what, in 1955, they got.

Pietro Annigoni was born in Milan in 1910 to an American mother



# SPECIAL FEATURE

(i) Extract of Malta 10/- P28.



*Tiny point of Garter star*

(j) Extract of Malta £1 P29.



*Thumb of left hand*

*Three points of Garter star*

(k) Extract of Malta £5 P27.



*Thumb and part of digit finger of left hand*

*Four points of Garter star*

(l) Extract of Mauritius 25 Rs P32a.



*Whole of left hand*

*Five points of Garter star.*

and an Italian father. He studied at the Accademia delle Belle Arti in Florence and worked unsuccessfully in Italy for many years, before deciding in 1949 to try his luck in Britain. For the next few years, he worked in London, the turning point in his career being a commission from the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers to paint a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II (1954-5). It was produced endlessly, notably on banknotes, stamps and memorabilia of various countries. Annigoni in his 1977 autobiography, "An Artist's Life" claimed that it made him "the most famous artist in the world –

not excluding even Picasso". Subsequently, he painted many other celebrity sitters, including several other members of the British royal family, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, the ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn and Pope John XXIII. In style and technique he was one of very few twentieth century artists to put into practice the technical methods of the masters of the Italian Renaissance, placing great stress on draughtsmanship and often working in tempera. Characteristically, his work was very smoothly finished and detailed, melodramatic in lighting, and often rather melancholy in mood.



# THE EDITING OF THE ANNIGONI PORTRAIT

(m) Extract of Rhodesia £5 P26.



*Edited to exclude whole of left hand*

*Edited to exclude Garter star*

(n) Extract of Seychelles 10Rs P15a.



*Text used to exclude left hand*

*Text used to exclude Garter star*

(o) Extract of Seychelles 20 Rs P16b.



*Shell used to exclude left hand*

*Shell used to exclude Garter star*

(p) Extract of Trinidad & Tobago \$5 P27c.



*Central Portrait*

*Portrait cut to include only part of shoulder ribbon*

Annigoni also painted religious works (including frescoes in Italian churches) and ambitious allegorical scenes, and he regarded these as more important than his portraits. Critics often dismissed his work as portentously inflated and tasteless, but his royal portraits were highly popular with the general public and 200,000 of them went to see his second portrait of the Queen in 1970. He died in Italy in 1988

Between 1961 and 1985, nine paper money issuing authorities used this portrait on 44 different type notes. They were East Caribbean

States, Fiji, Isle of Man, Jersey, Malta, Mauritius, Rhodesia, Seychelles and Trinidad & Tobago. When all the different signature combinations and date varieties are taken into account, this becomes a large collecting field in its own right with over 200 notes to look for, several of which are very rare in uncirculated condition. To this can be added specimen notes, colour trials, stage proofs, original artwork and errors.



# THE LONDON MINT OF CONSTANTIUS AND CONSTANTINE THE GREAT AD 296 – 325

BY HUBERT J. CLOKE AND LEE TOONE

In AD 296 the junior western tetrarch, Constantius Chlorus, invaded Britain to overthrow the rebel emperor, Allectus, who had succeeded Carausius as head of the breakaway 'Britannic Empire'. As one of the ruling Tetrarchy, which also included Diocletian, Maximian and Galerius, the task of recapturing Britain fell to Constantius as the ruler responsible for the North West portion of the Roman Empire. To fund the invasion Constantius closed down one of the workshops of the mint at Lyon and created a travelling mint that accompanied him to Britain.

Although originally catalogued as Lyon (RIC VI 14-21), it is now believed that much of the 'invasion coinage' produced by this travelling mint was struck near Boulogne just prior to the invasion. It featured a single type of laureate bare bust obverse for each tetrarch with a standard **GENIO POPVLI ROMANI** reverse.

Among the first tasks confronting Constantius was infusing the local economy with a sufficient supply of the new reformed coinage introduced across the Empire in AD 293 by Diocletian but never adopted by the usurpers. The mints of Carausius and Allectus had continued to produce the older, smaller *aureliani*. To replace these coins the mint workers at London were retrained, probably by the travelling Lyon personnel, to manufacture the reformed coins commonly referred to today as *nummi* or *folles*. Within a relatively short time London was producing a coinage comparable with that of the other imperial mints.

The recapture of Britain was commemorated in AD 297 on a series of gold multiples, issued at Trier as donatives to important participants in the invasion. The most important and best known of these pieces is the magnificent large medallion from the Arras hoard featuring a majestic portrait of Constantius on the obverse. The



'The London Mint of Constantius and Constantine' by Hubert J Cloke and Lee Toone is available from Spink priced at £50.

To order a copy please visit [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com)  
or E-mail [books@spink.com](mailto:books@spink.com)

reverse of the medallion depicts Constantius on horseback, above a galley bearing his troops, all being welcomed by the city of London which is represented by a kneeling female figure and identified by the letters **LON** (*Londinium*) below its gates. The reverse inscription reads 'Bringer of Eternal Light'. The single surviving example of this medallion is securely stored at the BnF in Paris, but this piece and eight other gold multiples from the hoard are perhaps best known





1. The Arras Medallion (electrotype)

from a series of gold plated electrotypes (1) made in the 1920s and advertised for sale by Spink in the January 1928 edition of the *Numismatic Circular*.

This medallion may be said to be the first **ADVENTVS** issue associated with London and echoes the use of the mint mark **LON** on the first issues of Constantius' reformed mint. For unknown reasons the use of a mint mark was almost immediately discontinued at London and for a decade London was the only Roman mint in this period that did not mark its coins with a distinctive mintmark. Unmarked London coins are relatively common although the very earliest, which are similar in style to the ones marked **LON**, are rare and highly sought after. The unmarked coin of Constantius pictured here is an example of the rare early style identified by the ornate shoulder plates on the cuirass (2).



2. An early London coin of Constantius

Many reasons have been suggested for the disappearance of a London mintmark – a punishment for rebelling in the first place or that Constantius' mint was not actually in London but travelled around Britain – but it remains a mystery.



3. A very rare issue of Constantine

After Constantius' son, Constantine assumed control of the northwestern mints in AD 307 the London coinage was once more marked. The new mark, **PLN** stood for *pecunia Londinii* – money of London. In the following years a number of successive mintmarks were used to denote the various issues of the mint. These marks usually consisted of letters in the exergue combined with letters or symbols in the left and right fields on the reverse. Some of these issues, such as the issue with stars above the letters **T F** in the left and right fields (3), are very rare indeed.

Generally, the output of London followed the pattern of coinage at Trier and Lyon, although unlike the London mint of Carausius and Allectus who struck coinage in gold and silver, the London mint of Constantius and Constantine struck only copper alloy coinage. But in three particular episodes, all related to the unrelenting rise of Constantine through the ranks of the Imperial College to become the undisputed leader of the Roman world, the London coinage is distinct from that of the other north western mints.

The first occurred in AD 307 when Constantine produced a series that dramatically broke away from the traditional **GENIO POPVLI ROMANI** types. He introduced a series of special reverses to celebrate his alliance with Maximian. Many of these types are very rare including the **MARTI CONSERVATORI** Mars reverse of Maximian shown here (4).



4. Rare reverse type of Maximian AD 307



## SPECIAL FEATURE

The second episode occurred in late 311 and 312 when Constantine visited Britain to recruit troops for his forthcoming war against Maxentius that culminated in the battle at the Milvian Bridge. After the defeat of Maxentius, the Empire was split between Constantine, Licinius (5) and Maximinus (6). These events, Constantine's second consulship and subsequent victory inspired an enormous proliferation of obverse and reverse imagery that resulted in a vast variety of coin types – many of which are rare or very rare.



5. Licinius



6. Maximinus

To demonstrate the martial aspects of these events, many portraits of Constantine depict him in military garb, wearing a helmet and carrying a spear and shield (7). Other rarer obverse types show him in consular regalia holding an eagle tipped sceptre or Victory standing on a globe (8,9).



7. A martial bust type of Constantine



8. A consular bust type of Constantine

The **ADVENTVS** reverse types commemorate this visit to London and when matched with an obverse consular bust (10), a combination known from only five examples, encapsulate the importance of Britain for Constantine, it tells us that Constantine visited London at around about the beginning of his second consular year on 1<sup>st</sup> January 312 and that he considered this so important that he instructed the mint to strike special commemorative coins to mark this visit, the only mint in the Roman Empire to have struck such a coin for Constantine at this time. It



9. Constantine holding Victoriola

firmly dates the striking of this coin to around the beginning of AD 312 despite the lack of a formal date on the coin.

The third episode, probably in early 314, produced a smaller issue of **ADVENTVS** types which appear to have celebrated another visit to Britain by Constantine (11). Like the earlier **ADVENTVS** types the reverses of these coins depict the Emperor on horseback entering the city but unlike the earlier imagery, there is no captive shown before the horse.

From then on, apart from a few left bust types in late 314 or early 315 to recognize Constantine's fourth consulship in 315, the



10. Commemorating Constantine's visit to London in AD 312



11. Constantine's visit to London AD 314

London coin types were once again closely aligned to those of its sister mints in Trier and Lyon.

Following the move of his headquarters from Trier to Serdica after the end of the first civil war in AD 317, the mint at London became less important to Constantine. The output followed the lead of Trier where Crispus had his headquarters and around this time the London mint stopped striking coins in the name of Licinius and began issuing them for Crispus



(12) and Constantine II (13). The shifting of the front towards the East meant that London was never to regain its importance as an Imperial mint and it was probably only a matter of time until its closure.

Just before it closed, another three faces appear briefly on the coinage of London. Constantius II (14) is appointed as a Caesar and Helena (15) and Fausta are raised to the rank of Augusta. Although coins of these three are quite common from other mints, the output at London is restricted by the impending closure and they are all quite scarce.

This phase of British coinage is a sadly neglected area. Although included in *Coins of England* as 'official Roman coinage struck in Britain', the products of this early London mint are more than that. Britain was an important power base for both Constantius and then Constantine and some very specific coin types were only struck at London and as such unique to Britain. Constantius made his name with his successful invasion against Allectus and later died at York after settling down a northern uprising. Constantine who was with his father at York and was first proclaimed there as Augustus by his father's troops visited Britain several times and used it as a vital part of his powerbase for the eventual takeover of the whole Roman Empire.

'*The London Mint of Constantius and Constantine*' by Hubert J Cloke and Lee Toone is a comprehensive catalogue and survey of the output of the London mint from AD 296 when Constantius I invaded Britain to wrest the 'Britannic Empire' from Allectus, to its closure in 325 when his son and successor, Constantine I, began to shift his power base to the East. During this period the London mint was responsible for a vast output of Roman coinage.

This book expands the number of known London types from the 617 recorded in Volumes VI and VII of *The Roman Imperial Coinage* (RIC), to 1,037, 90 per cent of which are illustrated on plates facing the catalogue tables in sylloge format.

Supported with historical background narratives, indices, and a concordance with RIC, the catalogue also includes a hoard census which lists numbers of coins for each type found in four major hoards. This enables an objective rarity value to be assigned to each coin type.

This book proposes to become the standard reference work on the London mint for years to come and invites the reader to become part of the on-going construction of this catalogue as new types are discovered and recorded.



12. Crispus as Caesar



13. Constantine II as Caesar



14. Constantius II as Caesar



15. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great

## Notes :

Some important coins of the London mint from the Toone collection will be sold by Spink at auction in September and December this year.

The next issue of *The Insider* will include an article on the Bourgey electrotypes.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ANCIENT, BRITISH AND FOREIGN COINS & COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS

*London, 22nd September 2015*



### SPINK AT THE HELM ONCE AGAIN

They say that lightning never strikes twice in the same place but this well-known maxim clearly doesn't apply at Spink. It is our pleasure to handle a recently discovered Edward III Half-florin or Helm due to go under the hammer in the London saleroom on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Clients will recollect that Spink also handled the last specimen to be unearthed back in March 2013, lot 545, which sold for a record £90,000 (inc. buyer's premium). These two examples of this excessively rare denomination comprise 100% of the known specimens which are available to the collectables market. There are just three others known to exist, two in the British Museum and one in the Hunterian in Glasgow. Of course, one has to mention in the same breath the Double-florin or Double-Leopard, issued contemporaneously with the Helm, which Spink handled in June 2006, lot 301. The piece realised £480,000 (inc. buyer's premium) and set a new world record for the highest price ever achieved for a British coin. No further examples of the Double-Leopard have since come to light and the record also itself remains intact. To complete Spink's hat-trick of Double-florin, Florin, and Half-florin, lot 379 of the July 2003 sale comprised a Florin or Leopard which sold for £5,680 (inc. buyer's premium). Therefore, Spink is the only auction house to have handled all three denominations of Edward III's iconic 'Leopard' coinage but what makes them so collectable?

The job of producing Edward III's first gold 'Florin' coinage was given by indenture to Florentine goldsmiths George Kirkyn and Lote Nicholyn on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1343. Until this time the only denomination produced in England was the silver penny and its fractions. Merchants used foreign gold coins for larger transactions and Edward III himself owed large sums of money to Italian bankers due to the financial pressures of the Hundred Years War. These factors as well as other factors affecting the viability of the coinage created a pressing need for English gold to be produced. The first coinage was based on an English equivalent of the Italian florin (Leopard) with its double (Double-leopard) and half (Helm).

Of the designs utilised by Kirkyn and Nicholyn for this coinage numismatists agree that they are; '...among the most attractive of any in the whole English coinage' (Stewartby, 2009). Stewartby continues; 'They can fairly stand comparison with the magnificent gold coins of France and Flanders at this high point in the flowering of Gothic art'. Referring specifically to the Helm, the obverse design is clearly influenced by Edward III's sixth great seal in which an equestrian figure of the king brandishes a sword and wears a helm surmounted by a cap of maintenance and a crowned lion. The floriate reverse design is borrowed from a contemporary French gold piece known as a *chaise d'or* or 'chair of gold'. Unlike subsequent issues it is notable that extra care had been taken in the preparation and striking of the 'Leopard' gold which adds to their subsequent aesthetic appeal. However, the issue was to be extremely short lived as production was halted in July 1344. Due to various oversights and economic factors the coinage had failed and in August 1344 it was demonetized. The Leopard gold was subsequently consigned to the melting pot and thus effectively disappeared. Any surviving specimens would have to have been lost, buried, or kept. Despite the fact that between January and July 1344, £32,000 of Leopard gold was minted, (the equivalent to more than 200,000 coins if all in leopards), just 12 examples have survived; three doubles, four leopards, and five helms. These nationally important pieces of gothic art are largely contained in institutions and the opportunity to acquire one is as rare as the issue itself.

There is expected to be much interest on 22nd September; all interested parties should contact Specialist

**Jon Mann**

**[jmann@spink.com](mailto:jmann@spink.com) / 02075634054**

for further information in advance of the sale date.



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# TEMPLE TREASURES

BY BARBARA MEARS

The gifting of coins to religious institutions must be a practise as old as the concept of using officially stamped precious metals as stores of wealth. Donors were hoping to advance their spiritual wellbeing and that of their families by these gifts of currency. Usually the money was spent maintaining and enhancing the material fabric of the building that housed the cult object, and in providing ongoing sustenance for its attendant religious practitioners. However, in places of particular sanctity, or great popularity, a surplus occurred that had to be stored. At Hindu temples the religion is personified in the form of gods and goddesses. Here gifted coins have acquired an extra sanctity as they are viewed as possessions of these deities and have been stockpiled in temple treasuries, often for many centuries.

As a commercial numismatist I find this intriguing as at first it seems the polar opposite to the way in which we utilise 'collectable' coins in the industry. Are these coins ever looked at and appreciated as objects of beauty and historical significance, or are they just viewed as the 'wealth' that predicates the importance of the deity? On the

other hand, there are certain similarities between the two practises. Coin collectors have been selecting 'important' coins to remove from circulation down the ages and placing them in cabinets, envelopes or other places considered safe at the time, anticipating that they will acquire an enhanced value in later years. In both cases the effect is to nullify a coins original purpose as a means of exchange and to place it in a form of limbo; the reflection of one collector's taste or a donor's most precious offering. Collectable and donated coins can still be seen as 'measures of wealth' but their perceived value is no longer that of their original denomination.

Tirumala Venkateshwara temple, situated a few miles north-west of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, is well known as being the wealthiest temple in India. Venkateshwara is a form of the Hindu god Vishnu, and it seems his devotees cannot give enough to him. Even the most impoverished can donate their hair, as anyone watching the hundreds of shorn, yellow-daubed heads descending daily from Tirumala Hill cannot fail to notice.







**Travancore, anonymous** (c.1870-1931), *Tulabharam* ½-Pagoda, lot 372, Spink Auction, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Sold for £500.



**Vijayanagara, anonymous** (c.1342-1565), gold *Ramatanka*, 43.66g, central Deccan, Vishnu (or his avatar Rama) enthroned on platform surrounded by attendants, rev. Hanuman standing within a frame. Lot 1046, Spink Auction 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Sold for £2,100.



**Vijayanagara, Krishnadevaraya** (1509-30), gold *Double-Pagoda*, 7.79g, Venkateshwara standing facing under arch, rev. Devanagari legend *sri krishna raya*. Lot 105, Spink Auction, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Sold for £24,000.



**Travancore, anonymous** (20<sup>th</sup> century), silver donative coin, sold by Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple authorities, Trivandrum. Author's collection.



**India, anonymous** (late 19<sup>th</sup> –early 20<sup>th</sup> century), silver *Ramatanka* showing *Ramayana* scene. Lot 391 (part), Spink Auction, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Sold for £210.

For the wealthy, the options are as many as there are gods in the Hindu pantheon. Devotees can buy the right to be present at the ritual devotions to one of the deities. The ceremony will involve a *darshan* (view) of the god and sometimes a chance to watch them being dressed or fed with donated food. They will leave with *prasadam*, a gift of grace from the deity, which often takes the physical form of food-stuffs sanctified by being touched by the god or specially made sweets such as *laddus*. Further ceremonies such as *abbishekkham* and *thulabharam* may use coins. The first involves the immersion or showering of the cult figure with a substance, often liquid, while in the second the donor gives his weight in various materials, depending on his wealth. Large scales made for this purpose can be seen in many temples of south India, and the *tulabharam* coins of Travancore, made specifically for this purpose, are even listed in coin catalogues.

It is believed that the tokens popularly known as *Ramatankas* were also made specifically as temple offerings. Their name derives from the fact that they feature characters such as Rama, his consort Sita, and the monkey god Hanuman from the *Ramayana* epic. They would be sold to devotees and poured over the god's image at *abbishekkham*

ceremonies, then collected up by the priests to be sold to the next worshipper. This practice has been going on for centuries, and it is not surprising that *Ramatankas* end up in many collections, although the fact that they often bear a date derived from Valmiki's *Ramayana* causes endless confusion as these 'dates' are usually several millennia before coinage was invented.

The donated coins, along with precious stones and other valuables are deposited in a *hundi*, or donation pot. The *Srivari hundi* at Tirumala is sealed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) officials and it is only opened under close supervision. It is said that originally the money was needed to pay a debt of 11,400,000 gold coins to Kubera, the god of wealth, which the deity incurred paying for his wedding festivities. If so, the debt must have been paid long ago, as the Times of India, Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 reported a record Rs. 6 crore (60,000,000 Rupees) being donated in just two days during the festival of *Vaikunta Ekadasi* and *Dwadasi* at the start of the year. It is estimated that the temple receives around 10 kg of gold every week, has 200 tons of it in its vaults and makes regular deposits of the excess to the State Bank of India.



# SPECIAL FEATURE

Royal donations have also paid a large part in the accumulation of the temple's wealth. Krishnadevaraya, the most renowned 16<sup>th</sup> century ruler of Vijayanagara, made seven visits and records of his many donations are inscribed into the stone walls. In 1514 he made a detour there after his conquest of Udayagiri, marking the occasion with a *kanakabhishekam* (shower of gold) ceremony during which Venkateshwara was endowed with 30,000 gold coins. Krishnadevaraya identified strongly with the Vaishnava deity Krishna, who appeared on all his currency Pagoda coins. It is believed that the rare double Pagoda coins bearing the name of Krishnadevaraya were struck specifically for this ceremony as they bear the image not of Krishna, but Venkateshwara.

What is the fate of these millions of donated coins? It is well known that in the turbulent years of the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries Tirupati was hotly contested as its possessor had rights over the temple treasury, and there is evidence that its riches were often plundered to fund military campaigns. Some have undoubtedly been melted; the roof of the main shrine is coated in donated gold and it is known that Temple Trust regularly sends solid gold ornaments to the mint in Mumbai to be made into 22-carat dollar coins that are sold to Venkateshwara's devotees worldwide. The main image of the deity himself is hung with four necklaces made from 493 Mughal coins, and fifteen similar necklaces are known to exist.

However, within the last five years the Devasthanam boards of both this and the Padmanabhaswamy temple in Trivandrum have begun looking at the coins in their treasuries in a new light. In 2011 the temple authorities made a formal request to Dr. K. Munirathnam Reddy of the Archaeological Survey of India in Mysore to examine their

stockpiled coins, and within the year 35 selected numismatists were poring through the thousands of bags containing unknown treasures. The excitement as the vaults were opened must have been tangible. A year was spent sorting the coins into categories, and finally 1213 gold coins were chosen to form the core of a new TTD museum and these have been published in a book.

This publication supplies an intriguing snapshot of coins considered special enough to give to a god. To this extent the book appears similar to the sylloges of coins held in various museums, also foci for random donations. Obviously local coins predominate; those from the Nayaka period (mid 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century) being particularly popular, perhaps because they were both easily accessible and also bear images of Hindu deities. However there are also many coins of Muslim dynasties, such as the Mughals, the Bahmani and Golkonda sultanates and Tipu Sultan of Mysore. Coins from neighbouring princely states such as Hyderabad and Travancore feature, as do many coins of the British and



**Mysore, Tipu Sultan (1782-99), gold 4-Pagoda, 13.65g, Patan mint, AM1218. Lot 363, Spink Auction, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Sold for £8,500**



**East India Company, Madras Presidency (1808-15), gold 2-Pagoda, bearing the image of Vishnu / Venkateshwara. Lot 385, Spink Auction, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Sold for £1,700**



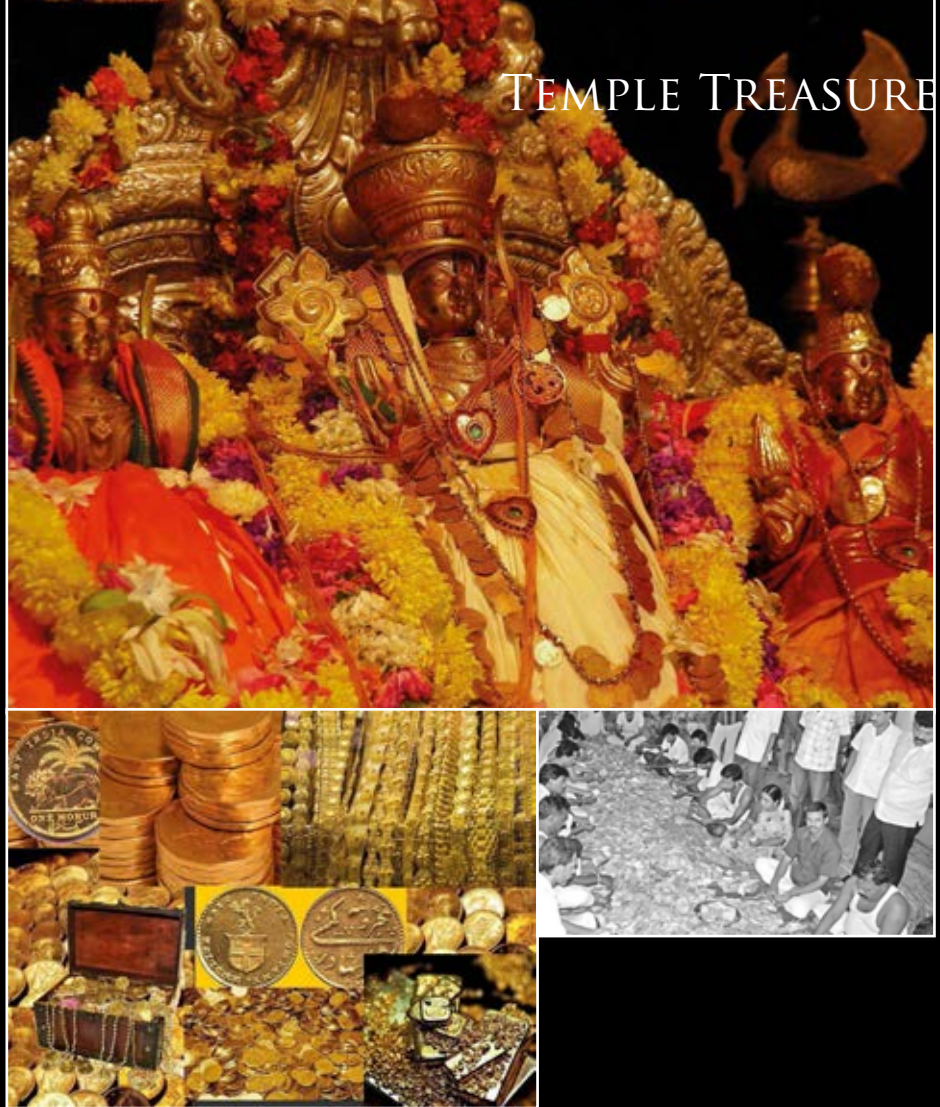
**Roman Empire, Nero (AD64-68), Aureus, 7.33g. Lot 1306, Spink Auction, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010. Sold for £22,000.**





Dutch East India Companies. There are also modern foreign coins from as many as 60 countries around the world reflecting the growing popularity of pilgrimage to this site from the Hindu diaspora. Unlike most museum holdings, there are no records of when the coins were donated or by whom, however the oldest gold coin was issued by the Roman emperor Nero (54-68 AD). This is not as surprising as it may first appear as there are also Denarii of Augustus in the treasury, and both Indian and Roman sources detail the huge number of coins taken to India in antiquity.

The recording of these coins can only be a good thing for the numismatic world, and raises the question of what further treasures can be found in the safekeeping of other religious institutions worldwide? Perhaps now that digital images are so easy to make and store, it would be a good time to find out.



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## STAFF PROFILE: NEILL GRANGER

This month we sat down with Neill Granger our Chinese philatelic specialist and sharp shooter!

### **So Neill, where did it all begin for you in the world of stamps?**

My first foray into stamp collecting was typical of a young schoolboy in those days. I was given a small, printed beginner's album in which the pages were arranged by country or groups of countries. The collection was very basic and new additions came from my father's office mail, from packets of stamps, which were then sold in many shops, or swapped with friends.

I was still quite young when my older brother borrowed an old Stanley Gibbons stamp catalogue. It was not just a childish notion of financial worth, but something fired my imagination. In response to my new enthusiasm I was given a small, plain loose-leaf album. Without having all of the pages laid out ready, I began to concentrate my efforts on the stamps of Great Britain and Malaysia where much of my father's office mail originated since he did business in that region.

Encouraged by my parents I went on to enter, and win, a local stamp competition for juniors. Later I joined a local philatelic society and, when I was old enough, worked in a local stamp shop on Saturdays. I began to make up the occasional approval book to go into the stamp club circuit and soon learnt that the effort of making up a book was better rewarded by selling a lot of the stamps at a modest price rather than having most returned if the prices were high.

### **Tell me how this developed into a profession for you**

I left university with a master's degree at a time when there were limited job opportunities for scientists (especially those without relevant work experience). A new auction house was advertising for stamp specialists and I needed work. I must have demonstrated my enthusiasm for stamps and was offered a job; eventually I ran the Great Britain section.

### **How did you end up concentrating on Asian philately?**

After a couple of years I wanted to move back to London and moved to Stanley Gibbons Auctions, first at Drury House and then to their current offices on The Strand. Although my focus was still on the stamps of Great Britain, I was able to work on many other collections and helped develop their move into auctions in Hong Kong. These auctions became an annual event, so I travelled to Hong Kong to take the auctions and enjoyed meeting the collectors with whom I dealt regularly.

My developing area of knowledge was then on Malaysia and Hong Kong, though at that time the handling of Chinese stamps was still limited.

In 1994, after sixteen years with S.G., I moved to Christie's (the stamp section was later transferred to Spink). I became proficient in Chinese philately and it was through this that my special interest in the Dowager issues evolved. By the time I worked on the Quintin Tan collection in 2007, I had a good working knowledge of these stamps and I wanted to reorganise my references into a more comprehensive study.

Originally the reason for organising illustrations of the scarcer stamps and varieties from past collections was to provide a quick way to reference the provenance of stamps from new consignments as well as making it easier to spot forgeries. Realising that some of the surcharge



varieties came from only one sheet, it was a simple step to begin to attempt some reconstructions. When I had sufficient information, or thought that it would increase buyer interest in lots in the auction, I began publishing short articles at the end of the catalogues.

### **What would you say is the most enjoyable part of your job?**

I have to say, there is a certain satisfaction in cataloguing a great collection. It is like owning the stamps for a while and, in cataloguing them, you are creating a valuable reference for the future. It is also very rewarding to achieve a good result for the client. After all the work has gone into producing a good catalogue, you still need to sell the material

As it happens, I am currently working on one of the best collections I have ever handled, that of Meiso Mizuhara which will be offered for sale in Hong Kong in January. It features some of the rarest Chinese stamps, including the 'Small One Dollar' and this collection has three of 34 known. Meiso Mizuhara's philatelic passion was for the stamps and postal history of China. He built up one of the greatest collections of Chinese philately and won numerous awards for his exhibits. His finest collection is this collection of Chinese Customs Post. This begins with rare covers that preceded the first issue of stamps, and concentrates on this first issue, the Large Dragons. There are several unique essays and proofs that require research and study. The collection concludes with a very important selection of the 1897 Revenue Surcharges including several renowned rarities. The collection concludes with a very important selection of the 1897 Revenue Surcharges featuring several renowned rarities, including a block of four of the unsurcharged stamp.

### **What was the biggest surprise you have had in your years of handling stamps?**

This has to be the two blocks of six of the 1897 Chinese Revenue stamp. We found these in an old insignificant notebook, part of a collection brought into our offices for valuation. These stamps were printed for use in taxation, but when the tax was abandoned, they were used for postage instead of the new currency stamps that were delayed in production. Only a handful of the originals remained in archives without the postal value printed on them. Before our discovery of these, only three blocks of four were recorded. Estimated to sell for HK\$2 million and HK\$1.5 million, they were finally sold for a combined price in excess of HK\$8 million!

### **Do you still collect anything yourself?**

My own collection focusses on the stamps of Great Britain. It was basically a mint and used collection and I was particularly interested in the different shades in the stamp issues around the 1900's. One of the disadvantages of working in an auction house is that the stamps which I handle during the day are far better than those in my modest collection. I changed my focus to revenue stamp and local issues, subjects which rarely appear in auctions. I was able to acquire a small stock of Court Bureau stamps, which I studied in some detail. Frustratingly, these stamps are rarely offered for sale, so the opportunity to add to this collection is limited.

### **If money was no object what would you collect and why?**

I would like to expand my existing collection and find the time to mount it in albums. Sometimes when asked what I collect, I respond with 'photocopies', alluding to my extensive reference collections. I would collect Chinese Dowager stamps, especially complete sheets, and continue my study of these issues with greater purpose.

I am currently in the final stages of writing a book on the Dowager stamps and the 1897 Surcharges of China. It is hoped that this will make this subject less daunting to new collectors, who can then look at this fascinating period of Chinese philately.







**How do you think the hobby and the market has changed in the last 40 years?**

When I was young there was a stamp shop in almost every town but these have all but disappeared. This made it easy way for new and young collectors to get into the hobby. Collectors used to start young, very much like I did, and return to their collections later in life when there was less pressure on time and money.

**Forgeries have become more problematic in recent times, especially in the field of Chinese philately, have you ever been fooled by any forgeries?**

Oh yes, I'm afraid so. One of the reasons for research and becoming experienced in specific areas is so that forgeries are easier to spot. I am a member of the B.P.A. expert committee and see a lot more stamps than just those offered to us for auction. I hope there is less chance of being caught out again.

**What do you enjoy doing outside of life at Spink?**

I live south of London with my wife, Bridget, on the edge of a village in Surrey, just on the slopes of the North Downs. Apart from keeping the house and garden in order, my main hobby is target rifle shooting. Mostly this is small-bore, in which I have represented my county and have won trophies and medals; however, for one week a year, I compete in the national championships at Bisley in Surrey, where the targets are up to one thousand yards away. Bridget

and I also both enjoy playing squash, painting, walking and visiting art galleries and National Trust properties around the country.

I have also written two books on basic stamp collecting, hopefully to encourage newcomers to understand and enjoy this hobby.





# THE VESTEY COLLECTION

SOLD BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES

THE WINDWARD ISLANDS BRITISH  
GUIANA, BRITISH HONDURAS,  
CAYMAN ISLANDS AND JAMAICA

*London, 24th September 2015*



This further offering from the magnificent Vestey collection again includes a superb array of essays, proofs, specimens and issued stamps, along with a multitude of varieties and errors.

*1906 1d. hand-painted essay for the Nelson Centenary issue*



# FORTHCOMING EVENT



1897 2½d. composite printed and hand-painted essay



1897 5d. composite printed and hand-painted essay



1920 Pictorial 1/- with frame inverted



1891 2½d. on 4d. block with four showing surcharge double



1913 5/- die proof in the approved issued colours



1921 prepared but not issued 6d. on Multiple Script CA paper



1907 (Nov.) "½d" on 5/- with surcharge double



1934 4c. corner block imperforate horizontally



# THE WINDWARD ISLANDS



1861-70 prepared but not issued,  
perf. 11 to 12½ (½d.) grass-green



1879 composite printed and hand-painted essay



1865 6d. die proof in rose



1869 hand-painted essay ex the  
De La Rue archives



Trinidad 1847 unused "Lady  
McLeod" (5c.) blue



1861 no wmk., rough  
perf 14 to 16, 1d.  
bluish green



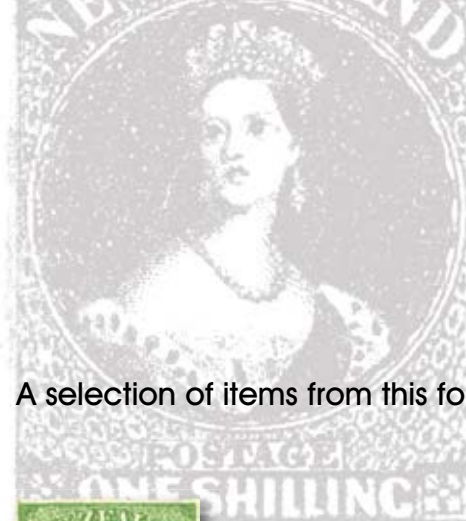
1921-22 3d. composite printed and hand-painted essay



# SPECIAL FEATURE

## THE FORWATER COLLECTION OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

*London, 6th October 2015*



A selection of items from this forthcoming sale



1855 1d. dull carmine  
(S.G. 1)



1855 2d. dull blue  
(S.G. 2)



1855 1/- pale yellow-green  
(S.G. 3)



1862 (Feb)-64 1d. carmine-vermilion  
(S.G. 35)



1855 (Nov)-58 1d. red  
(S.G. 4)



1855 (Nov)-58 2d. blue  
(S.G. 5)



1857-63 1d. dull orange  
(S.G. 8)



1857-63 6d. chestnut  
(S.G. 15)



1857-63 6d. pale brown  
(S.G. 14)



1862 (Feb)-64 3d. brown-lilac (S.G. 40)



1857-63 2d. dull blue  
(S.G. 9)



1857-63 1/- dull emerald-green  
(S.G. 16)



1857-63 1/- blue-green  
(S.G. 17)



1862 (Feb)-64 2d. deep blue double print  
(S.G. 36a)



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# A SPINK BOOKS NEW RELEASE

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## THE FRANK GOON COLLECTION OF BANKNOTES OF BRITISH MALAYA INCLUDING THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, MALAYA, BRITISH NORTH BORNEO, SARAWAK, BRUNEI, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE



TO BE LAUNCHED 15 AUGUST 2015  
DURING THE  
INTERNATIONAL WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION  
14 - 19 AUGUST 2015 | SINGAPORE

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For more information, please contact Jennifer Mulholland:  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4046 | Email: [books@spink.com](mailto:books@spink.com)



[WWW.SPINKBOOKS.COM](http://WWW.SPINKBOOKS.COM)



PHILATELIC COLLECTORS' SERIES

London,

24th November 2015

FEATURING  
THE AWARD WINNING  
COLLECTION FORMED BY JOHN  
SUSSEX, RDP, FRPSL  
OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA,  
1880-1928



Envelope to Germany  
bearing unoverprinted  
German stamps.

The John Sussex collection of South West Africa, nowadays known as Namibia, clearly demonstrates the troubled development of this country.

In 1883, a Bremen Merchant Adolf Lüderitz, bought a tract of territory north of the lower orange river from natives and set up a trading station at Angra Pequena. A German protectorate was proclaimed over the area in 1884 and this was extended over Namaqualand and Damaraland in October. Boundaries were agreed with Angola in 1886 and the Cape Colony in 1890.

Otyimbingue was the first postal agency opened in 1888 and at first unoverprinted German stamps were used on the mail. In 1897 stamps of Germany overprinted "Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika" were used. In December 1914 South African troops invaded the protectorate and the German forces surrendered on 9 July. South African stamps were used in what was now called simply South West Africa until 1923 when South African Stamps overprinted South West Africa or Zuid West Afrika were introduced.



Envelope registered to Neustettin bearing overprinted 5pf. And 25pf.



# SOUTH WEST AFRICA, 1880-1928

Postcard bearing 5pf.  
With Gochas manuscript  
"Wanderstempel"



Picture postcard  
carried on one of the  
air mail demonstra-  
tion flights of 1914



Envelope to Swakopmund bearing South  
African 1d. with manuscript FHN  
(Felsshubhorn) cancellation



Envelope registered to Okahandja  
during the Herero rebellion



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## PHILATELIC COLLECTORS' SERIES

London,

24th November 2015

FEATURING

THE COLLECTION FORMED  
BY THE LATE LEBRON LABAND  
OFFERING A FINE RANGE OF  
Q.E. MISSING COLOURS.



1962 Commonwealth Games 5d.  
with red omitted



1966 Birds 5c. with brown (plumage) omitted



1964 Christmas 5d. with black omitted



1969 I.L.O 5c. with gold omitted



1966 Birds 13c. with grey (plumage and legs) omitted





# THE LABAND COLLECTION



1966 Anniv. of Hartog's Landing 4c. with red (sphere) omitted



1979 Steam Railways 20c.  
with grey-green (face value  
and inscription) omitted



1973 Architecture 7c.  
with new blue (building  
and inscription) omitted



1974 Paintings \$4 with black (face value and inscription) omitted



1987 Australia Wildlife  
37c. strip with pale orange  
(top panel) omitted



# AN INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE BONDS & SHARE CERTIFICATES

BY MIKE VEISSID

Chinese Bonds have always been avidly collected. From the beginnings of this market in the 1970's most Chinese 'foreign' loans were still quoted on many European Stock exchanges, albeit at only low speculative

prices such as ½%. This was in the hope that China would eventually honour her foreign debt, however the Peoples Republic have stuck to their position that the debt was not created by them and they are therefore

*Illustration 1. A £20 bond of the 1913 5% Reorganisation Gold Loan issued by the major powers of Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia. One of the most attractive and most common of Chinese bonds but remaining very popular with collectors. Also popular with speculators which has pushed the price to over £200 in the past.*





# CHINESE BONDS & SHARE CERTIFICATES

not liable for it. Every now and then legal battles are fought, mainly in small American Courts, but to no avail. Speculative collecting pushed these prices upwards until some loans reached dizzy heights of 500% and more (i.e. a £100 face value bond would be sold at £500). The inevitable bubble burst in 1980 and prices tumbled. (illustration 1)

Nowadays the market is mainly governed by growing numbers of collectors, not only in Europe and the USA but in Hong Kong and mainland China where they are very keen to repatriate their heritage. 'Foreign' loans are still widely collected but there has been a strong move towards internal loans floated for the Chinese market only and especially in share certificates of Chinese companies with Banks being of special interest. Obviously since the 1970's there have been many new finds especially within China itself, mainly due to the relaxation of rules regarding the ownership of Imperial or Republican artefacts and the opening up of China to the outside world.

Fortunately for collectors who do not read Chinese, many pieces of the more important companies also have small amounts of text in English – the second language of Chinese finance. Sometimes only the name of the company within the company seal but it's a great help in cataloguing! In the nineteenth

century the Shanghai Stock Exchange was organised and controlled by Europeans which continued well into the twentieth century. Also many companies operating in China used the Hong Kong company laws to incorporate, where English was the first language. Even the official Chinese Government internal loans often had an English translation on the reverse. I say

'official' because many loans were issued without the knowledge and consent of Central Government by Provincial warlords.

Despite its difficulties of language and the many foreign influences in the certificates, classification and cataloguing of certificates is continuing and will be added to for some years to come. (illustration 2)





# ROBERT OWEN AND THE NATIONAL EQUITABLE LABOUR EXCHANGE “LABOUR NOTES”

By JONATHAN CALLAWAY

*Type 1 40hrs: A rare example not only of a Labour Note hand signed by Robert Owen but also a no.1 note (image courtesy Colin Narbeth)*



This article is an updated and revised version of one published in Coin News in February 2011

The story of Robert Owen's life has been told many times but little has been written on his Labour Exchanges or the notes they issued. This article will outline his life story while taking a closer look at the paper currency issues of his exchanges in London and Birmingham, the so-called Labour Notes or Hours Notes.

Owen was a remarkable man and is today rightly claimed as one of their own not only by his native Wales but also by Mancunians and Scots. In the first two cases statues of him have been erected in Newtown, Powys, where a Robert Owen Museum has also been established, and in central Manchester where he first came to national attention. In Scotland, meanwhile, a campaign has been launched to feature him on a Scottish banknote, which if

it happens would make him one of the first non-Scots to be so depicted. The New Lanark site itself already appears on current Clydesdale Bank £20 notes in recognition of its status as a World Heritage Site in Scotland.

Owen has been portrayed by some as the first of the modern Utopians and he was certainly an influential philanthropist, social reformer and industrialist. Born in Newtown in 1771, the son of a saddler, he left home at the age of ten to be apprenticed first to a draper in London then to another in Stamford, Lincolnshire. By the age of 14 he had moved to Manchester and found employment in the growing cotton industry. An avid reader, he educated himself in philosophy and the sciences as well as the wholesale and retail trades. In 1789 when barely 18 years old he borrowed £100 from his older brother (not many banks around in those days!) and started manufacturing spinning mules for use on Samuel Crompton's factory machines.



# ROBERT OWEN'S LABOUR NOTES

Still only 19, he then became the manager of Drinkwater's Bank Top Mill in Manchester, a new steam-powered mill with 500 employees, at a salary of £100 per year where he was responsible for all aspects of the business from buying the raw cotton through to manufacturing fine yarn. This was the time when he first established his reputation as an accomplished manager by improving conditions for his workforce, following his firm belief that a good physical and moral environment was essential to success.

His reputation began to spread beyond Manchester and in 1793 he was elected a member of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society where the ideas of the Enlightenment were discussed and analysed. His first recorded visit to New Lanark took place in 1798 and it made such an impression that he returned the following year and, with his Manchester-based Scottish partners, purchased the extensive cotton mills and workers' village. He also married the daughter of David Dale, the founder and senior partner of the New Lanark enterprise. Dale himself was a prominent Glaswegian industrialist and banker with numerous interests in the city.

Once the purchase was complete Owen installed himself as manager and professed to find himself shocked at conditions for workers and their families although Dale had been widely regarded as an enlightened and model employer. The truth seems to have been different, certainly to modern eyes – at least 500 of his 2,000 workers were pauper children taken from the workhouses of the larger towns. They had no choice in this of course and lived miserable lives working very long hours in difficult and dangerous conditions.

There was no requirement to provide them with any education but David Dale to his considerable credit had done so anyway. Owen resolved to do more, however, as he placed even greater emphasis on education. His major innovation at New Lanark was a new school which he described as an Institution for the Formation of Character. This finally opened in 1816 after he had had to replace some of his partners who had become unhappy at the high cost of providing schooling to the workforce. But Owen believed that education was the key to all improvements in society, especially the alleviation of crime and poverty, and he found new partners, including Jeremy Bentham, a renowned Utilitarian philosopher who shared his vision.

Owen began to take his message across the country and campaigned for improvements to working conditions in Britain's factories and an end to child labour. The 1819 Factory Act passed as a part result of his efforts was however far too weak for his liking. His ambition to

create a model community prompted him in 1825 to sell the New Lanark mills and purchase a recently established manufacturing community in Indiana, USA, which he renamed New Harmony. This was intended to become the model for a Utopian "New Moral World". The venture was not an immediate success so he sold up and returned to Britain in 1828, losing a great deal of money in the process. The community did continue, however, and it went on to pioneer many advances in American society such as the first free public school system and the first free library. At least one of his daughters and three of his sons stayed behind and his eldest son Robert Dale Owen went on to become a US Congressman.

Back in Britain, Owen threw himself into campaigning for a fairer society. He saw that many small co-operative businesses had started to appear, some working on principles similar to his own. Some co-operatives had set up "bazaars" for the sale or exchange of goods they had produced. Owen took these often simple models and developed from them the concept of "equitable labour exchanges" which he had first espoused in his *Report to the County of Lanark* published in 1820. This was his first public reference to "labour-notes", the means by which the problem of avoiding the use of conventional circulating currency would be addressed.

The principles of the equitable labour exchange were very simple: all goods requiring the same amount of labour to produce were to be traded evenly while others were to be exchanged at ratios ruled by the number of hours of labour required to produce each one. If it took two hours of labour to produce product A and one hour of labour to produce product B, then it took two units of product B to purchase one unit of product A. The exchange would issue labour notes valued in hours to facilitate these exchanges of products. Significantly, each labour hour was nominally valued at sixpence, a figure arrived at by taking the mean of the wages of the best and worst paid jobs and dividing this by the average man's working day of ten hours.

Raw materials used in producing goods were valued by assessors employed by the exchange who ascribed a time value to them. Allowances were made for workmen whose standard rate was higher which in effect made the labour notes "*mere translations into labour time of money amounts arrived at in the ordinary commercial way. In reality labour notes remained tied to the artificial standard of value*" (W H Oliver in *The Labour Exchange Phase of the Co-operative Movement* 1958).



## SPECIAL FEATURE

Owen had developed his concept from the labour theory of value, a widely accepted approach among 19<sup>th</sup> century economists, which held that all value comes from labour and that there is no need for a middleman making profit from both buyers and sellers without providing any useful service to earn such profit.

The theory went further: because employers, shopkeepers and government, all stigmatised as non-producers, deprived the worker/producer of his rightful property, the only way a worker was going to enjoy the full fruits of his labour was by withdrawing from an unjust mainstream society and creating a new society of independent communities. These would be property-owning as land, buildings and equipment would be required and money would still be needed to acquire these essential assets, but community shops would also sell goods to the outside world for conventional money and the profits from this would be shared within the community.

Hopelessly idealistic, Utopian even? Maybe, but Robert Owen and his followers persevered and armed with these theories, Robert Owen and a group of followers opened the first National Equitable Labour Exchange, in Charlotte Street, off Grays Inn Road, London, on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1832. Pragmatically, Owen appointed shopkeepers to run it and initially it was very successful. Its running costs were covered by a commission of 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ % (or one twelfth). The first day of operation saw “deposits” of 18,000 hours while actual exchanges of goods to the value of 900 hours took place. At its height it was claimed there were weekly deposits of goods to the value of £10,000, the equivalent of 400,000 hours work at 6d per hour.

Apparently usual practice was to issue labour notes when goods were deposited. When an article was exchanged the left hand half of the note was retained so that when the right hand half was handed in for goods at some future stage the two halves were matched up and the note withdrawn and destroyed. This no doubt explains why issued notes have survived in such low numbers.

After the first flush of success the shopkeeper-managers were replaced with artisans and craftsmen but a fatal flaw emerged: few bakers, farmers or other food producers were participating. Goods were being deposited but what workers needed was to be able to exchange them for food and clothing. In the end it seems that foodstuffs were purchased with old-fashioned money to keep the exchange afloat: “*an ignominious surrender to disproved theories of currency and exchange*” (W H Oliver).

A first branch was set up in Blackfriars Road, Southwark, in south

London, in December 1832. This too was successful initially. A second branch was opened in Coach Yard, Bull Street, Birmingham. Others were planned in Worcester and Manchester but never got off the ground. Owen and his partners had made careful plans before opening the Birmingham branch, building on the experiences of its London sisters. Capital of £2,000 was raised, though this took some time, and the exchange finally opened in July 1833. It was also a more ambitious undertaking in that it was seen as the basis of a national organisation for exchanging goods right across the country. Birmingham, as a manufacturing city, was felt to be a better base than London to achieve this ambition. The many small artisans and craftsmen there would supply manufactured goods and they would look to local bakers, farmers and the like for foodstuffs and clothing materials. As with the exchanges in London, though, this failed to come about. And the plans to arrange exchanges of goods with textile producers in Manchester never came to fruition either. The bankers to the Birmingham exchange were the leading local bank Messrs Spooner, Attwood & Co. This was no coincidence as Thomas Attwood, a partner and the son of the bank's founder, was a prominent social reformer and supporter of Robert Owen's endeavours (though he did not endorse the issue of labour notes).

The exchanges were short-lived. Support began to drain away and the quality of goods deposited began to deteriorate. Tailors, for example, brought along their poorly made suits, other workers their ‘seconds’. The lack of a firm legal basis for the transactions undertaken by the exchanges also proved a hindrance. By mid 1834 all three of Owen's exchanges had closed. Owen paid off a £2,000 deficit run up by the London exchanges and its residual assets were auctioned off in 1836. Meanwhile the one in Birmingham managed to wind up its affairs having made a small surplus of £8 3s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d which was paid to the local General Hospital. W H Oliver summarised: “*It was a utopian idea that could not compete with a market system that incorporates all the available information that affects the prices of goods and services*”.

Later in 1834 Owen went on to found the short-lived Grand National Consolidated Trades Union which was intended to unite all the trade unions being created at this time. Within a few weeks it had over half a million members and this new mass labour movement caused considerable alarm in the government which reacted by arresting six farm workers from Tolpuddle and sentencing them to seven years transportation. Owen led a protest of 30,000 union members but their petition was refused. The union



# ROBERT OWEN'S LABOUR NOTES

was weakened by strikes and lockouts and collapsed in August 1834 dragging down hundreds of small co-operative shops and other businesses including Owen's own newspaper.

Ten years later the Rochdale Pioneers started a co-operative which eventually grew into the modern co-operative movement while Owen, by then somewhat discredited and developing a keen interest in spiritualism, returned to Newtown where he died in 1858.

## Summary Of Robert Owen's Labour Note Issues

The notes issued by Robert Owen's exchanges were elaborate designs involving much machine work and geometric lathe patterns. They were engraved and printed in black by Vizetelly, Branston & Co, Fleet Street, London. The principal design was the same for all three exchanges but there are a number of variants which the listing attempts to identify. It is interesting to note that the titles of the Exchanges varied and that Owen used both the older English (and current American) spelling of "Labor" as well as the standard current English "Labour". Notes are listed in chronological order. It will be clear from the listing that issued notes are rare while most types other than unissued Birmingham branch notes are also very scarce. Only those denominations seen by the author are recorded. It is likely that all seven denominations were prepared for each branch.



*Trade card: The trade cards prepared by Vizetelly, Branston & Co are as elaborately engraved as their products*

### Type 1 – Gray's Inn Road, London

EQUITABLE LABOR EXCHANGE in upper border

GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON: ESTABLISHED: 1832 in lower border

Vignettes of a beehive signifying industry and scales symbolising integrity.

Oval panel upper centre with TRUTH in large Gothic script and inscription in its border INSTITUTION FOR THE INDUSTRIOUS CLASSES.

Value panel lower left below which is the inscription THE VALUE OF AN HOUR IS EQUAL TO SIXPENCE. Promissory text reads *Deliver to the Bearer Exchange Stores to the Value of... HOURS by Order of...* Notes hand signed lower right by Robert Owen (Governor), S Austin (Director) and (?) Nash (Secretary)

Handwritten date 17<sup>th</sup> September 1832

*Notes recorded:*

One Hour – issued: nos. 196, 417, 2202

Forty Hours – issued: no. 1

### Type 2 – Gray's Inn Road, London

As Type 1 except date and signatures of Robert Owen and S Austin are printed, TRUTH in central oval is now in Roman capitals and inscription below value panel now reads OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM TEN TILL SIX.

Printed date 1<sup>st</sup> October 1832

*Only note recorded:*

Two Hours – issued: no. 3879 (facsimile held by British Museum)

### Type 3 – Blackfriars Branch

As Type 1 except text within oval panel reads FIRST / BLACKFRIARS ROAD / BRANCH. Inscription below value panel reads OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM TEN TILL SIX

Printed date 1<sup>st</sup> December 1832

*Notes recorded:*

Two Hours – unissued

Five Hours – unissued

Ten Hours - unissued

Forty Hours – unissued



*Type 3 5hrs: No issued Blackfriars Road branch note has been seen and unissued ones are also very scarce*



# SPECIAL FEATURE

## Type 4 – Birmingham Branch

As Type 1 except for the following:

**NATIONAL EQUITABLE LABOUR EXCHANGE** in upper border

**CHARLOTTE STREET, RATHBONE PLACE, LONDON** in lower border

Oval panel's border inscription reads **BIRMINGHAM BRANCH ESTABLISHED 1833**. Within oval is **TRUTH** in Roman capitals

No inscription below value panel. Printed signatures of **Robert Owen (Governor)**, **Benjamin Woolfield (Director)** and hand signed by **Charles West (Secretary)**

Printed date **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1833**

Notes recorded:

One Hour – issued: no. 1504, also unissued

Two Hours – issued: nos. 110, 712, 2626, 2633, also unissued

Five Hours – unissued

Ten Hours – unissued

Twenty Hours – unissued

Forty Hours – unissued

Eighty Hours – unissued



*Type 4 2hrs: Birmingham branch notes in issued form are difficult to find. Nearly all Birmingham notes seen on the market are unissued*

The unissued notes are seen both with and without the overprint on the reverse: “**Bought of / The Forward Trading Co / 143a Stratford Road, Birmingham / GOODS BOUGHT FOR CASH**” and an outline date of 191.. The overprint was added rather later when this completely unrelated firm prepared a hoard of unissued old notes for use as receipts. Nothing is known about the Forward Trading Co. This hoard of overprinted notes was discovered some

years ago and most unissued notes coming on to the market carry this overprint. A few notes have the overprint upside down. Notes without the overprint are much scarcer.

## Type 5 – Charlotte Street, London (blue)

**NATIONAL EQUITABLE LABOUR EXCHANGE** in upper border

**CHARLOTTE STREET, RATHBONE PLACE, LONDON** in lower border

Similar design to Types 1 to 4 but less elaborate machine work and printed in **blue**.

Text in border of the upper centre oval reads **INSTITUTION OF THE INDUSTRIOUS CLASSES** while within the oval is **ROBERT OWEN / PATRON**. Hand signed by Wm (?) Henderson (Superintendent) and J Dixon (Secretary). No branch is stated.

Printed date **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1833**

Only note recorded:

Ten Hours – issued: no. 170



*Type 5 10hrs: This variant printed in blue on poor quality paper is the only one of its type known to have survived*

## Type 6 – Charlotte St, London, Millinery Department

Different design with no oval panel and less elaboration.

Engraved and printed by Dixon & Ross, Hampstead Road, London

**NATIONAL EQUITABLE LABOUR EXCHANGE** in upper border

**CHARLOTTE STREET, RATHBONE PLACE LONDON** in lower border

The heading **INSTITUTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES**



# ROBERT OWEN'S LABOUR NOTES



**Type 6 1hr:** Notes for the Charlotte St Millinery Dept were engraved and printed by Dixon & Ross

## Type 8 – Fractional card note

EQUITABLE LABOUR EXCHANGE / BIRMINGHAM



**Type 8:** These proofs on card are to be found in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

1/6<sup>th</sup> Hour – unissued proof (held by the Ashmolean Museum)

Finally, notes prepared for the Central Equitable Labour Exchange, 36 Red Lion Square and the New Surrey and Southwark Equitable Exchange, Late Rotunda, Blackfriars Road, London have also been recorded. It is not conclusively known if these had any connection to the exchanges operated by Robert Owen – many similar but smaller operations sprang up around the same time.



**Central Equitable:** The Central Equitable Labour Exchange was probably an imitator of Robert Owen's model exchanges

curved across the upper centre of the note, below which is the text **ROBERT OWEN, PATRON** and then *To the Storekeeper of the MILLINERY DEPARTMENT*. No signatories designated.

**Printed date 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1833**

Two notes recorded:

One Hour – issued, no. 478

Ten Hours – unissued (held by the Robert Owen Museum)

Small circular fractional labour notes on card were also prepared.

Two types have been recorded.

## Type 7 – Fractional card note

EQUITABLE LABOUR EXCHANGE / GRAY'S INN ROAD

**Printed in black with red Congreve-style overlay**

1/6<sup>th</sup> Hour – issued: No. 11667



**Type 7 1/6th:** Fractional card money was also issued – 1/6th of an hour being worth 1d

## Acknowledgements:

Robert Owen Museum, Newtown, Powys

British Museum, London

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Ian Gradon

Colin Narbeth & Son Ltd

Roger Outing

Spink & Son Ltd

## Sources

G D H Cole: *Life of Robert Owen* (1930)

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W H Oliver: *The Labour Exchange Phase of the Co-operative Movement* (1958 article in Oxford Economic Papers)

Roger Outing: *The Standard Catalogue of the Provincial Banknotes of England & Wales* (2010)

F Podmore: *Robert Owen, A Biography* (1906)



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## SALE CALENDAR 2015

### STAMPS

15/16 July	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale	New York	151
20/21 July	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale	London	15026
16 August	Antique Maps sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15040
16/17 August	The "Sentosa" Collection of Straits Settlements, Malayan States, Labuan, North Borneo and Sarawak sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15041
18 August	Stamps and Covers of South East Asia sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15027
September	Autographs, Historical Documents, Ephemera and Postal History	London	15037
24 September	Windward Islands and British Guiana, British Honduras, Cayman Islands and Jamaica from the Vestey Collection	London	15042
26 September	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS14
6 October	The "Fordwater" Collection of New Zealand	London	15043
7 October	The Award-Winning Len Jury Collection of New Zealand Postal History, Stationery, 1913 Auckland and 1920 Victory Issues	London	15044
21 October	Great Britain Stamps and Postal History	London	15045
November	The Charles W. Adams Collection of United States and Canada	New York	152
November	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale	New York	153
24/25 November	The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale, featuring the John Sussex Collection of South West Africa, 1880-1928	London	15046
10 December	Bermuda from the Vestey Collection	London	15047

### COINS

15 July	Ancient, British & Foreign Coins and Commemorative Medals	London	15005
16 August	Banknotes, Bonds & Shares, Coins and Medals of South East Asia sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15038
27 August	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS17
22/23 September	Ancient, British & Foreign Coins and Commemorative Medals	London	15006
24/25 September	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	New York	322
14 November	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS19
2/3 December	Ancient, British & Foreign Coins and Commemorative Medals	London	15007

### BANKNOTES

16 August	Banknotes, Bonds & Shares, Coins and Medals of South East Asia sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15038
27 August	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS17
24/25 September	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	New York	322
29/30 September	World Banknotes	London	15009
1 October	World Banknotes	London	15009
14 November	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS19
8 December	World Banknotes	London	15048

### MEDALS

23 July	Orders, Decorations, Campaign Medals & Militaria	London	15002
16 August	Banknotes, Bonds & Shares, Coins and Medals of South East Asia sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15038
19 November	Orders, Decorations, Campaign Medals & Militaria	London	15003

### BONDS & SHARES

16 August	Banknotes, Bonds & Shares, Coins and Medals of South East Asia sale during the International Exhibition	Singapore	15038
27 August	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS17
24/25 September	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	New York	322
14 November	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale	Hong Kong	CSS19
27 November	Bonds & Share Certificates of the World	London	15019

### AUTOGRAPHS

September	Autographs, Historical Documents, Ephemera and Postal History	London	15037
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### WINES

15 August	An Evening of Selected Rums, Fine Wines, Whiskies and Cognacs during the International Exhibition	Singapore	SFW15
17 September	Whisky, Cognac and Other Spirits	Hong Kong	SFW16
10 December	Whisky, Cognac and Other Spirits	Hong Kong	SFW17

The above sale dates are subject to change. Please check our website [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com) for updates

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